

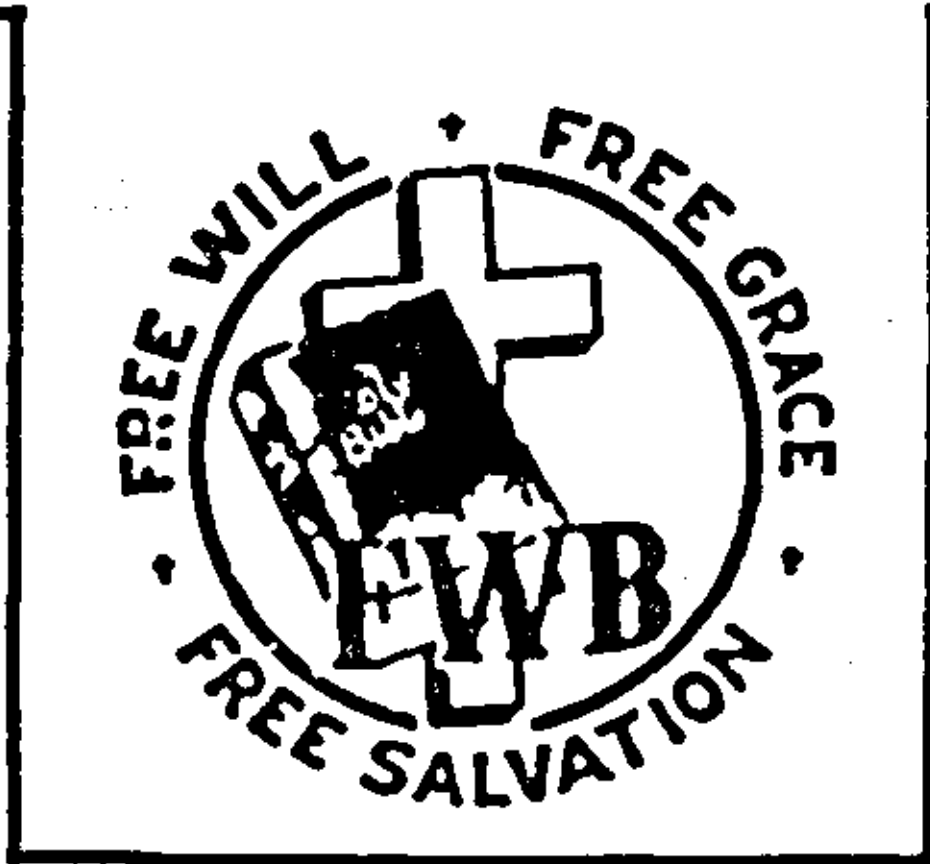
**Minutes Of The
68th Annual Session
Of The
South Mississippi Association
Of
Free Will Baptists
Convening With
Pascagoula Church Of Pascagoula
Sept. 5th At 7:00 p.m.
and
Sept. 6th At 9:30 a.m., 1975**

Next session to convene with

**RICHTON FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH
OF PERRY COUNTY
Saturday, September 4, 1976 at 7:00 p.m.**

OFFICERS

Glen Shelby	Moderator
Rt. 5, Waynesboro, Ms. 39367	
Lena Mills	Clerk
Rt. 3, Waynesboro, Ms. 39367	
Johnny Aricer	Treasurer
Rt. 6, Laurel, Ms. 39440	



**Minutes Of The
68th Annual Session
Of The
South Mississippi Association
Of
Free Will Baptists
Convening With
Pascagoula Church Of Pascagoula
Sept. 5th At 7:00 p.m.**

**and
Sept. 6th At 9:30 a.m., 1975**

**Next session to convene with
RIGHTON FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH
OF PERRY COUNTY
Saturday, September 4, 1976 at 7:00 p.m.**

OFFICERS

Glen Shelby	Moderator
Rt. 5, Waynesboro, Ms. 39367	
Lena Mills	Clerk
Rt. 3, Waynesboro, Ms. 39367	
Johnny Aricer	Treasurer
Rt. 6, Laurel, Ms. 39440	

PROCEEDINGS

The 68th Annual Session of the South Mississippi Association of Free Will Baptists convened with Pascagoula Free Will Baptist Church, Friday night, September 5 at 7 o'clock p.m.

Song, "Just Over In Gloryland" directed by Rev. Truman Freeman.
Prayer by Rev. W. H. Bostic.

Business began by calling the body to order by Moderator. Motion was made and seconded that we enter into conference.

Devotion by Rev. Norman Nowell; Welcome by Rev. Glen Batten; Moderators message by Rev. J. K. Walley.

Enrolling Of Churches And Delegates

Bethel — \$200, Mrs. J. B. Shows, Mrs. Troy Hinton
Buckatunna — \$20, Madge Inman, Ella Pittman
Corinth — \$200, Charles Walley, Mag Walley
County Line — \$20, Henry Mills, Myrtle Phillips
Lee's Chapel (Jones) — \$10, Glenda Aricer, Minnie Walley
Lee's Chapel (Wayne) — \$20, Mrs. Glen Shelby
Lovewell — \$20, Vernon Walley, Maudie Freeman
Waynesboro — \$10, Mrs. Jessie Jordon, Mrs. James Bishop
Pascagoula — \$15, Marvel Chesney, Peggy Hutchinson
Pine Grove — \$20, Roy Holyfield, Pearl Dixby
Richton — \$20, Maxine Bostic, Rachel Walley
Thompson Creek — \$20, Lois Vermilyea
Unity — Mrs. E. C. Kelton

Enrolling Ministers

Glen Batten, 2708 Chico St., Pascagoula, MS, phone 762-6267
Truman Freeman, Rt. 1, Box 161, Richton, MS, 39476
Daniel Gaskins, Box 353, Richton, MS, phone 783-3191
J. K. Walley, Rt. 3, Waynesboro, MS, phone 735-3437
Frank Henderson, Rt. 3, Waynesboro, MS 39367
Alton Vermilyea, Rt. 3, Waynesboro, MS 39367
Bobby Martin, Rt. 2, Richton, MS, phone 788-5586, 39476
Johnny Aricer, Rt. 6, Laurel, MS 39440
Glen Shelby, Rt. 5, Box 440, Waynesboro, MS 39367
J. L. Gore, 905 Valencia St., Jackson, MS
Grover Inman, Buckatunna, MS
Andy Hoeflich, Richton, MS
A. F. Ferguson, Rt. 1, Richton, MS
W. H. Bostic, Richton, MS

Enrolling Deacons

Charles Henderson, Rt. 3, Waynesboro
J. C. Burgess, Rt. 1, Buckatunna
Jimmy Walley, Rt. 1, Richton
Houston Dailey, Rt. 1, Buckatunna
Steve Brewer, Pascagoula
Buddy Nowell, Rt. 3, Waynesboro
Dave Palmer, Rt. 3, Waynesboro
Jessie Jordan, Waynesboro
Grady Pittman, Rt. 1, Buckatunna

Appointing of Committee on Committees

Rev. A. F. Ferguson, Buddy Nowell, O. E. Johnson.

Rev. Daniel Gaskins gave a talk on youth missionaries and asked that all churches participate in this program.

Motion was made and seconded that we accept the letter requesting that Rev. Andy Hoeflich be accepted as an ordained minister in this association.

Message brought by Rev. Grover Inman; Prayer, Rev. Glen Shelby.

Saturday, September 6, 1975

Song, "There Is Power In The Blood" directed by T. Freeman; prayer, Rev. Frank Henderson; Devotion, Rev. Andy Hoeflich.

Business was begun by the appointment of various committees.

Youth camp report given by Rev. Norman Nowell.

The associational body stood in appreciation to Dave Palmer for long standing support of youth rally.

Comments on youth camp finance by Dave Palmer.

Partial report on Mission board given by Rev. J. K. Walley.

Report on State Missions given by Rev. J. L. Gore.

Dismissed for recess.

Song "Kneel At The Cross," directed by Rev. T. Freeman; 11:00 message was delivered by Rev. W. H. Bostic

Dismissed for lunch by Rev. J. L. Gore.

Afternoon Session

Song "Praise Him," directed by Rev. J. L. Gore; prayer, by Troy Hinton. Business.

Reading Of The Committee Reports

DIGEST

We the Digest Committee recommend that all church letters be accepted, and recommend to the Resolution Committee that the attached church letter be adopted by the South Mississippi Association of Free Will Baptists as a standard form to be used in the future.

Steve Brewer
Rev. Norman Nowell
Vernon Walley

OBITUARY

We the Obituary Committee reports as follows:

Brooks Littles	Fellowship
Marilyn Dykes	County Line
Julius Pedmond	Pascagoula
Clarice Walley Burges	Lovewell
Due to an oversight, Mrs. Burges was not reported before.	
Marvin Brewer	Lovewell
Lelia McLain	Lovewell
Lana Ezell	Buckatunna
Leroy Shows	Bethel
Gerod Lee	Lee's Chapel (Wayne)
Ella Boyles	Thompson Creek
Evelin Pippins	Thompson Creek

We ask the Association to stand for a moment in silent prayer in memory of these that have gone on to meet the Lord.

Marvel Chesney
Myrtle Phillips
Glenda Aricer

SUNDAY SCHOOL

We, the Sunday School Committee suggests the following:

1. We recommend that all churches have a training program for our teachers, to enable them to be qualified to use all the materials available.
2. We recommend that the pastors, Sunday School Superintendent, and teachers use more visual aids that are available from the National Office.
3. We recommend that some period of services be given to the Sunday School students to present programs of learning to the church.
4. We recommend that each church set aside a Sunday, at the end of each quarter, for promotion day; for our students to be recognized for perfect attendance, etc. There are perfect attendance pins and certificates available at the National Sunday School office.

J. C. Burgess
Roy Holyfield
Oscar McLain

RESOLUTION

We the Resolution Committee:

1. Recommend that the Association vote that the Church Covenant be printed in the minutes.
2. We recommend that the January session of the Fellowship Meeting meet with Thompson Creek in 1976.
3. We recommend to the church wanting the Fellowship Meeting to meet with them, state a request in the letter to the previous Fellowship Meeting.
4. We recommend to the church wanting the Annual Association to meet with them state a request in the letter to the annual association.
5. We recommend that the May session of the Fellowship Meeting meet with Lee's Chapel (Jones).

That the annual association meet with Richton Church in September.

Dave Palmer
Felton Holifield
Leonard Clifton

CREDENTIAL

We, the Credential Committee recommend that Rev. W. H. Bostic, after being questioned by this committee and found faithful, be accepted in this association and after receiving a letter of good standing from his previous association be accepted in full fellowship with this association.

After questioning Rev. E. C. Kelton by this committee, we recommend that he be accepted in full fellowship in this association for a period of one year and given a card in good standing; if, after a period of one year, he is found satisfactory, this fellowship be extended indefinitely.

Due to the absence of Rev. Alton Carr, we could not accept him in this

association, but ask him to meet with us in the January Fellowship Meeting at Thompson Creek Church.

Rev. Frank Henderson
Rev. Truman Freeman
Rev. Bobby Martin

TEMPERANCE

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 their nature.

To abstain from all intoxicating beverages and drugs.

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

And according to our spiritual insight use spiritual knowledge to add to our temperance, patience and to patience, godliness.

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

Rachel Walley
L. A. Clifton
Henry Mills

FINANCIAL REPORT

Association General Fund	
Balance brought forward	\$494.91
January Fellowship Meeting	98.00
May Fellowship Meeting	90.00
Annual Meeting	245.00
Total	\$927.91

Expenditures;

State Association	\$20.00
Balance Clerk Fee	20.00
Repair, Typewriter	32.03
Moderator Expenses	35.00
Services, Bank	40
Clerk Expenses	3.00
Clerk Fee	50.00
Total	160.43
Balance in Treasury	\$757.48

Missions:

Balance brought forward	\$510.57
Corinth	144.70
Lovewell	146.27
Pascagoula	165.00
Thomspon Creek	33.50
Total	\$1000.04

Expenditures

Chairs for Waynesboro Mission\$237.50
Balance in treasury\$762.54

The Association voted to send \$30.00 a month to the Jackson Mission, but to reevaluate each year at the annual association.

The Moderator appointed a committee of three to reevaluate this. Those appointed were J. C. Burgess, W. H. Bostic, Grover Inman.

Delegates to the State Association were Lura Martin, Rachel Walley, Glenda Aricer, Ella Pittman, and Minnie Walley.

COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES

Five-member committee mission board: Jimmy Walley, Rev. Norman Nowell, James Bunch, Grady Pittman, and Rev. W. H. Bostic.

New Moderator, Glen Shelby; Assistant Moderator, Glen Batten; New Clerk, Azilene Nowell; Assistant Clerk, Lena Mills; Treasurer, Johnny Aricer; Assistant Treasurer, Charles Henderson; Credential Committee, Norman Nowell, W. H. Bostic, and Bobby Martin; Finance Committee, Johnny Aricer, Jimmy Walley, and Frank Henderson; Resolution Committee, Steve Brewer, J. K. Walley and James Bishop; Christian Education Committee, Grady Pittman, Andy Hoeflich, and Houston Dailey.

O. E. Johnson

O. E. Johnson
Buddy Nowell
A. F. Ferguson

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 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 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 work 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. Repentence of sincere sorrow for sin and hearty renunciation of it.

2. Faith or the unreserved commital of one's self to Christ as Savior 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 the 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 for 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 (Matt. 23:33) 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 with 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 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 for us we are able to 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 sanctify us wholly and preserve us blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

PREAMBLE

We, the Free Will Baptists of the 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, by laws and rules of decorum.

CONSTITUTION

Article 1. This association shall be known as the South Mississippi Association of Free Will Baptists.

Article 2. This body shall be composed of all ordained ministers and ordained deacons who are in good standing with a local church with the delegates duly elected from the churches.

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 listing the ordained ministers and the ordained deacons in good standing.

Section 2. Upon recommendation from a local church, the association shall investigate any ordained minister on an inactive list from the church.

Section 3. A three-member Resolution Committee, a three-member Finance Committee, a five-member Credential Committee, and a three-member Christian Education Committee appointed by the moderator in a previous session shall serve as delegates until the adjournment of the next annual session. Also a three-member Committee on Committees appointed by the moderator to recommend membership on various committees.

Section 4. The Mission Board shall be a standing board composed of five members (two ministers and three laymen) with one going off each year.

Section 5. This Association shall be a member of the Mississippi State Association of Free Will Baptists and shall be entitled to representation in that body.

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

Article 5. All questions of doctrine and matters of general interest shall be settled by two-thirds visible vote of the association and this vote shall be final.

Article 6. The officers of the association shall be a moderator, assistant moderator, clerk, assistant clerk, treasurer and assistant treasurer who shall be chosen by a majority of visible votes annually.

Section 1. The executive committee shall be composed of the general officers.

Section 2. It shall be the duty of the executive committee to plan and promote all associational and fellowship meetings.

Section 3. The association's executive committee shall act on behalf of the association when the association is not in session. Its action shall be reported to the association for acceptance or rejection. The executive committee can call a special session of the association if deemed necessary.

Article 7. Meetings

Section 1. The association shall meet on Friday-night and Saturday before the first Sunday in September. We recommend that each church send \$20 for an associational fee.

Section 2. The fellowship of this association shall meet on the fourth Sunday in January and the fourth Saturday in May. We recommend that each church send \$10 for each fellowship day.

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 for a period of one year under the supervision and watch care of the association before being accepted into the association in full fellowship. We agree as churches composing this association to use our best influence to promote interest of all moral and benevolent institutions, such as temperance cause, Sunday School, Missions, and other denominational enterprises.

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 period prior to ordination often at least a year. Then if his life and conduct prove to be satisfactory to his church and they wish to have him ordained to the ministry, his church shall send a letter to the associational presbytery recommending that he be ordained at such a time when his work required ordination.

Section 2. The Credential Committee will use questions adopted by this association to examine ministerial candidates and answer further questions asked by committee members.

Section 3. A minister from another denomination wishing to unite with the Free Will Baptist denomination must first unite with a local Free Will Baptist Church. He will then be subject to examination by the Credential Committee. He is required to present a letter of good standing from the association of which he was last a member. His ordination credentials may then be accepted by the association upon recommendations from the Credential Committee. A minister coming from another Free Will Baptist Association or any missionaries under the auspices of the State Mission

Board must follow the same procedure.

Section 4. Henceforth, any candidate or minister from this denomination and association or other denomination and association requesting ordination cannot be divorced and remarried according to I Timothy, Chapter 3, verses 1-7 and Mark chapter 10 verses 1-12, and must meet the other qualifications of these scriptures.

Article 11. This Constitution may be altered or amended at any regular session of the association by a two-thirds visible vote of the members present, provided the change is recommended in writing in the morning session and tabled and voted on during the afternoon session.

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 \$50 for personal expenses. The association shall reimburse the clerk for any expenses incurred while performing duties authorized by this association.

Article 3. The names of delegates from different churches shall be enrolled and called as often as necessary during the session. Delegates shall be seated in area designated by the moderator.

Article 4. All business shall be brought before this body by motion and seconded and shall be disposed of according to Roberts Rules of 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 10 minutes at a time, no more than twice without consent of the body on any given subject.

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.

Article 11. Duties of Boards and Committees

Section 1. The Resolution Committee shall examine all resolutions made by churches and after careful consideration present a report to the association for approval or rejection.

Section 2. The Finance Committee shall make a report to the association of all receipts and disbursements authorized by the association. This will include the treasurer's report.

Section 3. The Credential Committee shall be in charge of any matter concerning the examining and ordaining of ministers. When requested, this committee may serve as an ordaining committee.

Section 4. It shall be the duty of the Christian Education Committee to promote all phases of educational work in the state, to be a link from the local church to the national level, to promote teaching materials and personnel for educational programs in the church, and to plan, and promote

Sunday School and CTS rallies on the district level.

Section 5. The duties of the Mission Board shall be to encourage prayerful and financial support to South Mississippi missions from churches and individuals, to promote and assist the organization of new churches, to report progress made at each quarterly meeting and association meeting, and to be a connecting link with state and national mission boards.

CHURCH REPORTS

	Value	Paid Pastor	Paid Assn.	Expenses	Evangelistic	Education	Missions
Bethel	\$5500.00	\$2080.00	\$20.00	\$1734.00			\$585.52
Buckatunna	50,000.00	1935.00	20.00	5932.00			199.77
Corinth	30,000.00	2596.92	20.00	5744.00			781.00
County Line	25,000.00	1760.00	20.00	3513.34			300.00
Fellowship	15,000.00	5475.00	20.00	9931.23		1171.54	1337.56
Lee's Chapel (Jones)	13,500.00	2260.12	10.00	1069.86			301.26
Lee's Chapel (Wayne)	10,000.00	6625.00	20.00	1102.76			494.00
Lovewell	10,000.00	2550.00	20.00		175.00		243.79
Pascagoula	80,000.00	4560.00	15.00	9361.89			1605.00
Pine Grove	30,000.00	4050.00	20.00	6792.19			
Richton	75,000.00	2045.00	20.00	10,145.13			175.93
Thompson Creek	10,000.00	1300.00	20.00	2988.00			16.88
Waynesboro		190.00	10.00	4053.00		10.00	
Unity		556.49					

MINISTERS REPORT

	Sermons Preaches	Money Received	Miles Traveled	Revivals Held	Number Baptised	Addition to church	Funerals Preached	Pastored Churches
Johnny Aricer	25	\$190.00	200	0	0	0	0	0
Bobby Martin	90	1740.00	1740	1	1	2	1	1
Glen Batten	154	4,600.00	18000	1	2	6	1	1
J. K. Walley	95	2,280.12		1	2	4	5	1
Truman Freeman	110			1	3		1	1
Frank Henderson	63	1,592.03	800	0	0	2	1	1
Norman Nowell	115	4050.00	7500	0	6	6	3	1
A. F. Ferguson	183	6000.00	12000	5	12	9	2	1
Daniel Gaskins	No report							1
Alton Vermilyea	No report							
Glen Shelby	No report							
Grover Inman	No report							
Andy Hoeflich	No report							
W. H. Bostic	No report							
J. L. Gore	No report							