

1938

MINUTES

Of The

Sixty-First Annual Session

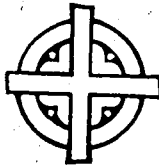
Of

THE SOUTH GEORGIA FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

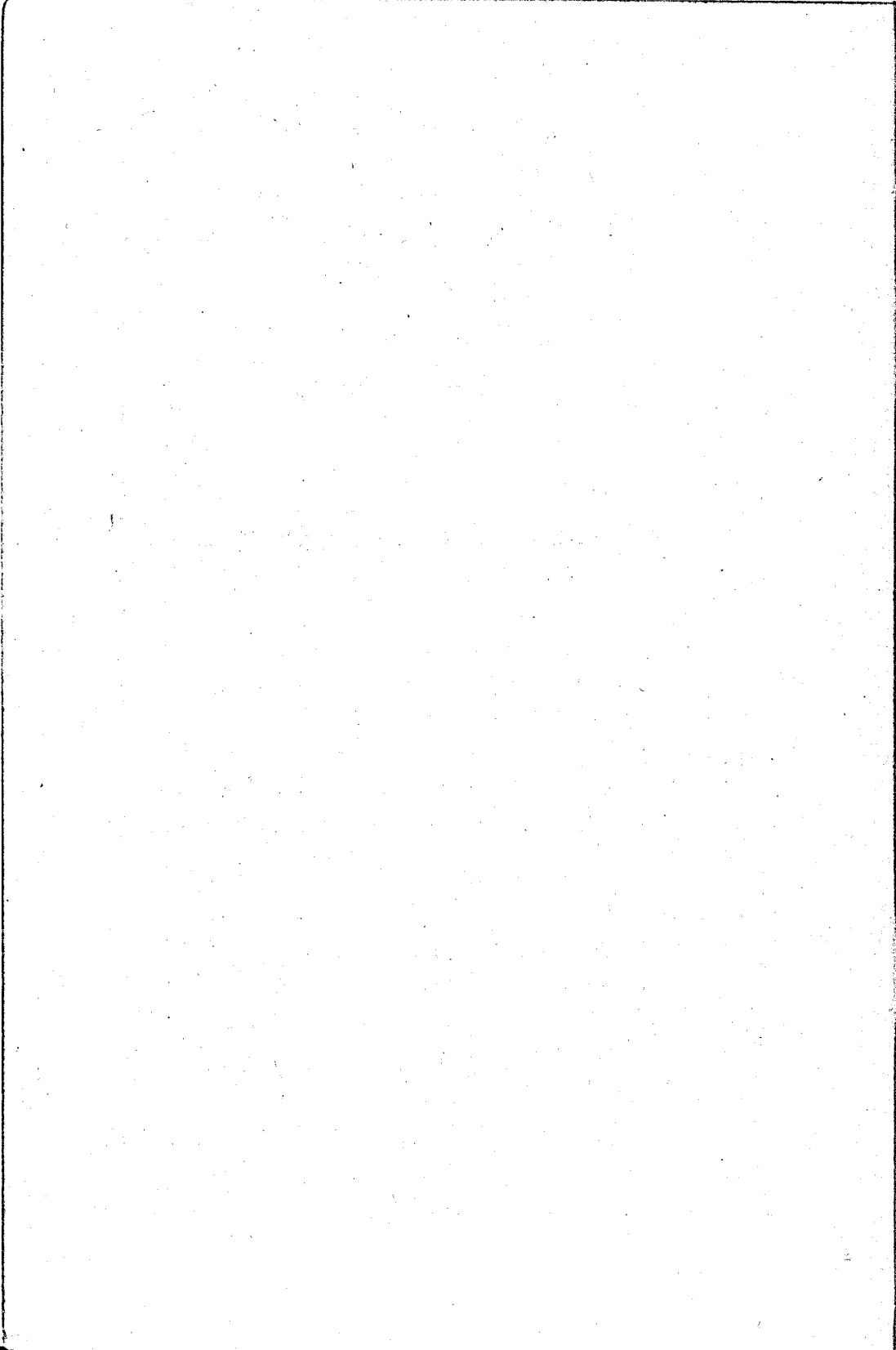
Convened with Harmony Free Will Baptist Church,
Union County, Florida, Thursday Night Before
the Fourth Sunday in October, 1938.

E. B. Joyner ----- *Moderator*

F. E. Crosby ----- *Clerk*



AYDEN, N. C.
FREE WILL BAPTIST PRESS
1938



OFFICERS

Elder E. B. Joyner, *Moderator* ----- Alma, Ga.
 Elder W. C. Coleman, *Assistant Moderator* ----- Surrency, Ga.
 Elder F. E. Crosby, *Clerk* ----- Hazelhurst, Ga.
 Brother G. W. Cloud, *Treasurer*, ---- 116 Wolf St., Jacksonville Fla.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

J. N. Johnson, *Chairman* ----- Alma, Ga.
 S. A. Brewton ----- Blackshear, Ga.
 G. W. Cloud ----- 116 Wolf St., Jacksonville, Fla.
 T. R. Smith ----- Bristol, Ga.
 L. M. Harrell ----- Hazelhurst, Ga.

ORDAINING COUNCIL

Elder W. C. Coleman ----- Surrency, Ga.
 Elder K. V. Shutes ----- Glennville, Ga.
 Elder E. B. Duckworth ----- Lyons, Ga.

FOREIGN MISSIONARY

Miss Laura Belle Barnard ----- Queen's Hill, Kotagiri, South India

MINISTERIAL ROLL

✓ Elder J. B. Harris ----- Odum, Ga.
 Elder E. B. Joyner ----- Alma, Ga.
 ✓ Elder C. C. Coursey ----- Baxley, Ga.
 ✓ Elder A. L. Thornton ----- Hazelhurst, Ga.
 Elder E. L. Paulk ----- Ray, Ga.
 ✓ Elder W. C. Coleman ----- Surrency, Ga.
 Elder T. O. Morgan ----- 2248 Orchard St., Jacksonville, Fla.
 ✓ Elder Peter McLaine ----- Lyons, Ga.
 ✓ Elder F. E. Crosby ----- Hazelhurst, Ga.
 ✓ Elder C. J. Pitts ----- 540 James St., Jacksonville, Fla.
 Elder L. C. Johnson ----- Alma, Ga.
 ✓ Elder T. J. Harrison ----- Hazelhurst, Ga.
 ✓ Elder A. B. Adams ----- Hazelhurst, Ga.
 ✓ Elder Perry Buckins ----- Blakely, Ga.
 ✓ Mrs. Bessie Allen ----- Asheville, N. C.
 ✓ Elder H. C. Brown ----- 403 W. 41 St., Jacksonville, Fla.
 ✓ Elder H. A. Hines ----- Darlington, S. C.
 ✓ Elder H. I. Hall ----- 58 E. 9th St., Jacksonville Fla.
 Elder K. V. Shutes ----- Glennville, Ga.
 Elder E. B. Duckworth ----- Lyons, Ga.
 ✓ Elder C. C. Butler ----- Lake Butler, Fla.

The next session will meet with Philadelphia Church, Charlton County, Georgia, Thursday night before the Fourth Sunday in October, 1939.

Statistical Table

CHURCHES	COUNTY	PASTORS 1939	CLERKS AND P. O.	Rec. by Baptism	Rec. by Letter	Rec. by con. Faith	Dis. by Letter	Expelled	Restored	Died	No. of Members	Association Fees	Pastors Salary	Val. Church Prop.	Meetings Days
Alma -----	Bacon ----	E. B. Joyner ---	Elmer Wheeler, Alma, Ga. -----	-- --	-- --	-- --	-- --	-- --	-- --	1 22	\$ 2.00	\$-----	\$ 500	3	
Alabama -----	Pierce ---	E. B. Joyner ---	Samuel Harrison, Blackshear, Ga. -----	-- --	-- --	9 --	1 --	-- --	-- --	1 79	10.00	245.00	2,000	2	
Bethel -----	Appling ---	F. E. Crosby ---	Mrs. Beatrice Orvin, Baxley, Ga. -----	5 1	2 --	-- --	-- --	-- --	2 --	1 50	4.50	76.00	1,000	2	
Corinth -----	Bacon ----	E. L. Paulk ---	P. J. Jarrard, Alma, Ga. -----	1 --	-- --	2 1	-- --	-- --	-- --	3 127	5.00	110.00	1,300	3	
Ebenezer -----	Tatnall ---	K. V. Shutes ---	L. L. Baxter, Glennville, Ga. -----	2 --	-- --	-- --	-- --	-- --	-- --	3 169	5.00	464.77	-----	2.4	
Glennville -----	Tatnall ---	K. V. Shutes ---	E. C. Davidson, Glennville, Ga. -----	9 --	-- --	1 --	-- --	3 --	2 167	5.00	283.37	3,500	1.3		
Harmony -----	Union ----	J. O. Fort ----	C. L. Brown, Dukes, Fla. -----	8 1	-- --	3 --	-- --	-- --	2 150	5.00	217.25	2,000	3		
Liberty -----	Coffee ---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	
Memorial -----	Appling ---	C. C. Coursey ---	S. M. Blanton, Surrency, Ga. -----	4 2	4 --	-- --	-- --	-- --	-- --	1 140	6.00	108.26	1,000	4	
Marietta -----	Toombs ---	E. B. Duckworth ---	Bennie Anderson, Lyons, Ga. -----	-- --	-- --	-- --	-- --	-- --	-- --	80	1.00	60.00	1,500	3	
New Hope -----	Wayne ---	W. C. Coleman ---	A. B. Brannen, Jesup, Ga. -----	-- --	-- --	2 --	-- --	1 --	23	2.15	50.00	500	2		
Oak Hill -----	Bacon ----	F. E. Crosby ---	M. N. Steedley, Alma, Ga. -----	3 1	1 --	-- --	-- --	-- --	1 37	3.00	88.76	200	4		
Oak Grove -----	Appling ---	C. C. Coursey ---	Ruby McLain, Surrency, Ga. -----	-- --	-- --	-- --	-- --	-- --	-- --	82	2.00	54.90	1,000	2	
Pine Grove -----	Appling ---	C. C. Coursey ---	Mrs. Mary Lightsey, Bristol, Ga. -----	3 --	-- --	-- --	-- --	1 --	3 105	10.00	104.39	2,500	3		
Pine Level -----	Bacon ----	E. B. Joyner ---	G. M. Brantley, Alma, Ga. -----	5 3	-- --	-- --	-- --	-- --	-- --	107	10.00	152.54	2,000	1	
Philadelphia -----	Charlton ---	C. J. Pitts ----	J. W. Colson, Folkston, Ga., Rt. 1 -----	4 --	1 --	-- --	-- --	-- --	3 47	5.25	92.04	1,000	2		
Satilla -----	Jeff Davis ---	E. B. Joyner ---	C. C. Quinn, Hazelfhurst, Ga. -----	14 4	-- --	2 --	-- --	-- --	8 199	6.00	168.25	3,500	4		
Spring Grove -----	Wayne ---	A. B. Adams ---	Robert Stewart, Jesup, Ga. -----	3 3	3 --	-- --	1 --	-- --	26	2.00	29.50	200	3		
Stoney Hill -----	Tatnall ---	K. V. Shutes ---	W. W. Rogers, Manassas, Ga. -----	4 --	1 --	-- --	-- --	-- --	1 101	2.00	18.00	800	3		
Zion -----	Long ----	F. E. Crosby ---	P. N. Ryles, Ludowici, Ga. -----	-- --	-- --	-- --	-- --	-- --	35	3.00	53.55	150	1		
1st F.W.B. Ch. Jacksonville Florida -----	Duval ----	C. J. Pitts ----	G. W. Cloud, 1167 Wolf St., Jacksonville, Fla. -----	15 --	15 4	4 --	-- --	3 138	10.00	138.50	2,000	1.2			
														3.4	

Proceedings

The sixty-first session of the South Georgia Association of the Free Will Baptists of the United States convened with Harmony Church, Union County, Florida, on Thursday evening before the fourth Sunday in October, 1938.

THURSDAY EVENING

Sermon by E. B. Joyner.

FRIDAY MORNING

The clerk called the body to order, followed by a general song service and devotions. The Moderator made a short address to the congregation which was followed by prayer from the Pastor of the church of Harmony, Elder J. O. Fort. The opening song was No. 24 in Songs and Hymns of Worship.

The moderator took the minute of last session and read some of the present and standing officers of the Association. The Moderator appointed Brothers H. G. Crawford, Robert Clyatt, and J. B. Brigman as the preaching committee.

At this time the clerk called the roll of the ministers. The following were present: J. B. Harris, E. B. Joyner, W. C. Coleman, T. O. Morgan, F. E. Crosby, C. J. Pitts, T. J. Harrison, K. V. Shutes, E. B. Duckworth. The list was set aside to be called at a future time.

The preaching committee reported that Elder K. V. Shutes would preach at 11:30. Their report was accepted.

Next the Moderator appointed Brothers G. W. Cloud and T. E. Harrison to read the letters from the various churches. The letters from the following churches were read and accepted and delegates seated.

Alabaha—Delegates, S. A. Brewton, and wife, and Bro. G. C. Brewton.

New Hope—By letter.

The First Free Will Baptist Church of Jacksonville—Brothers F. C. Peavy, G. W. Cloud, W. L. Mills, and Sisters, Vera Adams and Mattie Peavy.

Bethel—W. H. Orvin, Fulton Griffin.

Alma—Sister Courtney Johnston.

Zion—Ralph Baggs.

Philadelphia—S. M. Altman, Mrs. W. E. Gibson.

Oak Hill—Ellis Williams, McKinley Steedley.

Pine Grove—M. Lightsy, Mary Lightsy, Idell Lightsy, Stella Tyre, Savilla Tyre, and Cola Rogers.

Oak Grove—By letter.

Ebenezer—Annie Wiles, and Mrs. W. B. Baxter.

Stoney Hill—Elma Eddins.

Glennville—Tera Brown, Mrs. K. V. Shutes.

Satilla—A. M. Quinn, T. E. Harrison, L. M. Harrell, Mrs. F. E. Crosby, Miss Estelle Harrell.

Corinth—J. M. Moore and wife, A. P. Wade and wife.

At this time the moderator seated the delegates present and asked the committee to defer the reading of the letters at the present time. The moderator stated that the body was ready to elect officers. Motion and seconded to elect all of the same officers who were present and empower the moderator the right to appoint others to take the place of the ones who were absent or dead. Carried.

The officers are as follows: E. B. Joyner, Moderator; G. W. Cloud, treasurer; F. E. Crosby, clerk. W. C. Coleman was appointed assistant moderator. Motioned and seconded to accept the appointment of Brother Coleman. Carried. At this time the body stood adourned for service.

Elder K. V. Shutes delivered a powerful message. Text, John 3:16, after which dinner was served on the ground.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON

The body was called to order and we sang No. 145 in Songs and Hymns of Worship. First order of business, the moderator asked for other churches to report with letters.

Pine Level—Brothers J. B. Brigman, Delman Wheeler, G. W. Coursen, John A. Tanner, Sister Edith Brigman.

Spring Grove—By letter.

Marietta—By pastor and letter.

Harmony—H. G. Crawford, T. H. Waters, and J. L. Brown.

Motioned and seconded to receive the reports as read. Carried.

Motioned and seconded to elect Elder W. C. Coleman, Elder K. V. Shutes, and Elder E. B. Duckworth to the ordaining council. Carried.

The moderator asked that all visiting brethren feel welcome in our midst.

At this time the moderator appointed the following committees:

Temperance—W. L. Mills, Mattie Peavy, Idell Lightsey, Stella Tyre, T. H. Waters.

Destitution—Sammie Altman, Mary Lightsey, Mrs. A. P. Wade.

Christian Education—T. E. Harrison, Tera Brown, Cola Rogers.

Support of Ministry—S. A. Brewton, Fulton Griffin, John Tanner.

Devotions—J. R. Clyatt, J. B. Brigman, H. G. Clyatt.

Denominational Literature—Mrs. W. E. Gibson, Ellis Williams, Edith Brigman, Estelle Harrell.

State of Churches—F. C. Peavy, Mrs. J. L. Johnson, McKinley Steedley.

Resolutions—C. J. Pitts, W. H. Orvin, Ralph Baggs.

Finance—G. C. Brewton, J. L. Brown, A. P. Wade.

Obituary—Aivin Quinn, Mrs. K. V. Shutes, Mrs. Annie Wiles, L. M. Harrell, Elmer Eddins.

Auxiliary—G. W. Cloud, Mrs. W. B. Baxter, Roslyn Wheeler, Vera Adams, Ezel Holmes.

Character and Usefulness of the Ministry—J. M. Moore, Mrs. Savilla Tyre, Mrs. F. E. Crosby.

Moved and seconded to appoint a committee on thanks. Carried. The following were appointed: Vera Adams, Mrs. K. V. Shutes, Estelle Tyre.

Moved and seconded to elect Brother L. M. Harrell on the Executive Committee. Carried.

The moderator asked for reports from those who had visited other associations.

Elder J. B. Harris reported that he had visited the Little River Association. He stated that they had a lovely time. Brother G. W. Cloud stated that he had not visited the Salem Association this year.

Elder J. O. Fort made a splendid talk. He stated that he was only a pastor of Harmony Church and a visitor to the South Georgia Association, but he asked the body to consider the move for a tent.

Elder J. B. Harris stated that the contributions and offerings made to him this year were to the amount of \$14.55.

At this time the Preaching Committee reported that Elder E. B. Duckworth would preach at 7:30, Friday night.

The delegates who had visited the Eastern General Association gave a splendid report from it. A round table discussion was carried on concerning the general work.

Motioned and seconded to adjourn until 9:30, Saturday a. m. Carried.

FRIDAY NIGHT

After a soul-stirring song service and prayer, Elder E. P. Duckworth brought a wonderful message. Text, Mark 10:49, "He calleth for thee."

SATURDAY MORNING

Service opened with No. 159 in Songs and Hymns of Worship. Prayer was offered by Elder H. I. Hall. The moderator made a noble charge to the body and committees and closed with prayer.

Moved and seconded that Elder H. I. Hall be ordained to the ministry of the Free Will Baptist Doctrine. Carried. The Ordaining committee reported that they had carefully examined Brother Hall and found him worthy. They also stated that Brother C. C. Butler was worthy and asked that he be received in fellowship of this body, bearing credentials of the association.

Moved and seconded to receive Brother Butler. Carried.

The moderator asked for the various committees to present their reports. The following reported in order. They were read and accepted.

Destitution

We the committee on destitution make our report. We find all of our churches supplied with pastors for the coming year, but we see the need for more visiting among our ministers and members. We are much in prayer that the Spirit will strive greater among our people than ever before.

S. M. Altman, *Chairman*,

Mary Lightsy,

Mrs. A. P. Wade

Support of Ministry

We your committee find from the report of the churches in this body that in most cases their pastors have not been paid enough to buy the neces-

sities of life. They cannot be expected to spread the gospel as they should unless they have help from their own people. We request that each delegate to this association in making their report to the churches make special mention of this report, and make a special effort to assist in this cause.

S. A. Brewton, *Chairman*,

Fulton Griffin,

John Tanner

P. S.—We urge that each church begin the tithing system. This will better enable them to finance their church, pastor and auxiliaries of the church.

State of Churches

We your committee on State of churches find all churches in fair standing. We notice from the letters that a number of churches have had no communion service this year. This is a bad practice and leads to a dangerous state of the church. We ask people to renew their vows to God and deepen their spiritual life and this will not exist. The mission of the church is to feed the sheep and win the lost to Christ. It seems that some of the churches have forgotten their mission.

M. F. Peavy, *Chairman*,

Mrs. J. L. Johnson,

McKinley Steedley

The Denominational Literature

The denominational literature committee asks that pastors and officers of our Free Will Baptist churches urge all our churches to buy all their literature from the Free Will Baptist Press in Ayden, N. C. By supporting our own denomination it will prosper and grow. When you need help you can always depend on the following addresses: The Free Will Baptist Press, Ayden, North Carolina, and the Free Will Baptist Gem, Purdy Missouri.

Mrs. W. E. Gibson, *Chairman*,

Ellis Williams,

Edith Brigman,

Resolutions

We your committee on resolutions beg to make our report as follows: After hearing the reports of the various churches of our association, we find that the spiritual condition of some of our churches is not as good as we would like to see it. We believe that the reason for this is because of lack of co-operation of the church with their pastor. No church can reach its spiritual height until the message of God penetrates the heart of humanity. Since we find that most of our pastors have to work, we know that it is impossible for them to nourish the church as it should be. We also find that there is a wide area that has never been covered by the ministry of our denomination. Beloved, we know that our doctrine is the best that man can offer and we feel that it should cover the world as spoken by the Lord, (Mark, 16-15). We recommend that this body go on record at this time in

starting a campaign to put out an evangelist in the bounds of this association to try to impress the Spirit and improve the spiritual condition of our churches. We also ask them to sponsor a movement to purchase a tent to evangelize new territory. We further urge that the churches co-operate with any action taken by this body. Prayerfully submitted,

Elder C. J. Pitts, *Chairman*,
W. H. Orvin, Sr.,
R. L. Baggs

Temperance

We your committee on temperance submit the following report: Intemperance is very dangerous to the church, therefore, we ask the pastors of each church to render a service each quarter on temperance. We also urge that each member co-operate with the pastor in this work. We are much in prayer that something will be done to help in the cause.

William L. Mills, *Chairman*,
Idell Lightsy,
Mrs. F. C. Peavy

Christian Education

We the committee on Christian Education submit the following report: We find in the best and proper spiritual development of our people, there seems to be a falling away from "Good Old Time Religion." We suggest, therefore, that those in charge of the song service select more old songs that will make a deeper spiritual impression upon the audience and the pioneer members to whom we are due much honor and credit for blazing the trail that we may follow.

We urge that all churches encourage young boys and girls to make use of every opportunity to attend theological schools. We ask that all officers and societies read, subscribe, and study all of our different Denominational Literature, that they may be better prepared for the task called upon them to do. We vote and encourage the maintenance of an evangelistic tent, and that it be in continual use as a means of Christian development which we rightly deserve. We also observe that the greatest need in our denomination is a deeper Christian experience. This would serve as a goal to higher heights to impress people to be up and doing more and talking less.

T. E. Harrison, *Chairman*,
Tera Brown,
Cola Rogers

Character and Usefulness of the Ministry

We your committee on character and usefulness of the ministry submit this our report: We find from the letters in from the various churches that they have brought no accusation against any of our ministers. From investigation we find them all in good standing with the association.

J. M. Moore, *Chairman*,
Savilla Tyre,
Mrs. F. E. Crosby

We your committee on auxiliaries submit the following report:

After hearing the letters read from the various churches, we find that there is approximately 80 per cent of our churches maintaining active auxiliaries. We your humble committee ask your sincere support in interesting the youth of our land into the service of our different auxiliaries. In this, they will receive instructions to better qualify them for the duties of the church which they will assume in our passing.

Again may we ask that each pastor serving any church use his best efforts to organize the different auxiliaries of the church where there is none. We believe that if the churches will organize and run active work they will see a marked improvement in the spiritual condition of the church.

G. W. Cloud, *Chairman*, Mrs. Ezelle Holmes, Miss Rosalind Wheeler, Mrs. W. I. Adams, Mrs. W. B. Baxter, *Committee*.

O B I T U A R Y

<i>Alma Church</i> —T. L. Tanner.	Dunn.
<i>Ebenezer Church</i> —Mrs. Annie Driggers, Jim Wilkerson, Mrs. Maud Percell.	<i>Alabama Church</i> —Mrs. C. W. Thrift
<i>Satilla Church</i> — <u>Mrs. Eliza Hughes</u> , Mrs. Mary Smith, Mrs. Annie Jane Hand, Mrs. Mattie Strickland, Elder G. W. Jones, J. L. Jones, Carlis Powell, Silas Powell.	<i>Stony Hill Church</i> —Clayton C. Anderson
<i>Pine Grove Church</i> —Henry McSwain, Lloyd Dixon, Curt Bryson	<i>Memorial Church</i> — Martha Rentz
<i>First F. W. B. Church, Jacksonville, Fla.</i> —Nancy Grant Harley Hoges, <u>Lelia Bell</u>	<i>Oak Hill Church</i> —B. M. Barker
COMMITTEE, <u>Alvin H. Quinn</u> , <i>Chairman</i> , Mrs. Annie Wildes, Mrs. K. V. Shutes, L. M. Harrell, Elmer Eddens.	<i>Philadelphia Church</i> —Everett Jones, Mamie Mizelle
	<i>Glennville Church</i> —C. H. Watson, Janie Wylum
	<i>Corinth Church</i> —Rilla Bell, J. E. Carter, Doretha Moore
	<i>Bethel Church</i> —J. H. M. Stephens

Treasurer's Report

On hand -----	\$ 15.30
From this session -----	98.90
Total -----	\$114.20

Disbursements

Foreign mission -----	\$ 5.00
Home Mission -----	4.00
Dues to National Association -----	10.00
Delegates' Expenses to the Association -----	10.00
Dues to State Association -----	2.00

Minutes -----	35.00
Moderator -----	10.00
Clerk -----	10.00
Elder J. B. Harris -----	10.00
Total -----	<hr/> \$96.00
Balance -----	<hr/> \$18.20

Thanks

We your committee on thanks wish to express to the pastor of Harmony Church and the community at large our sincere gratitude and appreciation for your wonderful hospitality. First, we will thank God for the wonderful weather we have enjoyed and for the lovely scenery in which the church is located. We especially observe the wonderful co-operation given by each participant in the work. This was proven by the bountiful refreshments we enjoyed. We also notice the fine appearance of the church and we felt the Spirit of God was present with each person. We can truly say we were shown every courtesy and we consider it an honor to have been able to convene with this church and its people.

Mrs. W. I. Adams, *Chairman*

Mrs. K. V. Shutes,

Stella Tyre

Special Committee

We the under signed recommend that the ordaining council be revised, and therefore submit:

Elder E. B. Joyner, *Chairman*,

Elder K. V. Shutes,

Elder C. J. Pitts

Signed: Elders E. B. Joyner, F. E. Crosby, and T. E. Harrison.

Devotions

We the committee on devotions beg to submit this our final report in writing: To preach, Elder C. C. Butler at 11:30 o'clock a. m. Elder F. E. Crosby at 7:30 o'clock Saturday evening; and Elder J. O. Fort at 11:30 o'clock Sunday.

H. G. Crawford, *Chairman*,

J. B. Brigman,

J. R. Clyatt

At this time the body was open for any business which led to a motion and second that the moderator appoint a Home Mission Secretary of this association to correspond with the churches to raise funds to support an evangelist of this association and thus carry out the report of the resolutions committee. Carried.

Motioned and seconded to adjourn for the ordination of Elder Hall. Carried. At this time the ordaining committee laid hands on Elder J. I. Hall and commanded him to preach the Gospel.

At 11:30 o'clock Elder C. C. Butler brought the message. Subject: The Records. Text: The Father, the Word, and the Spirit.

Noon—Dinner was served at the church in no small measure.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON

Body called to order by singing No. 52, "Work for the Night Is Coming."

Moved and seconded to represent in the National Association which convenes in Nashville Tennessee with \$10.00 for fees, and \$1.00 for expenses.

Moved and seconded to represent in the State Association with \$2.00 for fees. Carried.

Moved and seconded to table the Eastern General Association and draw on the Union Meeting if necessary for funds. Carried.

Moved and seconded to send Elder C. J. Pitts to the National Association in Nashville, Tennessee.

Moved and seconded to send T. E. Harrison to the State Association. Carried.

The moderator appointed G. C. Brewton, Blackshear, Georgia, Route 2, as secretary of the home mission work in this association.

Moved and seconded to have one whole page draped in memory of the ones on Obituary. Carried.

Moved and seconded to take an offering at this time to go on the Alma Church. It was to the amount of \$10.21.

The entire body voted that this Association visit Philadelphia Church to convene on Thursday night before the fourth Sunday in October, 1939.

At this time the treasurer made his report which was accepted.

Moved and seconded to send \$5.00 to the Foreign Mission treasurer. Carried.

Moved and seconded to hold the remaining amount in the treasury. Carried.

Moved and seconded to ask the clerk to divide the minutes according to the amount of money sent to the association. Carried.

Moved and seconded that the Church at Jacksonville adopt the name The First Free Will Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Florida. Carried.

Moved and seconded to adjourn. Carried.

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 to 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 to religiously instruct those under our care.

3. We will endeavor to uphold the public worship of Almighty God and the ordinances of His Church, and not 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 other necessary expenses of the church. Any members 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 of nor 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 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 of 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 post office of the church clerk. Give the number baptized, received by letter, dismissed by letter, restored, excluded and dead; also the number of members and the amount paid Association purposes.

4. This Association shall be considered as 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 its consent.

5. The officers of this Association shall be: a Moderator, Assistant Moderator, Clerk, and Treasurer, to be chosen by ballot or at the discretion of the body.

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 twenty members or fraction thereof.

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

DECORUM

1. At the meeting of each session of the Association the officers of the preceding session shall preside until their successors 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 from 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 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 permission from the presiding officer, and none shall take final leave of absence without permission from the body.

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

12. This Decorum may be amended at any session of the Association by a majority vote.

13. No church shall liberate any minister who comes from any other denomination until he has been examined by the Ordaining Council and has received credentials bearing the approval of the council.

CHURCH DECORUM

1. The Church may choose a pastor annually at the last regular conference in Association year, or if they prefer it, may choose a pastor for an indefinite length of time to continue from year to year, as long as he may deem it proper to keep up the connection.

2. When it becomes necessary, a pastor, may be chosen at any other time, but if the choice be made at a special conference the time must be appointed at a monthly meeting of the church.

3. The pastor shall be moderator of the church, but when he is absent

or does not sit as moderator, being present, some suitable brother shall be appointed to sit in his place.

4. There shall be two or more deacons in the church, whose duty it shall be to superintend the collection and disbursement of all collections made by the church, for the pastor, etc., and to distribute the bread and wine in administration of the Lord's Supper.

5. The deacons shall take notice of such members as refuse or neglect to partake of the Lord's Supper and endeavor to ascertain the cause that the same may be laid before the church in conference if necessary.

6. Some suitable member shall be appointed Clerk and it shall be his duty to do all the recording and writing pertaining to the business of the church, and to preserve a file of the minutes of the Association.

7. When a Clerk is appointed, all the books, minutes, etc., belonging to the Clerk, shall be immediately delivered to him by his predecessor. Also it shall be the duty of the church clerk to revise the church roll at least once a year. It shall be the duty of the pastor to instruct the deacons and clerks of their churches in regard to money for minutes.

8. The church shall hold a two day's monthly meeting embracing Saturday and the Lord's Day following, the first of which shall be the regular time of the conference.

9. It shall be the duty of every member, male or female, to attend each conference meeting, if they can, for on that day the pastor is expected to instruct the church in a certain manner by giving plain and pointed lessons on doctrine, discipline and the rules of holy living.

10. Any male member who shall fail to attend three successive conferences, and any member whatever of the church according to the Covenant (Article 5) shall be cited to appear in conference and answer for his neglect; but the church may exempt members from this rule if necessary.

11. Conference shall be opened and conducted as follows: (1) Prayer, unless divine service has just been concluded, and generally then. (2) Invite visiting brethren to seats. (3) Open the door for the reception of members. (4) Call for absentees. (5) For acknowledgments. (6) For reference of deferred business. (7) For matters of dealing which are in order to come before the church. (8) For miscellaneous business.

12. Visiting brethren, as helpers called in from sister churches, shall speak and make motions or seconds, but not allowed to vote.

13. Any orderly member of the Baptist church who does not hold this church in fellowship may be received into the church without a letter when it is made apparent that his Christian character is unimpeachable and that he has applied for a letter and could not obtain it because he desired to join this or some sister church. All other persons must join by letter or baptism.

14. No member shall be received without the unanimous consent of the members present, but unreasonable objections shall be valid, unless withdrawn, the members who make them shall be liable to be taken under dealing with the church.

15. When the moderator calls for absentees the Clerk shall inform the

church what male members have been absent from three successive conferences and the Moderator shall appoint some brother or brethren to cite each of them to the next conference.

16. No member shall be expelled unless he has been cited verbally or in writing, to attend the trial, provided his residence be known to the church.

17. When a witness, not a member of the church, is introduced, he shall not be examined till the question has been put to the church, Will you hear the testimony of the witness?

18. The evidence in every case of dealing and acknowledgment shall be recorded in the church book.

19. Members dismissed from the church by letter become disorderly or continue to hold their letters without good reason shall be cited to conference to answer for their misconduct.

20. Expelled members shall be restored to fellowship on their petition if their walk since expulsion has convinced the church that they have sincerely repented for their former evil.

21. A vote shall not be taken upon questions without a move and a second, and on all important questions the vote shall be taken by rising to the feet.

22. No motion shall be made while a move and second is before the conference.

23. It shall be considered disorderly for any member to absent himself from conference when an important question is to be decided, but a member upon request, may be exempted by the church from voting on either side in peculiar cases.

24. No member shall leave the house during conference without a sufficient cause, nor engage in conversation or whispering without being subject to be called to order by the moderator.

25. All discussions in conference must be conducted with calmness and good feeling, those who speak must rise to their feet and address the Moderator, and keep to the point in the debate.

26. No one shall speak more than three times on the same question without permission from the Moderator, nor shall the remarks of any one be unreasonably long.

27. When the Moderator speaks he must designate some brother to act in his stead.

28. No one shall be interrupted while speaking unless it is to call the speaker to order.

29. It shall be the duty of each church to attend to the administration of the Lord's Supper and washing of the Saint's feet at least once a year.

30. Members not in good standing should not commune, but the administration should not be deferred on account of any ordinary matter of dealing.

31. Public fasting, humiliation and prayer shall be observed on proper occasions.

32. No licentiate shall be ordained until called in care of one or more churches.

33. This Decorum may be altered or amended by a two-thirds vote of the membership present at any two successive monthly conferences.

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 and immutable in His attributes.—I. Cor. 8:6; Isa. 40:28.

2. We believe that there is 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 quick and dead.—I. Tim. 2:5; 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; Eph. 4:4-6.

4. We believe 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 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 should perish, but that all should come to repentance and the knowledge of truth, that they might be saved; for which end Christ hath commanded the Gospel to be preached among all nations and to every creature.—Mark 16:15; Luke 24:47; John 3:15-17; 1. Tim. 2:4.

6. We believe that no man shall suffer in hell for want of a Christ who died for him, but as the Scripture has said, for denying the Lord that bought them; because they believed not in the name of 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 argument that all men at one time or other, are found in such capacity as that through the grace of God they may be eternally saved.—Acts 17:30; Mark 6:6; Heb. 3:10; 1. John 5:1-10.

7. We believe the whole Scriptures are infallibly true, and that they are the only rules of faith and practice.—2. 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 teachings; 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 6:45-65; Ps. 1:1; Tit. 2:11, 12; Jer. 22:29.

10. We believe that men, not considered simply as men, but ungodly men, were of old ordained to condemnation, considered such who turn the grace of God into lasciviousness, denying the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ who bought them, and therefore, shall bring upon themselves swift destruction; but we observe that they, and such the Apostle saith because they receive 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.—Jude 1:4; 2 Peter 2:1; 2 Thes 2:11, 12; Rom. 2:9-11.

11. We believe that all children dying in infancy, having not actually transgressed against the law of God, in their own persons, are only subject to the first death, which was brought on them by the fall of the first Adam, and not that any of them dying in that state, shall suffer punishment in hell by the guilt of Adam's sin, for "of such is the kingdom of God."—1. Cor. 15:22; Matt. 18:2-5; Mark 9:36, 37; Matt. 19:14.

12. We believe that good works are the fruits of a 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. 6:16; Luke 13:34, 35.

13. We believe that no man has any warrant in the Holy Scriptures for justification before God through his own works, 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.

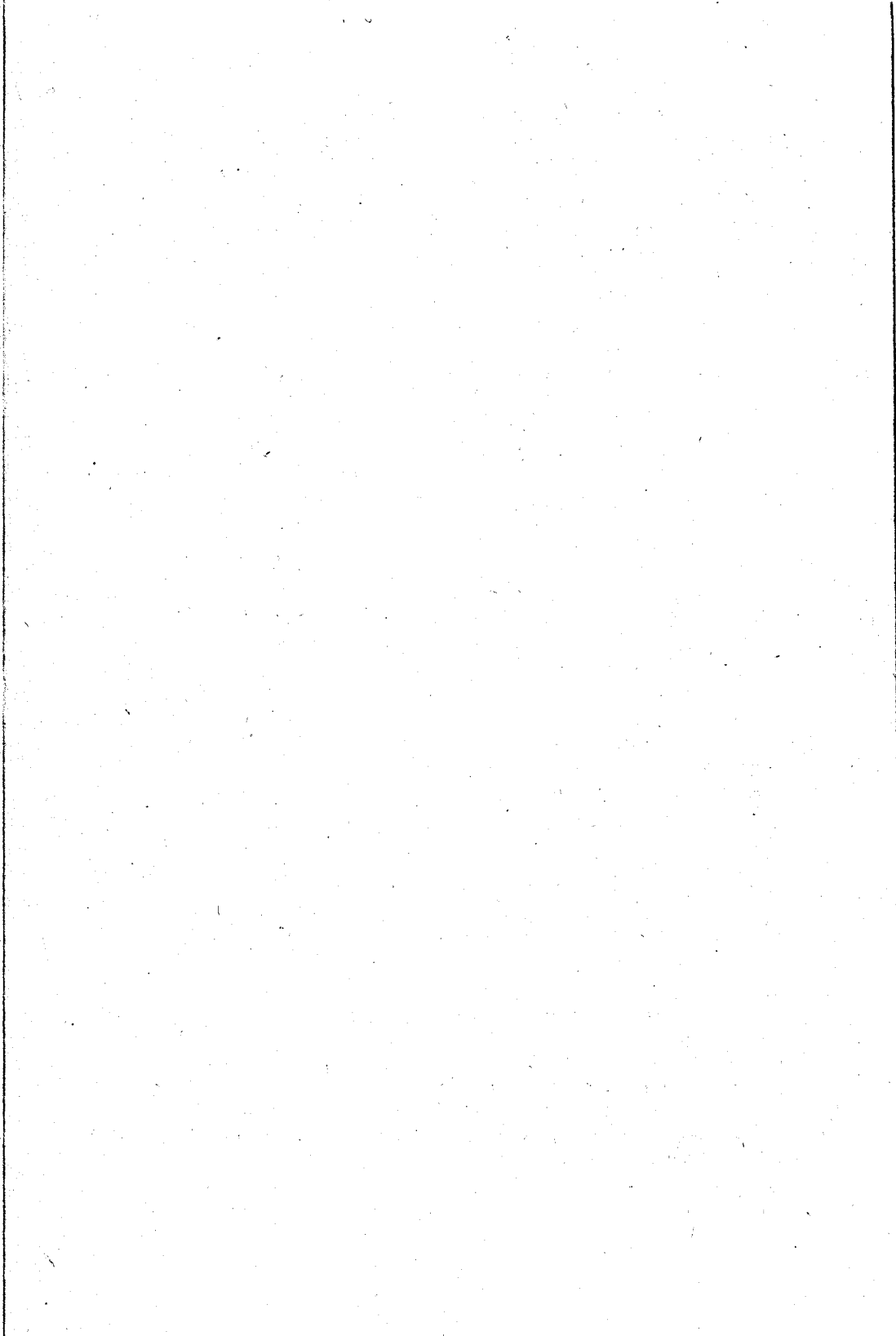
14. We believe that all things are foreseen in the wisdom of God, so that God knoweth whatsoever can or cannot come to pass upon all supposed conditions; yet not as having decreed any person to everlasting life, out of respect or mere choice further than He hath appointed the godly unto life, and the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

15. We believe, as touching Gospel ordinances, in believers' baptism, laying on of 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, prayer, singing praise to 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; Acts 19:6; Luke 22:19, 20; John 13:5-17; Jas. 5:14.

16. We believe the Gospel mode of baptism is by immersion, and that believers are the only subjects for baptism.—Matt. 3:16; Mark 1:9, 10; Acts 2:38, 39; Rom. 6:4; Col. 2:12.

17. We believe in a general resurrection of the dead and a final judgment at the last day.—John 5:28, 29; 2. Cor. 5:10.

18. We believe the happiness of the righteous is eternal and the torments of the wicked are endless.—Matt. 25:46.



Jaynes

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