

The
Social Band Association
of
Free Will Baptist

1946

Proceedings of the
72nd Annual Session

Convened at
New Covenant Church, Walnut Ridge, Ark. Route 1

MINUTES

THE SEVENTY SECOND ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

SOCIAL BAND ASSOCIATION

OF

FREE WILL BAPTISTS

HELD WITH

NEW COVENANT CHURCH

Walnut Ridge, Ark. Rt. 1

OFFICERS

Moderator, Eld. Ralph Staten.....Pocahontas, Ark.
Clerk, Mrs. I. C. Staten.....Pocahontas, Ark. Rt. 1
Evangelist, Eld. Wayne Tucker.....Peachorchard, Ark.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Eld. Ira Gates, Mrs. I. C. Saten, Eld. L. J. Smith, Eld. W. C. Lakey,
Eld. Ralph Staten.

HOME MISSION BOARD

Eld. R. S. Shelton, Eld. Ira Gates, Eld. Carl High, Eld. Charles Staten,
Eld. Ralph Staten.

The next annual session of the Association will convene with the
Pruett Chapel Church, near Light, Ark., Greene County, be-
ginning Thursday evening before the third Sunday in September, 1947.
The introductory sermon will be preached by the pastor of the church,
in his absence, by the Moderator or his calling on some one.

PROCEEDINGS

Ministers, Deacons and Messengers composing that part of the Church of God, commonly known as Free Will Baptist, met in its Seventy-second Annual Session with the New Covenant Church at Cache Hall, Walnut Ridge, Rt. 1, Sept. 12, 1946.

THURSDAY EVENING

The assembly was opened by singing directed by Miss Smith.

The introductory message was delivered by Eld. Carl High. His theme was "Come and Dine," followed by a short talk by Eld. R. S. Shelton. Prayer by Bro. J. T. Holland

Adjourned to meet Friday morning at 9:30.

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION

Song service directed by Eld. Ralph Staten.

Prayer by Bro. Henry Pauley. Scripture lesson read by Moderator, John 1:43-51, Luke 14:23, and John 13:35.

Welcome address by Eld. E. W. Tucker. Response by Eld. W. C. Lakey.

Call for different church representatives and letters. The following were present: O'Kean, Grandview, Carson Lake, Pirtle, Alice Brooks, New Covenant, Hopewell, Rickey Chapel, Pruett Chapel, Pocahontas, Poplar Valley, Sugar Tree Grove.

The letters were read and the delegates were seated in Advisory Council. Eld. Billie Rogers from the Cave Springs Association of Missouri was seated as a corresponding delegate.

Call for Petitionary letters—none.

Election of officers for the ensuing year were: Moderator, Eld. Ralph Staten; Clerk, Mrs. I. C. Staten.

Appointment of committees were as follows:

Pulpit—A. J. Brown, Melvin Shelton, Sister Bridges.

Resolutions—W. C. Lakey, W. H. Hale, L. J. Smith, Carl High and E. W. Tucker.

Finance—Alta Lee Miller, Wilma Morris, Bobbye Nickols.

Obituary—Marvin Riggs, Clarence Fowler, Sister Charley Holder.

Sunday School and League—Eugene Davis, Walter Jackson, W. S. Knight.

Non-represented Churches—Irvin Duff, Sisters Floy Gates, Georgia Dunham.

Five minutes of intermission.

Regathered with singing, directed by Eld. L. J. Smith.

Prayer by Eld. Ralph Staten.

Message brought by Eld. Ira Gates.

Lesson—Gen. 3-1-12.

Theme—Plan of Salvation.

Benediction—W. H. Hale.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SERVICE

Opened with congregational singing directed by Eld. Carl High, and Mrs. I. C. Staten at the piano.

Eld. Henry Pauley conducted devotional service and talk. Scripture reading 6th Chapter Gal. 4:1-10.

Prayer by Eld. Thurman Johnson.

Report of Executive Board approved.

Report of ministers received and approved.

Examination of ministers.

Motion made and sustained that we drop Eld. A. L. Campbell from ministerial list and call for his credentials. Credentials were presented.

FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICE

Singing directed by Bro. Raymond McNutt.

Prayer by Bro. Marvin Riggs.

Singing directed by Bro. C. F. Jones.

Prayer by Eld. Thurman Johnson.

Devotional by Eld. R. S. Shelton.

Sermon by Eld. Wayne Tucker, followed by Eld. L. J. Smith. Scripture reading Ps. 23. Theme of lesson, "God's Protection and Power."

Benediction by Bro. Raymond McNutt.

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

The session was opened by congregational singing directed by Bro. Tom Bennett.

Prayer was led by Bro. C. F. Jones.

Scripture reading by Moderator. Acts 15.

Prayer was led by Eld. Billy Rogers.

Call for tardy letters—none.

Resolution Committee reports No. 1, 2, and 3. All three were received as read.

Five minutes intermission.

Assembled back with singing.

Prayer was led by Eld. W. C. Lakey. Report of Obituaries were read.

Eld. R. S. Shelton preached the Memorial sermon from Rev. 14:13.

Benediction by Eld. Thurman Johnson.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Congregational singing was led by Eld. Ralph Staten. Prayer by Eld. Wayne Tucker.

The Presbytery and Ordaining Council, composed of Eld. R. S. Shelton, Eld. L. J. Smith, Eld. Ira Gates, Deacons Marvin Riggs and E. A. Swift, Ordained Bro. Paul Morris, Bro. Melvin Shelton and Bro. Lonnie Walker as Deacons.

Report of the Presbytery was read and accepted, also motion adopted that we grant credentials to the following Deacons: George Gobel, Harold W. Smith, Leonard Bridges, J. O. Martin, Wiley Ricker, Marvin Riggs, W. H. Hale, E. A. Swift, Melvin Shelton, Paul Morris, Lonnie Walker.

A free will offering of \$9.44 was taken to buy blank forms for Ministers' and Deacons' Certificates.

Report on Home Missions, Finance, and Non-represented Churches were received as read and committees discharged.

Motion adopted that we be represented by corresponding delegates to the Cave Springs Association of Missouri in 1947. The delegates elected were Eld. and Mrs. Ira Gates, Lonnie Walker and Melvin Shelton. Those elected to represent us at the State Association, which convenes with Walnut Grove Church, near Hector, Ark., are as follows: Raymond McNutt, Eugene Davis, Lorine White, Birdie Kirk. Motion adopted that we ask for the next State Association.

Deacon enrollment list retained and amended. Motion was adopted that the Association authorize the executive board to use the \$150.00 received from the lot transaction to purchase any such lot or church grounds as deemed advisable by the Executive Board.

Eld. Wayne Tucker was elected to preach the Memorial sermon at the next Associational meeting. Motion made and seconded that we meet next year with the Rickey Chapel Church, near O'Kean, Sept. 1947.

SATURDAY NIGHT SERVICE

Congregational singing was led by Eld. L. J. Smith. The devotional was conducted by Eld. Carl High.

Prayer led by Eld. Wayne Tucker.

Message was delivered by Eld. Ira Gates. Scripture lesson, Acts 16:25-31. Lesson theme, "Sirs, What Must I Do to Be Saved?"

Benediction by Bro. Raymond McNutt.

SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE

A fine program was conducted by the Young People. Singing led by Miss Dixie Waddell with Mrs. Harry Bagley, Jr., at the piano. Prayer was led by Sister Smith.

Congregational singing was led by Eld. Carl High. Prayer was led by Bro. Jesse Larison. Message was brought by Eld. W. C. Lakey.

Benediction by Bro. I. C. Staten.

NOON

A bountiful lunch was spread at the noon hour on the church grounds. The afternoon service began at 2 o'clock with singing led by Eld. Carl High. Prayer was led by Eld. Ira Gates; the message was delivered by Eld. Wayne Tucker and Eld. R. S. Shelton reading from Matt. 28, Luke 22, I Cor., Acts 2:41-44, after which several of the Saints partook of the Lord's Supper and washed feet. After singing a hymn they went out of the meeting house.

MINISTERS' ENROLLMENT

D. C. Jones	Pocahontas, Ark.
E. W. Tucker	Peachorchard, Ark.
W. F. Vickery	Broken Arrow, Okla.
R. S. Shelton	O'Kean, Ark.
Ralph Staten	Pocahontas, Ark.
B. F. Forrester	Walnut Ridge, Ark.
G. W. Million	Pocahontas, Ark.
Charles Staten	Pocahontas, Ark., Rt. 1
Thurman Johnson	Biggers, Ark.
J. J. Colbert	Campbell, Mo.
C. M. Kildow	Hoxie, Ark.
Henry Pauley	Beech Grove, Ark.
L. J. Smith	Rt. No. 3, Box 471, Osceola, Ark.
W. C. Lakey	Sedgwick, Ark.
Ira Gates	Peachorchard, Ark.
Carl High	Peach Orchard, Ark.
L. W. Hodges	Sedgwick, Ark.
R. L. Crook	Doniphan, Mo.
W. C. Hudson	Jonesboro, Ark.
D. P. Watts	Osceola, Ark.
L. C. Reece	Osceola, Ark.

DEACONS' ENROLLMENT

Churches

Alice Brooks—Marvin Riggs, I. C. Staten.

New Harmony—E. W. Cox.

Pirtle—Wiley Ricker, Irvin Clark.

Grand View—H. C. Jolly, E. L. Jones, Aldon Jones.

Warm Springs—J. C. King.

Rickey Chapel—E. Swift, H. Martin, Henry Russell.

Pruett Chapel—G. W. Dale, Orville Cox.

O'Kean—J. O. Martin, Howard Martin, Melvin Shelton, Paul Morris and
Lonnie Walker.

Hopewell—C. F. Jones, Ambrose Cavenar.

New Bethel—Ben Seaman, Hiram White.

New Hope—Horace Bates.

Stony Point—Dan Kirk, A. C. Pendergrass.

Pleasant View—Sular Camp.

White Oak—Will Manus, Tom Bennett, J. D. McKinney.

Pocahontas—Will S. White, Luther Crays, W. H. Hale, W. H. Clay.

Constant Chapel—Hire Mitchell, Horace Penny.

Poplar Valley—W. S. Knight.

Carson Lake—G. W. Goble, Harold Smith, Leonard Bridges.

New Covenant—Olivan Holder, Ed Hutsell, Herman Johnson.

Sugar Tree Grove—G. W. Hopper, Monroe Barks, Ben Patterson (deceased)

EVANGELISTIC REPORT

I have not pastored any church this year. Conducted one revival meeting at Hafer, Ark. Witnessed 3 conversions, baptized 2, received \$16.33. Preached 12 sermons and traveled 85 miles. Preached 1 sermon at Pruett Chapel, traveled about 80 miles, received \$6.00. I gave this \$6 to treasury. Preached 7 sermons at Harrisburg, received \$9.00. Preached 4 sermons at Burdetta, did not receive anything. Preached 6 sermons at Willow Tree, received \$3.00. Preached 3 sermons at Hafer, also revival, collection \$7.00. Preached 5 sermons at Midway, collection \$1.00. I assisted in Carson Lake revival as song leader, also preached 5 or 6 sermons there this year. I have conducted 10 funerals and officiated at 12 marriage ceremonies.

Total sermons preached, 38.

Amount received, \$42.33.

Traveled 875 miles.

L. J. Smith,
Osceola, Ark.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

OBITUARY—We, your Committee on Obituaries, find that our Heavenly Father saw fit in His Infinite wisdom to call from our number the following: From Pocahontas, William Grissom; from Poplar Valley, Eld. Edgar Fisher; from Hoxie, Eld. Geo. V. Weeks.

We, your Committee, offer the bereaved ones our deepest heartfelt sympathy.

Marvin Riggs,
Clarence Fowler,
Sister Charley Holder.

HOME MISSION BOARD—We, the Home Mission Board, submit the following report:

We find that the contribution of each church is as follows: Poplar Valley, \$1.44; O'Kean, \$44.09; Pirtle, \$10.95; Pocahontas, \$44.66; Pruett Chapel, \$12.00; Quarterly meeting, \$30.77. The total sum of contributions

is \$144.49, which makes the grand total of \$287.40.

The Board's expenditures are as follows: Paid to Eld. D. C. Jones, \$50.00, and to National Association, \$5.00. Paid to Eld. L. J. Smith \$115.67 for his services, which leaves the balance \$116.00 in the Home Mission Fund.

Ralph Staten,
D. C. Jones,
R. S. Shelton,
Charles Staten,
Ira Gates, Treasurer.

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND LEAGUE—We find that Sunday schools in the churches are in fair condition but few leagues. We recommend that Christian teachers be selected for the classes, and parents be faithful in their attendance, setting the right example before their children. We also urge that all churches use Free Will Baptist Literature, and each church organize a league for the young people. We need their help in the League Program at our Associational meetings.

Eugene Davis,
Walter Jackson.
W. S. Knight,

NON-REPRESENTED CHURCHES—We, your committee on Non-Represented Churches, find that the following were not represented: White Oak, Harmony, Warm Springs, New Bethel, New Hope, Stony Point, Pleasant View, Constant Chapel, and Clear Lake.

We recommend that the above churches, if they haven't any Sunday school or pastor, to contact our Associational Evangelist to assist in any way he can to help you to organize a Sunday school or secure a pastor. If you desire his services, please invite and use him as that is a part of his duties. The Association is under obligation to help you in a financial way. Let us hear from you by the next Associational meeting.

Mrs. Ira Gates,
Georgia Dunham,
Irvan Duff.

FINANCE REPORT

	Local	State	Clerk
Poplar Valley _____	\$ 2.00	\$ 1.64	\$ 1.00
Carson Lake _____	2.00	2.00	.50
Pirtle _____	1.00	2.00	.60
Alice Brooks _____	1.00	1.00	.50
New Covenant _____	2.00	2.00	.72
Sugar Tree Grove _____	1.50	1.50	.50
Hopewell _____	2.50	1.00	.50
Rickey Chapel _____	2.00	1.00	.50
O'Kean _____	1.50	1.00	.50
Grand View _____	3.00	1.50	.50
Pocahontas _____	2.00	2.00	.50
Pruett Chapel _____	2.00	1.00	.50
	<u>\$22.50</u>	<u>\$17.64</u>	<u>\$6.82</u>
A free will offering of _____	<u>\$18.45</u>		
	<u>\$40.95</u>		

A free will offering of \$14.45 was taken to help buy tires and licenses for the state trailer.

MINISTERS' REPORT

I have pastored three churches, namely, Pirtle, Rickey Chapel and New Covenant; also had regular appointments at Alice Brooks Church.

At Pirtle I preached 18 sermons, witnessed 3 conversions, received (including revival) the sum of \$75.47. Baptized 2. At Alice Brooks I preached 15 sermons, received \$132.12, baptized 5, traveled 500 miles. At Rickey Chapel I preached 19 sermons (including revival), witnessed 26 conversions, baptized 17, received \$91.25, traveled 500 miles. At New Covenant I preached 21 sermons, witnessed 8 conversions, received \$155.97 (including revival). I assisted in revival at O'Kean, preached 3 sermons, witnessed 3 conversions, received \$30.00. Also assisted in revival at Carson Lake, preached 5 sermons, witnessed 4 conversions, received \$11.00. I baptized 17 from Dean revival. I have preached the total of 79 sermons, traveled 2,000 miles, received the total of \$495.81. I have conducted 1 funeral and officiated at 1 marriage ceremony.

Carl High,
Peach Orchard.

I have conducted 6 revivals, pastored three churches.

Poplar Valley: Preached 31 sermons, witnessed 2 conversions, traveled 124 miles, received \$143.11.

O'Kean: Preached 24 sermons, witnessed 3 conversions, traveled 400 miles, received \$135.15.

Alice Brooks: Preached 32 sermons, witnessed 27 conversions, traveled 1620 miles, received \$198.60.

Giles Spur: Preached 12 sermons, witnessed 2 conversions, traveled 192 miles, received \$94.38.

Mount Zion: Preached 19 sermons, witnessed 19 conversions, traveled 150 miles, received \$104.24.

Oak Grove: Preached 2 sermons, received \$7.00, traveled 16 miles.

Walnut Corner Church: I preached 2 sermons, traveled 28 miles, received \$7.69.

At New Covenant I preached 1 sermon, traveled 32 miles, received \$2.00, I assisted in building new church at Poplar Valley, valued at \$3,000, officiated in 2 marriage ceremonies, preached 8 funerals, witnessed 53 conversions. Total sermons preached 131; total miles traveled, 2,562; total received \$737.17.

W. C. Lakey,
Sedgwick, Ark.

I have pastored one church, Carson Lake, conducted 1 revival, witnessed 5 conversions, and 5 additions to the church, baptized 5, conducted 1 funeral, performed 4 marriage ceremonies, helped organize 2 Sunday schools, the church paid me \$25.50, received for preaching other places, \$41.00. Received for year's work, \$66.50.

Eld. D. P. Watts,
Osceola, Ark.

I have pastored 1 church, New Bethel, made 4 trips, received for labor \$30.25, traveled 585 miles, officiated at 5 marriages, conducted 6 funerals, received for year's work \$51.85.

Wayne Tucker,
Peach Orchard, Ark.

On account of my wife and myself being in poor health, I haven't pastored any church this year. I have preached 28 sermons, witnessed 19 conversions, traveled 262 miles, performed 1 marriage, conducted 2 funerals, received from churches \$38.11, and from Home Mission \$50.00, and other donations that I haven't kept record of such as for hospital expenses and so forth. I'm asking all my brethren to pray for my wife and I and may the Lord bless you all.

Eld. D. C. Jones,
Pocahontas, Ark., Rt. 1.

Greeting, in the name of the Lord, to the Social Band, convening at New Covenant. I have preached 1 sermon at O'Kean church, and 3 at Rickey Chapel, married 1 couple, traveled 90 miles, received no money.

Yours in His Service,

Eld. Henry C. Pauley.

I haven't had the pastoral care of any church this year, but have preached at the following places:

Sharum Church: 4 sermons, witnessed 7 conversions, traveled 90 miles, received \$14.00. At Dean meeting witnessed 10 conversions. Pocahontas, I preached 4 sermons, traveled 90 miles, received \$26.98. Cash Hall, part time, preached 8 sermons, traveled 156 miles, received \$23.25. Preached 3 funerals, married 7 couples. Total of sermons 16, witnessed 20 conversions, traveled a total of 361 miles, received total pay \$66.23. Pray for me.

Rev. R. S. Shelton,
O'Kean, Ark.

MINISTERIAL REPORT OF RALPH STATEN

I have served in the capacity of a regular minister and pastor of the Pocahontas Church. At this place I preached 71 sermons, witnessed 6 conversions, baptized 7, received into fellowship 21, and was paid for services, \$689.72.

I have conducted 5 revival campaigns. Two of these were at Glenwood, where I preached 29 sermons, witnessed three conversions, received 3 into fellowship, and was paid \$248.20 for my services. I conducted 1 revival at Greenbrier where I preached 17 sermons, witnessed 1 conversion, and was paid for my services the sum of \$125.00. I conducted 1 revival at Mt. Harmony in Saffell where I preached 9 sermons, witnessed 2 conversions and the reception of 6 into fellowship, and was paid the sum of \$87.10 for my services. I conducted 1 meeting at Success where I preached 6 sermons and received \$32.10 for my services. I have attended 4 State Associational meetings, each one of our Quarterly meetings, and our National Association at Oklahoma City. I have preached at 11 other places.

I have conducted 11 funerals and was paid \$10.00 for my services.

I have preached the total of 162 sermons, witnessed 22 conversions, baptized 16, received 30 into fellowship, and received \$1,243.34 for my services.

In addition to these services I edited the monthly publication, the Free Will Baptist Landmark.

Ralph Staten.

I have preached 22 sermons, witnessed 28 conversions, baptized 1.

Eld L. W. Hodges,
Sedgwick, Ark.

CONSTITUTION

1. This Association, when properly organized, shall consist of a moderator and a clerk, who shall be chosen by the suffrage of the members present. The duty of the moderator shall be to keep the Association in order, state questions fairly and take the vote thereon; to have the liberty of speech as other members, providing his seat be filled; to have no vote unless the Association be equally divided, in which case he shall have the deciding vote. The duty of the clerk shall be to keep a fair record of the proceedings of the Association.

2. The Association shall be composed of ordained ministers, deacons, and licentiates, together with the messengers duly chosen by the several churches in our union and sent to represent them in this Association, whom the members judge best qualified for the purpose, who, on producing letters certifying to their appointment, shall be entitled to seats.

3. In the letters from the several churches shall be expressed their respective number of members in fellowship, and the number received, dismissed, excluded or died since the last sitting of the Association, and day of church meeting.

4. No query shall be received by the Association from any church unless it has been acted on in said church and cannot be settled, in which case the Association shall take up same and act upon it.

5. Every church in the Association shall be entitled to a representation of of messengers not exceeding three.

6. Every motion made and seconded shall be acted upon unless withdrawn, by the mover.

7. The Association shall not have the power to lord it over God's heritage so as to infringe on any of the internal rights of the churches; nevertheless, we agree that the churches composing the Association shall stand in the same relationship to each other in this Association that individuals do to each other in the church; that is to say, if a church trespass against a sister church the church injured shall try to reclaim them by Gospel steps; if they cannot be reclaimed, they shall be dropped from our union.

8. We agree to do all business by a majority of all the members present.

9. Any church may be admitted into this Association by letter and messengers. If upon examination it is found to be orthodox and orderly, such admission shall be manifested by the moderator giving the right hand of fellowship to the messengers thereof.

10. This Association shall have power to sit as an advisory council, to give churches all necessary advice in matters of difficulty; to inquire into the cause why churches neglect to represent themselves in this Association; to appoint any members, by and with his or her consent to transact any business they may deem necessary; to invite brethren in the ministry to a seat with the Association; to adjourn the Association at any

time and place that may be thought necessary to exclude from his seat any member who does not conform to the Rules of Decorum, and shall report his or their conduct to the churches from which he or they were messengers.

11. The Association possesses appellate jurisdiction in all cases of difficulty that may arise in the churches.

12. The Lord's Supper and feet washing shall be administered at each annual session of the Association.

13. Each Annual Association shall be held on the third Sunday in September.

RULES OF ORDER

1. At every sitting of the Association, business shall be opened and concluded with a prayer.

2. Those who speak shall rise, address the Moderator, and personal reflections shall be avoided.

3. All motions made and seconded shall be open for discussion, but debate may be shut off at any time by a majority of the members of the Association.

4. If any proposition or motion under debate contains two or more points, it shall be divided at the request of any member and the vote taken separately.

5. Motions made and lost shall not be recorded on the Minutes unless so ordered at the time.

6. No one shall speak more than once on the same subject without special leave from the body.

7. All questions shall be decided by a majority of the members present.

8. No member shall absent himself without leave of the Moderator.

9. Arrangements shall be made so as to insure two sermons or other devotional exercises equivalent thereto in addition to the business session each day, and the Moderator announces at the adjournment of each business session who is to have charge of said service.

10. Alterations may be made in these rules at any regular meetings of the Association.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. GOD. We believe in one true and living, Triune God; composed of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, equal in divine Essence, Purpose, Power and Glory.—St. John 1:1; 1 Cor. 8:6; St. John 10:30.

2. CHRIST. We believe that Jesus Christ is the divine Son of God. Was with the Father and Holy Spirit at the time of the Creation, left the Courts of Heaven and came to this earth. Took upon Himself the form of Humanity, sin excepted, by being born of the Virgin Mary, manifested His power, was crucified, placed in Joseph's tomb, rose from the dead

the third day, completed the great plan of salvation, walked and talked with His disciples, publicly ascended up to Heaven, and that He will descend again to gather His jewels home.—Isaiah 9:6; St. John 1:14; Luke 1:26-28; Matt. 14:13-21; Mark 16:9-19; Luke 24:50-53; Acts 1:9-12, Mark 15:22-47.

3. **HOLY SPIRIT.** We believe that the Holy Spirit has visited true believers in all ages, and especially since the ascension of the SON back to the Father, and His coming on the day of Pentecost. Has taken up His office work among all nations of people, as a Divine Reprover, Comforter and Guide. Judges 6:34, 11:29; St. John 16:8-14; Isaiah 63:10-12; Ephesians, 4:30; Acts 8:17-20; Ezek. 36:27; Joel 2:28.

4. **THE BIBLE.** We believe the Bible, which is composed of the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, was given by Inspiration of God, is our way-bill from earth to heaven, and the only infallible rule of faith and practice.—2 Peter 1:19-21; 2 Tim. 3:14-17; Daniel 10:21; Acts 1:16-17; Matt. 21:42.

5. **THE FALL OF MAN.** We believe that GOD created man good, gave him a just law by which he should be governed; with promise of reward for faithfulness and with penalties of punishment for disobedience. Gave man power of free moral agency to choose the right and reject the wrong. But our first parents heeded the voice of the great enemy of souls, voluntarily transgressed the law of GOD, fell, with their posterity, under the just penalty of the same, and were unable of their own power to extricate or save themselves from the great dilemma into which they had fallen. God gave them the hope of salvation through the coming CHRIST.—Gen. 1:27; 2:16-17; Psalms 51-5; Gen. 3; Gen. 6:5; Rom. 5:12-19; John 3:6; Eph. 2:3; Matt. 18:3; Isaiah 7:16; Acts 17:24-29.

6. **REDEMPTION, SALVATION, ADOPTION.** We believe that Jesus Christ by His birth, death, burial, resurrection and ascension paid the purchase price for the redemption of the whole human race, arranged a pardon for all who come upon Gospel terms; and a law of adoption into the Kingdom of Heaven, and an eternity inheritance into the glorified Kingdom above.—Heb. 9:12; Gal. 3:13; 4:4-5; Titus 2:11-14; Heb. 1:4; St. John 3:16; Isaiah 15:22; 45:22; Heb. 2:9; Rev. 5:9; 1 Tim. 4:10.

7. **CONDITIONS OF SALVATION.** We believe that all persons, dying in infancy and all idiots are saved by the atoning merits of the Son of God without any act on their part; that persons coming to the years of accountability, transgressing the law of God, must upon their part, exercise faith in Jesus Christ through repentance toward God, at the completion of which pardon takes place in the mind of the Father and by the Holy Spirit they pass through the ordeal of regeneration, are washed in the blood of the Lamb and are planted in the Kingdom of Christ—John 3rd chapter; Matt. 19:13-22; 2 Cor. 7:10; Luke 18:16-17; St. John 4:11-16; Psalms 98:3.

8. **SALVATION FREE.** We believe that God desires the salvation

of all; Christ died for all; the Gospel invites all; the Holy Spirit strives with all; and whosoever will may come and be saved upon the terms of the Gospel.—I Peter 1:9-25; 2:9-25; Revelation 22:17.

9. BAPTISM. We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion of believers in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, in which are represented the burial and resurrection of Christ; also represents our death to sin, and only those who have come under the presbytery of the elders are qualified to administer the same.—Matt. 3:14-16; 3:5-6; 1 Peter 3:21; St. John 3:23; Acts 10:47; Matt. 28:19.

10. COMMUNION AND FEET WASHING. We believe that the Lord's Supper and the washing of the Saints' feet are ordinances of the Gospel of Christ; the Lord's Supper was instituted by our Savior to commemorate His broken body and shed blood for the sins of the world, and to show our remembrance of Him till He comes. All Christians have a right to the Lord's Supper and should be invited; "Let a man examine himself and so let him eat."

The washing of feet was instituted by our Lord at the same time that the Supper was instituted as an act of humility to show our love for each other, and both ordinances should be perpetuated by all Christians until His second coming.—Luke 22:19-20; 1 Cor. 11:20-29; St. John 13:1-17; Matt. 26:26-29.

11. LORD'S DAY. We believe that the Christian Sabbath should be observed as a day of rest and for the worship of God; that we should abstain from all sinful amusements and secular employments, works of mercy and piety excepted. Exodus 20:11; 31:12-18; Deut. 5:12-15; Ezek. 20:12; Matt. 28:1; Luke 23:56; Acts 13:42-48; Mark 2:27; 1 Cor. 16:1-2; Heb. 10:25.

12. CALL TO THE MINISTRY. We believe in a divine call of the ministry; that God in His goodness and power of grace, impresses His ministers with the burden of lost souls, to the extent that the call becomes irresistible with personal contentment; that when they yield to the call and exercise the native gifts according to the Scriptures, with a full reliance upon Him, He accompanies them in the person of the Holy Spirit to guide them in the way of truth and to bless their labors according to His purpose.—Jonah 1:1; Jer. 1:5; Mark 3:14; Acts 1:22-26; 1 Cor. 9:14; Matt. 28:19; Matt. 9:28; Heb. 5:4; 2 Cor. 11:14-23.

13. The INVISIBLE CHURCH. We believe that the Invisible or Spiritual Church is the redeemed in the aggregate, is the family of God, is composed of all true Christians of every congregation from righteous Abel to the restitution of all things, from every kindred, nation, tongue and people.—Eph. 3:16-21; Heb. 12:22-23; 1 Pet. 2:5; Eph. 2:20-22; Acts 2:47; Matt. 16:18; Eph. 5:23-25; Rev. 5:9.

14. THE VISIBLE CHURCH. We believe that a visible church of Christ is a congregation of faithful men and women, having obtained fellowship with the Lord and with each other, agreeing to keep up a good

discipline and doctrine according to the rules of the Gospel.—2 Thess. 1:1; Acts 16:5; 3 John 1:10; Matt. 18:17; Acts 20:28; Revelation 1:4-20.

15. **PERSEVERANCE.** We believe that all true believers in Christ should persevere in divine grace, and in the knowledge of the truth, and that God's grace is sufficient to help them to overcome all the obstacles of life, and that all the combined forces of the great enemy of souls on earth and in hell (or in his eternal abode) are not able to pluck them from His hand so long as they walk in the path of duty; but those who side-step and wilfully refuse or neglect to perform their duty, they would backslide if persistently continued, would be eternally lost.—2 Pet. 1:12; 2 Cor. 9:10; 2 Peter 1:4-8; 2 Peter 2:2; Rom. 8:35-39; Apostasy: 2 Peter 1:8-9; I Cor. 10:1-13; Heb. 12:15-17; 1 John 5:16; Heb. 6:1-6; Tim. 4:1-2; Heb. 3:12; St. John 15:1-7; Matt. 12:31-32.

16. **CHRIST THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH.** We believe that Christ is the Head of the Church, and that the government of the local church is with the body.—Col. 1:18-19; Matt. 16:18; Heb. 12:23; Matt. 21:42; Eph. 1:22; Acts 16:4-5.

17. **SANCTIFICATION.** Sanctification is a work of God's grace, by which the soul is cleansed from all sin and wholly consecrated to Christ. It takes place in regeneration, and the Christian can and should abide in this state to the end of life, constantly growing in the grace and the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.—I Cor. 6:11; 2 Thes. 2:13; Heb. 12:14; Phil. 3:21; 2 Thess. 5:19-23; St. John 17:17-19; 2 Tim. 2:20-21.

18. **THE RESURRECTION.** We believe in the resurrection of the dead, both of the righteous and the wicked. When the resurrection shall take place, the soul and body shall be reunited, the righteous shall be received into everlasting happiness to reign with God forever; but the wicked shall go away into everlasting punishment.—Matt. 28:6; John 5:28-29; 1 Cor. 15:51-58; Dan. 12:2; Acts 24:15.

9. **THE SOUL.** The soul is endless, hence does not die with the body, but immediately after death enters into a conscious state of happiness or misery, according to the spiritual character here possessed.—Phil. 1:23; Luke 23:43; Rev. 6:9; Luke 16:19-25; Matt. 10:28; Rev. 20:4-5; Gen. 3:5; 18-19; I Kings 17:22.

20. **JUDGMENT.** We believe that there will be a general universal judgment, when all men shall be judged according to their works, whether they be good or bad, and that immediately thereafter the wicked shall enter into everlasting punishment, and the righteous into eternal happiness.—2 Thess. 1:4-9; Rev. 14:9-13; Luke 16:23; Rev. 21:8; 2 Cor. 5:10; Matt. 12:36-37; Rev. 20:12-13; Acts 17:31.

FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH COVENANT

Having given ourselves to God by faith in Christ, and adopted the Word of God as our rule of faith and practice, we now give ourselves to one another by the will of God in this solemn covenant. We promise by His grace to love and obey Him in all things, to avoid the appearance of

evil, to abstain from all sinful amusements and unholy conformity to the world; from all sanction of the use and sale of intoxicating beverages, and to "provide things honest in the sight of all men."

We agree to accept Christian admonition and reproof with meekness, and to watch over one another in love, endeavoring to "keep the unity of the Spirit," in the bonds of peace, to be careful of one another's happiness and reputation, and seek to strengthen the weak, encourage the afflicted, admonish the erring, and as far as we are able, promote the success of the Gospel.

We will everywhere hold Christian principle sacred and Christian obligations and enterprises supreme; counting it our chief business in life to extend the influence of Christ in society; constantly praying and toiling that the kingdom of God may come, and His will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

We agree faithfully to discharge our obligations in reference to the study of the Scripture, secret prayer, family devotions, and social worship, and by self-denial, faith, and good works endeavor to "grow in grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." We will not forget the assembling of ourselves together for church conferences, public worship, and the observance of the ordinances of the Gospel, nor fail to pay according to our ability for the support of the church, of its poor, and all its benevolent work.

To this end we agree to labor for the promotion of educational and denomination enterprises, the support of missions, the success of Sunday schools, and evangelistic efforts for the salvation of souls, and the conversion of the world. And may the God of peace sanctify us wholly, and preserve us blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

STATISTICAL TABLE

PASTOR	CHURCH	CLERK	Received into Fellowship	Dismissed	Excluded	Died	Sunday School	Leagues	Taking Church Paper	Members
W. C. Lakey	O'Kean	Carrie Connelly	15	0	0	0	Yes	No	6	51
Ira Gates	Carson Lake	Leonard Bridges	5	0	0	0	Yes	No	2	60
W. C. Lakey	Alice Brooks	Mary Staten	15	1	0	1	Yes	No	5	90
Carl High	Rickey Chapel	Cina Like	15	0	0	0	Yes	No	0	65
Billie Rogers	Pruett Chapel	Gladys Smith	0	0	0	0	Yes	No	0	65
W. C. Lakey	New Covenant	J. T. Holland	5	0	0	0	Yes	No	3	94
G. W. Million	Hopewell	Jewel Graham	0	0	0	0	Yes	No	0	119
W. C. Lakey	Poplar Valley	Marie Holland	0	0	1	0	Yes	No	0	119
Carl High	Pirtle	Thurman Hobbs	2	0	0	0	Yes	No	11	97
R. L. Crook	Sugar Tree Grove	Mattie Hopper	0	3	0	0	No	No	3	53
Ralph Staten	Pocahontas	Alta Lee Miller	24	0	0	1	Yes	Yes	10	122
	Grand View	Ona Ray	0	0	0	0	Yes	No	4	65
		TOTAL	81	4	1	2	11	1	44	935