MINUTES

OF THE

Fifty-Third Annual Session

OF THE

SOUTH MISSISSIPPI ASSOCIATION

OF

Free Will Baptists

Convening With

OLD LOVEWELL FREEWILL BAPTIST CHURCH RT. No. 1, RICHTON, MISS.

September 2 and 3, 1960

NEXT SESSION TO CONVENE WITH PINE GROVE CHURCH

On Friday and Saturday before the first Sunday in September, 1961

OFFICERS

REV. J. D. O'DONNEL		 		Moderator
LUTHER D. WALLEY_		 		\Clerk

Proceedings

The Fifty Third Annual Session of The South Mississippi Association of Freewill Baptist convening with Old Lovewell Church September 2nd and 3rd, 1960.

Body called to order by Moderator. Song directed by Brother Marvin Brewer. Prayer by Rev. W. H. Henderson.

Moderator appointed as reading clerks Mrs. Annette West and Miss Ella Rae Jones.

CHURCHES REPRESENTING BY LETTER AND DELEGATION

- PINE GROVE CHURCH—Sister Elora Smith and Bro. Truman Smith. NEW LOVEWELL CHURCH—Sisters Ella Rae Jones and Mabel McLain.
- BUCKATUNNA CHURCH—Sisters Lewis Ezell and Peggy Burgess. OLD LOVEWELL CHURCH—Bro. Carter Brewer and Bro. Marvin Brewer.
- PLEASANT HILL CHURCH—Bro. O. M. Mills and Bro. Evander Smith.
- THOMPSON CREEK CHURCH—Sisters Hazel Hendry and Candace Hendry.
- LEE'S CHAPEL CHURCH (JONES COUNTY)—Bro. Nathan Reeves and Bro. Felton Holifield.
- LEE'S CHAPEL CHURCH (WAYNE COUNTY)—Sisters James Walley and Annette West.
- BETHEL CHURCH—Mrs. Ada Andrews and Mrs. Adelaide Conway. COUNTY LINE CHURCH—Sisters Myrtlene Phillips and Edna Mae Dunnam.
- CORINTH CHURCH—Bro. Jim Walley and Sister Maggie Walley. Quarterly Meeting Delegates: Bro. Felton Holifield and Mrs. C. C. Brewer.

Adjourned business session until 1:30 o'clock p.m.

Bro. Luther Walley read from I Timothy 2:1-8 and used as a text the 1st verse from the 131st Psalm.

Choir singing directed by Bro. Felton Holifield.

Rev. G. M. Pearson brought a message using as a text "Finally My Brethren be strong in the Lord", which was enjoyed by all. Dismissed for lunch.

Bro. W. M. Brewer prayed the Benediction.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Song directed by Rev. G. M. Pearson.

Prayer by Bro. W. A. Mason.

Song, "Old Time Religion" sung by congregation.

Devotional by Rev. Joe Conway. He read I Peter 2:9.

MINISTERS REPORTS

Rev. G. M. Pearson's report accepted as oral.

To the South Mississippi Association of Free Will Baptists, convening with Old Lovewell Baptist Church, September 3, 1960.

Greetings, I present the following report of my year's work. Miles traveled, unknown; pastored 1 church, halftime, one year. Baptized one. Received for pastorial work \$117.15.

Yours in Christ, Rev. A. J. Conway, Rt. 3, Richton, Miss.

To the South Mississippi Free Will Baptist Association convening at Old Lovewell September 2 1960.

Greetings: I present the following report of my year's work. Miles traveled, unknown; pastored one halftime church for one year; baptized 3; received for pastorial work \$263.09.

W. H. Henderson Rt. 1, Richton, Miss.

Brethren, the following is a report of my work for the year: Pastored two churches, conducted 3 revivals in these churches; conducted one funeral and assisted in two more; Baptized 10 persons; preached 100 sermons; traveled 16,750 miles; received for work in my churches \$2265.00; expenses for travel \$1200.00.

I have been called to pastor the Old Lovewell Free Will Baptist Church for the ensuing year.

J. D. O'Donnell.

Make my report. Never got to do any work in the past year. I got my leg broke October 14, 1959. I ask all the people that knows God to pray for me that my leg will get well, and then I will be out after sin and the Devil. Yours in Christ,

Rev. Joe H. Palmer, Waynesboro, Miss., Rt. 3.

Brethren the following is a report of my work for the year. Pastored 1 church halftime; helped in 1 revival; miles traveled, do not know; money received for the year \$153.66.

Please pray for me.

Rev. Cecil Walley.

Report of Truman Freeman: For the past year I pastored one church, halftime; sermons preached 70; members received 4; baptized 1; funerals preached 3; couples married 1; money received \$300.00; miles traveled, unknown.

Rev. Truman Freeman.

Greetings in the name of the Lord of the South Mississippi Association of Free Will Baptist. I present the following report of my years work.

Number of miles traveled, unknown; pastored 1 halftime church; received in church 4; baptized 1; funerals, 3; weddings 2; received by pastoral work \$262.52; held one revival.

Rev. Joe Conway,

Rt. 3, Richton, Miss.

To the South Mississippi Association of Free Will Baptists, convening with Old Lovewell Church, Sept. 2, 1960.

Greetings: The following is a report of my work since last association. Sermons preached 78; assisted in 7 funerals; held 4 revivals; pastored 2 churches halftime each; traveled about 5,500 miles; money received for pastoral work \$972.40; revivals \$257.00; miscellaneous \$35.00; total money received \$1,264.40.

Tillis Walley.

To the South Mississippi Association of Free Will Baptists convening with Old Lovewell Free Will Baptist Church, September 2, and 3, 1960.

Greetings: The following is a report on my work since November 1, 1959. Sermons preached 85; members received 7; baptized 2; conducted 3 revivals; pastored 1 church full time; traveled about 2000 miles; received from pastoral services \$612.61; revivals \$160.00.

I have been called to pastor 1 church full time for the coming year. Pray for me.

Virgil Day.

Report of Rev. F. O. Banks: Traveled 7284 miles; sermons preached 68; money received \$486.85.

Rev. F. O. Banks, Rt. 2, Grand Bay, Ala.

Moved to adjourn business session until 10:00 o'clock Saturday Afternoon Service: Sermon by Rev. Truman Freeman, Romans, 12:1; Mark 2:1. Benediction by Rev. Tillis Walley.

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

After devotional committee reports accepted in order.

Item No. 1 of Credentials Committee report ruled out of order by Moderator. Other recommendations accepted.

Adjourned business session until 1:00 p.m. and turned the floor over to Rev. Homer Willis, Director of our National Home Missions work, who told us of the work the Home Missionaries have accomplished and the great things that can still be done if the churches will put their shoulders to the wheel and support the Missions.

Dr. L. C. Johnson, President of the Freewill Baptist Bible College at Nashville, brought the 11:00 o'clock message and also told us of some of the work the Bible College is doing and the goals it is striving for. A Love offering of \$55.62 was taken for the College.

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

We recommend that Bro. F. O. Banks be issued Free Will credentials as the ones he now has was issued by the Primitive Baptist and that he turn in his present credentials to the Clerk of the Association. Ruled out of order by Moderator.

- 2. We have examined Bro. Luther Walley and find him to be sound in the Faith and Doctrine and recommend that he be granted license to preach.
 - 3. Also in our Fellowship with the other ministers find them all

to be in accord in the work and recommend that they be granted cards of standing in this Association.

Bro. W. H. Henderson, Bro. G. M. Pearson, Bro. Truman Freeman.

SUNDAY SCHOOL REPORT

All of our churches except one have Sunday Schools. Our total membership is 396. This is an increase of 59 members from last year's total of 337. To God we give all the thanks and glory.

Recommendations:

- 1. That all our Sunday Schools use Teachers Manuals.
- 2. That we have at least one Sunday School Convention each summer.
- 3. That each church start now planning for a Vacation Bible School for next summer.

May each of us strive to fulfill God's purpose in our Sunday Schools.

Ella Rae Jones, Felton Holifield Cecil Walley.

TEMPERANCE REPORT

We, the committee, make this report:

We find in the teaching of the Bible to be temperant in all things. According to the statistics it cost the State more for administrating the Law of Legalized Liquor, than the tax brought them. Let us prayerfully be more temperant in our homes, our everyday life and toward our fellow man.

Claude Burgess, O. M. Mills, Marvin Brewer.

ORDER OF BUSINESS REPORT

We, the committee, suggest that the Order of Business remain as is and no change be made.

A. W. Stephens Leroy Shaws, Dave Palmer, Chairman.

REPORT OF OBITUARY COMMITTEE

We, the Committee on Obituary, make our report as follows: OLD LOVEWELL CHURCH—Donnie Walley, age 11. CORINTH CHURCH—Bro. John Riley, age 80; Bro. Billie Harle Cooley age 25.

NEW LOVEWELL CHURCH—Levi J. Jones, Age 71.
BETHEL CHURCH—E. W. Morgan, age 74.
LEE CHAPEL (WAYNE COUNTY)—Sabra Risley, age 51.
Once to die, after death the judgment. Heb. 9:27.

We pray God's blessings on the broken hearted ones of those deceased. Our loss and Heavens gain. We request Services of Remembrance of those deceased.

Rev. Joe H. Palmer, Rev. Joe Conway Rev. Erastus McLain.

CONGRATULATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Congratulations to Old Lovewell Church. A motion made to give a vote of thanks to Old Lovewell Church for the hospitality given the association while in session there.

Mrs. Lewis Ezell,
Mrs. Elora Smith,
Miss Candace Hendry.

REPORT FROM QUARTERLY MEETING

From Quarterly Meeting, South Mississippi Free Will Baptists to South Mississippi Association. We meet you with letter and delegates We send our beloved Sister Mrs. C. C. Brewer and Bro. Felton Holifield to confer with you any business concerning our Quarterly meeting.

The meeting met at its regular session first with Pine Grove Church with ten 10) Churches represented. Next met with Lee's Chapel Church in Wayne County with seven (7) Churches represented. Next with Pleasant Hill Church with seven (7) Churches represented.

Next with Buckatunna Church with five (5) Churches represented. While in session with Pleasant Hill Church the Moderator asked for an offering to send to the College at Nashville, Tenn. The collection was \$16.00. While in session at Pine Grove Church the Quarterly Meeting gave Bro. Virgil Day full Fellowship into the Quarterly meeting. We sent \$10.00 for Minute funds, this done by the order of the Quarterly Meeting while in session at Buckatunna Church Total amount of money in the treasury is \$27.00.

Bro. Tillis Walley, Moderator, Dave Palmer, Clerk.

FINANCE REPORT

Brought forward from last year\$	5.22
Pleasant Hill Church	4.00
Bethel Church	5.00
Lee's Chapel Church (Wayne Co.)	6.25
Lee's Chapel Church (Jones Co.)	10.00
New Lovewell Church	4.00
Old Lovewell Church	10.00
Buckatunna Church	6.05
Corinth Church	6.20
County Line Church	5.00
Thompson Creek Church	5.66
Pine Grove Church	6.00

Quarterly Meeting	10.00
Association Offering	9.15
Total	\$92.53
•	Albert Burgess
•	C. C. Thomas
•	Jim Walley.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

We, the committee on Resolutions, humbly submit the following report:

- 1. Be it resolved that the moderator of the Association be given the authority to appoint a Sunday School convention committee for the purpose of carrying on the work for the Sunday School Convention. Be it further resolved that the pastor of each church take the initiative to appoint a committee in his church to work with the Sunday School Convention Committee.
- 2. Be it resolved that the Quarterly Meeting be given authority to place itself by invitation of the churches present.
- 3. Be it resolved that the Moderator of the Association appoint a committee to make up, or formulate a suitable letter from the church to the Association and have copies mimeographed and sent to each church clerk. The association to pay for paper and stencil.
- 4. Be it resolved that we recommend that the floor of the Association discuss whether or not to change the time of the Quarterly meeting from Saturday night to Saturday. Rejected.
- 5. Be it resolved that an educational fund be established in the association for the purpose of helping any one of our members that is called of God and desires to further his or her Christian education or prepare his or herself for a God called vocation, and a committee be appointed to administer it.
- 6. Be it resolved that all ministers be required to pass a written examination before being ordained and that the list of questions be used that are attached to this resolution. Be it further resolved that all candidates for license to the ministry be examined in accordance with the treatise as set forth on page 48 of the Treatise of the Practices of Free Will Baptists. Be it further resolved that this article be placed in the Constitution of our Minutes to appear year after year.
- 7. Be it resolved that the clerk make a financial report to each Association.

Virgil Day Tillis Walley, Carter L. Brewer.

REPORT OF HOME MISSION BOARD

We recommend to call off the 5th Sunday Service for incoming year until the Association acts on the move.

We ask each church and member to help us in any way to

improve our Home Mission work. We did not receive any help or recommendation from any church or member.

Home Mission paid out the past year \$60.00 for a revival at Pleasant Hill.

Financial Report:

Old Lovewell	\$ 5.00
New Lovewell	27.55
Lee's Chapel Jones County	32.00
Thompson Creek	None
Corinth	None
County Line	6.05
Bethal	None
Pleasant Hill	2.00
Pine Grove	1.00
Buckatunna	16.60
Visitor Bro. Mason	11.00
Total all Church	\$101.25
Total in Treasury Now	\$364.16
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Feltus Holifield, Secretary-Treas.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Singing by congregation. Devotional by Rev. W. H. Henderson. Recommendation of Home Missions Board that the Fifth Sunday meetings be discontinued was rejected by the Body.

Rev. Luther Walley's resignation from Home Mission Board accepted and Bro. Claude Burgess appointed to fill his unexpired term of one year. Bro. Virgil Day appointed to a five year term succeeding Bro. Charles Henderson.

Home Mission Board status as of Sept. 1, 1960: Rev. Virgil Day, 5 years Bro. Hickman McLain 4 years; Bro. Feltus Holifield 3 years; Bro. Lonnie Walley 2 years; Bro. Claude Burgess 1 year.

Bro. W. H. Henderson's resignation as Superintendent of Sunday School conventions accepted and was replaced by a committee appointed by Moderator composed of Rev. Virgil Day, chairman, Mrs. Gatsye Smith and Miss Jarma Lee Jones.

Education Fund Committee: Bro. Carter Brewer, chairman; Rev. Tillis Walley, Rev. A. J. Conway.

The 1st Quarterly Meeting will convene Saturday night before the Fifth Sunday in October with Lee's Chapel Church in Jones Co.

Next session of Association to convene with Pine Grove Church on Friday and Saturday before the first Sunday in September 1961.

Election of Officers: Rev. Truman Freeman, Moderator; Rev. W. H. Henderson, Assistant Moderator; Bro. Dave Palmer, Clerk.

Adjourned until next regular session. Benediction by Rev. Truman Freeman.

CONSTITUTION

Article 1. This Association shall be known as the South Mississ-sippi Free Will Baptist Association of Mississippi, and be composed of delegates from churches composing same. Each church shall be entitled to two delegates to represent her at each session.

Article 2. This body shall be considered an advisory council, but having no authority over local affairs of the church.

Article 3. Each church of this body shall be considered an independent body, and shall control her own affairs in matters of discipline so long as she does not exercise authority over the association or the quarterly meeting.

Article 4. All questions of doctrine and matters of general interest shall be settled by two-thirds vote of the Association, and this vote shall be final.

Article 5. The officers of this Association shall be a moderator, assistant moderator, and treasurer, who shall be chosen by a majority vote annually.

Article 6. This Association shall meet at such time and place as shall be most convenient and shall not adjourn finally until all business is transacted.

Article 7. Churches wishing to become members of this Association must adopt the Articles of Faith and conform to its usage. We agree as churches composing this Association, to use our best influence to promote the interest of all moral and benevolent institutions, such as Temperance Cause, Sunday Schools, Missions, and so on.

Article 8. Any person who feels that he is called to preach shall be recommended to the Quarterly meeting or association by the church to which he belongs to License him. Then, if he is found worthy of Ordination, his church shall recommend him to the Quarterly Meeting or association for Ordination.

Article 9. This Constitution shall be amended at any regular session by two-thirds vote of the members present, provided the change is recommended in writing on the day before the vote is to be taken.

Article 10. Any minister desiring ordination in this Association shall be required to pass a written examination from a list of questions furnished by this Association before being ordained. Also, any candidate for license to the ministry shall be examined in accordance with the treatise as set forth on Page 48 of the Treatise of the Practices of the Freewill Baptist.

RULES OF DECORUM

Article 1. This Association shall be called to order by the former moderator, who presided at the last session; the former clerk also officiates until the body is fully organized.

Article 2. The Moderator and Clerk shall be chosen by nomination at each session; a majority of members present elect by ballot.

Article 3. The names of delegates from the different churches

shall be enrolled and called as often as necessary during the session.

Article 4. A majority of delegates shall rule in a case except in reception of churches into our body, which shall be unanimous.

Article 5. The moderator shall vote in case only when the Association is equally divided, but shall have equal right to speak on any question, provided he puts the assistant in the chair while he is speaking.

Article 6. Only one person shall speak at a time, who shall arise and address the moderator.

Article 7. No brother shall be interrupted while speaking unless he departs from the subject under discussion, or uses words of personal reflection.

Article 8. No personn shall be allowed to speak more than 10 minutes at a time, not more than twice on any one subject without the consent of the body.

Article 9. No member shall laugh or talk during the time the discussion is going on.

Article 10. No member shall absent himself from the Association while in session without leave of the moderator.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

- 1. The Bible, the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament, were given by inspiration of God and are our infallible rule of faith and practice.
- 2. God. There is one living and true God reveealed 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 Savior 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. Repentence 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. Perserverance. 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 (Matt. 23-23) and the Apostle Paul said, "Upon the first day of the week let everyone of you lay by him in store as God hath prospered him." (I Cor. 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 communications 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 or its poor, and all its benevlent 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 promote the success of the church and of the Gospel.

We will everywhere hold Christian principles sacred and Christian obligations and enterprise supreme; counting it our chief business in life to extend the influence of Christ in society constantly by 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 sancitify us wholly and preserve us blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

STATISTICAL TABLE Evangelist Churches Pastors and Clerks Value Paid Paid Bethel.... Rev. Joe Conway Mary Helen Pearce \$1500.00 \$106.71 \$ 66.15 \$ 5.00 \$ 177.86 5 2-4 County Line.... Rev. F. O. Banks 5.00 341.50 3 336.50 30 23 2000.00 Myrtle Phillips.... Ruby Henderson.... 252.62 78.15 6.20 336.97 2500.00 138.16 648.69 3 20 2 1-3 6.05 604.48 2500.00 Buckatunna J. A. Burgess Lee's Chapel, Jones County......Rev. Virgil Day 10.001080,00 4 40 62 3000.00 1010.00 60.003 Full Felton Holifield..... Lee's Chapel, Wayne County.....Rev. Truman Freeman 168.77 6.25 465.90 45 290,88 57 Willie Mae Giles.... 4000.00 4.00 61 .73 New Lovewell W. M. Brewer 2500.00 628.40 100.00732.40 5 Old Lovewell Rev. J. D. O'Donnel 1340.00 5 93 110 16 100.0010.00357.00 18 50.00 4.00297.00 Pine Grove......Rev. A. J. Conway Veirley O'Neal 1 2-4 1500.00 117.15 6.00 38.00 161.15 3 35 Thompson Creek......Rev. W. H. Henderson

263.09

5.66

130,00

398.75 3 20 32

1 2-4

Mrs. Howard Mills 6000.00