

**Minutes
of the
65th Annual Session
of the
South Mississippi Association
of
Free Will Baptists
convening with
County Line Free Will Baptist Church
Rt. 2, Richton, Miss.
Sept. 1st and 2nd, 1972**

The next meeting of the Association will be held with Pine Grove Church Rt. 1, State Line, Ms., Sept. 7th at 7 o'clock p.m. and Sept. 8th beginning at 9:30 a.m., 1973.

OFFICERS

**OTIS JOHNSON—Moderator
2302 Eden St., Pascagoula, Ms. 39567**

**B. V. NOWELL—Clerk
Rt. 3, Waynesboro, Ms. 39367**

**CHARLES HENDERSON—Treasurer
Rt. 3, Waynesboro, Ms. 39367**

PROCEEDINGS

The Sixty-Fifth Annual Session of the South Mississippi Association convened with County Line Free Will Baptist Church Friday night, Sept. 1st at 7:30 p.m.

Song, "Follow Me," directed by Gennette Malone. Prayer by Bro. Truman Freeman. Bro. C. C. Brewer, pastor of the church, gave the welcome address. Moderator read the rules of the association.

Business began by calling body to order by moderator. Motioned and seconded to enter into conference.

ENROLLING OF CHURCHES AND DELEGATES

Lee's Chapel (Wayne) — Don Lee, Alvin Stennet.

Buckatunna — Lena Mills, Paulene Burgess.

Bethel — Mrs. Pete Shows, Mrs. Woodrow Shows.

Lee's Chapel (Jones) — Mrs. Olin Dickerson, Rachel Miles.

First Free Will Pascagoula — Bert Dunnam, Jewel Mozingo.

First Free Will Richton — Olene Braddock, Lottie Hinton.

Thompson Creek—

Corinth — Minnie Walley, Nancy Hinton.

Fellowship — Peggy Byrd, Nonette Smith.

County Line — Ardena Henderson, Janette Malone

Lovewell — Hickman McLain, Linda Smith.

Pine Grove — Elora Smith, Lizzie James.

Moderator appointed Bro. Lonnie Walley and Bro. Glenn Shelby reading clerk.

Moderator asked for ministers reports to be turned in. All business tabled until Saturday, Sept. 2nd, 9:30 a.m. Dismissed by Bro. Glenn Shelby.

SEPT. 2nd, 1972

Song, "Nothing But The Blood," directed by Bro. Truman Freeman. Prayer by Bro. J. K. Walley. Song, "Victory In Jesus." Bro. Dan Gaskin brought the morning devotion reading from 1st John, 1st chapter.

Motioned and seconded that the South Miss. Association accept Grace Chapel into the association. Appointing of Committees.

Moderator appointed credential committee: Bro. Edd Mozingo, Bro. J. K. Walley, and Bro. Truman Freeman.

Motioned and seconded that the clerk write for a letter of recommendation for Bro. Tom Parrish from the Geo. Asso. Song, "Nothing Here To Hender Me," directed by Janette Malone. Prayer by Bro. Mozingo. Morning message by Bro. Tom Parrish reading from 1st Kings, 17th chapter. Dismissed for lunch by Bro. Bobby Mills.

AFTERNOON SESSION

Moderator called body to order.

Song, "Lord Build Me a Cabin." Prayer, Bro. Marlon Dykes. Reading of the committees reports.

OBITUARY COMMITTEE

We, the Obituary Committee reports as follows.

Mr. and Mrs. Homer Davis — Thompson Creek.

Mrs. Vernel Burgess — Buckatunna.

Mrs. Della Cooley — Corinth.

Mr. C. C. Thomas — Lee's Chapel, Jones Co.

Mr. Nathan Ezell — Buckatunna.

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

Sister Rachel Miles

Sister Annie Hinton

CONGRATULATIONS COMMITTEE

We the Congratulations Committee express our thanks to County Line Church for the warm hospitality and the good food extended to this South Miss. Asso.

Submitted by,
Daniel Gaskin,
Mrs. Pete Shows,
W. C. Wilkerson.

CREDENTIAL COMMITTEE

We, are your committee to examine Bro. Thomas M. Parrish and Bro. Johnnie F. Aricer.

We have questioned Bro. Parrish and find him sound in the Free Will Baptist Doctrine and move to except him on request of letter from the Association he is coming from, asking the clerk to write for such.

Also Bro. Aricer, we have found him sound in the Free Will Doctrine and he requests to be ordained today if possible and for Bro. Walley to bring the message in the ordination.

We also move for this to be excepted.

We, your committee.

Chairman, J. K. Walley
Edd Mozingo
Rev. Truman Freeman

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 all those things that militate against the physical body and abstain from all of 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.

Chairman, Rev. Thomas M. Parrish,
Mrs. Jack Cox
Willie Lee Wilkerson

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 the young people and adults in the Sunday School.

We do encourage and challenge the adults of each church to be a leader and participate in Sunday School. We recommend the continued use of visual aids that are obtained from the Sunday School Department in teaching of the Sunday School classes. In checking our Sunday School records we find our Sunday School is decreasing, so may we suggest we have a Sunday School convention every 5th Sunday at 3:00 o'clock and rotate our meeting places from one church to another. Tabled until next Asso.

Vennie Mae Brewer
Oline Braddock
Minnie Walley

RESOLUTIONS

1. Be it resolved that there be a petition written and signed by all ministers petitioning the Gov. of this state to abolish active duty training of National Guards on Sundays so they may worship and observe the Lord's Day with their families or request it be circulated and signed by all ministers of the state association, and contact other evangelical bodies within the state and encourage them to do likewise. Tabled until next Asso.

2. We suggest to adopt a ruling that no man be ordained until he becomes a pastor or has a work. Tabled until next Asso.

3. We suggest each church send \$10.00 per month to our Associational Treasury to be used for home mission. Passed.

4. We suggest the Clerk of the Association mail to the various churches the letter form (4 to 6 weeks be the Association) and it be mailed back to him before the meeting. We further suggest that it be printed on the form, the date of Associational meeting time of starting, location of meeting and the name and address of the Associational Clerk. Tabled until next Asso.

5. We suggest that the Association be represented at the state Association and that the moderator appoint the delegates. Passed.

Mrs. H. L. Skipper
Mr. Levi Smith
Carter L. Brewer

CREDENTIAL COMMITTEE

We, your committee have talked to Bro. W. H. Henderson and he is a member at Love Well Church and wishes to be reinstated as a minister. He said he would make a statement if the body wishes.

Signed J. K. Walley, Chairman
Ed Mozingo
Truman Freeman

ENROLLMENT OF MINISTERS

Johnnie Aricer — Route 6, Box 399, Laurel, Ms.

Daniel Gaskins — P.O. Box 353, Richton, Miss., Ph. 788-3191.

William R. Robinson — Rt. 1, Buckatunna, Miss.

Truman R. Freeman — Rt. 1, Richton, Miss., Ph. 989-2700.
 Glen E. Shelby — Rt. 1, Box 44, Richton, Miss.
 C. C. Brewer — Rt. 1, Box 47, Richton, Ms.
 Carter Brewer — Rt. 4, Box 141B, Richton, Ms., Ph. 769-9565.
 J. K. Walley — Rt. 3, Waynesboro, Miss., Ph. 735-3437.
 T. M. Parrish — Rt. 4, Hattiesburg, Ms., Ph. 782-0640.
 Edd Mozingo — 4709, Orchard Rd., Pascagoula, Ms., Ph. 769-1417.
 W. H. Henderson — Rt. 1, Richton, Miss.
 Bobby Glen Mills — 4803, Coronada St., Pascagoula, Ms., Ph. 769-9565.

ENROLLMENT OF DEACONS

B. V. Nowell — Rt. 3, Waynesboro, Miss., Ph. 735-9083.
 Lonnie Walley — Rt. 1, Richton, Ms., Ph. 788-6459.
 R. C. Phillips — Rt. 2, Richton, Ms., Ph. 788-6913.
 W. C. Wilkerson — Rt. 1, Jackson, Ala., Ph. 276-3316.
 J. C. Burgess — Rt. 1, Buckatunna, Ms., Ph. 648-2374.
 Albert Burgess — Rt. 1, Box 124, Richton, Ms.
 Fletcher Cox — Rt. 1, Box 12B, Coffeeville, Ala.
 M. H. Dykes — Rt. 2, Richton, Ms., Ph. 788-6761.
 Frank Henderson — Rt. 3, Waynesboro, Ms.
 Ramsey Braddock — Rt. 2, Richton, Ms.
 Levie Smith — Rt. 1, State Line, Ms.
 Johnnie Jackson — Rt. 1, Box 103, Coffeeville, Ala.
 Otis E. Johnson — 2302 Eden St., Pascagoula, Ms., Ph. 762-6394.
 Clerk: B. V. Nowell, Rt. 3, Box 279A, Waynesboro, Ms., Ph. 735-9083.

Number of members, visitors, deacons, and ministers to register: 100

Number of Deacons to register: 13

Number of Ministers to register: 12

Number of Visitors to register: 48

Number of Delegates to register: 27.

New Clerk: Shirley Dykes — Rt. 2, Richton, Ms., Ph. 788-6923.

New Moderator — Rev. T. R. Freeman, Rt. 1, Richton, Ms., Ph., 989-2700.

Delegates to State Association: Mrs. Pete Shows, Mrs. Woodrow Shows, Mrs. J. K. Walley, Mrs. Otis Johnson, Mrs. Lena Mills.

Appointed to the South Miss. Mission Board by Moderator. Bro. Edd Mozingo to replace Bro. Johnny McSwain. Bro. Glenn Shelby to replace Bro. L. D. Walley.

Bro. Johnny Aricer ordained for ministry to the Association. Bro. J. K. Walley conducted the ordination. Prayer by Bro. Truman Freeman. Business tabled until next Association.

1. To write Governor and suggest that National Guards meet on Saturday, not Sunday.

2. Section 1, Article 10 (Tabled).

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 Spirit 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 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) 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 perpetuated 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.

Article 11.

Section 1. To encourage prayerful and financial support to South Miss. Mission from churches and individuals.

Section 2. To promote and assist the organization of new churches.

Section 3. To report progress made at each associational meeting.

Section 4. To be a connecting link with state and national missions boards.

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 Rule 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.

	Money Received	Miles Traveled	Revivals Held	Professions Witnessed	Number Baptized	Additions to Church	Churches Organized	Funerals Preached	Sermons Preached	Churches Pastored
MINISTERS' REPORT										
Rev. Glen Shelby	\$5,195.00	5,000	2	12	1	2	0	0	169	1
Rev. Edd Mozingo	5,000.00	14,000	2	8	13	20	0	2	180	1
Rev. Daniel Gaskin	1,520.00		0	5	1	3	0	3	232	2
Rev. Truman Freeman	1,800.00			2	2	2	0	3	130	1
Rev. J. K. Walley	2,500.00		1	5	10	4	0	2	120	1
Rev. Carter Brewer	797.00	3,918			1	1	0	1	45	1
Rev. Billy Robinson	1,825.00	12,850	3	49	8	0	0	2	168	1
Rev. C. C. Brewer	1,000.00	1,000						3	200	1
Rev. Johnny Aricer	855.00	792	0	3	0	7	0	0	60	1
Rev. L. D. Walley	80.00	400	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0

	Value	Paid Pastor	Paid Assn.	Expenses	Evangelistic	Education	Missions
CHURCH REPORTS							
Fellowship	\$40,000.00	\$4,630.00	\$15.00	\$ 8,579.82	\$250.00	\$173.02	\$1,083.77
County Line	5,000.00	1,140.00	10.00	2,244.14	125.00	30.00	245.00
Love Well	10,000.00	1,200.00	15.00	3,768.15	150.00	120.00	120.00
Bethel	10,000.00	1,565.00	15.00	4,317.30	125.00	124.00	168.72
Buckatunna	2,500.00	400.00	15.00	1,920.71	125.00	61.20	243.41
Corinth	30,000.00	2,375.27	15.00	5,903.05	450.00	348.53	334.87
Lee's Chapel (Wayne)	10,000.00	855.00	10.00	2,139.47	160.00	114.47	500.00
Lee's Chapel (Jones)	10,000.00	1,844.33	10.00	2,236.68	100.00	120.25	69.25
Pascagoula	75,000.00	5,300.00	15.00	10,166.29	285.00	176.18	516.90
Thompson Creek	5,500.00	817.00	10.00	1,268.34	100.00	69.08	35.82
Richton	Rent	851.16	10.00	3,900.00	250.00	98.78	361.00
Pine Grove	2,000.00	185.80	10.00	1,521.25	---	48.00	5.00
Grace Chapel	No Report	---	---	---	---	---	---