

Janice Edwards

YEARLY MEETING
of

Southeast Missouri

FREE WILL BAPTIST

1976

When Convened With The

**CAPE FIRST CHURCH
Broadway and Spanish
Cape Girardeau, Missouri**

**The 83rd Session of the Southeast Missouri Yearly Meeting of
FREE WILL BAPTIST, 1976 was the concluding Session.**

SOUTHEAST MISSOURI YEARLY MEETING

Officers

ModeratorRev. James Barker
Assistant ModeratorRev. O. D. Matthews
Secretary-TreasurerRev. Robert Francis
Assistant Secretary-TreasurerRev. Millard Sasser

Executive Board

Rev. Joe Braddy Fredericktown, Mo.3 Years
Rev. Guy Leonard. . . . Desloge, Mo.2 Years
Rev. Robert Sharpy. . . Festus, Mo.1 Year

Proceedings

The Eighty-third Session of the Southeast Missouri Yearly Meeting, when convened with the Cape First Church, Cape Girardeau, Missouri, May 7-8, 1976.

The services on Friday evening, May 7th, were called to order by the moderator, Rev. James Barker. The congregation was led in song singing the song "I Am Thine O Lord." We were then led in prayer by Brother Wayne Johnson. After prayer the congregation was led in singing "Amazing Grace" and "Living by Faith." After prayer by Brother Wayne Parsons the congregation sung "There Is a Fountain." Special music, "In the Upper Room" was sung by Sharon and Rev. Ronnie Graham.

The Rev. Truman Huffman was then introduced to bring the evening message. Rev. Huffman used as his text James 1:1-16. After the message the invitational hymn "Just As I Am" was sung. After the invitation, announcements were given. The service was dismissed in prayer by Mrs. Jean Francis.

SATURDAY MAY 8 9:30 A.M.

Services were called to order by the moderator, Rev. James Barker. The congregation sang "When We All Get to Heaven," and prayer was offered by the Rev. Harry Beatty. The congregation was then led in the hymn "Praise Him." A welcome was given by the host pastor, Rev. Ronnie Graham. The devotion was given by the Rev. Glen Rehkop using Psalms 37:1-7.

Rev. James Barker read the Constitution and By-Laws. The Quarterly Meeting letters were read and the standing delegates were recognized. A motion and second was made to receive the letters and seat the church and Associational delegates. The motion was carried.

Rev. Bill Adkisson was recognized and gave a report of the new mission work in Malden, Missouri.

The Missouri State Association Promotional Secretary, Rev. Clarence Burton, was recognized, and gave us greetings and his report.

The following committees were appointed:

Business Committee: Rev. Millard Sasser, Chairman; Rev. Cletus Nichols, Rev. Truman Huffman, F. D. Rider, and Arthur E. Jenkerson.

Obituary Committee: Johnnie James, Chairman; Carolyn LaChance, and Mrs. Graham.

Nominating Committee: Rev. William Reeves, Chairman; Mr. Elsie Rehkop, and Rev. Glen Rehkop.

Benediction for recess by Rev. Robert Sharry.

11:00 A.M. '

Worship service called to order with the congregation singing "Jesus Saves." Rev. Roger Harwell then led in prayer. The congregation was led in singing "Since Jesus Came Into My Heart." An offering was then received and designated for the mission work in Malden and Poplar Bluff. Mrs. Jean Francis then presented the special music singing as a solo "He Touched Me."

Rev. Guy Leonard was then introduced to present the morning message to the congregation. Rev. Leonard, Pastor of the Parkview Church, read scriptures from James 2:17-20 and Romans 12:1,2. Rev. Leonard used as his subject "The Man that Stood in the Basket."

The congregation was led in the invitation hymn "Softly and Tenderly."

Services were dismissed in prayer for the noon meal.

1:30 P.M.

Services were opened with the congregation singing "Kneel At the Cross." The congregation was led in prayer by Brother Lincoln. A testimony service was then led by Rev. David McCutcheon.

The Business Committee's report was called for by the moderator. A motion was made and properly seconded to receive the report and vote on it item by item. This motion was carried. (See Business Committee report)

Item 1 M-S-C to adopt substitute motion

Item 2 Declared not necessary after the adoption of item 1

Item 3 M-S-C

The Treasurer's report was called for and given by the treasurer. A motion was made, seconded and carried to receive this report and that any money remaining in treasury, after expenses are paid, be divided among three quarterly meetings. (See Treasurer's report)

A motion was made and properly seconded to send all Southeast Missouri Yearly Meeting records to the National Historical Society of Free Will Baptists in Nashville, Tennessee. This motion was carried.

The Nominating Committee's report was given and a motion was made to receive and elect. This motion received a proper second and was carried. (See Nominating Committee report)

The Obituary Committee report was called for and given. A motion to receive was properly seconded and the motion was carried. (See Obituary Committee report)

Rev. Tom Owens was called upon to give a report of the Missouri State Home Missionary work in St. Clair, Missouri. This report was well received.

The following delegates were elected to the Missouri State Association of Free Will Baptists: Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Whitcomb, Wanda Cluck, Eunice Miller, Clarice Rehkop, Marie Graham, and Yvonne James.

Rev. Millard Sasser presented information about Missouri Bible Institute. This information was well received.

Announcements were given.

A motion and second to adjourn the Southeast Missouri Yearly Meeting for the last time was carried.

REPORT OF THE OBITUARY COMMITTEE

We the Obituary Committee submit the following report. We recommend that we stand and bow our heads in memory of our brothers and sisters in Christ that God has called from our midst. After a moment of silent prayer, we recommend that Brother Clarence Burton lead us in prayer in memory of the deceased.

Alma Pirtle
Margaret Holmes
Freeman Bailey
Forrest Griffin
Henry Lix
Bessie Kirkpatrick
Marvin Patterson
Ed Sirculum
Bernice Stanley
Rev. George Hibbitts
Rev. George Miller
August Hovis
Belle Coffey

Goldie Gregory
Myrtle Coffman
Riley Coffman
Anne Limerkiller
Harold Bolling
Junior Goings
Carl Carmack
Lucy Warden
Harriette Smith
Howard Kennedy
Ola Bea Francis
Elmer Snyder
Chris Pirtle

Signed: Johnny James
Carolyn LaChance
Easter Graham

REPORT OF THE BUSINESS COMMITTEE

We the Business Committee recommend:

1. That the Southeast Association will be dissolved effective at the date of the last quarterly meeting of each quarterly conference just prior to the 1977 State Association; and that each quarterly conference will petition the State Association in 1977 to be accepted as a District Association in the State Association; and that each quarterly conference will make their recommendation for their General Board member to be on the General Board of the 1977 State Association.
2. This item was declared as not necessary after the adoption of item #1.
3. We recommend that we give the host church a standing vote of thanks for the fine job of hosting this session of the yearly meeting.

signed: Millard Sasser, Chairman
Cletus Nichols
F. D. Rider
Truman Huffman
Arthur E. Jenkerson

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

We the Nominating Committee recommend the following brethren to fill the following offices:

Moderator James Barker
Assistant Moderator O. D. Matthews
Secretary-Treasurer Robert Francis
Assistant Secretary-Treasurer Millard Sasser
Executive Board Member - 3 Year Term. Joe Braddy

signed: William Reeves, Chairman
Elsie Rehkop
Glen Rehkop

YEARLY MEETING TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance brought forward		\$278.35
Receipts		
St. Louis Quarterly Meeting	\$ 98.00	
St. Francois County Quarterly Meeting	91.00	
Madison County Quarterly Meeting	77.00	
	<u>\$266.00</u>	<u>\$266.00</u>
Balance		<u>\$544.35</u>
Disbursements		
Representative Fees to the		
State Association	\$170.00	
Clerks fees	50.00	
Printing of Minutes	96.13	
Postage	4.94	
	<u>\$321.07</u>	<u>\$321.07</u>
Balance in Treasury		<u>\$223.28</u>

THE HISTORY OF THE SOUTHEAST MISSOURI YEARLY MEETING

The first of the eighty-three sessions of the Southeast Missouri Yearly Meeting was, in all probability, held in 1893. Unfortunately, little early history has been recorded and preserved for posterity.

Before 1941, the Southeast Missouri Yearly Meeting consisted of two Quarterly Meeting Associations: the St. Francois County and Madison County. Delegates from these two met for the purpose of carrying on business for God and fellowship among the churches involved. The Executive Board and several committees were established to handle phases of Free Will Baptist work originally at a meeting in Southeast Missouri. Local and prominent national denominational issues were acted upon. Those attending these meetings had a voice in these matters and worked together for a cause--to further the Kingdom of God.

In 1941 a Ministers' Conference was formed and convened with the Southeast Missouri Yearly Meeting. Its main objective was to "bring together the Ministers of the Southeast Missouri Yearly Meeting for the transaction of business pertaining to Kingdom work, to promote fellowship among the Ministers, unifying our efforts in the preaching of His Word, and conducting business in the local churches. Also to accept of each other Christian Admonition, Spiritual advice, and to plan together the growth of our beloved Denomination." (Taken from the "Constitution and By-Laws of the Southeast Missouri Ministers Conference)

Records show the Southeast Missouri Woman's Auxiliary Convention began in 1948 and was added to the program of the Southeast Missouri Yearly Meeting. Long before this time, women like Lizzie McAdams and Eunice Edwards were paving the way for Free Will Baptist women to have a significant part in rendering their contribution to the work of God. Sister Lucille Beatty not only was active in the work of Woman's Auxiliary, but also served on committees of the Yearly Meeting.

It was in 1950 the Yearly Meeting stressed the importance of training and education. Both were needed to help local churches as well as our denomination to flourish. It was also decided to establish a "conformity of the design" of the cabins of our Youth Camp at Niangua, Missouri.

The year 1952 marked the voting to build an open-air tabernacle at our Youth Camp grounds. An offering for the Cuban School of Missions was collected. The need to support home and foreign missions was emphasized that year and 1954 as well.

The newly formed St. Louis District Quarterly Meeting was the last addition to the Yearly Meeting in 1957. The raising of money for the purpose of entertaining the National Association of Free Will Baptists in St. Louis, Missouri, to be held in 1958 was the main issue that year.

With the new missionary challenges, especially in foreign fields, came a desire to inform people so they could better understand the need to give to Missions. The idea of having Missionary Conferences in the local churches was adopted. The latter continues to be the answer in presenting the challenge to support the work of a mission field and its workers. It was also voted in 1958 to support the "Victory Drive" to raise money for the Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville, Tennessee.

The highlight of the year 1959 was that the Yearly Meeting approved "the work of the Immanuel Bible Institute of the St. Louis District Quarterly Meeting and petitioned the Missouri State Association to adopt the school as a State Project." (Taken from the 1959 Minutes of the Southeast Missouri Yearly Meeting)

In 1963 it was voted to have the Friday evening services designated as "Youth Emphasis services,"

It was voted on in 1964 for each local church involved in the Southeast Missouri Yearly Meeting to institute the new Church Training Service. If our denomination was to continue to progress for the Lord, leadership training was a necessity.

A controversial issue was raised in 1968 yet was approved. The Southeast Missouri Yearly Meeting went on record "as being united in prayerful support of the study commission elected at the National Association and by the State Association, to study our Denominational position of the backslider." (Taken from 1968 Minutes of the Southeast Missouri Yearly Meeting)

In 1969 it was voted to have the local churches to post signs along the highways making travelers aware there was a Free Will Baptist Church in the vicinity.

In 1971 the Temperance and Denominational Enterprises Committees combined and a greater evangelistic effort was stressed. This combined committee was, however, abolished in 1972 and the Business Committee began handling the work of it.

When missionaries Fulchers and McClains were faced with a financial crisis in 1973, the Yearly Meeting voted to give money to this need. The challenge went forth for local churches to aid this project.

The time of our national elections soon approaching warranted this item of business to be adopted in 1974: "That we reaffirm our stand against legalized gambling and abortion, etc. and that we examine the candidates up for election in November relative to their stand to these issues and vote accordingly, and letters be sent to Governors, Senators and Congressmen." (Taken from the 1974 Minutes of the Southeast Missouri Yearly Meeting)

Some timely issues were raised at the 1975 meeting. The challenge went forth for the members of the Yearly Meeting to send letters to the major television networks in opposition to the "immorality and unrighteousness" on television. Another resolution that was adopted was to

oppose the action concerning a petition that would prohibit religious programming on radio and television if approved by the Federal Communications Commission. This would have to be done by counter-petitioning. A third issue was presented regarding the increase of pornographic materials and how members of the Yearly Meeting could take a stand against this ungodly literature.

The year 1976 marked the dissolving of the Yearly Meeting. The Business Committee recommended "that each quarterly conference will petition the Missouri State Association in 1977 to be accepted as a District Association in the State Association; and that each quarterly conference will make their recommendation for their General Board member to be on the General Board of the 1977 State Association." This action would simply give a better representation than if the Yearly meeting stayed in existence.

In conclusion, the Yearly Meeting of Southeast Missouri Free Will Baptists was greatly used for God's glory. Though there was much accomplished, it has served its purpose as an organization. The work and cause of Christ must continue making history as those who were involved in the Southeast Missouri Yearly Meeting labor within the state of Missouri for the salvation of souls and propagating the Gospel.

Researched and Written By
Mrs. Sue Winchester