MINUTES

OF THE

FORTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

South Georgia Association

OF

Free Will Baptist

CONVENED WITH

HARMONY CHURCH

Union County, Pla. October 26, 27, 28, 1923

Next Service mean with Electrical Charen, Particle country to the South Country Research Supervised Association Enters at Blancher, Anderson Edder Co. Johnson, Manual Country Country

MINUTES

The Forty-Seventh Annual Session of the South Georgia Free Will Baptist Association convened with Harmony church. Union County, Florida, October 26, 27, 28, 1923.

The introductory sermon was preached by Elder C. C. Butler. Text St. Mark 16:16.

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION

The Moderator called the body together by singing No. 37 in in the New Perfect Praise.

Prayer by the Moderator.

The former clerk, not being present, Elder C. C. Butler was elected clerk, pro tem.

The Moderator then called for the letters from the various churches

The Moderator then appointed D. W. Zoner and E. W. Shiner to read the letters.

The Moderator then appointed H. G. Crawford, J. S. Brown, W. O. Brooks on devotional temporary committee.

Then the name: of the delegates were enrolled as follows: Pine Level:—W. E. Brigman, J. A. Tanner, T. F. Johnson,

Pine Level:—W. E. Brigman, J. A. Tanner, T. F. Johnson, Sister Laura Brigman, Sister Cassie Brigman, Sister Mary Johnson, Sister Ethel Johnson.

Philadelphia:—E. W. Shiver, J. W. Colson, Sister Ernic Colson.

Zion:-By letter.

Memorial:-G. C. Carter.

Ebeneezer: —B. F. Blitch, C. C. Wilkerson, Sister C. C. Wilkerson, D. E. Wilkerson, Sister W. N. Baxter, Sister Maud Purcell.

Satilla:-C. C. Quinn, E. M. Crosby, Sister Crosby, Floyd Crosby.

Oak Grove: -A. T. Collins, J. F. McClain.

Liberty: -C. Harkleroad.

New Hope:-By letter.

Gleunville:—S. C. Plumer, Sister S. C. Plumer, R. A. Yarborough, Rufus Lewis, Sister Burnis Lewis, Sister D. O. Zorne, Willie H. Deloach, D. O. Zorne.

Alabaha: -S. A. Brewton, J. W. Harrison, C. W. Thrift, Sister S. A. Brew:on.

Harmony:—J. S. Howard, J. S. Brown, J. L. Brown, B. E. Brown, H. C. Crawford, Tommie Pinkston, J. F. Douglas, Roland Thomas, W. O. Brooks, G. W. Harrison.

Mariana: —Sister J. L. Johnson, Sister W. P. Benton, E. W. Johnson.

Corinth:-A. F. Deloach, John M. Taylor.

Brooker:-R. T. Osteen, C. M. Andreau.

Seven churches failed to be represented in this session. The body was permanently organized by electing Elder J. A. Blanton Moderator and Elder E. B. Joiner Assistant Moderator; Elder C. C. Butler, Cler's and John M. Taylor, Treasurer. Adjourned for preaching.

See report on preaching.

The Moderator appointed D. W. Zorn and W. O. Brooks to assist the clerk in appointing the various committees. See their reports.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

The body was called to order by the Moderator.

Unfiinished buisiness was taken up and a motion prevailed to pay the delegates expenses to the state convention and it was paid as follows:

Elder J. A. Blanton \$8.00; Elder E. B. Joiner \$12.00. Total \$20.00.

Called for correspondence and received as follows: Little River, Elder J. C. Arnold, Georgia Union, T. L. Graham, Chatahoocha, Elder J. J. Jones and R. N. McIruale.

The body extended the right hand of welcome to them. Adjourned for preaching by Brother Arnold. See preaching report.

Character and Usefulness of the Ministry

We your committee beg leave to make this our report:

We find some of our ministers doing all they can as far as their health and financial circumstances will permit. We also find that some of them od not preach, and do not serve any church, and also find some of our churches are without a preacher and we recommend that this Association take some steps to have them preach or silence them and demand their credentials. We also believe that if they will do their part and duty that the church will do theirs, and take care of them.

Be it further enacted by this Association hereafter, where ministers of our body at its annual session fail to appear or to show causes for failure to appear that their names be dropped from the ministerial roll, until he should appear.

Respectfully Submitted.

J. BROWN, Chairman,

A. T. COLLINS.

J. F. McLAIN.

S. C. PLUMER,

E. W. SHIVAR.

TEMPERANCE—We, the committee, appointed on Temperance find that nothing but the pure and undefiled religion among our church members will ever stamp out the evil of intemper-

ance. We ask that our minsiters avail themselves of every opportunity to educate their members against this great evil.

MRS. COURTNEY JOHNSON.

MRS. MAUD PURCELL, MRS. C. C. WILKERSON.

MISS BERNICE LEWIS.

NOMINATION—We, your committee, beg leave to submit the following report: We recommend that the next session meet with Ebeneezer church, Tatnal County, Georgia, commencing Thursday night, before the Fourth Sunday in October 1924, and that Elder C. C. Butler preach the introductory sermon. Delegates will be met at Glennville, Georgia on Thursday.

B. F. BLITCH, Chairman.

D. O. ZORNE.

R. A. YARBOROUGH.

SISTER S. A. BREWTON.

SISTER COURTNEY JOHNSON.

DENOMINATIONAL LITERATURE—We, your committee. submit this our report. That we use Free Will Baptist literature in our Sabba:h School and we recommend that all read the Baptist paper.

Resolved, Second, Tha: we allow our children to read no literature that is not good and wholesome for all children, also old foks.

Resolved, Third, that we read God's word first of all.

W. E. BRIGMAN.

A. T. COLLINS.

J. F. DOUGLAS,

G. W. HARRISON.

D. E. WILKKERSON.

C. W. THRIFT.

SUPPORT OF THE MINISTRY—We submit this our report. We find from reading the letters that some of the smaller churches are paying more than the larger ones. We recommend that those with large membership try and meet their obligations better.

E. W. SHIVAK.

C. C. WILKERSON.

C. HARKLEROAD.

G. C. CARTER.

FLOYD CROSBY.

STATE OF THE CHURCHES—We, the committee, find the most of our churches are in good standing, though we find some of them not represented by letter or delegates, also we find Pine Grove and Odessa without a pastor, and we recommend that these churches come together and call a pastor and be represented at our next Session, by letter, or by delegates, or

both

R. T. OSTEEN, Chairman,

B. E. BROWN,

R. A. YARBOROUGH.

J. B. BILIGMAN.

OBITUARIES—We, your committee, submit the following report. We find that the good Lord in his all wise Power, saw fit to call our beloved Brother A. J. Parker from us in death, June 20th, 1923. He was a faithful member and pastor of the Glennville, Georgia, Free Will Baptist church, also pastor of Harmony and Brooker, in Florida. We also find that other churches in this Association have lost several of their members of whose names we are unable to obtain.

Signed.

W. O. BROOKS,
MISS BERNICE LEWIS,
MRS. W. P. BENTON,
MRS. S. C. PLUMMER,
MRS. MAUD PURCELL.
J. W. COLLINS.

Some of the committee were not ready to report.

By motion a silent prayer to the Good Lord in behalf of Elder A. J. Parker's widow.

By motion the body adjourned for preaching.

DESTITUTION—We, your committee, beg leave to make this our report: We find all our churches in good condition, except Pine Grove and Odessa Grove, which are without a pastor. We recommend that they secure a pastor, that hasn't a church and be represented at our next session.

J. B. BRIGMAN, Chairman. E. W. CROSBY. SISTER J. W. COLSON. SISTER D. O. ZORNE.

P. T. OSTEEN.

SABBATH SCHOOL—We, your committee, beg leave to make our report. We believe that every church should have an Evergreen Sabbath School. Where you see this the children are not exposed to so much evil. We believe that each pastor of the church should urge the organization of a Sabbath School, and ask that all take more interest in this great work.

J. L. BROWN, R. T. OSTEEN. W. E. BRIGMAN, SISTER J. L. JOHNSON. J. W. HARRISON.

EDUCATION-We, your committee, on Education, beg leave to make this our report. We find by inquiring that denomina-

tionally, that so many of our people do not study the Free Will Baptist doctrine from a Bible standpoint and we recommend that we all study the word more as to its teachings.

J. L. BROWN, Chairman,

J. W. HARRISON.

H. G. CRAWFORD.

D. O. ORNE.

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

9:30 o'clock the body was called to order by the Assistant Moderator, Elder E. B. Joiner.

Song No. 142, "In the Hallelujahs."

Prayer by D. W. Zorn.

The Modera; or called for the various reports of the committees.

Eucation. See report.

Temperance, Denominational, Liteurature of the Churches, Obituaries, Destitution.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

The body was called to order by the Assistant Moderator. Song. No. 99. "Hallelujah."

Prayer by E. B. Joiner.

By motion the Glennville church collected \$40.00 that paid the former clerk for minutes, for the year 1921, and turn it over to the Treasurer, John M. Taylor.

By motion each male member of this Association pay \$1.00 for superanuated fund, instead of 25 Cents, and it be placed in the Fourth Article of the Constitution.

By motion the Moderator called for the Treasurer's report. See report.

By motion the Association hear the corresponding delegates expenses and the following brethren, to-wit: Rev. J. C. Arnold, from Little River; T. L. Graham, from the Georgia Union, and Elder J. J. Jones and R. N. McInuale, from the Chattahooche.

By motion the clerk was instructed to have 500 copies of the minutes printed and the body pay \$35.00 for same.

By motion the hody pay the Moderator \$15.00 for his services.

By motion the body sent Elder C. C. Butler as a delegate to the State Convention.

By motion this body send \$11.75 for minutes.

By motion that we pay the delegates way.

By motion thebody send Elder J. A. Blanton as Messinger to the following named Association: Chattahoochee, Georgia Union, Little River, and the event he can not go he was clothed with the power to choose his alternate.

By motion the body voted their heartfelt thanks to Harmony church and community for their hospitality shown them while in their midst.

By motion this body adpourned to meet with Eberneezer church, Tatnal County, Georgia, Thursday night, before the Fourth Sunday in October 1921.

The parting hand was postponed until Sunday afternoon. The clerk took up a Home Mission collection Sunday and received \$29.31.

ELDER J. A. BLANTON, Moderator, ELDER C. C. BUTLER, Clerk.

PREACHING REPORT

Thursday night, Elder C. C. Butler, text St. Mark 16:16. Friday, 11:30 o'clock, Elder E. B. Joiner, text Ephesians 5:14. Friday 7:30 o'clock, Elder J. A. Blanton, text Second Timothy 2:11.

Saturday 11:30 o'clock, Elder J. J. Jones, text St. Matthews 12:31-32-33.

Saturday 7:30 o'clock, Elder E. B. Joiner, text St. John 15:1. Sunday 10 o'clock, Rev. T. L. Graham, text Second Peter 1:20 Sunday 11:30 o'clock, Elder J. J. Jones, text Second Kings 5:11.

Sunday 4 o'clock, Rev. H. L. Goodman, text Genis 12:1.

SUPERANNUATED FUNDS

us at Garanamental board report

We the Superannuated board report.	
in hands of treasurer	52.00
	52.75
At present session	02.10
Total \$\$	104.75
DISBURSEMENTS	
To Rev. S. G. Smith	20.00
Balance on hand\$	84.75
S. A. EREWTON,	
D. W. ZORN.	

CINIANCIAI DEPORT

LIIA	THUME	KLI OK		
We, your commi	ittee, find fro	m last session.	\$	52.51
From present session				17.51
Association purposes				61.45
Total)		131.47
	DISBURSE	MENTS		
For minutes			\$	35.00
Moderator				15.00
Clerk				15.00
			â	15 90

J. J. Jones
J. C. Arnold
T. L. Graham
State convention
MINISTERIAL ROLL

J. A. Blanton	Surrency, Ga.
I. J. Blanton	
C. C. Butler	
Peter McLain	
C. Thomas	
S. G. Smith	
C. C. Coursey	Lyons. Ga-
B. F. Bratcher	Bristol, Ga.
S. Herrin	Jesup. Ga.
W. J. Taylor	Rockingham, Ga.
G. W. Jones	······································
E. B. Joiner	Havelburgt Co.
A. L. Thornton	
A. J. Williams	Hazelhurst, Ga.
W. H. Holmes	Alma, Ga.

LICENTIATES

L	Crosby
B.	A. Altman
J.	L. Carter
	Those present at this session:-J. A. Blanton, I. J. Blanton.
E.	B. Joiner, C. C. Butler, A. L. Thornton and G. W. Jones.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

- 1. The body shall be opened and closed with prayer .
- 2. Call for church letters and have them read and the names of the Ministers and Delegates enrolled.
- Elect Moderator, Assistant Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer by ballot.
- Call for petitionary letters.
- Invite visiting bretheren to seats with us.
- Call for corresponding messengers.
- 7. Appointment of several committees.
- Unfinished business.
- Report of committees.
- 10. Miscellaneous business.
- 11. Adjournment.

CHURCH COVENANT

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

- 1. We solemnly cevenant 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, enleavoring 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 consistently 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 Eis Church, and to forsake the assembling of ourselves together; that we will cheerfully contribute of the means with which we are blessed for the support of our pastor and othr necessary expenses of the church. Any members failing to observe this covenant shall be delt 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 beyerage, 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 toraver, 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 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.
- 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 mmbers and

the amount paid Association purposes.

- 4. This Association shall be considered an ecclastical 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 \$1.00 annually as superanuted funds, and any member failing to comply with this shall be noted by the
- The officers of this Association shall be a Moderator, Assistant Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer, to be chosen by ballot.
- Churches wishing to become members of this Association must adopt our Articles of Faith and conform to its usages.
- Churches sending delegates to this Association shall be allowed one delegate for each ten members or fraction thereof.
- This Constitution may be altered or amended at any session of this Association by a majority vote.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

- 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.—I Cor. 8:16: 18a. 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 the world because of the great love wherewith He loved the world and Christ as freely gave himself a ransomn for all, tasting death for every man, who wa sburied 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. I Tim. 2:15; Heb. 2:9; St. John 3:16; Rev. 1:7; Acts 24:15; I 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 voluntarily, by trangression, fell and by that means brought on himself a miserable and moral 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 be preached among all nations and to every creature.—Mark 10:16; Luke 24:47; John 3:15: I 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 believe not in the only begotten son of God. Unbelief, therefore, being the cause why the just and righteous God of Heaven will condem 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: I Johnn 5:10.
- We believe that the whole scriptures are infallibly true, and that they are the only rules of faith and practice.—II Tim. 3:16-17.

- We believe in the doctrine of general provision made of God in Christ for the benefit of all mankind, who repent and believe the pospel. Luke 14:16-20; 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 Jeaus Christ, His Son, and that the Holy Chost 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 willfully rejecting the offers of soverign 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.—Judges 1:14; Peter 2:1; II Thes. 2:11-12; Rom. 2:9-10.
- 11. We believe that all children dying in infancy, having not actually trangressed 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. 13-5; Matk 8:36-5.; Matt. 13-14.
- 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 Scriptures 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 to come to God, through Jesus Christ; believers for their eternal acceptance with God.—Rom. 4:24; Acts 5:20-21.
- 14. We believe that things are forseen in the wisdom of tiod, so that God knoweth whatsover can or cannot come to pass upon all supposed conditions; yet as not having decreed any person to everlasting death or overlasting life, out of respect of more choice, farther than he hath appointed the godly unto life, and the ungodly who dies in sin unto death.—Hed. 4:13; Prov. 5:23-11; Matt. 25:21-46.
- 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 saints' 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 John-16: Acts \$14:-18; Luke 27:13-26, John 13:15-17; James 5:14.
- We believe the gospel mode of baptism is by immersion and believers are the only subjects for the baptism.—Matt. 3:16; Mark 1:9-19; 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; 11 Cor. 5:10.

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

- At the meeting of each session of the Association the officers of the preceeding session shall preside until their successor shall be known.
- At each session and previous to proceeding to business the names of the ministers and delegates shall be called.
- At the close of each session the entire proceedings shall be read for correction and approval.
- Any person wishing to speak shall rise and address the Moderator. He shall confine himself to the question under consideration and avoid personalities.
- 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.
- Nominations shall be made by the Moderator of the Association or whoever he may appoint.
- After a motion has been decided, any member having voted in the affimative may move a reconsideration.
- 10. No member shall absent himself during the session without permission of the presiding officer, and none will take final leve of absence without permission of the body.
- 11. The Association has a right to decide what matter shall be admitted to consideration.
- 12. This Decorum may be amended at any session of the Association by a majority vote.

STATISTICAL TABLE

Churches and Counties.	Pastors	Clerks and Their Postoffices	Rec. by Raptism	Rec. by Letter	Rec. by Con. Faith		Expeled	Restored	Died	No. of Members	Meeting Days	Pastor's Salary	Val. Church Prop.
Bethel, Appling	W. H. Holmes	Miss Irene Harrison, Blackshear, Ga.											
Big Creek, Bacon Brooker, Bradford Corinth, Bacon Ebenezer, Tattnall Fishing Creek, Pierce	C. C. Butler W. H. Holmes J. A. Blanton	Sist Russ, Brooker, Fla. H. J. Jordan, Alma, Ga. J. A. Baxter, Glennville, Ga.	0 4 10	1	3	0 0 1	0	U		40 100 144	4 3 2	\$120.00 95.00 257 50	\$1200.00 1000.00 1000.00
Glennville, Tatnall		ErM. Lewis, Glennville, Ga. W. O. Brooka, Lake Butler, Fla. D. V. Taylor, West Green, Ga.	6 14 0	0 3 0		0 0 2		1 0	1 0 0	164 157	1 3 0	300,50 240,00 109,35	1500.00 2000.00 1000.00
Marianna, Bacon Memorial, Appling New Hope, Wayne Choopee, Tattnall	- W. H. Holmes - I. J. Blanton - J. A. Blanton	N. B. Lynch, Alma, Ga. M. W. Garter, Surrency, Ga. I. E. Eddenfield, Jessup, Ga.	5 1 0	0	10	0 0		0	1 1 1	70 103 55	2 3 3	75 00	1000.00
	C. C. Coursey W. H. Holmes C. C. Coursey	A. T. Collins, Baxley, Ga. J. M. Johnson, Alma, Ga. J. W. Colson, Folkston, Ga.	8 7 3	2 0 0	6 1 0					45 134 40	2 1 3	75.00 89.00 218.03	1000 00 1000.00 800.00
Satilla, Jeff Davis Stony Hill, Tattnall Spring Grove, Wayne	J. A. Islanton	C. C. Quinn, Hazelhurst, Ga.	13	0	5	0	0	0	0	188	4	155.00	2500.00
Union, Bacon Zion, Lang	G. W. Jones	E. M. Easter ing, Loudiwici, Ga.	1	3	2	0	0	0	1	20	2	83.69	