

**Minutes
of the
64th Annual Session
of the
South Mississippi Association
of
Free Will Baptists
convening with
Love Well Free Will Baptist Church Richton
of Greene County
Friday Night, September 3, and
Saturday, September 4, 1971
at 9:30 a.m.**

The next meeting of the Association will be held with County Line, Richton, Miss., Sept. 1 and 2, 1972.

OFFICERS

**REV. TRUMAN FREEMAN — Moderator
Rt. 1, Richton, Miss.**

**B. V. NOWELL — Clerk
Rt. 3, Waynesboro, Miss.**

**CHARLES HENDERSON — Treasurer
Rt. 3, Waynesboro, Miss.**

PROCEEDINGS

The Sixty-Fourth Annual Session of the South Mississippi Association of Free Will Baptist Convened with Love Well Free Will Baptist Church, Friday, September 3, at 7:30 p.m. After a song "What A Friend," directed by Bro. C. C. Brewer and prayer by Bro. Edd Mozingo, the moderator made a short talk on Free Will Baptist.

Moderator called the body to order and gave the opening address, reading Luke, 5th chapter.

The moderator then declared the body in order for business.

The moderator appointed Jimmy Walley as reading clerk.

ENROLLING MINISTERS

Rev. L. D. Walley
Rev. Edd Mozingo
Rev. Dan Gaskins
Rev. Glenn Shelby
Rev. C. C. Brewer
Rev. J. K. Walley

ENROLLING OF DEACONS

B. O. McLain — Love Well
Marlon Dykes — County Line
Charles Henderson — Corinth
Frank Henderson — Corinth
Dave Palmer — Corinth
B. V. Nowell — Corinth
J. C. Burgess — Buckatunna
Jimmy Walley — Fellowship
Jimmy Byrd — Fellowship
Levy Smith — Pine Grove

ENROLLING OF CHURCHES AND DELEGATES

Buckatunna — J. C. Burgess and Mrs. J. C. Burgess
Corinth — Rob Mizell and Gennie M. Henderson
County Line — Ralph Cooley and Myrtle Phillips
Fellowship — Mrs. Jimmy Walley and Mrs. L. D. Walley
Love Well — Hickman McLain and Lee Walley
Pascagoula — Matthew Mozingo and Vinnie Brewer
Pine Grove — Levy Smith
Thompson Creek — Mrs. Harvey West and Candace Beck
Lee's Chapel (Jones Co.) — Mrs. Samuel Staphens and Felton Holifield
Lee's Chapel (Wayne Co.) — J. W. Malone and Mrs. J. W. Malone
Bethel — Marion Conway and Kenneth Walley

Moderator appointed the Credentials Committee: Bro. Edd Mozingo, Bro. L. D. Walley, Bro. Marlon Dykes, Bro. Albert Burgess and Bro. C. C. Brewer.

The body voted to curtail business until 9:30 a.m. September 4th.

Saturday, September 4th, song, "Blessed Assurance," directed by C. C. Brewer. Bro. Edd Mozingo brought a short message reading from Phillippians 4th chapter. Prayer by Bro. O. E. Johnston.

The moderator asked the Credentials Committee to examine Bro. Gleen Shelby. Song directed by C. C. Brewer. Moderator called for 10-minute recess. Dismissed by Rev. C. C. Brewer.

AFTER RECESS

Song, "Power In The Blood." Bro. Marlon Dykes requested that the date for the association be published in the minutes. The moderator appointed Rev. Gleen Shelby to bring the 11 o'clock message. Rev. Shelby read from Proverbs 29:18.

Moderator asked for a report on the state association from Bro. Dan Gaskins. Dismissed for lunch by Bro. Glassgov.

AFTERNOON SESSION

The moderator called the body to order. Songs, "I'll Be Satisfied," and "At The Cross." Prayer by Bro. Johnny McSwain.

The Credentials Committee gave a report on Carter Brewer and recommended that he be ordained.

The moderator appointed Bro. Dan Gaskins, Bro. C. C. Brewer, Bro. Edd Mozingo to ordain Bro. Carter Brewer.

The moderator asked the assistant moderator, Bro. L. D. Walley, to take over with the rest of the business for the afternoon.

The moderator asked that the Credentials Committee visit the Faith Chapel Free Will Church and also Dr. W. A. Godsey and be able to give a report on them at the next business session.

A motion was made for the South Mississippi Association to set up a mission fund for the cause of building churches in South Mississippi towns. And a special collection be taken each year. This money before being used, the association will have to vote as to where it will be used.

The delegates to the State Association are as follows: Maudie Freeman, Mrs. Carter Brewer, Mrs. Marlon Dykes, Mrs. George Henderson, Mrs. Gleen Shelby, Ollie Fegan.

Moderator called for various committee reports.

SUNDAY SCHOOL COMMITTEE

We, your Sunday School Committee submit the following:

We recommend that the pastor and Sunday School teachers put on a visitation program to increase the attendance of young people and adults in the Sunday School program.

We encourage and challenge the adults of each church to be a leader and participate in the Sunday School program.

We recommend the continued use of visual aids that are obtainable from the Sunday School Department in teaching of the Sunday School classes.

Jimmie Walley
Kenneth R. Walley
Levie Smith

TEMPERANCE COMMITTEE

We, the Temperance committee, make the following recommendation:

By virtue of the fact that men differ in their physical constitution and that all men are not the same, we therefore recommend that men must evaluate those things that militate against the physical body and abstain from them regardless of its nature.

To abstain from all intoxicating beverages.

That we refrain from using vain words of no profit in our daily conversation — words that would militate against Christian brotherhood.

Temperance comes from the Greek root, meaning not to over indulge in lawful things.

Ollie Fagan
Marlon Dykes
Robert Mizell

RESOLUTION COMMITTEE

We, the Resolution Committee, ask that we accept the invitation of County Line Church to hold our next Ass'n. Sept. 1972. Passed.

We recommend that this Ass'n. be represented at the State Assn. and that this be adopted as a permanent resolution, also give the mod permission to appoint delegates to same. Also send the amount of money required. Passed.

We recommend that Article 9, Section 3, be printed in the minutes. Also give the Moderator authority to appoint the committee on this May 25, 1969.

All action of this committee will be approved by the Assn. before it can be put into action. All money be designated to this cause will go into the General Treasury and be paid out only by the approval of the Assn.

We also recommend that one church of this Assn. petition the State Ass'n. to be held within our Assn. for 1972.

We recommend that each church take a special offering for this mission work and send this offering to the General Treasurer designated for this mission.

We ask that some churches ask for the Fellowship meetings to be held in Jan. and May 1972.

We recommend that the following ministers report be accepted and also give the clerk power to have these reports printed and mailed to each minister: Dan Gaskin, Felton Holifield, Odis Johnston, Marvin Brewer, J. C. Burgess.

OBITUARY COMMITTEE

We, the Obituary Committee, report as follows:

Bro. Buford McLain

Sister Delores Hinton

Bro. Leroy Walley

Bro. Erastus McLain

Thompson Creek

Bethel Church

Fellowship

Fellowship

We recommend that the association stand a few minutes in silent prayer for these departed beloved brothers and sisters in Christ.

Sister Myrtle Phillips

Sister Phebie West

Sister Vaudie Walley

CREDENTIAL COMMITTEE

We, the Credential Committee have examined Rev. Gleen Shelby and Rev. Carter Brewer and recommend that they be received in full fellowship in this association.

Edd Mozingo
L. D. Walley
Marlon Dykes
Albert Burgess
C. C. Brewer

DIGEST COMMITTEE REPORT

Total Membership — 807
Members received this year — 59
Died this year — 4
Total Deacons — 40
Sunday School enrollment — 551
Officers and Teachers — 62
Paid Pastors — \$18,931.14
Paid Evangelist — \$1,440.05
Home Missions — \$1,100.44
Children's Home — \$342.22
Bible College — \$422.33
Sunday School Expenses — \$1,463.06
Foreign Missions — \$494.84
Miscellaneous — \$11,797.76
Association Fees — \$140.00

Written report from Bro. Joe Wallas on the youth camp. He reported enrollment of 107 at camp. 85 were campers from 10 churches in our association. Others were teachers and workers. The results were that at the close of camp, all campers claimed salvation and also there were 10 called to preach, 17 called to mission services and 6 called to yet unknown full-time Christian service.

The moderator appointed Bro. Johnny McSwain, Bro. L. D. Walley, Bro. O. E. Johnston for the South Mississippi Home Mission Board members. South Mississippi Association gave \$100.00 to the South Mississippi Home Mission Fund.

CONGRATULATIONS COMMITTEE

We, the Congratulations Committee, express our thanks to Love Well F.W.B. Church for the warm hospitality and good food extended to the South Mississippi Association.

Mrs. Jimmie Walley
Linda Burgess
Mrs. Candace Beck

ELECTING OFFICERS

Moderator — O. E. Johnston
Assistant Moderator — Rev. Carter Brewer
Clerk — B. V. Nowell
Treasurer — Charles Henderson
Mrs. O. E. Johnston elected as youth director.

CHURCH REPORTS	Value	Paid Pastor	Paid Assn.	Expenses	Evangelistic	Education	Missions
Fellowship	\$25,000.00	\$ 535.00	\$10.00	\$ 58.25	\$125.00	\$ 52.00	\$141.65
County Line	5,000.00	750.00	10.00	362.80	125.00	30.00	120.00
Love Well	10,000.00	1,200.00	15.00	1,500.00	100.00	112.80	167.00
Bethel	5,000.00	930.00	10.00		65.00	443.92	220.00
Buckatunna	25,000.00	730.00	10.00	257.80	100.00	31.86	158.00
Corinth	20,000.00	2,643.74	15.00	5,784.72	265.05	263.10	240.00
Lee's Chapel (Jones)	12,000.00	3,670.00	10.00	208.94	170.00	120.26	70.58
Lee's Chapel (Wayne)	10,000.00	1,815.00	10.00	510.00	135.00	96.78	124.00
Pascagoula	50,000.00	2,870.00	15.00	7,094.20	100.00	139.40	130.00
Thompson Creek	5,000.00	671.91	15.00	242.00	100.00	72.92	
Richton Mission	Rent	2,900.40			125.00	120.00	97.00
Pine Grove	No Report	165.49	5.00		30.00		47.00

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 only 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 to supremely 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 Sprit all the attributes of God.
5. **THE GOVERNMENT OF GOD.** God exercised a wise and benevolent province 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 tenderness that all who come to years of accountability sin, and become guilty before God.
7. **THE WORD OF CHRIST.** The Son of God by His incarnation, life, suffering, death, and resurrection effected for all a redemption from sin that in full and free is the ground of salvation by faith.
8. **THE TERMS OF SALVATION.** The conditions of salvation are:
 - (1) Repentance of sincere sorrow for sin and hearty renunciation of it.
 - (2) Faith or the unreserved commital 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) Continuation 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 WILL.** The human will is free and self controlled, having power to yield to the influence of the truth of 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 preserve 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 perpetuate under the Gospel; feet washing, and ordinances teaching humility of universal obligation, are to be administered 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 aside from secular employment and amusements for rest, worship, Holy works, and activities and for personal communications with God.

16. RESURRECTION. 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 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 benevolent work.

We agree to accept Christian admonition and reproof with meekness, and to watch over one another in love endeavoring to "keep the unite 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 for us we are able to promote the success of the church and 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 in 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.

**Constitution and By-laws of South Mississippi
Association of Free Will Baptists**

PREAMBLE

We, the Free Will Baptists of South Mississippi Association for the sake of strength that comes on unity and oneness of purpose for the advancement of the cause of Christ, for the Glory of God, and the good of mankind do ordain and establish this constitution and by-laws.

CONSTITUTION

Article 1. This association shall be known as South Mississippi Free Will Baptist Association.

Article 2. This body shall be composed of all ordained ministers and deacons who are in good standing with a local church and delegates duly elected from churches composing same. Each church shall be entitled to two delegates to represent her at each session.

Article 3. Representation:

Section 1. Every church affiliated with the South Mississippi Association shall be represented with two delegates. A report from each church shall be rendered at each session.

Section 2. A three-man Resolution Committee and Finance Committee appointed by the Moderator in previous session shall serve as delegates until dismissed by this body.

Article 4. This body shall be considered an advisory council, but having no authority over local affairs of the church.

Article 5. 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 6. The officers of this association shall be a Moderator, Assistant Moderator, Clerk, and Treasurer who shall be chosen by a majority vote annually.

Article 7. 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 8. This association adopts the Treatise of the National Association of Free Will Baptists as our Articles of Faith and Practice.

Article 9.

Section 1. Churches wishing to become members of this Association must adopt the Articles of Faith and Practice 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 School, Missions and so on.

Section 2. The Executive Committee shall be composed of the general officers.

Article 10.

Section 1. Any person who feels that he is called to preach shall first ask the church to which he belongs to license him for a year. Then if his life and conduct proves to be satisfactory to his church and they wish to have him ordained to the ministry, his church shall send a letter to this Association or ordain him, and if on approval by the associational presbytery the association shall ordain him.

Section 2. New Ministers coming from other denominations shall be received in this association as to his qualifications in other denominations. He must adopt the Articles of Faith and Practice and conform to its usage. He must be recommended by the Presbytery.

RULES OF DECORUM

Article 1. This association shall be called to order by the moderator, assistant moderator or clerk.

Article 2. The clerk shall have the right to supervise the printing of the minutes and shall be allowed twenty dollars (\$20.00) plus mailing expenses for services at the annual session.

Article 3. The names of delegates from different churches shall be enrolled and called as often as necessary during the session.

Article 4. All business shall be brought before this body by motion and second and shall be disposed of according to Roberts Rules or Order.

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 Moderator in the chair while he speaks.

Article 6. Only one person shall speak at a time who shall rise 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 person shall be allowed to speak more than fifteen minutes at a time, nor more than twice without the consent of the body.

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

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

MINISTERS' REPORT	Sermons Preached	Couples Married	Funerals	Baptised	Churches Pastored
Rev. Edd Mozingo	165	None	1	1	1
Rev. C. C. Brewer		3	2		2
Rev. J. K. Walley	120	3		8	1
Rev. Truman Freeman	216	3	2	5	1

CHURCH REPORTS	Value	Paid Pastor	Paid Assn.	Expenses	Evangelistic	Education	Missions
Fellowship	\$25,000.00	\$3,380.00	\$15.00	\$ 221.00	\$160.00	\$610.97	\$436.00
County Line	3,500.00	545.00	15.00	1,446.70	150.00		60.00
Lovewell	10,000.00	1,200.00	15.00	982.48	100.00	115.00	240.00
Bethel	5,000.00	1,920.00	10.00	73.20	165.00	150.00	200.00
Buckatunna	2,500.00	730.00	10.00	25.92	125.00	66.02	174.50
Corinth	10,000.00	1,659.89	12.00	1,936.75	268.83	224.93	82.15
Lee's Chapel (Jones)	10,000.00	1,875.00	10.00	474.75	185.00	54.83	55.00
Lee's Chapel (Wayne)	10,000.00	1,840.00	20.00	221.00	125.00	119.06	256.19
Pascagoula	50,000.00	3,070.00	15.00	7,637.85	320.00	267.53	
Faith Chapel	10,000.00	1,200.00	15.00	200.00	100.00	235.00	225.00
Thompson Creek	5,500.00	611.09	10.00		100.00	82.16	
Richton Mission	Rent	795.00	10.00	240.00	130.00	116.00	85.00
Pine Grove	No Report						