

1919

MINUTES

OF THE

FORTY-THIRD ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

South Georgia Association

OF

FREE WILL BAPTIST

CONVENED WITH

CORINTH CHURCH, BACON CO., GA.

October 24, 25, 26, 1919.

AYDEN, N. C.

FREE WILL BAPTIST PRINTING CO.

1920

PROCEEDINGS

The Forty-Third Annual Session of the South Georgia Association of Free Will Baptist, convened with Corinth church, Bacon county, Ga., October 24, 25, 26, 1919. The introductory sermon was preached on Thursday night by Rev. S. Herrin. Text: Isa. 40:31.

FRIDAY MORNING.

After a brief but very interesting talk by the moderator, the body was called to order by singing No. 103 in the Songs for Jesus No. 6. Prayer by the moderator.

The letters from the various churches were called for and read, and the names of delegates enrolled as follows:

Memorial.—W. H. Googe, J. W. Herrin, J. D. Blanton.

Spring Grove.—Sister J. O. Fennell.

Piney Grove.—L. C. Dubberly, T. G. Crosby.

Satilla.—C. C. Quinn, G. W. Harrison, John Ray, M. L. Harrison, R. Q. Hughes.

Oak Grove.—J. W. McLean, S. T. Stanfield.

Pine Level.—J. N. and T. F. Johnson, A. J. Douglass, J. L. and John A. Farmer, W. E. and J. B. Brigman.

Choopee.—A. K. Merritt.

Ebenezer.—H. N. Baxter, H. A. Kennedy, B. F. Blitch, C. C. Cowart, J. N. Swindell, U. J. DeLoach.

Fishing Creek.—Lester Byrd, A. W. Bratcher, Sisters Sarah I. Byrd, Sarah Smith, T. E. Smith.

Alabaha.—J. W. Harrison, S. A. Brewton, J. E. McBea.

Glennville.—A. F. and J. R. DeLoach, R. T. Zorn, M. M. Purcell, S. C. Plumber, J. C. DeLoach.

Big Creek.—Allen Jones, Dave Steedby, B. N. Payker.

Bethel.—T. P. Harper, J. T. Jones.

Corinth.—J. M. Moore, John M. Taylor, H. J. Jordan, A. Smith, Kelly Carter, Sim Smith.

Philadelphia.—J. W. Colson, Sister Ellen Altman.

Liberty.—Nat Winters, C. Harklerod.

Marianna.—Abe Minchew, J. R. McCorkledale, Archie Crews, Jesse Watson, R. B. Benton.

Stony Hill.—C. C. Anderson.

New Hope.—By letter.

By motion the body voted to elect officers by acclamation. They elected as follows:

Rev. J. A. Blanton, Moderator; Rev. J. O. Fennell, Assistant; W. H. DeLoach, Clerk; John M. Taylor, Treasurer.

The body voted that the treasurer give bond in the sum of \$200.00. The moderator then declared the body permanently organized and ready

for business. Adjourned until 2 p. m. for preaching. Closed by singing No. 49 in the Songs for Jesus No. 6. Prayer by Bro. O. Minchew.

Preaching at 11 o'clock by J. D. Little. Text: John 2:5. Followed by benediction and adjournment for dinner, which was served on tables on the church ground.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION.

The body was called to order as per adjournment by singing No. 100 in the Songs for Jesus No. 6. Prayer by Bro. J. B. Brigman. The body voted to seat Bros. J. C. DeLoach, and U. J. DeLoach and sisters Retta DeLoach, Minnie Swindell, Mrs. S. A. Brewton, Mrs. H. A. Kennedy, Mrs. C. C. Cowan, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. J. N. Swindell, as members of the body. The moderator then called for petitionary letters and received one from Liberty church at West Green, Ga. It was read and the messengers seated in the body. The moderator extended to them the right hand of fellowship. Then called for corresponding messengers and received Bros. S. M. Bozeman and J. D. Little from the Little River Association, and Bro. W. H. Holmes, W. T. Rustin, and J. H. Starley from the Georgia Union, which was received and seated in the body.

By motion and on request Bro. J. W. McLean was excused from the remainder of the session on account of sickness. The same request was made by Bro. J. T. Jones and was granted.

The moderator appointed E. B. Joyner, B. F. Blitch, and B. F. Bratcher to assist the clerk in arranging the various committees. The body took a recess of 30 minutes for that purpose.

The body was called to order as per adjournment. The moderator called for unfinished business, and there being a difference between Fishing Creek and Piney Grove churches, which was not settled at the last session; the moderator appointed a committee to look into this matter and bring about a settlement. The following brethren were appointed: C. C. Butler, J. O. Fennell, E. B. Joyner, Abe Minchew, S. Herrin.

By motion the moderator excused the brethren from Liberty church for the balance of the session. Bro. H. J. Johnson was excused for Saturday.

By motion the body adjourned till 8:30 Saturday morning. Prayer by Bro. S. A. Brewton.

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION.

The body was called to order at 10 o'clock by singing No. 77 in the Sunday School and Revival. Prayer by Bro. I. J. Blanton.

After the roll call the reports of the committees were called for.

By motion the body voted to retain the same superannuated board. The reports of the committees were read and adopted. (See reports.)

By motion the body elected an executive board to look after the interests of the Association.

The following brethren were appointed:—W. H. Googe, J. D. Blanton, T. F. Johnson, U. J. DeLoach, M. L. Harrison.

On motion the body adjourn till 2 o'clock for preachin. Prayer by Bro. J. O. Fennell.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION.

The body was called to order as per adjournment. After reading the reports on obituaries the body bowed in secret prayer for three minutes, and the prayer was closed by Bro. J. B. Brigman in their memory.

On motion, Bros. B. A. Altman, and J. W. Colson were relieved for the balance of the session.

By motion, the body voted to pay the corresponding messengers expenses. The moderator appointed corresponding messengers to other sister associations as follows:

Georgia Union.—W. E. Brigman, C. C. Butler.

Little River.—I. J. Blanton, C. C. Butler.

By motion the body voted to send Rev. E. B. Joyner as our representative in the State Convention, and his expenses to be paid by this association and that he draw on the treasurer for the same.

By motion the body voted for each church to send \$1.00 for the expense of the State Convention, and that the money be sent by E. B. Joyner.

By motion the body voted to pay the clerk \$15.00 for his services, and the moderator \$15.00 and that the balance in the treasury go toward printing the minutes.

By motion the body voted to have the minutes printed at Ayden, N. C.

By motion the body voted for the clerk to write a resolution of thanks to appear in the minutes.

By motion the body voted to empower the moderator to sell the property of Odessa Grove church.

By motion the body voted to adjourn to meet with Satilla church, Jeff Davis county, on Thursday night before the 4th Sunday in October, 1920. Prayer by Bro. E. B. Joyner.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES.

EDUCATION.—We your committee on education beg leave to submit the following:

1. As a means of Christian education we recommend that our people study the Bible.
2. We urgently recommend to our people to use every means possible to give their children at least a common school education, and insist upon our teachers of public schools reading a portion of God's word every day.
3. As a means of Christian education, we highly recommend family prayer and an evergreen Sunday School.

BY THE COMMITTEE.

TEMPERANCE.—We, your committee on temperance beg leave to make the followin report: That all our members abstain from all intoxication and put down such as much as possible, as this one thing is one of

the evils on earth, bringing about murder and many other crimes of horror.

BY THE COMMITTEE.

DENOMINATIONAL LITERATURE.—We, your committee on Denominational Literature beg leave to submit the following report:

We recommend that our churches use our own denominational literature printed at Ayden, N. C. We recommend that our people read the Bible more, that they may be endowed with more knowledge of the same

BY THE COMMITTEE.

STATE OF CHURCHES.—We, your committee on State of Churches beg leave to make this our report: We find as near as we know that all our churches are in order except as by report. Knight's Chapel has no pastor, and has had no meeting for some time; therefore we recommend that this body send a preacher to investigate it and hold a revival and make his report of the same. We find that Bethel has allowed other denominations to come in and organize and bring confusion. We recommend this to be stopped.

BY THE COMMITTEE.

CHARACTER AND USEFULNESS OF THE MINISTRY.—We, your committee wish to submit the following report:

1. We find most of our preachers in good standing and doing the best their circumstances will permit; except we find that there is not as much brotherly love existing between our preacher brethren as there should be, and we ask that they reform from it.

2. We recommend that this body appoint a committee to look after brother A. B. Bowen and find the cause why he is not doing more for the cause of Christ.

BY THE COMMITTEE.

DESTITUTION.—We, your committee on Destitution find all our churches in good spiriual condition except Knight's Chapel and Carter's Chapel. We recommend that this body investigate and find out the condition of these churches, and why they were not represented.

BY THE COMMITTEE.

OBITUARIES.—We, your committee on obituaries beg leave to submit the following report: We are thankful to the Lord that he has not seen fit to call away any of our ministers in the last year, but we feel sad that a few of our members have been called away; but we submit ourselves to him who doeth all things well.

BY THE COMMITTEE.

FINANCE.—We, your committee on Finance beg leave to submit the following report:—We find sent up from the various churches.

For Minutes	\$ 74.30
For Superanuated Funds	68.30
For Home Missions	48.30

Corresponding Messengers expense 22.50

Total\$213.40

BY THE COMMITTEE.

NOMINATIONS.—We, your committee on Nominations submit the following report: We recommend that the next session meet with Satilla church, Jeff Davis county, commencing on Thursday night before the 4th Sunday in October, 1920. Elder C. C. Butler is to preach the introductory sermon. Delegates will be met at Hazelhurst, on the Southern railroad, and the G. and F. trains going each way, on Thursday. •
J. R. McBEA,

BY THE COMMITTEE.

UNION MEETINGS.—We, your committee on Union Meetings beg leave to submit the following report: We recommend that we hold four Union Meetings as follows: 1. To be held with Memorial church, Appling county, commencing on Friday before the fifth Sunday in November. Delegates will be met at Surrency, Ga.

2. To be held with Ebenezer church, Tattnall county, commencing on Friday, before the fifth Sunday in February. Delegates will be met at Glennville, Ga.

3. To be held with Philadelphia church, Charlton county, commencing on Friday, before the 5th Sunday in May. Delegates will be met at Folkston, Ga.

4. To be held with Pine Level church, Bacon county, commencing on Friday, before the 5th Sunday in August. Delegates to be met at Alma, Ga.

We urge the importance of our churches co-operating with the Union Meetings better in the future than they have in the past, and by so doing there can be much good accomplished.

Respectfully submitted,

BY THE COMMITTEE.

SUPPORT OF THE MINISTRY.—We, your committee on the support of the Ministry submit this our report: We note with pride from the reading the letters from the various churches that some of our churches are fully meeting their obligations; but still we see that others are not contributing as liberally as they should. We recommend that we look well to the shepherds of the flocks.

Respectfully submitted,

BY THE COMMITTEE.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS.—We, your committee on Sunday Schools beg leave to make the following report: That we urgently request that each church have an evergreen Sunday school if possible, and that our preachers stress this matter more from the pulpit in the future than they have in the past, for we consider it a great institution; as statistics from our state prison shows that 95 per cent of our criminals come from non-at-

tendants of Sunday Schools, and 90 per cent of our preachers and leading men come from Sunday schools.

Respectfully submitted,

BY THE COMMITTEE.

Superannuated Funds

From last session	\$ 36.86
To this session	68.30
Total	<u>\$105.16</u>

Disbursements.

Paid to Bro. J. Q. Henderson	\$25.00
Paid to Bro. E. Nobles	25.00
Paid to Bro. S. G. Smith	20.00
Total paid out	<u>\$70.00</u>
Balance on hand	\$35.16

BY THE COMMITTEE.

Treasurer's Report.

From last session	\$ 4.65
Received at this meeting	74.30
Total	<u>\$78.95</u>

Disbursements.

Paid to moderator	\$15.00
Paid to Clerk	15.00
Allowed for minutes	48.95
Total	<u>\$78.95</u>

Home Missions.

From last session	\$38.05
From this session	48.30
Sunday's collection	7.75
Total	<u>94.10</u>

Corresponding Messengers' Expenses.

From last session65
At this session	\$22.50
Total	<u>\$23.15</u>

Disbursements.

W. H. Holmes	\$11.65
J. H. Starley	11.65
S. M. Bozeman	8.65
W. T. Rustin,	6.00

J. D. Little 7.45

Total\$45.40

Taking \$22.25 from the Home Mission fund to finish paying the corresponding messengers' expenses, there is left in the mission fund a balance of \$71.85.

JOHN M. TAYLOR, Treasurer.

Preaching.

Thursday night at 7:30, Rev. S. Herrin; Friday at 11 o'clock, Rev. J. D. Little; Friday night at 7:30, Rev. B. A. Altman; Saturday at 11 o'clock, Rev. W. H. Holmes; Saturday night at 7:30, Rev. S. M. Bozeman. (Text: The sick man Lazarus.) Rev. W. H. Holmes' text: 2 Tim. 4:1-8.

Resolution of Thanks.

We the preachers and delegates of the South Georgia Association tender our heart-felt thanks to Corinth church and the community at large, for their kindness and hospitality shown us through this session. May the good Lord ever bless and prosper them is the prayer of one and all.

On Sunday at 10:30, the choir met in song service and rendered some good singing. After preaching by Rev. W. H. Holmes, Elder C. C. Butler took up a free will offering and raised \$17.75, which was disbursed as follows: For car hire \$5.00; for Elder Holmes \$5.00; Home Missions \$7.75.

Amid tears and shouts, thus closed the 43rd session of the South Georgia Association.

W. H. DeLOACH, Clerk

MINISTERIAL ROLL.

- ✓ J. A. Blanton, Surrency, Ga.
- ✓ I. J. Blanton, Surrency, Ga.
- ✓ E. Nobles, Blackshear, Ga.
- ✓ C. C. Butler, Alma, Ga.
- ✓ J. Q. Henderson, Mt. Pleasant, Ga.
- ✓ Peter McLean.
- ✓ J. O. Fennell, Jesup, Ga.
- ✓ C. Thomas, Glennville, Ga.
- ✓ S. G. Smith, Hazelhurst, Ga.
- ✓ C. C. Coursey, Lyons, Ga.
- ✓ B. F. Bratcher, Bristol, Ga.
- ✓ S. Herrin, Jesup, Ga.
- ✓ A. B. Bowen, Reidsville, Ga.
- ✓ W. J. Taylor.
- ✓ G. W. Jones, Hazlehurst, Ga.
- ✓ E. B. Joyner, Alma, Ga.
- ✓ G. R. Sanders, A. L. Thornton.
- Licentiate.—L. Crosby, B. A. Altman, Folkston, Ga.; J. L. Carter.

Ministers Present at This Session.

J. A. Blanton, I. J. Blanton, C. C. Butler, E. B. Joyner, C. Thomas,

G. W. Jones, B. F. Bratcher, W. J. Taylor, S. Herrin, J. O. Fennel,
Licentiates Present.—B. A. Altman and J. L. Carter.

CHURCH COVENANT.

Having given ourselves to God through Jesus Christ, and adopted the following articles as our confession of Faith, we now give ourselves to each other by the will of God, and agree to the following Church Covenant:

1. We solemnly covenant before God that we will strive by His assisting grace to exemplify our profession by a corresponding practice. We covenant and agree as members of the church and as Christians, to watch over each other in love, for mutual upbuilding in Gospel faith, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. To be careful of each other's reputation, to confess our faults one to another, to strengthen the feeble, and kindly admonish the erring and to labor together for the building up of the church and the denomination and for the salvation of sinners.

2. We promise that we will faithfully and constantly maintain secret and family prayer and religiously instruct those under our care.

3. We will endeavor to uphold the public worship of Almighty God and ordinances of His Church, not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together; that we will cheerfully contribute of the means with which we are blessed for support of our pastor and other necessary expenses of the church. Any member failing to observe this covenant shall be dealt with by the church.

4. We also promise that, unless providentially hindered, we will attend upon public worship, the social meetings of the church and report ourselves regularly at the monthly conferences and that we will walk in all ordinances of the Lord's house.

5. We covenant and agree that we will abstain from all vain amusements and sinful conformity to the world; that we will not traffic in the use or furnish to others intoxicating drinks as a beverage, and that we will sustain the benevolent enterprises of our denomination and church, such as Missions, Education, Sabbath Schools, Moral Reform, and all others which tend to the glory of God and to the welfare of men: and may the God of peace sanctify us wholly and preserve us blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, that we may join the glorified around the throne of God in ascribing blessings, honor, glory and power to Him that sitteth on the throne and unto the Lamb forever. Amen.

CONSTITUTION.

1. This Association shall be known as the South Georgia Free Will Baptist Association, whose duty it is to meet annually at such places as may be agreed upon at the previous session and not to adjourn finally until all business is settled and while there it shall be its duty to examine all questions of general interest to the Association and to use their best influence to promote all moral and benevolent means and institutions, such as Education, Sabbath Schools, Missionary Work, etc.

2. It shall be composed of the Ministers, both ordained and licensed, belonging thereto, and legal delegates from the churches composing the same.

3. Requirements of the Churches: Each church shall be required to send up an annual report to the Association in which they shall make a brief statement of the pastor, report the character and usefulness of the ministers whose membership is with them. Give name and postoffice of the church clerk, give the number baptized, received by letter, dismissed by letter, restored, excluded and died; also the number of members and the amount paid Associational purposes.

4. This Association shall be considered an ecclesiastical body, and shall control all the various churches composing the same so far as Gospel order extends. Also, no houses or lands shall be sold or disposed of without her consent. Each male member shall be required to pay 25 cents annually as superannuated funds, and any member failing to comply with this shall be noted by the church.

5. The officers of this Association shall be a Moderator, Assistant Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer, to be chosen by ballot.

6. Churches wishing to become members of this Association must adopt our Articles of Faith and conform to its usages.

7. Churches sending delegates to this Association shall be allowed one delegate for each ten members or fraction thereof.

8. This Constitution may be altered or amended at any session of this Association by a majority vote.

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

1. We believe that there is but one living, true and eternal God, the Father of whom are all things, from everlasting to everlasting, glorious immutable in all His attributes.—1 Cor. 8:6; Isa. 40:28.

2. We believe that there is but one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, the only begotten Son of God, born of the Virgin Mary, whom God freely sent into this world because of the great love wherewith He loved the world and Christ as freely gave himself a ransom for all, tasting death for every man, who was buried and rose again the third day, and ascended into Heaven, from whence we look for Him the second time in the clouds of Heaven at the last day to judge both the quick and the dead. 1 Tim. 2:5-6. Heb. 2:9; St. John 3:16; Rev. 1:7; Acts 24:15; 1 John 2:2.

3. We believe that there is one Holy Ghost, the precious gift of the Father through His dear Son, unto the world, who quickeneth and draweth sinners home to God.—St. John 16:7-8; Acts 2:4; Eph. 2:1, 4:4, 5:6.

4. We believe that in the beginning God made man upright and placed him in a state of glory without the least mixture of misery from which he voluntary, by transgression, fell, and by that means brought on himself a miserable and mortal state, subject to death.—Gen. 2:17; 3:19.

5. We believe that God is not willing that any one should perish, but that all should come to repentance and the knowledge of the truth, that they might be saved, for which end Christ hath commanded the gospel

he preached among all nations and to every creature.—Mark 10:16; Luke 24:47; John 3:15; 1 Tim. 2:4.

6. We believe no man shall suffer in hell for want of a Christ who died for him: but as the scriptures has said, for denying the Lord that bought them, because they believed not in the only begotten Son of God. Unbelief therefore being the cause why the just and righteous God of heaven will condemn the children of men, it follows against all contradiction that all men at one time or other are found in such a capacity as that through the Grace of God they may be eternally saved.—Mark 6:6; Heb. 3:10; 1 John 5:10.

7. We believe that the whole scriptures are infallibly true, and that they are the only rules of faith and practice.—11 Tim. 3:16-17.

8. We believe in the doctrine of general provision made of God in Christ for the benefit of all mankind, who repent and believe the gospel.—Luke 14:16-20; Matt. 23:19-20; Luke 13:3-5; Acts 3:19; Mark 1:15.

9. We believe that sinners are drawn to God, the Father, by the Holy Ghost, through Christ, His Son, and that the Holy Ghost offers His divine aid to all the human family, so as they all might be happy, would they give place to His divine teaching; whereas such who do not receive the divine impressions of His Holy Spirit shall at a future day own their condemnation just and charge themselves with their own damnation for wilfully rejecting the offers of sovereign grace.—Matt. 11:27; St. John 6:44-65; Psa. 1:1; Tit. 5:11-12; Jer. 22:29.

10. We believe that men, not considered simply as ungodly men, were of old ordained to condemnation; considering such who turn the grace of God into lasciviousness, denying the Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ who bought them, and therefore shall bring upon themselves swift destruction, but we observe that they are such the Apostles saith because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved, therefore the indignation and wrath of God is upon every soul of man that doeth evil, living and dying therein; for there is no respect of persons with God.—Judge 1:14; Peter 2:1; II. Thes. 2:11-12; Rom. 2:9-1.

11. We believe that all children dying in infancy, having not actually transgressed against the law of God in their own person are only subject to the first death, which was brought on them by the fall of Adam, and not that any one of them dying in that state shall suffer punishment in hell by the guilt of Adam's Sin. Of such is the kingdom of God.—I. Cor. 15:32; Matt. 1:3-5; Mark 9:36-37; Matt. 19:14.

12. We believe that the good works are the fruits of saving faith, and that in the use of the means of grace and not out of the use of those means eternal life is promised to men.—Rev. 22:14-15; Isa. 1:19-20; Matt. 7-8; Jer. 13:34-35.

13. We believe that no man has any warrant in the Holy Scripture for justification before God through his own work, power or ability which he has in and of himself, only as he by grace is made able to come to God, through Jesus Christ; believing the righteousness of Jesus Christ to be imputed to all believers for their eternal acceptance with God.—Rom. 4:24; Acts 8:20-21.

14. We believe that all things are foreseen in the wisdom of God, so that God knoweth whatsoever can or cannot come to pass upon all supposed conditions; yet as not having decreed any person to everlasting death or everlasting life, out of respect of mere choice, farther than he hath appointed the godly unto life, and the ungodly who dies in sin unto death.—Heb. 4:13; Prov. 8:22-11; Matt. 25:31-46.

15. We believe in teaching gospel ordinances, in believer's baptism, laying on the hands, receiving of the sacrament in bread and wine, washing the saint's feet, anointing the sick with oil in the name of the Lord, fasting, praying, singing praise unto God, and the public ministry of the Word, with every institution of the Lord we shall find in the New Testament.—Mark 16:15-16; Acts 8:17-19-6; Luke 22:19-20; John 13:5-17; James 5:14.

16. We believe the gospel mode of baptism is by immersion and the believers are the only subjects for the baptism.—Matt. 3:16; Mark 1:9-10; Acts 3:3-29; Rom. 6:4; Cor. 2:12.

17. We believe in a general resurrection of the dead, and a final judgment at the last day.—John 5:28-29; II. Cor. 5:10.

18. We believe the happiness of the righteous is eternal, and the torments of the wicked are endless.—Matt. 23:26.

DECORUM.

1. At the meeting of each session of the Association the officers of the preceeding session shall preside until their successor shall be known.

2. At each session and previous to proceeding to business the names of the ministers and delegates shall be called.

3. At the close of each session the entire proceeding shall be read for correction and approval.

4. Any person wishing to speak shall rise and address the Moderator. He shall confine himself to the question under consideration and avoid personalities.

5. No person shall speak more than twice on any subject without permission of the body.

6. No motion shall be withdrawn after its discussion.

7. When a question is under discussion no motion or proposition shall be received except to adjourn, to lay on the table, to amend or postpone indefinitely, which several motions shall be preferred in order in which they are stated.

8. Nominations shall be made by the Moderator of the Association or whoever he may appoint.

9. After a motion has been decided, any member having voted in the affirmative may move a reconsideration.

10. No member shall absent himself during the session without the permission of the presiding officer, and none will take final leave of absence without permission of the body.

11. The Association has a right to decide what matter shall be admitted to its consideration.

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