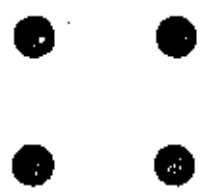
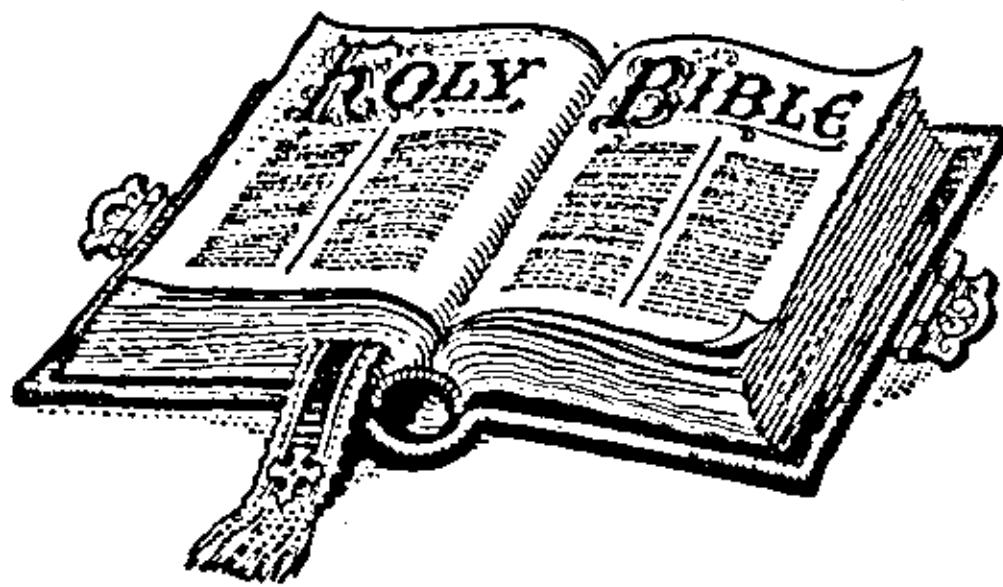


William Beasley

MINUTES
of the
EIGHTY-FOURTH ANNUAL SESSION
of the
SOUTH GEORGIA ASSOCIATION
of
FREE WILL BAPTISTS



convened at

Spring Grove Church, Wayne County, Georgia

September 22, 23, 1961



TABLE OF CONTENTS

General Officers.....	14
Committees and Members.....	2
Delegates.....	4
Proceedings.....	1
Committee Reports.....	6
Statistical and Financial Reports of Churches.....	11
Articles of Faith.....	17
Church Covenant.....	18
Church Decorum.....	19
Associational Decorum.....	20
Constitution of the South Georgia Association.....	21

PROCEEDINGS
of the
SOUTH GEORGIA ASSOCIATION
of
FREE WILL BAPTISTS
September 22-23, 1961

The 84th session of the South Georgia Association convened with the Spring Grove Free Will Baptist Church of Jesup, Georgia, Friday and Saturday, September 22-23, 1961.

Friday Morning

The session opened with the congregation singing "Trust and Obey," and "He Lives." The devotional was brought by the Rev. V. L. Pritchett, of Eastman, Georgia. He spoke concerning false teachers in the world.

The meeting was called to order by the clerk, then the moderator brought to the congregation his message. He used our own Church Covenant and reviewed it completely.

A partial report of the Credentials Committee: (There were at this time 80 delegates present.) It was moved and seconded that this partial report be received. It was so carried.

The moderator recognized the visitors: We were glad to have with us the Rev. E. C. Morris, Rev. Fred Hersey, Rev. Ralph Lightsey and Dr. L. C. Johnson.

The association recognized the oversight of the Spring Grove Church in making out programs for the association. It is in the hands of the executive committee to make out the programs for the annual meeting of the association. (Note: See Resolutions Report, Item No. Three.)

The Program of the 1960-61 session of the South Georgia Association was approved for this session.

A temporary report of the Executive Committee concerned the program for the day and getting a temporary committee to draw up a constitution and making the corrections that are needed. They are to report at the next meeting in January.

The Nominating Committee was selected from the floor: They were as follows - Rev. Wilfred Harden, Bro. Dock Johnson, Rev. C. D. Rentz, Bro. David Mann and Bro. R. F. Connell. These were elected by acclamation.

Dr. L. C. Johnson spoke on the Bible College and "To What Kind of Education Are We Committed at Free Will Baptist College?"

The Resolutions Committee was elected as follows: Bro. Britt Briggman, Rev. J. E. Blanton, Bro. Sam Carter, Bro. Art Anthony and Rev. V. L. Pritchett.

Due to the absence of two members of the Credentials Committee, it was passed that Rev. J. M. Cobb select two people to fill in for these.

The afternoon devotion was brought by the Rev. Billy Livesay, of Blackshear, Georgia. His message was concerning the joy in serving God.

The Promotional Department work was reported by the Rev. E. C. Morris, of Tifton, Georgia. He reported that the South Georgia Association is far above the quota, but to some degree is behind last year.

Special Thanks to Brother E. C. Morris:

A motion was made for a standing vote to be seen for the untiring efforts of Bro. Morris in his 14 years of loyal service.

The report of the South Georgia Mission Board was given by the Rev. James Pelt of Glennville, Georgia. (See Reports.)

The Rev. Ralph Lightsey, of Mount Olive, North Carolina, gave a report on Mount Olive College.

Special music was brought by Rev. Bill Gardner and the Rev. James Ursery. Their song was "Face to Face."

A report of the Ministerial Association was given by the Rev. J. E. Blanton, of Jesup, Georgia. He said that several meetings of the association had not been held. At most of the meetings not all of the ministers have been in position to attend the meetings very well. The Ministerial Association sponsored a Youth Revival August 14-19, at Waycross. The evangelist was the Rev. Jack Paramore, of Greenville, N. C. Rev. Blanton proposed, as President of the Association, that due to the non-attendance of the ministers at quarterly meetings the association meetings be just once a year. (The next meeting will be on the 17th of October, 1961.)

Mrs. D. C. Dodd, of Savannah, gave a report on the National and District Women's Auxiliaries.

The Rev. T. G. Hamilton brought a message on Congregational Church Government.

A partial report of the Resolutions Committee was given. (See Reports.)

A report was given by the Obituary Committee. (See Reports.)

We then adjourned for the afternoon service.

Friday Evening

We had a very impressive missionary meeting of the South Georgia Association on this Friday evening. The Rev. Fred Hersey, our returned missionary for Japan, spoke to us concerning missions. He also shared with us some of the customs of the people of Japan. After the service there was an offering received for missions and for the account of Bro. Hersey. The amount was \$28.00. There was also an additional amount of \$15.39 given on Saturday morning.

Saturday Morning

The congregation sang "Love Lifted Me" and "At the Cross." The Rev. Bill Gardner led these songs.

The Rev. C. D. Rentz, from Brunswick, led us in the Saturday morning devotional. His thoughts concerned spiritual bankruptcy.

After this wonderful devotion, the Rev. Mance Cason led us in prayer. We were very glad to have Rev. Cason visiting with us at this meeting.

The Finance Committee reported at this time. (See Reports.) A correction in this report was made. The committee in adding up the offering to the Free Will Baptist Bible College added some checks wrong. The motion was made to take an offering for the amount needed, which was \$17.50. The offering was \$32.89, which was \$15.39 over. Another motion was made to give this overage to the account of Rev. Fred Hersey. It was so carried.

Where do we meet in January for the next quarterly meeting of the association? It will be on the Saturday before the fourth Sunday in

January, 1962. An invitation was given from the Harmony Church, Lake Butler, Florida. This invitation to go there for this meeting was accepted.

The Georgia State Association has been changed from Macon Church to Mount Olive Church at Reynolds, Georgia. It will be on the 14th, 15th and 16th of November, 1961. The delegates of the state are as follows: Mrs. Joan Gardner, Mrs. D. C. Dodd, Mrs. Harris Nix and Mrs. J. M. Cobb. Motion was made that these four named be our delegates for the State Association and the Moderator of the South Georgia Association have the right to appoint those who might be there from the South Georgia Association as other delegates.

Next, the final report of the Resolutions Committee was given. (See Reports.)

The final report of the Credentials Committee was also given. (See Reports.)

Following this came the Ordaining Council report. (See Reports.)

A motion was made to rescind the action in Item One of the Resolutions Committee report. (See Reports.) This motion was defeated by a vote of 32-25. (See Reports for this item.)

The last committee reporting was the Nominating Committee. See its report under Reports.

T. W. LONG
Clerk

MINISTERS ATTENDING

W. M. Gardner	Hazlehurst, Ga.	FR 5-2968
Theron W. Long	Waycross, Ga.	AT 3-8735
Wilford Harden	Folkston, Ga.	HY 6-3447
E. C. Morris	Box 553, Tifton, Ga.	382-2822
E. R. Corbett	Route 2 Lake Butler, Fla.	HY 6-2033
Damon C. Dodd	2354 Pinetree Road Savannah, Ga.	EL 4-0971
Raymond Attman	Box 254, Folkston, Ga.	
James C. Pelt	211 South M. Street Glennville, Ga.	OL 4-2621
Louis H. Moulton	8 Richmond Drive Savannah, Ga.	EL 4-5097
V. L. Pritchett	815 Creighton Street Eastman, Ga.	374-3588
Billy Livesay	229 West Main Street Blackshear, Ga.	HI 9-5201
J. E. Blanton	Route 3, Jesup, Ga.	GA 7-2976
J. M. Cobb	106 Glendale Avenue Baxley, Ga.	367-3720
James Ursery	Route 4, Alma, Ga.	632-5240
Harris Nix	Route 2, Jesup, Ga.	GA 7-4628
Tom Lightsey	Bristol, Ga.	
Tom Hamilton	Glennville, Ga.	OL 4-2455
C. D. Rentz	47 Dixie Avenue Brunswick, Ga.	AM 5-7969

THE REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF THE
SOUTH GEORGIA ASSOCIATION

ITEM ONE:

Program:

On August 14th, 1961, the Executive Committee of the South Georgia Association met for the purpose of planning the program for the Association which meets September 22-23 at the Spring Grove Church near Jesup.

Members present were as follows: Moderator, Damon C. Dodd, T. W. Long, T. G. Hamilton, W. M. Gardner, A. H. Quinn, Ollie Carter (sitting in for Henry R. Eason,) and J. M. Cobb. We also had visiting with us the Rev. Jack Paramore.

The program theme for the Association, "Committed to the Changeless Christ in a Changing World," was adopted, not to copy the National Association, but so that we might share with this Association its eternal meaning, as it was so manifested in the National Association in July. We felt that a program with such a theme as this certainly could not be presented properly unless the Christian Education of our people was reviewed. Dr. L. C. Johnson or someone from the Bible College will speak on the subject, "To What Kind of an Education Program Are We Committed At Free Will Baptist Bible College?" This will be on Friday morning. Then on Friday evening there will be a special missions program presented. The speaker will be our returned missionary from Japan, the Rev. Fred Hersey. Then to close out on Saturday morning, the Rev. James E. Ursery will bring an evangelistic message.

ITEM TWO:

Now inasmuch as the Union meetings have expressed by vote a desire to disband their organizations in favor of quarterly meetings of the Association, we recommend that the South Georgia Association comply with such action. We submit the following items as a matter of temporary constitutional provisions relating to the new set-up in our Association:

MEMBERSHIP

This South Georgia Association shall be composed of such regularly organized and well-disciplined Freewill Baptist

Churches as may conveniently embody themselves in this fellowship.

MEETINGS

This South Georgia Association shall hold its annual meeting on Friday and Saturday after the second Sunday in October each year. Quarterly meetings of the Association shall be held on the fourth Saturday in each of the following months: January, April and July.

REPRESENTATION

Representation shall be by delegates duly authorized by the local Churches comprising the South Georgia Association and shall be determined on the basis of one (1) delegate for each twenty (20) members or fraction thereof. Standing Delegates: All ordained Ministers in good standing with the South Georgia Association shall be standing delegates. Freewill Baptist Missionaries who hold membership in a Church in the South Georgia Association shall also be standing delegates.

FEES

Member Churches in South Georgia Association are requested to observe the following suggestions relative to fees to be sent with quarterly reports:

Total membership of 50 or less	--	\$ 2.50
" " " 51 to 150	--	5.00
" " " 151 to 500	--	7.50

ITEM THREE:

We recommend that a constitutional revision committee be elected and instructed to present its report in January at the next meeting of the Association.

Faithfully submitted:

D. C. Dodd	A. H. Quinn
T. W. Long	Wilfred Harden
J. M. Cobb	W. M. Gardner
H. R. Eason	T. G. Hamilton

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

ITEM ONE:

We would like to commend and offer our sincere appreciation to the National Association for its stand taken on the Church Government issue and also for vacating the five offices of the men in our national association who signed the affidavit stating their belief in a connectional form of church government.

ITEM TWO:

We urge all our pastors to present the needs of our Free Will Baptist Bible College to their people and urge them to do all they can towards making this 20th anniversary drive a success, as the need is great for additional room and facilities.

ITEM THREE:

Resolved that the local churches be responsible for the programs of the three quarterly meetings and that the executive committee be responsible for the program of the annual meeting of the association.

ITEM FOUR:

Resolved that time be not given to any speaker for any organization in our associational programs who is not in fellowship and good standing with the National Association.

ITEM FIVE:

Request that our churches be very careful about the selection of their Deacons.

ITEM SIX:

Resolved that we give Spring Grove Church a rising vote of thanks for their kindness and hospitality during this Association.

CREDENTIALS REPORT

Sunday School

No. on Roll	1,957
August Attendance	1,438
Off. & Teachers	179
No. of Depts.	92
Offerings	\$13,459.87

League

No. on Roll	832
August Attendance	548
Offerings	\$ 1,650.85

Woman's Auxiliary

No. on Roll	263
August Attendance	158
Dues Collected	\$ 1,597.92
Offerings	\$ 1,384.94

Master's Men

No. on Roll	97
Offerings	\$ 580.77

Y. P. A.

No. on Roll	71
August Attendance	59
Offerings	\$ 223.58

Church Statistics

Members Reported Last Year	2,804
New Members Received	297
Members Lost	136
Present List of Members	3,036
Revivals Held	61
Church Offerings	\$91,443.66

Financial Report

Total Offerings	\$117,806.98
Pd. Pastor	53,602.71
Pd. Evangelists	3,754.01
Building & Repairs	11,070.49
Literature	2,612.22
Incidentals	4,548.18
Charity	440.65
Unified Program	4,133.98
Missions	5,494.21
Christian Education	550.72
Superannuation	94.06
Youth Camp	59.45
Causes Not Listed	29,427.87
Dues Being Sent	285.00
Total Given for	
All Purposes	87,868.09
Church & Parsonage	
Property	359,000.00

J. M. Cobb
Jim Pelt
James Ursery

OBITUARY COMMITTEE

We, the Obituary Committee, present the following report: We recommend that the Association stand in silence for 30 seconds in memory of our dead, who are listed below.

Bro. B. W. Landon	Brunswick Church
Bro. Hubert M. Taylor	Pine Level Church
Rev. J. R. Graham	Pine Grove Church
Sister Brannen	" " "
Rev. E. L. Paulk	" " "
Bro. J. E. Killingsworth	Spring Grove Church
Bro. E. L. Yarbarough	" " "
Bro. C. C. Hambrick	" " "
Sister Hansel Allen	" " "
Sister Fred Jones, Sr.	White Hall Church
Sister Lucas	" " "
Sister Floye Mae Crosbey	Satilla Church
Bro. Lee Channey	" "
(Four Members)	Memorial Church
(One Member)	New Hope Church
(Two Members)	Alabaha Church
Sister Florence Carter	Corinth Church
Sister Della Mae Barnard	Glennville Church
(One Member)	Harmony Church

Respectfully submitted:

Mrs. A. L. McLain
Mrs. Betty Long
Rev. Billy Livesay

FINANCE REPORT

We, your Finance Committee of the South Georgia Association, wish to submit the following report:

Received from Churches	\$270.00
Balance brought forward	<u>11.50</u>
Total	\$281.50

Disbursements:

Minutes	\$150.00
State Association	20.00
State for National Association	5.00
Treasurer	10.00
Moderator	10.00
Clerk	10.00
Supplies	7.00
Unified Program	25.00
Camp Mount Bethel	<u>15.00</u>
Total	\$252.00

Offering taken for Bible College	\$152.50
Missionary Offering	43.39
Balance in Treasury	\$ 9.50

Rev. Wilford Harden, Chmn.
Bro. G. C. Brewton

STATISTICAL REPORT

CHURCH		COUNTY	1962 PASTOR	1961 PASTOR	CLERKS AND ADDRESSES
Alahaha	2nd-4th	Pierce	Billy Livesay	Billy Livesay	Mrs. D. A. Smith, 111 Strickland Ave., Savannah, Ga.
Baxley	Full T.	Appling	J. M. Cobb	J. M. Cobb	Mrs. Henry Herndon, Box 29, Waynesboro, Ga.
Bethany	Full T.	Chatham	Louis H. Moulton	Louis H. Moulton	Mrs. Ralph Styron, 112 Gamble St., Savannah, Ga.
Bethel	2nd-4th	Appling	Clearance McMillon	Dewey Quinn	Miss Dorothy Orvin, Route 3, Waynesboro, Ga.
Brunswick	Full T.	Glynn	C. D. Rentz	C. D. Rentz	Mrs. Charles Riggs, 97 Dixie St., Brunswick, Ga.
Corinth	1st-3rd	Bacon	Emmitt McDuffie	Leonard H. Graham	Mrs. Clayton Wade, Route 2, Waynesboro, Ga.
Deep Creek	2nd-4th	Jenkins	E. V. Skipper	E. V. Skipper	Miss Estelle Brinson, Millersville, Ga.
Ebenezer	Full T.	Tattnall	T. G. Hamilton	T. G. Hamilton	Mr. W. F. Purcell, Glennville, Ga.
Glennville	Full T.	Tattnall	James C. Pelt	James C. Pelt	Mr. Barnie Baxter, Glennville, Ga.
Harmony	Full T.	Union	Emory Corbitt	Joe Fort	Mr. Kenneth Clyatt, Rt. 2, Butler, Fla.
Jesup	Full T.	Wayne	J. E. Blanton	J. E. Blanton	Mrs. Jimmie Lee Szoke, Warm St., Jesup, Ga.
Liberty	1st-3rd	Coffee	Clearance McMillon	Clearance McMillon	Mrs. Delane Harkleroad, Waynesboro, Ga.
Lower Corinth	Full T.	Emm'l	J. B. Fulles	J. B. Fulles	Mr. A. E. Lainscey, Route 2, Waynesboro, Ga.
Marietta	1st-3rd	Toombs	V. L. Pritchett	V. L. Pritchett	Mr. Jack Branch, Lyons, Ga.
Memorial	1st-3rd	Appling	Leonard H. Graham	Emmitt McDuffie	Mr. W. M. Carter, Surrency, Ga.
Metter	2nd-4th	Chandler	Carl Baker	G. S. Holton	Mrs. Floyd Beasley, Box 155, Metter, Ga.
New Hope	2nd-4th	Wayne	Dewey Quinn	Dewey Quinn	Marjorie Westberry, Odum, Ga.
Oak Grove	2nd-4th	Appling	V. L. Pritchett	Emmitt McDuffie	Mrs. Lucille Eason, Route 2, Waynesboro, Ga.
Oak Hill	2nd-4th	Bacon	Tom Lightsey	Tom Lightsey	Mr. Zeak Steedley, Route 3, Waynesboro, Ga.
Philadelphia	Full T.	Charlton	Wilford Harden	Emory Corbitt	Mr. Henry O. Phillips, St. M., Ga.
Pine Level	Full T.	Bacon	James E. Ursery	James E. Ursery	Mrs. Dolora Johnson, Route 2, Waynesboro, Ga.
Piney Grove	1st-3rd	Appling	Billy Livesay	Billy Livesay	Mrs. Inez Brannen, Bristol, Ga.
Satilla	Full T.	J.-Davis	Charles Bryant	Bill Gardner	Mr. Sam Carter, Hazlehurst, Ga.
Savannah	Full T.	Chatham	Damon C. Dodd	Damon C. Dodd	Mrs. Eloise H. Wainwright, Glennwood Drummond, Ga.
Spring Grove	Full T.	Wayne	Harris B. Nix	Harris B. Nix	Mrs. Juanita Dent, 209 Dear St., Jesup, Ga.
Stoney Hill	1st-3rd	Tattnall	Tom Hamilton	Tom Hamilton	Mr. E. S. Caison, Glennville, Ga.
White Hall	Full T.	Ware	S. F. Jones, Sr.	Theron W. Long	Mrs. Annie Davis, 1033 Albemarle St., Waynesboro, Ga.

REPORT OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE

We, your Nominating Committee, recommend for your prayerful and careful consideration the following names as officers of South Georgia Association for the ensuing year:

Moderator

Rev. Damon Dodd

Assistant Moderator

Rev. J. E. Blanton

Clerk

Rev. T. W. Long

Assistant Clerk

Rev. James Ursery

Treasurer

Rev. Wilford Harden

Assistant Treasurer

Rev. Harris Nix

Executive Committee

Bro. J. Dock Johnson

Bro. Ollie Carter

Ordaining Council

Rev. Tom Hamilton

Rev. C. D. Rentz

Rev. James Ursery

Finance Committee

Rev. Wilford Harden

Bro. George Hutto

Bro. J. C. Brannen

Credentials Committee

Rev. J. M. Cobb

Bro. Alvin H. Quinn

Rev. V. L. Pritchett

Mission Board

Rev. Damon Dodd (for unexpired term of Rev. Fort)

Rev. C. D. Rentz

Constitution Revision Comm.

Bro. Britt Brigman

Rev. Louis Moulten

Rev. Tom Hamilton

Rev. William Gardner

Rev. T. W. Long

Prayerfully submitted:

Rev. C. D. Rentz

David Mann

J. D. Johnson

R. F. Connell

Rev. Wilfred Harden

ORDAINING COUNCIL REPORT

The Ordaining Council met with Bro. W. L. Mills for examination. Bro. Hamilton presided and called on Bro. Rentz to pray. Bro. Moulton sat in as a substitute on the ordaining council in the absence of Bro. McDuffie.

A request was read from Spring Grove Church relative to reinstating credentials of Bro. Mills which were revoked in 1954. Bro. Mills was questioned concerning Seventh Day Adventist doctrines, his own experience spiritually, his call to preach, his attitudes and beliefs concerning support of missions, Bible College and our denominational enterprises.

The ordaining council recommends that Bro. W. L. Mills be put on probation for one year, that he be granted the freedom to preach for one year and given such time to prove himself doctrinally sound, and then to meet again with ordaining council before approving the restoration of his credentials.

Bro. Raymond Altman appeared before the ordaining council upon recommendation of Philadelphia Church to be examined for license to preach the Gospel. The ordaining council recommends that license be granted to Bro. Altman.

Bro. McKennley Brown appeared before the ordaining council upon recommendation of Stony Hill Church to be examined for license to preach the Gospel. The council recommends that license be granted Bro. Brown.

Bro. Carl Baker having given evidence of at least two years of college training in preparation for the ministry and having satisfactorily served as a licensed minister in pastorates at Metter for two years, the ordaining council recommends his ordination.

The ordaining of Bro. Baker took place after lunch on Saturday, September 23, 1961. May God bless him real good.

MISSION BOARD REPORT

It sounds wonderful to hear a large congregation singing the great missionary songs. There would not be so much sinning in singing were the words voiced from the heart and did there exist a genuine Spirit born of understanding of what is involved in "Mission." The tragic fact is that over 1900 years after the Lord commanded "Go ye into all the world," it is discovered that most of the Christian churches are located within the boundaries of but a few favored countries. The Lord Jesus Christ urged the importance of a God-given missionary vision when He likened the great soul-winning task of missions unto the harvest of grain. The vision, when understood aright, involves so much more than beholding "the fields . . . white unto the harvest." The missionary vision that promotes and perpetuates true missionary passion comes, not from knowing the fields after the fashion of the missionary, but it comes from knowing God, as a true disciple should know Him; knowing the sovereign God who has a great, all-inclusive, world wide goal; the loving, compassionate God who is "not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

Sammy and June Wilkinson are on the Mission Field in South America and we, the South Georgia Association, have pledged to support them there. Some of the churches have responded so wonderfully well, but many are not yet giving as they should. May we all in the new year come to know our Lord in a way that will burn His concern into our hearts.

Balance on Hand September 1, 1960	\$180.42	Local Missions
Received for September	236.00	\$143.96
October	205.00	
November	108.00	
December	168.00	
January	261.00	
February	283.00	
March	202.60	
April	278.00	
May	195.00	5.00
June	163.00	30.00
July	125.00	5.00
August	233.00	30.00
Total including Bal. of Sept. 1, 1960	\$2,638.02	\$ 75.00
Sent to Sammy and June during this year	2,405.00	
One check returned	25.00	
Charges for checks	.26	
Total Paid Out	\$2,430.26	
Balance on Hand September 1, 1961	\$ 207.76	Local Missions
		\$218.96

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 prosperity, 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 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 would 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 endorsed 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 has 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 the 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 so 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 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 acknowledgements. (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 meetings has no power to reverse it, but may, if deemed necessary, withdraw the hand of 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 that 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 a second is before the conference.

14. 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.

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 the administration of the Lord's Supper and washing of the saints' 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 for 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 or 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.

Article 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 five hundred members. Churches sending delegates to this association shall be allowed one delegate for each twenty members or fraction thereof.

Article 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.

Article 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.

Article 5. This yearly meeting or association shall have the 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.

Article 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 this 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.

Article 7. This yearly meeting or association shall have the power to adopt any regulations or bylaws, not inconsistent with this constitution, which may be deemed essential to the further regulations of its sessions.

Article 8. This constitution may be altered or amended by a vote of the yearly meeting or association at any regular session.