

**MINUTES**  
OF THE  
*Forty-Eighth Annual Session*  
OF THE  
**SOUTHEASTERN FREEWILL  
BAPTIST ASSOCIATION**  
CONVENED WITH  
*Pleasant Hill Church, Henry County*  
*Alabama,*  
*Friday Before the Third Sabbath in*  
*October, 1926.*

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**OFFICERS:**

J. H. GUILFORD, ----- Moderator  
J. S. VICKERS, ----- Clerk  
D. E. SHIRLEY, ----- Treasurer

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**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

J. H. Oates.      D. E. Shirley.      H. J. Garner  
J. B. Parker.    J. W. Williams.    C. A. Arnold.

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Next session will convene with Church at New Zion, Henry County, Ala., on Friday before the third Sabbath in October, 1927.



MINUTES

The Forty-eighth Annual Session of the Southeastern Free Will Baptist Association convened with Pleasant Hill Church, Henry Co., Ala., on Friday and Saturday before the third Sabbath in October, 1926. Sermon introductory to business was preached by Rev. J. H. Guilford, who preached in his usual way, a very able sermon. After an intermission of one and a half hours, the delegates and messengers assembled in the house for business.

After devotional service, the Moderator called for letters from different churches. The same being read by Brother C. A. Arnold and Brother Wilburn Roney. Seven churches responded to the call. As letters were read, clerk (protem) enrolled the delegates. The State of Churches was then minuted and ministers enrolled.

Visiting brethren were then invited to seats with us. Rev. G. W. Cherry, Rev. Hunter, Bro. W. Y. Collins and T. J. Fowler accepted the invitation. The Association acknowledged their presence by extending to them the right hand of fellowship. The Association then went into the election of officers which resulted in the election of Rev. J. H. Guilford, Moderator; J. S. Vickers, Clerk, and D. E. Shirley, Treasurer.

The Moderator then appointed the following committees:  
Committee on Suggestions: J. H. Oates, G. L. Stokes, J. L. Stokes, A. W. Roney.

Committee on Obituaries: Sister Sallie Maie Wood, Sister Hartley, Sister Gella Douglas, Sister L. V. Paulk.

Committee on Documents: Lee Stokes, C. A. Shirley, Lee Vickers, Emmie Sutton, Gilbert Garner.

Committee on Resolutions: C. A. Arnold, S. C. Hartley, J. L. Parker.

Committee on Temperance: C. A. Arnold, J. L. Parker, T. C. Deal, J. H. Oats.

Committee on Nominations: J. L. Stokes, A. W. Roney, Sister Snellgrove.

Committee on Finance: L. W. Parker, J. H. Oats, S. C. Hartley.

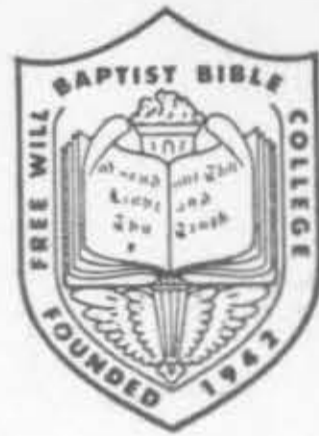
Committee on State of Ministry: D. E. Shirley, J. L. Stokes.

Committee on Preaching: S. C. Hartley, C. A. Arnold.

Committee on Sabbath Schools: E. O. Sellers, Lucy Stokes, J. L. Stokes, Eloise Commander.

After this the Moderator then called for report on preaching, which was as follows:

We your Committee on Preaching beg leave to make the following report: We nominate Rev. J. S. Hunter to preach



FREE WILL BAPTIST  
BIBLE COLLEGE

Presented By

Miss Dot Harvey



tonight, and Rev. J. H. Guilford tomorrow at 11 o'clock.

Respectfully,

J. L. Stokes, Chairman.

On motion adjourn until Saturday at 8:30 o'clock, with song and prayer.

**SECOND DAY—SATURDAY.**

After a few songs by audience prayer was offered. The Moderator then announced the house ready for business.

On motion that we omit the reading of the decorum.

The Moderator then renewed the call for letters from other churches. New Prospect and Sardis were then accepted and the delegates placed upon the roll.

Call for petitionary and corresponding letters and delegates. On motion that we receive Brethren G. M. Hardy, J. R. Bradley and G. C. Cherry. Acknowledging the same by extending to them the right hand of fellowship.

Call for report of different committees:

**REPORT ON RESOLUTIONS.**

We, your Committee on Resolutions submit the following report: Be It Resolved by this body now in session that the following be made a part of our Decorum:

Section 1. This Association shall elect a Mission Board consisting of five members whose duty it will be to visit each church in the Association to solicit donations and all such funds shall be paid over to the Sec.-Treasurer of the Board, who shall be the Chairman. No money shall be paid out without unanimous consent of the Board.

Section 2. This Board shall have the power to have such Mission or Evangelistic work done as they deem necessary, provided they have the consent of the majority of all ministers of the Association.

Section 3. This Board shall be elected every year. Be It Resolved that the Moderator appoint a Committee on Committees.

Respectfully,

C. A. Arnold, Chairman.

On motion it was adopted and Committee discharged.

On motion adjourn for preaching. A very appropriate and able sermon was preached by Rev. J. H. Guilford, after which a very abundant table was spread and enjoyed by all.

After two songs and prayer by Bro. Clark, the Moderator then announced the house ready for business.

Call for report of different committees:

**COMMITTEE ON SUGGESTIONS.**

We, your Committee on Suggestions offer the following report: We recommend that the Moderator at this Association appoint a chairman on each report, i. e.: Education, Resolution, Suggestions, Temperance and Sabbath Schools. Each chairman shall act in the future until his successor be

appointed, and should he be unable to attend the next Association, he or she shall make out his or her report and send it in with his church letter.

Serving the necessity of each delegate being present at the opening of each Association: We recommend that the delegates elected by the churches, who fail to reach the Association later than one o'clock, without a reasonable excuse, have no voice in the Association at that session.

Seeing the need of finance in this Association: We suggest that each church send not less than \$5.00 extra to minutes and Associational purposes, to be used for the upbuilding of the Free Will Baptist cause in this Association, also that the delegates from the various churches see to it that this money be collected and turned in with the other money to the Association.

Respectfully,

J. H. Oats, Chairman.

On motion report was adopted and Committee was discharged.

**COMMITTEE ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.**

We, your committee on Sabbath Schools beg leave to make the following report: We find only one church which has a Sabbath School. Knowing that Sunday Schools are one of the greatest helps to the churches and upbuilding of Christ's Kingdom on earth, we beg and urge the delegates of each church of this Association to organize a Sunday School and also urge the Deacon of each church to work to that effect.

Respectfully

J. L. Parker, Chairman.

On motion report was adopted and committee discharged.

**COMMITTEE ON STATE OF MINISTRY.**

We, your Committee on State of Ministry submit the following report: We find all our ministers in good standing.

Respectfully,

D. E. Shirley, Chairman.

On motion report was adopted and committee discharged.

**COMMITTEE ON OBITUARIES.**

We, your Committee on Obituaries beg leave to make the following report: We find four dead in our Association. We suggest that the clerk of each church look after the obituaries and get them to the clerk of the Association.

Respectfully,

Sallie Mae Wood.

On motion report was adopted and committee discharged.

**COMMITTEE ON DOCUMENTS.**

We, your Committee on Documents beg leave to make the following report: We urge everyone to subscribe for the Free Will Baptist paper, published at Ayden, N. C. we also



ask that all churches in the Association organize a Sunday School and use the Free Will Baptist Literature.

Respectfully,

D. L. Stokes, Chairman.

On motion the report was adopted and committee discharged.

**COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS.**

We, your Committee on Nominations submit the following report: We find only one church asking for the Association by letter, but other delegates are asking for it. We nominate New Zion as the place for it to be held next time, and also nominate Rev. C. P. Guilford to preach the introductory sermon.

Respectfully,

J. L. Stokes, Chairman.

On motion report was adopted and committee discharged.

**COMMITTEE ON TEMPERANCE.**

We, your Committee on Temperance submit the following report: Realizing the necessity of each member of our churches practicing temperance in their daily walk and talk, we urge that each minister advocate a temperance more strongly in his sermon for we realize that where temperance existing there is more law, and where there is law there is more religion.

Respectfully,

C. A. Arnold, Chairman.

On motion report was adopted and committee discharged.

**COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.**

We, your Committee on Education recommend the adoption of old report, viz: Seeing the great need of Christian Education in our Association, and realizing the responsibility that rests upon our churches in this enlightened age, we recommend that each minister and member put forth an effort to more acquaint himself with the teachings of Christ, that we may be better qualified to teach the ways of God and that we, as parents, see that our children are well educated for life while here.

Respectfully,

The Committee.

Report was adopted and committee discharged.

**COMMITTEE ON FINANCE.**

We, your Committee on Finance submit the following report: We find \$18.00 for minutes; \$14.00 for Associational purposes; \$10.00 for missions; a total of \$42.00.

Respectfully,

L. W. Parker.

On motion committee was discharged and report adopted.

**MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS.**

On motion the following were appointed on Executive

Committee: J. H. Oates, C. A. Arnold, D. E. Shirley, H. J. Garner, J. B. Parker and J. W. Williams.

On motion that we appoint delegates to sister associations as follows: To State Line, J. W. Parker; Union Hill, Bro. C. A. Arnold.

Moved that we appoint Bro. J. L. Stokes and J. H. Oates to go to the General Conference to be held Wednesday before the third Sunday in June, at Salem, on the road from Cottondale to Alford.

On motion that we retain the same Board on Mission for another year.

On motion the following were appointed on committees for next year:

On Suggestions: J. H. Oates.

On Temperance: J. L. Parker.

On Education: J. Warren Williams.

On Sabbath Schools: Sister Sallie Mae Wood.

On Resolutions: C. A. Arnold.

On Nominations: Long Stokes.

On motion the Treasurer was ordered to pay the Clerk \$10.00 for his services.

The following resolution of thanks was then offered:

We wish to express our appreciation for the courtesy shown us during this Association. We want to thank the good ladies for their excellent dinner prepared for the people. May God's richest blessings ever rest upon them.

Respectfully,

The Committee.

On motion that we adjourn to meet with New Zion Church in Henry County.

The closing of the Forty-eighth Session of this Association was with the deepest feelings of God's love which was shown by taking the parting hand while congregation sang an appropriate song and prayer completed the close of our session.

Rev. J. H. Guilford, Moderator.  
J. S. Vickers, Clerk.

**OBITUARY OF R. L. MISSILDINE.**

Bro. Missildine was born November 18, 1827, and died October 24, 1925, making his stay on earth 97 years, 11 months and 6 days. He joined the Missionary Baptist Church a number of years ago and joined Evergreen Church, a Free Will Baptist eight years ago. We all learned to love him. He leaves a wife and three children to mourn his death.

Sweet peace to his sleeping dust.

Written by the Clerk, W. T. Baker.

**OBITUARY OF SISTER BECKY JOHNSON.**

Sister Johnson was born April 15, 1891, and died Dec. 30, 1925, making her stay on earth nearly 35 years. She join-



ed the Free Will Baptist Church at James Chapel about five years ago, where she lived a faithful member until her death. The church will miss her but we hope to meet her in that home beyond the sky where there will be no sorrow, pain or death. She leaves a husband and several small children, whom we trust will ever follow after mother's footsteps until they form an unbroken family in a better world beyond. Her remains were laid in Central Ridge Cemetery, there to rest until the morning of the great resurrection when all the children of God will be gathered home, there to dwell with Him for ever.

Written by a sister of James Chapel Church.  
Eloise Commander.

**OBITUARY OF SISTER MARY GIPSON.**

On the day of August 20, 1926, our beloved Sister, Mary Gipson, departed this life and went to her eternal home in Glory where there will be no more pain sorrow, tears nor Parting. She was born July 25, 1842, and departed this life August 25, 1926. She joined the Free Will Baptist Church during the revival meeting in 1914, and has been a loyal member ever since, living up to her church as best she could. The church will all miss Sister Gipson very much, but our loss was her eternal gain.

In that house not made with hands, Singing with the Angel Band.

She has crossed the threshold o'er to dwell with loved ones gone before.

Written by (Mrs.) S. C. Hartley.

**MINISTERS AND THEIR POSTOFFICES.**

- J. L. PARKER, ----- Headland, Ala.
- J. H. GUILFORD, ----- Daleville, Ala.
- E. O. SELLERS, ----- Hartford, Ala.
- R. L. HUNTER, ----- Columbia, Ala., Route 2.
- C. P. GUILFORD ----- Ozark Ala., Route 3.
- THOMAS GILLEY, ----- Postoffice Not Known.

**LICENTIATES.**

- TILLMAN DEAL, ----- Headland, Ala.
- J. H. OATES, ----- Headland, Ala., Route 3.
- J. J. HENDLEY, ----- Columbus, Ga.

**CHURCH COVENANT**

Having been brought, as we humbly trust by divine grace to embrace the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior, and having obtained justification by faith in His Name, we as members of the Baptist church at \_\_\_\_\_ agree:

1. To watch over each other in love, to pray for each other as members of a common faith, ever striving to keep the unity of the spirit in the bonds of peace.
2. We will not speak evil one of another, nor will we per-

secute or oppose the faults of the weak members of our church, but we will endeavor to be governed by Paul's instruction to Timothy, "That we will reprove, rebuke and exhort each other as members of a common brotherhood."

3. We are commanded to do good unto all men, especially to those who are of the household of faith, but we should remember that relations to each other are closer, and the obligations more binding, than that of a common bond of a Christian charity. In adopting this covenant, we become a family, and assume in a Christian sense, the care and responsibility that the members of a family should feel for each other.

4. We will attend the stated meeting of our church unless we are providentially hindered, or uncontrollable circumstances prevent us. And we will contribute of our means as the Lord has prospered us for the support of our pastor and other necessary expenses of our church. And we prefer the service of our own church to that of any other, and will pray for our pastor while he is preaching the word to us.

5. We will not injure our influence in the house of the Lord by occupying seats among the ungodly and sinners; but will occupy seats near the pulpit, and use the natural powers which the Lord has given us, to praise His Holy name. We will sing with those who sing and pray with those who pray.

6. We will not be guilty of the sin of Sabbath breaking, by making Sunday visits to our neighbors, which is a double sin against the law of God, for in so doing we fail to attend the house of the Lord, and hinder others who might wish to do so. Let us remember the law of Moses, which condemns Sabbath breaking and the words of the inspired Apostel which says: "Forsake not the assembling of yourself together as the manner of some is."

7. We will not neglect secret and public prayer, and those of us who are heads of families will strive to dedicate our household to the service of God by teaching our children the great necessity of the Christian religion as the only hope of happiness after death. We will adopt the covenant of Joshua the servant of the Lord, and say: "But as for me and my house we will serve the Lord."

**ARTICLES OF FAITH.**

**OF GOD**—Article 1. We believe there is one, and but one living and true God; who is personally the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, equal and harmonious in every divine perfection.

**OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURES**—Art. 2. We believe that God is the author of the Holy Bible, and that its teaching constitute the only infallible doctrine for the government of His church.

**OF ORIGINAL APOSTASY**—Art. 3. We believe that Adam was created holy, but by voluntary transgression fell into depravity and consequently involved his posterity in sin.

**OF FREE AGENCY**—Art. 4. We believe that the grace of



God comprehends all spiritual blessings. That the gospel is the power of God unto salvation. That the Holy Spirit not only reproveth the world of sin, but is the means whereby sinners are converted and made wise unto salvation.

OF CHRISTIAN FAITH—Art. 5. We believe that Christian faith is belief in Jesus Christ as the Son of God and Redeemer of the world, and the divinity of the Holy Scriptures.

That "faith comes by hearing and hearing by the work of God."

OF REPENTANCE—Art. 6. We believe that repentance is sorrow for sin; and the kind of sorrow which constitutes godly repentance, must be preceded by effectual conviction for sin.

OF FREE AGENCY—Art. 7. We believe the human will is free, and that men have ability to accept or reject the conditions of salvation as they are revealed in the Holy Scriptures.

OF PERSEVERANCE—Art. 8. We do not believe under the Gospel dispensation, that any soul is elected to eternal life unconditionally. But that those who by faith persevere to the end will be saved. That it is possible for men who have been converted, to "Make shipwreck of the faith," turn again to sin and be finally lost.

OF GOOD WORKS—Art. 9. We believe that good work is the result of faith, and not necessity. That those who have faith will do works of righteousness, while those who have no faith cannot do anything pleasing or acceptable unto God.

OF CHRISTIAN BAPTISM—Art. 10. We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion in water of a believer in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost. That baptism cannot be scripturally administered without faith in the subject who receives it.

OF THE LORD'S SUPPER—Art. 11. We believe the Supper was instituted by our Savior as a commemorative ordinance. That the bread and the wine are representative of his broken body and shed blood. That it was instituted for Christians, and that all Christians should unite in observing that sacred service, regardless of names or denominational distinctions.

OF THE SOUL—Art. 12. We believe that man is a living soul. That the body will die, but that the soul is immortal. That death is the separation of the mortal and immortal parts of human beings.

OF THE RESURRECTION—Art. 13. We believe in the resurrection of the dead. When the resurrection shall take place the soul and body will unite and form an immortal being. That the righteous will be received into a state of everlasting happiness, to reign with God forever. But the wicked will be bound hand and foot, and cast into darkness. "The wicked are driven away in their wickedness, but the righteous have hope in their death."



CHURCHES	PASTORS and P. O.	CLERKS and POSTOFFICE	DELEGATES.	Baptized.	Rec'd on Con. Faith.	Rec'd by Letter.	Dism'd by Letter.	Excluded.	Restored.	Died	No. of Members	Pd. for Assoc. Pur.	Pd. for Minutes.
Antioch, -----		Prilla White, Dothan, -----	Not Represented -----										
Chester Chapel, -----		H. Chester, Abbeville, -----	Not represented, -----								36		
Evergreen, -----	J. S. Hunter, -----	W. T. Baker, Ariton, Ala., -----	A. M. Vernelle, E. Paulk, Will Baker, Caney Jackson, -----	7	1		2			1	243	2.00	3.00
James Chapel, -----	C. P. Guilford, Ozark, -----	N. P. Walker, Ariton, Ala., -----	Gilbert Garner, Sister Eloise Commander -----	6	3			1		1	59	1.00	2.00
Mt. Zion, -----	C. P. Guilford, Ozark, -----	J. S. Vickers, Bakerhill, -----	Lee Vickers, Clenie Stanley, Maggie Gibbons, -----								64	1.50	1.75
New Prospect, -----	C. P. Guilford, Ozark, -----	Nancy J. Knight, Clopton, -----	Bernard Peel, Mr. and Mrs. John Knight, Alfred Knight, -----		1		3				151	2.50	2.50
Pleasant Hill, -----	J. S. Hunter, -----	L. W. Parker, Headland, -----	L. W. and J. B. Parker, Arthur Register, -----	2	1						79	1.00	2.00
Pilgrims, -----			Not Represented -----								76		
Union, -----	J. H. Guilford, Daleville, -----	R. C. Stokes, Abbeville, -----	C. A. Arnold, Lee Stokes, J. L. Stokes, Lucy Stokes, -----		2			1			146	3.00	3.00
Zion, -----	C. P. Guilford, Ozark, -----	J. H. Oates, Headland, -----	J. H. Oates, S. C. Hartley and wife, Preston Sanders, -----								186	2.50	2.50
Sardis, -----	J. H. Guilford, Daleville, -----	W. H. Gilmore, White Oak Springs -----	W. A. Hatfield, C. A. Shirley, -----	2						1	28	1.00	1.00



## ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Organize.
2. Call for letters from different churches.
3. Elect Moderator and Clerk.
4. Call for petitionary letters.
5. Appointment of committees.
6. Call the roll and read Decorum.
7. Call for correspondents from sister associations.
8. Appoint correspondents to sister associations.
9. Elect corresponding delegates.
10. Call for corresponding delegates or letters.
11. Call for reports of committees.
12. Call for treasurer's report.
13. Call on minister's reports.
14. Appoint time and place for holding next session.
15. Call for miscellaneous business.
16. Adjournment.