

# MINUTES

OF THE

Seventy-Seventh Annual Session

OF THE

SOUTH GEORGIA ASSOCIATION

Of Free Will Baptists

convened with

SPRING GROVE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

Jesup, Wayne County, Georgia

October 22, 23, 1954

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Jesup, Wayne County, Georgia

OCTOBER 22, 23, 1954

THEME: "Christ Exalted Through Stewardship"

### PRESIDING OFFICERS

REV. T. G. HAMILTON, Moderator ..... Glennville, Ga.  
REV. C. D. RENTZ, Assistant Moderator ..... Baxley, Ga.  
REV. LOUIS H. MOULTON, Clerk ..... 2354 Pine Tree Rd., Savannah, Ga.

The next session meets with New Hope Church near Jesup, Georgia, Friday and  
Saturday before the fourth Sunday in October, 1955.

### OFFICERS

Rev. T. G. Hamilton, Moderator ..... Glennville, Ga.  
Rev. C. D. Rentz, Assistant Moderator ..... Baxley, Ga.  
Rev. Louis H. Moulton, Clerk ..... 2354 Pine Tree Rd., Savannah, Ga.  
Rev. Ralph Lightsey, Assistant Clerk ..... Hazlehurst, Ga.  
S. M. Altman, Sr., Treasurer ..... Folkston, Ga.

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The above officers of the Association and

G. W. Cloud ..... 1167 Wolfe Street, Jacksonville, Fla.  
A. B. Branner ..... Jesup, Ga.

### ORDAINING COUNCIL

Rev. Ralph Lightsey ..... Hazlehurst, Ga.  
Rev. C. J. Pitts ..... 540 James Street, Jacksonville, Fla.  
Rev. Louis H. Moulton ..... 2354 Pine Tree Road, Savannah, Ga.

### CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

Rev. E. B. Joyner ..... Alma, Ga.  
Rev. J. R. Graham ..... Jesup, Ga.  
Rev. Ralph Lightsey ..... Hazlehurst, Ga.

### FINANCE COMMITTEE

S. M. Altman, Sr. .... Folkston, Ga.  
Frank Bennett ..... Alma, Ga.  
W. L. Collins ..... Jacksonville, Fla.

### COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES

Mrs. Opal Howard ..... Lake Butler, Fla.  
George Hutto ..... Hazlehurst, Ga.  
E. C. Davidson ..... Glennville, Ga.  
J. B. Brigman ..... Alma, Ga.  
Rev. C. D. Rentz ..... Baxley, Ga.

# PROCEEDINGS

The seventy-seventh annual session of the South Georgia Association of Free Will Baptists met at Spring Grove Church, Jesup, Georgia, October 22, 23, 1954. The theme of the Association was "Christ Exalted Through Stewardship."

## Friday Morning

Following the singing of the song "At Calvary," the opening devotions were conducted by Rev. Ralph Lightsey, serving as a substitute and using as his topic, "Christ Exalted Through the Stewardship of Money."

The welcome address was delivered by Zeak Fennel with the response given by Barney Brannen, Sr.

The Moderator brought a brief message from Philippians 2:1-5. His emphasis was on verse five, "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus."

The business session was opened with prayer by Rev. Paul Long. The ministers of the South Georgia Association were then recognized. Visiting ministers were recognized also and welcomed as were all visitors.

A Digest Committee was appointed by the Moderator composed of E. C. Davidson, Rev. C. D. Rentz, and W. L. Collins.

A committee composed of Wallace Knight and G. W. Cloud was appointed to work together with the Treasurer, S. M. Altman, Sr., in receiving the finances until the Finance Committee could be elected.

The roll call of churches ensued with the receiving of reports from the various churches. Rev. Ralph Lightsey and G. W. Cloud were appointed reading clerks. The letters were read and adopted, and the delegates seated.

The hour of worship having arrived, the congregation was led in the song service by Rev. I. J. Blackwelder. Prayer was offered by Rev. E. C. Morris, and Rev. Paul Long brought the associational message, "Christ Exalted through the Stewardship of the Gospel." Reading Luke 23:33, he used as a text "The Place Called Calvary."

Lunch was provided by the host church.

## Friday Afternoon

Rev. J. R. Graham conducted the afternoon devotions. His theme was "Christ Exalted Through the Stewardship of Time."

The program which was planned by the Executive Committee was adopted. The election of officers ensued and divine guidance was invoked by Rev. Emmett McDuffie. Rev. T. G. Hamilton was re-elected Moderator; Rev. C. D. Rentz, Assistant Moderator; Rev. Louis H. Moulton, re-elected Clerk; Rev. Ralph Lightsey, Assistant Clerk; and S. M. Altman, Sr., re-elected Treasurer.

The body stood in tribute to the older ministers of the South Georgia Association, after which the election of officers continued. G. W. Cloud and A. B. Brannen were elected members of the Executive Committee; Rev. Ralph Lightsey, Rev. C. J. Pitts, Rev. Louis H. Moulton, Ordaining Council; Rev. E. B. Joyner, Rev. J. R. Graham, Rev. Ralph Lightsey, Credential Committee; Frank Bennett, W. L. Collins, Finance Committee; Mrs. Opal Howard, George Hutto, E. C. Davidson, J. B. Brigman, Rev. C. D. Rentz, Committee on Committees.



The report of the State Promotional Secretary was given by Rev. E. C. Morris.

A motion carried that we grant Rev. I. J. Blackwelder and Rev. J. O. Fort, at their request, a letter of recommendation to the Central Conference of North Carolina.

Corresponding messengers from other Associations were recognized and welcomed: M. M. Franks of Little River Association; Rev. Emmitt McDuffie of Georgia Union Association; Rev. A. L. Sellers of Union Association.

Following motion to adjourn, prayer of benediction was offered by E. C. Davidson.

#### Friday Evening

The evening service was given over in its entirety to the Woman's Auxiliary Convention of the South Georgia Association.

#### Saturday Morning

After the song service, prayer was offered by W. L. Collins, and the devotions were brought by G. W. Cloud. His theme was "Christ Exalted Through the Stewardship of Our Talents," using Philippians 3:14 as a text.

The minutes of the preceding day were read and corrected. Letters from late churches called for, after which the Moderator called for committee reports.

The following committee reports were read and adopted: Resolutions, Committee on Committees, Obituary, and Temperance. (See reports)

The Glennville Church was appointed by the Moderator to bring in report of missions.

Motion passed to give Friday night's time of the annual Association to the Woman's Auxiliary.

Other committee reports were read and adopted as follows: Destitution, Education, Denominational Literature, Sunday Schools, Woman's Auxiliaries, Digest, Finance, and Credentials. (See reports)

Delegates to the State Association were elected: Mrs. Stella Knight, Frank Bennett, Alec Dixon, G. W. Cloud, and Mrs. G. W. Cloud.

The report of the Committee on Revising the Constitution, Associational Decorum, and Church Decorum was read and adopted.

Motion carried that our Association year end August 31, and the new year begin September 1, each year.

Following the reading and adoption of the report of the committee on Missions, motion was made for ten minute recess before the message of the morning.

The Spring Grove Church Choir rendered two special numbers. Rev. Ralph Lightsey brought the morning message on the theme "The Stewardship of Life," using as a text 1 Corinthians 6:20, "Ye are Bought with a Price." Adjournment for lunch was by prayer.

#### Saturday Afternoon

The final session was called to order with the singing of "Trust and Obey," and prayer by Brother Thornton.

The Superannuation Committee's report was read and adopted. A report was made orally by G. W. Cloud on his work as State Promotional Assistant. A rising

vote of thanks was extended to Brother Cloud for his work. He was then re-elected Promotional Worker for the South Georgia Association.

Six invitations were extended to the Association for its annual session next year. New Hope Church, ten miles out of Jesup, Georgia, was chosen.

A rising vote of thanks was extended to Spring Grove Church for its hospitality in entertaining the Association.

The Ordaining Council's report was made and adopted.

Corresponding messengers were appointed as follows: Rev. T. G. Hamilton to Little River Association; Rev. E. B. Joyner to Georgia Union Association; Rev. Ralph Lightsey to Midway Association; G. W. Cloud to North Florida and Salem of Florida Associations.

Delegates to the National Association: Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Cloud, Mrs. T. G. Hamilton, Mrs. C. D. Rentz, and Mrs. Louis H. Moulton.

A motion was passed that the Executive Committee meet with a committee of the Martin Association relative to changing the yearly meeting date.

A motion was made to adjourn and the session was dismissed with prayer by Rev. J. B. Harris.

#### Representatives and Delegates

Alabama—Mrs. D. A. Smith, Mrs. Reggie Thornton, Mrs. G. C. Brewton, and J. B. Thorton.

Bethel—Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Altman.

Corinth—J. M. Moore, J. I. Hughes, Claude Wade, Roy Carter, and Darwell Hollingsworth.

Ebenezer—T. G. Hamilton, Mrs. Cleff Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. R. M. Moody, R. D. Folsom, Sr., Mrs. M. D. Bacon, Jr., Mrs. W. N. Purcell, and Mrs. Early Bland.

Glennville—Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Knight, Mrs. H. N. Baxter, Mrs. Barney Baxter, Mrs. Della Deloach, and E. C. Davidson.

Grand Crossing—Cecil Vining, Mrs. Hazel Vining, and Mrs. Geneva Fillis.

Harmony—Mrs. K. M. Clyatt and Mrs. W. S. Howard.

First Jacksonville—Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Cloud and Mrs. Bitha Mae Wilcox.

Liberty—Nat Wistern and O. V. Taylor.

Marietta—Mr. and Mrs. Willis McLain, Mr. and Mrs. Ira Branch, J. V. Lewis, Mrs. A. L. McLain, and Harvey Clements.

Memorial—Mrs. G. C. Carter, Mrs. Coy Rentz, J. F. Page, W. C. Mann, Coy Rentz, John Carter, Clarence McMillan, and Bryon Mann.

Metter—Ralph Lively, Floyd Beasley, H. A. Ward, and J. F. Reardon.

New Hope—Colis Brannen, A. B. Brannen, Saul Mallard, and Mrs. Florence Edenfield.

Oak Grove—Henry Eason, Mrs. Lucille Eason, and Mrs. Ora Lee Hart.

Oak Hill—Mr. and Mrs. George Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Steedley, and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Bennett.

Philadelphia—Mr. and Mrs. Harry Chessier, Mrs. James Anderson, Mrs. B. A. Altman, and Mrs. Flora Clark.

Pine Level—L. A. Rigdon, J. W. L. Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. W. F. McLeod, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Douglas, and J. B. Brigman.

Piney Grove—Mr. and Mrs. Alec Dixon, Mrs. Mary Lightsey, Mr. and Mrs. Remer Rogers, and Hinton Harris.

Satilla—George Hutto, Virgil Ursery, A. K. McNair, and Mrs. John Ray.  
 Savannah—John T. Blanton and Mrs. Louis H. Moulton.  
 Spring Grove—Mrs. Florence Aspinwall, Mrs. Manning Preister, Mrs. Margie Tyre,  
 Robert Carter, Floyd Armstrong, Theodo Chadwick, and Oscar Gabber.  
 Stoney Hill—Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Iddins, Mrs. Bula Dawson, and Mrs. Talmadge  
 Anderson.  
 Unity—W. L. Collins.  
 Zion—Nat Ryals, Mrs. Opal Ryals, and Ella Poole.

## Reports of Committees

### Report of Committee on Committees

We, your Committee on Committees, recommend as follows: Christian Education, Harmony; Support of Ministry, Pine Level; Superannuation, Oak Hill; Temperance, New Hope; Destitutions, Unity; Obituary, Stoney Hill; Denominational Literature, Memorial; Sunday Schools, Satilla; Resolutions, Glennville; Missions, First Jacksonville.

Mrs. Opal Howard  
 C. D. Rentz  
 E. C. Davidson  
 George Hutto  
 J. B. Brigman

### Report of Obituary Committee

We, the Committee on Obituaries, report the following deaths during the past year: Piney Grove: Mrs. Annie Horne and Manning Strickland; Marietta: Mrs. Emma Edenfield; Alabaha: J. D. Vann and Mrs. E. C. Roberts; Metter: Mrs. Olan Ward, Ellis Perry, Irvin Hubbard, Mrs. Joe Stapleton, and Joe Stapleton; Harmony: H. G. Marrison and Murray Thomas; New Hope: Jim Edenfield, Luther Edenfield, and Mrs. Laura Landon; Memorial: Rev. T. M. Carter and Mrs. M. W. Carter; Bethel: Jim Coleman and Jessie Varndore; Philadelphia: E. W. Shinear, Johnnie Wilson, and Mrs. Rhoda Spalding; Zion: H. C. Davis and Mrs. Etta Poppell; Satilla: Rev. A. B. Adams and John Ray.

We bow in humble submission to the will of our heavenly Father and ask that this body stand for a minute of silent prayer in reverence to those dear ones who have passed on to their heavenly home.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Spring Grove Church

### Report of Resolutions Committee

Resolved, that we highly commend the churches of our Association which have been supporting the Unified Program of our State Association with monthly offerings. We urge all churches to do likewise for the coming year, and until a better method may be adopted for the various agencies of the State and National endeavors.

Savannah Church

### Report of Temperance Committee

We, your Committee on Temperance, wish to make our report as follows:

We believe that intoxicating beverages are doing more to tear down the morale of humanity than any other agent that the devil has in operation. We believe that alcohol has caused more crime, broken more wedding bands, caused more deformity in posterity, caused more tragedies, starved more children, broken the hearts of more mothers, and hung more crepe than any other scourge that has ever cursed the world.

We recommend that pastors preach more on temperance, and that parents be an example for their children. Let's provide clean literature for our children and teach them to refrain from reading unclean literature, also to shun indecent radio and television programs.

Respectfully submitted,  
Philadelphia Church

#### Report of Woman's Auxiliary

The South Georgia District Woman's Auxiliary Convention met October 22, 1954, at Spring Grove Church near Jesup, Georgia. Mrs. E. C. Davidson made a short talk urging each one to live a more Christlike life. Prayer was by Mrs. Louis H. Moulton. The following officers were nominated in the executive meeting: Mrs. Opal Howard, President; Mrs. E. C. Davidson, Vice-President; Mrs. S. C. Walters, Youth Director; Mrs. T. G. Hamilton, Field Secretary; Deloris Johnson, Mission Study; Mrs. W. A. Werts, Personal Service; Mrs. Ralph Lightsey, Stewardship and Prayer; Mrs. Bitha Mae Wilcox, Secretary and Treasurer; Mrs. Alec Dixon, Assistant Secretary and Treasurer. Motion carried that local auxiliaries make their reports to correspond with the Association year. Motion carried that local auxiliaries elect their officers in August to take office the first of September. The names and addresses of these officers are to be sent to District Secretary.

Delegates to the State Convention were named: Mrs. Dona Kate Harrell, Mrs. Blanton, Mrs. Aldeen Baxter, Mrs. G. W. Cloud, Mrs. Jewel Anderson, and Mrs. H. O. Purcell.

#### Report of Destitution Committee

We, your Committee on Destitution, make this our report: We observe from the reading of the letters that several churches are not supplied with pastors for the ensuing year. We urge each church to try to secure a pastor before the convening of the body.

We find that some churches do not have leagues or woman's auxiliaries. We urge all churches to have all the organizations and auxiliaries in the church that they might hold up Jesus Christ in a more Christlike manner.

Respectfully submitted,  
Liberty Church

#### Report of Christian Education Committee

We, the Committee on Education, wish to make the following report: We urge all ministers to prepare themselves to the best of their abilities to preach the gospel as our Lord would have it done. We further urge that our teachers, officers, and other leaders in our churches prepare themselves for the task that is theirs. Some study courses should be held in each church in order to help carry these ideals out. Let all of us support our Bible College.

Alabaha Church



### Report of Committee on Denominational Literature

Inasmuch as our own Free Will Baptist Press, Ayden, North Carolina, prints and distributes material for use in Sunday schools, leagues, auxiliaries, and the various departments of the church in the form of quarterlies, pamphlets, papers, and booklets, we recommend use of the same to the fullest extent by every Free Will Baptist church. We would urge that every Free Will Baptist pray for those who prepare our denominational literature and that God will call others to this field of service so that our literature might meet the needs of our people.

Piney Grove Church

### Report of Committee on Sunday Schools

As your Committee on Sunday Schools, we wish to call attention to the fact that some of our churches are not sponsoring Sunday schools, and we feel the great need of interested Sunday school workers. We ask the Association to please make this one of our objectives of prayer for a Sunday school in every church.

Very humbly submitted,

Bethel Church

### Report of Digest Committee

Twenty-four of 26 churches listed reported with total membership of 2,495; 24 Sunday schools with combined enrollment of 1,889; 13 leagues reported with enrollment of 652; 10 woman's auxiliaries with enrollment of 183; pastors paid a total of \$27,785.84; evangelists paid \$3,991.70; home missions \$1,462.53; foreign missions \$692.75; superannuation \$151.23; Christian education \$1,660.05; buildings and repairs \$17,194.41; value of church property \$188,660.00; total expended for year \$52,080.12; total receipts from all sources \$49,077.36; for associational purposes \$240.00; unified program \$2,760.40; orphanage \$259.67; 23 ordained and 7 licensed ministers.

C. D. Rentz

E. C. Davidson

W. L. Collins

### Report of Finance Committee

Balance on hand ..... \$ 68.58

Received from churches represented ..... 240.00

Total ..... \$308.58

#### Disbursements:

For minutes ..... \$120.00

Moderator ..... 10.00

Clerk ..... 15.00

Treasurer ..... 5.00

J. B. Harris ..... 15.00

Superannuation ..... 15.00

State Association ..... 10.00

Mrs. C. C. Coursey ..... 10.00

Mrs. B. A. Altman .....	10.00
Mrs. A. B. Adams .....	10.00
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Total disbursed .....	220.00
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Balance in treasury .....	\$ 88.58

S. M. Altman, Sr.  
 Frank Bennett  
 W. L. Collins

#### Report of Credentials Committee

We find all our churches and ministers in order with one exception. Rev. W. L. Mills has departed the Free Will Baptist faith, and we recommend that his credentials be revoked and that his name be dropped from the ministerial roll.

Rev. E. B. Joyner  
 Rev. J. R. Graham  
 Rev. Ralph Lightsey

#### Report of Committee on Missions

According to the churches reports in the Association, we find that most churches are doing a splendid job supporting missions, both home and foreign; however, we find some churches still are not supporting this cause.

We recommend that each of our churches make a monthly offering to the unified program. We recommend the Bible system of tithing in supporting of this program (Malachi 3:10; Matthew 23:23). We recommend that our pastors keep this program before their churches and that the offering be received monthly and sent to our State Promotional Secretary, Rev. E. C. Morris, P. O. Box 553, Tifton, Georgia.

Prayerfully submitted,  
 Glennville Church

#### Report of Superannuation Committee

It is the attitude of this committee that those called of God to the grand privilege of proclaiming the glorious Gospel of Christ as ministers, both pastors and evangelists, are worthy of the best. They should have the best! We believe our ministers deserve the best. Too much cannot be done for them.

We want you to pray with us that in the near future a plan may be instigated that will amply provide for our ministers and their families, who give their lives for the cause of Christ in the Free Will Baptist denomination. To serve to be discarded is too lightly regarded.

This phase of our work has been too lightly considered. It is a reproach to the Lord and His cause. Let us magnify and exalt our Lord through properly caring for and supplying our ministers' needs.

Prayerfully submitted,  
 Ebenezer Church

Churches	County	1954 Pastors	1955 Pastors	Clerks and Addresses	Members Received	Lost This Year	Died	Total Membership	Paid Pastor	Funds to Association	Value of Church Property	Meeting Days
Alabaha	Pierce	Tom Lightsey	None	S. D. Harrison Blackshear, Georgia		2	2	83	\$ 600.00	\$10.00	\$ 2,000.00	2—4
Bethel	Appling	C. D. Rentz	Same	Beatrice Orvin Rt. 3, Poxley, Georgia	32	2	2	48	316.76	5.00	4,250.00	2—4
Corinth	Bacon	V. L. Pritchett	J. R. Graham	G. W. Jordan Alma, Georgia	3			75	408.99	5.00	3,500.00	1—3
Deep Creek	Jenkins	No Report	No Report									
Ebenezer	Tattnall	T. G. Hamilton	Same	W. N. Purcell Glennville, Georgia	8	4		167	1,600.00	10.00	41,000.00	Full time
Glennville	Tattnall	T. G. Hamilton	George Ludwig	J. O. Harrell Glennville, Georgia	2	2		155	1,500.00	10.00	20,000.00	Full time
Grand Crossing	Duval	S. H. Caudill	Same	Mrs. M. E. Anderson 2372 Orchard St. Jaxville, Florida		2		52	120.00	5.00	5,000.00	Full time
Harmony	Union	J. O. Fort	Durwood Long	C. L. Brown Lake Butler, Florida	7	2	2	140	2,372.50	15.00		Full time
1st Jaxville	Duval	D. J. Merkh	Charles Brown	C. H. Andrew Jaxville, Florida	2	5		54	1,281.50	10.00	7,500.00	Full time
Liberty	Coffee	C. D. Rentz	None	O. V. Taylor West Green, Georgia	1			20	163.99	5.00		1
Lower Corinth	Emanuel	No Report	No Report									
Marietta	Toombs	E. B. Joyner	E. C. Morris (Supply)	Mrs. A. L. McLain Lyons, Georgia	8		1	109	779.24	10.00	4,000.00	1—3
Memorial	Appling	Emmitt McDuffie	Same	Willie Carter Surrency, Georgia	7	7	2	227	1,067.69	10.00	4,500.00	1—3
Metter	Candler	G. S. Holton	Same	Mrs. Floyd Beasley Metter, Georgia	10	7	5	60	270.53	5.00	4,000.00	2—4
New Hope	Wayne	C. D. Rentz	Emmitt McDuffie	Burnice Brannen Rt. 3, Jesup, Georgia	34	5	3	125	431.25	10.00	5,000.00	2
Oak Grove	Appling	Wyndall Long	Emmitt McDuffie	Ruby McLain Surrency, Georgia	6	2		54	380.00	5.00	3,000.00	4
Oak Hill	Bacon	E. B. Joyner	Same	Zeak Steedley Alma, Georgia	1			52	645.62	10.00	4,000.00	2—4
Philadelphia	Charlton	J. E. Wood	C. J. Pitts	S. M. Altman, Jr. Folkston, Georgia	13	9	2	168	2,638.00	10.00	8,350.00	Full time
Pine Level	Bacon	V. M. Pritchett	None	Mrs. Vera Wheeler Rt. 4, Alma, Georgia	6	3		140	840.00	15.00	5,000.00	
Finney Grove	Appling	C. D. Rentz	Same	Mrs. Mary Lightsey Bristol, Georgia	13	1	2	121	464.60	10.00	5,000.00	1—3
Satilla	Jeff Davis	Ralph Lightsey	Same	Mrs. Melvin Carter Hazlehurst, Georgia	24	11	2	260	4,290.51	25.00	20,000.00	Full time
Savannah	Chatham	Louis H. Moulton	Same	A. M. Wiggins 2111 Forest St., Savannah, Ga.	46			86	3,600.00	10.00	20,000.00	Full time
Spring Grove	Wayne	W. L. Mills	None	Mrs. Irene Tyre P. O. Box 342, Jesup, Ga.	27	2		129	2,430.00	25.00	3,500.00	Full time
Stony Hill	Tattnall	T. G. Hamilton	Same	Elmer Cason Glennville, Georgia	12			71	769.61	5.00	5,000.00	1—3
Unity	Duval	C. J. Pitts	Wingate A. Hansley	No Clerk Reported	20	5		99	960.00	10.00	12,500.00	Full time
Zion	Long	J. L. Dukes	J. B. Ray	Mrs. Bertie Davis Rt. 1, Ludowici, Georgia	1		2	19	83.95	5.00	1,500.00	1—3

### Report of Ordaining Council

We have examined Brother J. B. Ray and find him to be doctrinally sound. We also find him to be of sound character. Therefore, we recommend that his license be extended with the view of his ordination coming a little later.

Rev. C. J. Pitts

Rev. Louis H. Moulton

Rev. Ralph Lightsey



# Articles of Faith

1. **The Bible.** The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments were given by inspiration of God, and are our infallible rule of faith and practice.

2. **God.** There is one living and true God, revealed in nature as the Creator, Preserver, and Righteous Governor of the universe; and in the Scriptures as Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, yet as one God, infinitely wise and good, whom all intelligent creatures are supremely to love, adore, and obey.

3. **Christ.** Christ is God manifest in the flesh; in His divine nature truly God, in His human nature truly man. The mediator between God and man, once crucified, He is now risen and glorified, and is our ever present Saviour and Lord.

4. **The Holy Spirit.** The Scriptures assign to the Holy Spirit all the attributes of God.

5. **The Government of God.** God exercises a wise and benevolent providence over all beings and all things by maintaining the constitution and laws of nature. He also performs special acts, not otherwise provided for, as the highest welfare of men requires.

6. **The Sinfulness of man.** Man was created innocent, but by disobedience fell into a state of sin and condemnation. His posterity, therefore, inherit a fallen nature of such tendencies that all who come to years of accountability sin, and become guilty before God.

7. **The Work of Christ.** The Son of God by His incarnation, life, sufferings, death and resurrection effected for all a redemption from sin that is full and free and is the ground of salvation by faith.

8. **The Terms of Salvation.** The conditions of salvation are: 1. Repentance or sincere sorrow for sin and hearty renunciation of it. 2. Faith or the unreserved committal of one's self to Christ as Saviour and Lord with purpose to love and obey Him in all things. In the exercise of saving faith the soul is renewed by the Holy Spirit, freed from the dominion of sin and becomes a child of God. 3. Continuance in faith and obedience until death.

9. **Election.** God determined from the beginning to save all who should comply with the conditions of salvation. Hence by faith in Christ men become His elect.

10. **Freedom of the Will.** The human will is free and self-controlled, having power to yield to the influence of the truth and the Spirit, or to resist them and perish.

11. **Salvation Free.** God desires the salvation of all, the Gospel invites all, the Holy Spirit strives with all, and whosoever will may come and take of the water of life freely.

12. **Perseverance.** All believers in Christ, who through grace persevere in holiness to the end of life, have promise of eternal salvation.

13. **Gospel Ordinances.** BAPTISM, or the immersion of believers in water, and the LORD'S SUPPER, are ordinances to be perpetuated under the Gospel; FEET WASHING, an ordinance teaching humility, of universal obligation, and to be ministered to all true believers.

14. **Tithing.** God commanded tithes and offerings in the Old Testament; Jesus Christ indorsed it in the Gospel (Matthew 23:23), and the Apostle Paul said,

"Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store as God hath prospered him" (1 Corinthians 16:2).

**15. The Christian Sabbath.** The divine law requires that one day in seven be set apart from secular employments and amusements, for rest, worship, holy works and activities, and for personal communion with God.

**16. Resurrection, Judgment, and Final Retribution.** The Scriptures teach the resurrection of all men at the last day. They that have done good will come forth to the resurrection of life, and they that have done evil unto the resurrection of damnation; then the wicked will "go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

# Church Covenant

Having given ourselves to God, by faith in Christ, and adopted the Word of God as our rule of faith and practice, we now give ourselves to one another by the will of God in this solemn covenant.

We promise by His grace to love and obey Him in all things, to avoid all appearance of evil, to abstain from all sinful amusements and unholy conformity to the world, from all sanction of the use and sale of intoxicating beverages, and to "provide things honest in the sight of all men."

We agree faithfully to discharge our obligations in reference to the study of the Scriptures, secret prayer, family devotions, and social worship; and by self-denial, faith, and good works endeavor to "grow in grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ."

We will not forsake the assembling of ourselves together for church conferences, public worship, and the observance of the ordinances of the Gospel; nor fail to pay according to our ability for the support of the church, of its poor, and all its benevolent work.

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

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

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

## Church Decorum

1. The local church is an independent body, so far as relates to its own government, the transaction of its business, the choice of its officers, the calling of a pastor, and the discipline of its members.

2. When it becomes necessary, a pastor may be chosen at any time, at either a regular or called conference.

3. The pastor shall be Moderator of the church. In the absence of the pastor, the chairman of the Deacon Board or someone appointed by the church shall act as Moderator.

4. There shall be two or more deacons in the church. They hold office at the pleasure of the church during the maintenance of Christian character, faithful service, and sound doctrine. They assist at baptism and the Lord's Supper, have care of the poor, and conduct religious meetings in the absence of the pastor.

5. Conference shall be opened and conducted as follows: (1) Prayer. (2) Invitation to visiting brethren to seats. (3) Call for acknowledgments. (4) Call for old or deferred business. (5) Call for new business. (6) Call for miscellaneous business.

6. Visiting brethren from sister churches shall speak and make motions or seconds, but are not allowed to vote.

7. Any person, upon proper application to a local church, may be received upon a profession of faith, by letter, or by baptism by immersion.

8. Members shall be received into the church by the unanimous consent of the members present.

9. If members are to be tried for misconduct, written notices of the charges and specifications of the same should be furnished to those accused at least one week before the trial. If the charges are not confessed, the trial proceeds in regular order by the presentation of testimony, without personal disputation, or remarks from those not church members.

10. Questions of fellowship, expulsion, and all other items of business of the church shall be settled by a vote of the majority present, and this action shall be final provided public announcement of the intended action is made at the last regular meeting; and the Quarterly Meeting has no fellowship from a church as a whole when its action is inconsistent with sound doctrine of Christian policy.

11. Expelled members, upon request, shall be restored to full fellowship if their conduct, since expulsion, has convinced the church that they have sincerely repented of their former evils.

12. A vote shall not be taken upon questions without a move and a second. All important questions shall be decided by standing vote.

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

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

15. All discussions in conference must be conducted with calmness and good feeling. Any person who desires to speak must rise to his feet and be recognized by the Moderator. His discussion must be relative to the issue.

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

17. When the Moderator desires to speak, he must appoint some brother to act in his stead.

18. No person, having the floor, shall be interrupted while speaking unless he is out of order.

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

20. All members, participating in the communion service, should be in fellowship with the church. All Christians should be invited to partake of the Lord's Supper with us (1 Corinthians 11:28).

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

22. No licentiate shall be ordained until he has been licensed one year and



called by one or more churches. However, in the event that a minister has been licensed for one year and is attending a Bible College or Seminary and requests ordination through the proper procedure, then it is left to the discretion of the Ordaining Council to examine and ordain the candidate for ordination.

23. Licensed ministers must renew their licenses annually.

24. This decorum may be altered or amended by a two-thirds vote of the membership present at any two successive regular conferences.

## Associational 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 prior to business, the names of the ministers and delegates shall be called.

3. At the beginning of each session the minutes of the preceding session 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 for officers and committee members shall be made from the floor or by a nomination committee.

9. After motion has been decided, any member having voted in the affirmative may move for 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 the right to decide what matters 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.

## Constitution

Article 1. This Yearly Meeting or Association shall be called the South Georgia Association, and shall be composed of such regularly organized and well-disciplined Free Will Baptist Quarterly Meetings, conveniently located, as may embody themselves under this Constitution.

Art. 2. The Conference of this Yearly Meeting or Association shall consist of delegates from the several Quarterly Meetings of which it is composed, every

Quarterly Meeting being entitled to one delegate, every Quarterly Meeting containing five hundred members to two delegates, and one additional delegate for every additional five hundred members. Churches sending delegates to this Association shall be allowed one delegate for each twenty members or fraction thereof.

Art. 3. The officers of this Yearly Meeting or Association shall be a standing Clerk, Treasurer, and Moderator who shall be chosen at every session of the Yearly Meeting or Association, with assistants as may be found necessary.

Art. 4. Any well organized and well regulated Free Will Baptist Quarterly Meeting, composed of such churches as conform to the practices, and adopt the doctrines of the Free Will Baptist denomination, as published in the Treatise of their faith, and in the Minutes of the National Association, and are in favor of all the benevolent enterprises of the denomination, may at any time, on application by vote of this body, become a member thereof.

Art. 5. This Yearly Meeting or Association shall have power to discipline the Quarterly Meetings of which it is composed, and to exclude them for disorderly walk, if labor proves unsuccessful, but in no case to reverse their decisions nor to interfere with any of their internal regulations.

Art. 6. The sessions of this Yearly Meeting or Association shall be held annually at which time it shall be the duty of the Quarterly Meetings and churches of which this Yearly Meeting or Association is composed, to represent themselves by letter and delegates, and report their standing, prospects, and statistics; at which time the Association shall act upon such questions and topics as may be referred to it by its respective Quarterly Meetings, and transact such other business not repugnant to this Constitution, nor to the practices of the denomination, as in its judgment may promote the cause of Christ and the interests of the churches and Quarterly Meetings within the limits of this Yearly Meeting or Association.

Art. 7. This Yearly Meeting or Association shall have power to adopt any regulations or by-laws, not inconsistent with this Constitution, which may be deemed essential to the further regulation of its sessions.

Art. 8. This Constitution may be altered or amended by a vote of the Yearly meeting or Association at any regular session.

## MINISTERIAL ROLL

S. H. Caudill, 5104 Highway Ave., Jacksonville, Fla.  
W. C. Coleman, Route 3, Baxley, Ga.  
C. W. Collins, Lyons, Ga.  
E. B. Duckworth, Oak Park, Ga.  
J. L. Dukes, Jesup, Ga.  
J. R. Graham, Jesup, Ga.  
C. H. Hadden, Metter, Ga.  
T. C. Hamilton, Glennville, Ga.  
J. B. Harris, Odum, Ga.  
G. S. Holton, Lyons, Ga.  
E. B. Joyner, Alma, Ga.  
Ralph Lightsey, Hazlehurst, Ga.  
Tom Lightsey, Bristol, Ga.  
Durwood Long, Lake Butler, Fla.  
George Ludwig, Glennville, Ga.  
T. O. Morgan, 2280 Orchard St., Jacksonville, Fla.  
E. C. Morris, P. O. Box 553, Tifton, Ga.  
Louis H. Moulton, 2354 Pine Tree Road, Savannah, Ga.  
E. L. Paulk, Alma, Ga.  
C. J. Pitts, 540 James St., Jacksonville, Fla.  
C. D. Rentz, Baxley, Ga.  
Daniel L. Rivers, Lake Butler, Fla.  
Sammy Wilkinson, Columbia Bible College, Columbia, S. C.

## LICENTIATES

J. E. Blanton, Surrency, Ga.  
Roger Branch, Lyons, Ga.  
Charles Jamison, 2110 Forest Hill Rd., Jacksonville, Fla.  
T. W. Long, Surrency, Ga.  
Clarence McMillan, Surrency, Ga.  
M. L. Powell, Midville, Ga.  
J. B. Ray, Surrency, Ga.