

**MINUTES OF THE
70th ANNUAL SESSION
OF THE
SOUTH MISSISSIPPI ASSOCIATION
OF
FREE WILL BAPTISTS**

**Convening With
Lovewell Church of Richton
September 2, at 7:30 p.m.
and
September 3, 1977 at 10:00 a.m.**

**Next session to convene with
FELLOWSHIP FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH
Friday, September 1, 1978 at 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, September 2, 1978 at 10:00 a.m.**

OFFICERS

Glen Shelby	Moderator
Route 5, Waynesboro, Ms. 39367	
Glenda Aricer	Clerk
Route 6, Laurel, Ms. 39440	
Johnnie Aricer	Treasurer
Route 6, Laurel, Ms. 39440	

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PROCEEDINGS

The 70th Annual Ms. Association of the Free Will Baptists convened at Lovewell Church, Richton, Ms. Friday night, September 2, 1977 at 7:30 p.m.

Songs: "Amazing Grace," "When the Roll," "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms," and "Kneel at the Cross" were led by Bro. Jessie Jordan. Special singing by Miss Betty Shelby, song: "The Old Rugged Cross."

ENROLLING OF CHURCHES AND DELEGATES

Bethel—\$20.00, Mrs. L. Shows, Mrs. A. Hinton
Buckatunna—\$20.00, B. Mercer, T. Cochran
Corinth—\$20.00, G. Kelley, Mrs. Wm. Cooley
County Line—\$20.00, Mrs. S. Dykes, Mrs. M. Phillips
Faith
Fellowship—\$20.00, T. Walley, W. Walley
Lovewell—\$20.00 V. Walley, A. Brewer
Lee's Chapel (Jones)—\$15.00, F. Holifield, Mrs. R. Miles
Lee's Chapel (Wayne)—\$20.00, Mrs. J. Taylor, Mrs. G. Shelby
Pascagoula—\$20.00, Evelyn Johnson
Pinegrove—\$20.00, B. Oneal, R. Holifield
Richton—\$20.00, R. Braddock, G. Brewer
Thompson Creek—\$20.00, by letter
Unity
Waynesboro—\$20.00, Clifton Lee, Retha Lee
Jackson Mission
Olah Mission

Motion made and seconded that we accept to seat the delegates.

Committee on Committees appointed for September 2, and 3, 1977: Bro. Jimmy Walley, Rev. Johnnie Aricer, Bro. Grady Pittman.

APPOINTED COMMITTEES:

Credentials Committee for the day:

Rev. Truman Freeman, Chairman; Rev. Frank Henderson; Rev. Dwight Fletcher; Rev. Andy Hoeflich.

Digest Committee:

Glenda Aricer, Evelyn Johnson, and Shirley Dykes.

Bro. Glen Shelby asked for special prayer for Bro. William Atkinson and his wife who has terminal cancer. Prayer led by Rev. J. K. Walley.

Bro. Daniel Gaskins gave his resignation as member of the Credentials Committee and any other office or position he would have been appointed or elected to by the association.

Bro. Daniel Gaskins was the speaker for the night.

Bro. Shelby gave a very good introduction to Bro. Gaskins because he may be leaving our area. Bro. Shelby told of his many works he has done in the area and many blessings he has been to everybody.

Evening Theme: "In The Beginning GOD."

Bro. Andy Hoeflich dismissed the evening conference in prayer until 10:00 a.m. Saturday, September 3, 1977.

Saturday, September 3, 1977 10:00 a.m.

Songs: "When the Roll," "My Jesus I Love Thee" led by Bro. E. D. Fletcher.

Devotion by Rev. Johnnie Aricer.

Asked for any church letters to be turned in to the clerk.

Bro. Truman Freeman gave the welcoming speech.

Bro. Grady Pittman gave a report on the Youth Camp.

Bro. Wendell Walley gave a report on Greenville and Greenwood, and Jackson.

Bro. Daniel Gaskins gave a report on General Fund and on the Messenger Paper.

APPOINTED COMMITTEES:

Obituary Committee:

Mrs. Rachel Miles, Mrs. Myrtle Phillips, Mrs. J. C. Taylor

Temperance Committee:

O. E. Johnson, Vernon Walley, Winford Walley.

Congratulations Committee:

Theon Walley, Tony Holifield, Bobby Martin.

Worship Hour:

Song: "The Old Rugged Cross."

Old Business: Article 10, Section 5 is tabled from May meeting and we recommend to take care of it in afternoon session of business.

Motion and second regarding the moderator be accepted and tabled until afternoon session.

Ask all churches to give clerk the name and address of other associations where their new pastor's have come from so the clerk will be able to get letters of recommendation.

Ask all clerks, pastors, and churches addresses be given to the clerk before day is over.

Song, "What a Day."

Message by Rev. Wendell Walley.

Adjourn for lunch.

READING OF THE COMMITTEE REPORTS

DIGEST

We, the Digest Committee, recommend that all church letters be accepted.

Glenda Aricer

Evelyn Johnson

Shirley Dykes

OBITUARY

We, the Obituary Committee, report as follows:

W. C. Burgess—Buckatunna

Mrs. Dave (Idell) Palmer, Mrs. Mae Hunter—Corinth

Claude Busby—Lee's Chapel (Wayne)

Arnold Walley—Lovewell

Barbara Hutcherson—Pascagoula
Lucille Prine, Annie Dell Simmons—Pinegrove

Mrs. Rachel Miles
Mrs. J. C. Taylor
Mrs. Myrtle Phillips

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The committee met with the pastors of this association recommending that we have a Christian Training workshop. It was agreed on and was held at Corinth FWB Church March 20-25, 1977 by the ministers of the South Ms. Association Ministers Fellowship. The subjects taught were:

1. The Methods of Teaching by Bro. Dwight Fletcher
2. Parliamentary Procedure by Bro. Dan Gaskins
3. Sunday School Enlargement by Bro. Glen Shelby

Much was accomplished through this workshop and we recommend that we have another one this coming year.

Also this committee has recommended that we have a radio ministry in a central location in South Ms. Bro. Fletcher will give us a report on this later.

Andy Hoeflich
Richard James
Charles Henderson

RESOLUTION COMMITTEE

We, the Resolution Committee, recommend to take off the table the resolution. Request that an amendment be made to our Rules of Decorum that would make provisions for our officers to be reimbursed for expenses incurred while performing his or her duties as an officer. Passed

We recommend we send \$50.00 to the State General Fund. Passed

J. K. Walley
Norman Nowell
Ramsey Braddock

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

No business to be brought forward at this time.

Truman Freeman
Frank Henderson
Dwight Fletcher
Andy Hoeflich

TEMPERANCE COMMITTEE

We, the Temperance Committee, make the following recommendation: We as Free Will Baptists first of all live our life separated from worldly lust as the Bible teaches us to abstain from the very appearance of evil.

That we should remember this when we are tempted by Satan with drugs, alcoholic beverages or anything that would be able to take over and rule this natural body so we could not give all we have for the cause of Christ.

We believe that if this association will work for the cause of Christ leaving Satan behind us that all the veins of our work will have a better report to give at our next meeting.

O. E. Johnson
Vernon Walley
Winford Walley

CONGRATULATIONS COMMITTEE

We, your Congratulations Committee, want to express our thanks to the Lovewell Church for its wonderful hospitality to the annual association, also to all the officers and delegates composing this body for a job well done. We would ask at this time for all present to stand to show appreciation to the host church.

Theon Walley
Tony Holifield
Bobby Martin

FINANCIAL REPORT

General Fund

Receipts

January Fellowship meeting	\$110.00
May Fellowship meeting	115.00
Association meeting	255.00
Special offering	25.79
Total Receipts	505.79
Balance Brought Forward	300.26
Total available cash	806.05
Balance at close of meeting	441.52

Disbursements

State association	20.00
Ministers Card	3.50
Clerk's supplies	12.99
Minutes	148.25
Paid clerk	50.00
Speaker at May fellowship meeting	75.79
State general fund	50.00
Ordination certificates	2.25
Service charge	1.75
Total Disbursements	364.53

South Mississippi Association Missions

Receipts

Pascagoula	180.00
Corinth	53.79
Bethel	100.00
Buckatunna	5.00
Interest on savings	26.47
	365.26
Balance Brought Forward	1,447.43
Total available cash	1,812.69
Savings account balance	1,226.47
Checking account	586.22
Total	1,812.69

Johnnie Aricer
Frank Henderson
Jimmy Walley

COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES

Five member committee mission board:

Bro. James Bunch, Bro. Grady Pittman, W. H. Bostic, Bro. Jimmy Walley, Bro. Mark Daniel.

Credentials Committee:

Revs. Frank Henderson, Dwight Fletcher, Milton Fields, Andy Hoeflich, and J. K. Walley

Finance Committee:

Frank Henderson, Jimmy Walley, Rev. Johnnie Aricer

Resolution Committee

J. K. Walley, Norman Nowell, Ramsey Braddock

Christian Education Committee:

Andy Hoeflich, Glen Shelby.

Bro. Jimmy Walley
Rev. Norman Nowell
Bro. James Bunch
Bro. Grady Pittman

DELEGATES TO STATE ASSOCIATION AS FOLLOWS

Bro. Winford Walley, Bro. Theon Walley, Mrs. Dot Gore, Mrs. Glen Shelby, and Mrs. Ella Pittman.

Next meeting for year:

Fellowship—September 1-2, 1978
Bethel—May 27, 1978
Corinth—January, 1978

New Officers for 1977-78 year:

Moderator	Dwight Fletcher
Asst. Moderator	Paul Daniel
Clerk	Glenda Aricer
Asst. Clerk	Linda Little
Treasurer	Johnnie Aricer
Asst. Treasurer	Grady Pittman

Rev. J. K. Wally gave report on Thanksgiving revival.
Dismissed by prayer by Rev. Truman Freeman.

ARTICLE 10—SECTION 5 was tabled until September, 1977 meeting. It was brought before the floor in morning session and never brought before afternoon session. Which after adjourning meeting it was automatically killed.

ARTICLE 10—SECTION 6 card of good standing shall be given only to those ministers recommended for such in writing on the annual church letter ordered by the church in conference.

MINISTERS REPORT

ORDAINED

	Sermons preached	Churches pastored	No. baptized	Additions to church	Revivals held	Churches organized	Funerals preached
Aricer, Johnnie	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
Brewer, Carter	40	0	0	0	0	0	0
Brewer, C. C.	Retired						
Daniel, Mark	90	1	4	8	2	0	0
Daniel, Paul	103	1	2	2	0	0	0
Fields, Milton	168	1	6	10	3	0	1
Fletcher, E. D.	154	1	2	3	0	0	2
Freeman, Truman	145	1	0	0	0	0	0
Gaskins, Daniel	150	1	0	0	0	0	0
Gore, J. L.	125	1	3	3	1	0	0
Henderson, Frank	66	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hoeflich, Andy	151	1	0	0	0	0	0
Martin, Bobby Sr.							
Nowell, Norman	104	1	3	3	0	0	3
Shelby, Glen	150	1	3	5	1	0	2
Walley, Cordell	105	1	2	3	1	0	0
Walley, J. K.	110	1	4	10	0	0	5
Walley, L. D.	Retired						
Licensed							
Brewer, Burl							
Daily, John							
Jordan, Jessie							
Martin, Bobby, Jr.							

CHURCH REPORTS

	Value	Paid Assn.	Paid pastor	Evangelistic	Expenses	Education	Mission
Bethel	30,000.00	20.00	2,080.00			118.39	448.00
Buckatunna	50,000.00	20.00	3,065.00	265.00	10,086.48		257.00
County Line	3,500.00	20.00	2,085.00	100.00	4,830.18	164.00	232.00
Corinth	35,000.00	20.00	3,840.00	175.00	15,289.65	887.99	773.85
Faith		20.00					
Fellowship	25,000.00	20.00	8,275.00	150.00	19,289.95	832.12	1,444.53
Lee's Chapel (Jones)	20,000.00	20.00	3,411.42	75.00	5,518.22	361.11	159.00
Lee's Chapel (Wayne)	10,000.00	20.00	6,500.00	50.00	9,334.64	528.60	2,766.45
Lovewell	20,000.00	20.00	3,900.00	100.00	5,603.80	211.99	432.30
Pascagoula	80,000.00	20.00	4,630.00	515.66	13,538.24	239.16	738.50
Pinegrove	30,000.00	20.00	3,950.00	325.00	7,810.92	319.45	30.00
Richton	100,000.00	20.00	1,675.16		7,211.00	168.23	20.00
Thompson Creek	10,000.00	20.00	395.91	125.00	1,306.75	30.34	
Waynesboro	4,500.00	20.00	205.00	65.00	6,168.33	60.78	
Unity							
Jackson Mission							
Olah Mission							
Total	418,000.00	255.00	44,010.49	2,045.66	105,280.73	3,921.38	3,617.49

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 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 perform 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, and 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 committed 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 condition of salvation. Hence, by faith in Christ men become His elect.

10. Freedom of the Will. The human will be 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; footwashing, an ordinance teaching humility, or universal obligation, and to ministered to all true believers.

14. Tithing. God commanded tithes and offerings in the Old Testament; Jesus Christ endorsed it in the Gospel (Matthew 23:33) 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" (1 Corinthians 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 communication with God.

16. Resurrection. The Scriptures teach the resurrection of all men at the last day. They that have done well will come forth to the resurrection of life and 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 intoxicated 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 Savior Jesus Christ."

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 done 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 school, 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 Baptist of the South Mississippi Association, for the sake of strength that come 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 ministers and the ordained deacons in good standing.

Section 3. A three-member Resolution Committee, a three-member Finance Committee, a five-member Credential Committee, and a three-member Christian Education Committee with one going off every year. 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 shall be final.

Article 6. The officers of the association shall be a moderator, assistant moderator, clerk, assistant clerk, treasurer, 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 \$20.00 for an associational fee.

Section 2. The fellowship of this association shall meet on the fourth Saturday in January and the fourth Saturday in May. We recommend that each church send \$10.00 for each fellowship meeting.

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 watchcare 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 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 recommendation from the Credentials 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 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Mark 10:1-12, and must meet the other qualifications of these Scriptures.

Section 5. Card of good standing shall be given only to those ministers recommended for such in writing on the annual church letter ordered by the church in conference.

Article 11. This constitution may be altered or amended at any regular session of the association by 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 Robert 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 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 Credentials 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 prayful 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 associations meeting, and to be a connecting link with state and national mission boards.

Article 12. The Officers of the South Mississippi Association of FWB shall be reimbursed for the expenses incurred while performing the duties of their office.