

Ralph Baker

1997 MINUTES OF

THE QUARTERLY MEETINGS

AND THE

ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH

ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

SOUTHEASTERN ASSOCIATION

OF FREE WILL BAPTIST

CHURCHES

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SOUTHEASTERN ASSOCIATION OFFICERS SERVING 1998

Bro. C. L. Culpepper, Moderator
P. O. Box 241
Eufaula, AL 36027-0241
334-687-4462

Bro Thomas Kirkland, Clerk
Route 3, Box 49
Headland, AL 36345
334-693-5024

Bro. Ralph Baker, Vice Moderator
3422 HWY 131
Clayton, AL 36016
334-775-9703

Sis. Pam Pettis, Assistant Clerk
Route 3, Box 466
Ozark, AL 36360
334-795-6741

ASSOCIATION MEETING DATES, PLACES & SPEAKERS

Meeting January 17, 1998		Mount Zion
	Registration Begins 9:30 A.M.	
Morning Speaker	Bro. Joey Pettis	Pastor, Evergreen
Meeting April 18, 1998		New Zion
	Registration Begins 9:30 A.M.	
Morning Speaker	Bro. Dave Collins	Pastor, Union Grove
Meeting July 11, 1998		Union Grove
	Registration Begins 9:30 A.M.	
Morning Speaker	Bro. Ronnie Floyd	Pastor, Sardis
Meeting October 16, 1998		Evergreen
	Registration Begins 6:30 P.M.	
Morning speaker	Missions Committee to get Speaker to be announced later	
Meeting October 17, 1998		Sardis
	Registration Begins 9:30 A.M.	
Morning Speaker	Missions Committee to get speaker to be announced later.	
Memorial Service	Bro. Thomas Kirkland	Pastor, New Zion
Substitute for Year 1998	Bro. Ralph Baker	Pastor, Mount Zion

Schedule A

CHRISTIAN BOARD OF EDUCATION PLANNING FOR 1998

Youth Rallies 7:00 P.M. Each Meeting

New Zion	March 9, 1998
Sardis	May 16, 1998
Evergreen	August 15, 1998
New Prospect	November 14, 1998

Youth Revival

Youth Revival has not been finalized. Information will be given as plans come together.

Youth Retreat will be at Coffee Vineyard January 2nd and 3rd, 1998.

Youth Camp at Coffee Baptist Vineyard - June 22 - 26, 1998. Camp Directors are; Bro. Mike Beckon, Florida State Line Association, and Bro. Joey Pettis, Southeastern Association. Bro. Randy Wright Will be the Camp Evangelist for 1998.

District WNAC Meeting

The WNAC meeting will be at Pilgrims Rest Free Will Baptist Church on March 27, 1998, 7:00 P.M.

Alabama State Meeting

The annual Pastors and Workers Conference will be at First Free Will Baptist Church North Port, Alabama February 16, 17, 18, 1998.

The Alabama State Association will convene with the Madison Free Will Baptist Church Madison Alabama November 5th and 6th 1998.

National Association Meetings

Tulsa, Oklahoma	July 12 - 16, 1998
Atlanta, Georgia	July 18 - 22, 1999
Anaheim, California	July 16 - 20, 2000
Detroit, Michigan	July 15 - 19, 2001
Memphis, Tennessee	July 21 - 25, 2002
Tmapa, Florida	July 20 - 24, 2003

**SCHEDULE OF ORDAINED AND LICENSED MINISTERS IN
SOUTHEASTERN ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTIST**

Bro. Ralph Baker
3422 HWY 131
Clayton, AL 36016
334-775-9703

Bro. Dave Collins
3479 3rd Ave. Exit
Dothan, AL 36301
334-677-7793

Bro. C. L. Culpepper
P. O. Box 241
Eufaula, AL 36027-0241
334-687-4462

Bro. Thomas Kirkland
Route 3, Box 49
Headland, AL 36345
334-693-5024

Bro. Ross Peters
Route 1, Box 84
Ariton, AL 36311
334-762-2946

Bro. Joey Pettis
Route 3, Box 466
Ozark, AL 36360
334-795-6741

Bro. Bobby Register
Route 1, Box 78A
Clopton, AL 36317
334-585-3983

Bro. Larry Sowell
Route 1, Box 75
Clopton, AL 36317
334-585-5724

Bro. Ronnie Floyd
278 Outback Road
Clayton, AL 36016
334-687-8365

Bro. Gene White
Route 3, Box 241
Abbeville, AL 36310
334-585-3879

SOUTHEASTERN ASSOCIATION CHURCH CLERKS

**Evergreen
Sis. Beulah Peavy
P. O. Box 453
Ariton, AL 36311**

**Mount Zion
Bro. Lowell Vickers
607 Holly Drive
Eufauls, AL 36027**

**Pilgrims Rest
Sis. Ruby Money
Route 1, Box 131
Abbeville, AL 36310**

**Pleasant Hill
Bro. Levon Overstreet
302 Stone Street
Dothan, AL 36301**

**New Prospect
Sis. Joyce Mullins
Route 1, Box 131
Clopton, AL 36317**

**New Zion
Sis. Edna Whitehead
302 Murray Street
Headland, AL 36345**

**Sardis
Sis. Susan Hurst
5 Pine Hill Street
Eufaula, AL 36027**

**Union Grove
Sis. Sylvia Ethridge
Route 4, Box 490
Abbeville, AL 36310**

SOUTHEASTERN ASSOCIATION COMMITTEES

Credentials And Examining Committee

Bro. Thomas Kirkland	Term Expires October 2001
Bro. Lowell Vickers	Term Expires October 2001
Bro. Ralph Baker	Term Expires October 2000
Bro. Bobby Register	Term Expires October 1999
Bro William Sowell	Term Expires October 1998
Bro. C. L. Culpepper	Term Expires October 1998
Bro. Joey Pettis	Term Expires October 1998

Christian Board Of Education

Bro. Joey Pettis	Term Expires October 2000
Bro. Mike O'Hearn	Term Expires October 1999
Bro. Ashley Culp	Term Expires October 1998

Children Home Board

Bro. Johnny Gilmore	Term Expires October 2000
Sis. Miriam Shelley	Term Expires October 1999
Bro. Gene White	Term Expires October 1998

Finance Committee

Sis. Leigh Adams	Term Expires October 2000
Sis. Edna Whitehead	Term Expires October 1998

Missions Committee

Sis. Johnnie Ruth Taylor	Term Expires October 2000
Bro. Dave Collins	Term Expires October 1999

Nominating Committee

Sis. Barbara Register	Term Expires October 2000
Sis. Linda Sowell	Term Expires October 1999
Sis. Nina Vickers	Term Expires October 1998

Placement Committee

Sis. Sylvia Ethridge	Term Expires October 2000
Sis. Ruby Money	Term Expires October 1999
Sis. Lillie Thompson	Term Expires October 1998

Resolution Committee

Sis. Pam Pettis	Term Expires October 2000
Bro. Gene White	Term Expires October 1999
Sis. Winnie Rentz	Term Expires October 1998

**SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
SERVING THROUGH 1998**

Moderator, Vice Moderator, Clerk / Treasurer and all ordained Ministers, who are pastoring a Church in this Association, and both pastor and Church are in good standing with the Association, plus elected members listed below.

Evergreen
Bro. Larry Peavy
P. O. Box 453
Ariton, AL 36311
334- 762-2092

Mount Zion
Bro. Lowell Vickers
607 Holly Drive
Eufaula, AL 36027
334-687-3463

New Prospect
Bro. Troy Barron
Route 1, Box 70A
Clopton, AL 36317
334-585-2022

New Zion
Sis. Edna Whitehead
302 Murray Street
Headland, AL 36345
334-693-2759

Pilgrims Rest
Bro. Victor Wilson
Route 2
Abbeville, AL 36310
334-585-2924

Pleasant Hill
Bro. Levon Overstreet
302 Stone Street
Dothan, AL 36301
334-792-7208

Sardis
Bro. Johnny Gilmore
1064 Highway 30
Clayton, AL 36016
334-687-5416

Union Grove
Bro. Holt Stokes
Route 4, Box 521
Abbeville, AL 36310
334-585-3030

SOUTHEASTERN ASSOCIATION OF FWB CHURCHES
ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 1997
OCTOBER 1, 1996 - SEPTEMBER 30, 1997

CHECK NUMBER	INCOME SOURCE	DEPOSIT	BALANCE		
	BEGINNING BALANCE 10/01/96				\$139.96
	DEPOSITS:				
	OCTOBER 1, 1996-12/31/96	\$1,161.20			
	JANUARY 1, 1997-3/31/97	\$2,913.07			
	APRIL 1, 1997-JUNE 30, 1997	\$5,802.93			
	JULY 1, 1997-SEPTEMBER 30, 1997	\$537.00			\$10,414.20
					\$10,554.16
	LESS DISBURSEMENTS:				
368	ALABAMA STATE ASSOCIATION	\$550.00			
369	ELDRIDGE CHILDREN HOME	\$117.00			
370	C. L. CULPEPPER, MODERATOR	\$27.30			
371	RALPH BAKER, CLERK	\$27.30			
372	THOMAS KIRKLAND, ASST CLERK	\$11.70			
373	LOWELL VICKERS, VICE MODERATOR	\$11.70			
374	COFFEE BAPTIST VINEYARDS-YOUTH CAMP	\$915.00			
375	CURTIS 1000-PRINTING MINUTES	\$408.54			
376	CHRIS MITCHELL-YOUTH REVIVAL	\$200.00			
377	RALPH BAKER-MODERATOR	\$15.05			
378	THOMAS KIRKLAND-CLERK	\$15.05			
379	RALPH BAKER-MODERATOR	\$19.80			
380	VOID-WRITTEN TO WRONG PERSON	\$0.00			
381	THOMAS KIRKLAND, CLERK	\$19.80			
382	RICKY GILMORE-VICE MODERATOR	\$8.40			
383	ELDRIDGE CHILDREN HOME	\$42.00			
384	RICKY ILMORE-VICE MODERATOR	\$6.45			
385	GENE WHITE-CHILDREN HOME REP	\$100.00			
386	ELDRIDGE CHILDREN HOME	\$32.25			
387	JOEY PRICE-GRADUATE GIFT-CHILDREN HOME	\$50.00			
388	COFFEE BAPTIST VINEYARDS-YOUTH CAMP	\$6,357.00			
389	NATE ANGE-EVANGELIST	\$300.00			
390	CHRIS MITCHELL-EVANGELIST	\$150.00			
391	PAM PETTIS-REIMBURSE CAMP AWARDS	\$70.00			
392	JOEY PETTIW-REIMBURSE 1 CAMPER	\$99.00			
393	RALPH BAKER-MOERATOR	\$15.05			
394	RICKY GILMORE-VICE MODERATOR	\$6.45			
395	THOMAS KIRKLAND	\$15.00			
396	GENE WHITE	\$100.00			
397	ELDRIDGE CHILDREN HOME	\$32.25			\$9,722.09
					\$832.07
		GENERAL	MISSIONS	CHILDREN HOME	TOTAL TREASURY
	BALANCE 9/30/96	\$630.80	\$198.70	(\$689.40)	\$140.10
	DEPOSITS-FROM GENERAL DUES CHURCHES	(\$468.40)	\$128.65	\$339.75	\$0.00
	WINTER RETREAT			\$1,869.15	\$1,869.15
	YOUTH CAMP			\$1,268.81	\$1,268.81
	PLATE OFFERINGS			\$4,871.10	\$4,871.10
	CHURCH DUES	\$2,171.00	\$61.00	\$173.00	\$234.00
		\$2,333.40	\$388.35	\$7,832.41	\$10,554.16
		(\$1,631.09)		(\$8,091.00)	(\$9,722.09)
		702.31	\$388.35	(\$258.59)	\$832.07

1998 CHURCH DIRECTORY

Church	Pastor's name and address	Clerk's name and address	Sunday School Supt. name & address	CTS Director name & address	WNAC President name & address	Masters Men name & address
Evergreen	Bro. Joey Pettis Route 3, Box 466 Ozark, AL 36360	Sis Beulah Peavy P. O. Box 453 Ariton, AL 36311	Bro. Rodney Moffett Route 1, Box 25 Ariton, AL 36311	Bro. Alan Moffett Route 1 Ariton, AL 36311	Sis Lisa Harden Route 2 Ariton, AL 36311	
Mount Zion	Bro. Ralph Baker 3422 HWY 131 Clayton AL 36016	Bro. Lowell Vickers 607 Hollr Drive Eufaula, AL 36027	Bro. Lowell Vickers 607 Holly Drive Eufaula, AL 36027		Sis. Lillie Thompson 402 Kent Drive Eufaula, AL 36027	Bro. Lowell Vickers 607 Holly Drive Eufaula, AL 36027
New Prospect	Bro. Bobby Register Route 1, Box 78A Clopton, AL 36317	Sis. Joyce Mullins Route 1, Box 131M Clopton, AL 36317	Bro. William Sowell Route 1, Box 129 Clopton, AL 36317			
New Zion	Bro. Thomas Kirkland Route 3, Box 49 Headland AL 36345	Sis. Edna Whitehead 302 Murray St. Headland, AL 36345	Bro. Tom Shelley Route 2, Box 129 Headland, AL 36345			
Pilgrims Rest	Bro. C. L. Calpepper P. O. Box 241 Eufaula, AL 36027	Sis. Ruby Money Route 1, Box 131 Abbeville, AL 36310	Bro. Lamar Buxton Route 1 Abbeville, AL 36310	Bro. Gene Carr 111 Dothan Road Abbeville, AL 36310		
Pleasant Hill	Bro. Gene White Route 3, Box 241 Abbeville, AL 36310	Bro. Levon Overstreet 302 Stone Street Dothan, AL 36301				
Sardis	Bro. Ronnie Floyd 278 Outback Rd. Clayton, AL 36016	Sis. Susan Hurst 5 Pine Hill Dr. Eufaula, AL 363027	Bro. Everett O'Hearn Route 1, Box 191G Eufaula, AL 363027		Sis. Georgia Gilmore 1064 HWY 30 Clayton, AL 363016	
Union Grove	Bro. Dave Collins 3479 3rd Ave. Exit Dothan AL 36301	Sis. Sylvia Ethridge Route 4, Box 490 Abbeville, AL 36310	Bro. Will Maddox Route 4, Box 546 Abbeville, AL 36310			

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION - ASSOCIATIONAL YEAR 1996/1997

CHURCH NAME	DATE ORG.	MEM. 1997	ADDITIONS FOR 1997				TOT. REC.	LOSSES FOR 1997			MEM. 1997	S.S. RO.	AVE.	CTS RO.	AVE.	LAD. AUX.	MAS. MEN	AVE.	PRA. AVE.	ORD. MIN.
			BAP.	LET.	PRO. FAI.	OTH.		DEA.	ALL OTH.	TOT. LOST										
EVERGREEN	1885	57									57	34	25	25	20				20	2
MT. ZION	1891	82			1		1	3		3	80	18	9		13	5	4	7	1	
NEW PROSPECT	1874	87	3				3				90	31	28					18	2	
NEW ZION		126	7				7	3	3	6	127	63	45					48	1	
PILGRIMS REST	1884	87							4	4	87	19		20				18	1	
PLEASANT HILL	1876	65		2			2		1	1	66	14	12	8	8				1	
SARDIS	1906	186		7			7		4	4	189	79	42		12	6			2	
UNION GROVE	1877	43	4		5		9	1		1	51	35	25					10	1	
TOTALS		733	14	9	6		29	7	12	19	747	293	186	53	28	25	11	4	121	11

SCHEDULE G

1996/1997 CHURCH FINANCIAL INFORMATION
 SOUTHEASTERN ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTIST
 ASSOCIATIONAL YEAR 10/1/96 - 9/30/97

CHURCH NAME	CHURCH INCOME	RENOVATION REPAIRS	CHURCH SUPPLIES	CHURCH UTILITIES	REVIVALS RETREATS	HOME MISS.	YD/LAWN MAINT.	CHILDREN HOME	DELIGATE DUES	YOUTH ACTIVITY	MISC/STAFF EXPENSE	PASTOR SALARY	PROPERTY VALUES
EVERGREEN	29,110.64	4,696.61	451.08	1,963.50	850.00	3,815.50	655.09	500.00	127.00	1,359.58		13,350.00	100,000.00
MOUNT ZION	17,065.85	1,760.26	2,025.31	1,897.40	613.90	200.00	502.61	200.00	275.00	50.00		7,430.00	83,000.00
NEW PROSPECT	28,059.00		412.00	2,425.00	1,172.00	275.00	750.00		250.00	2,785.00		9,450.00	151,000.00
NEW ZION	65,706.93	10,754.71	2,052.51	4,611.26	2,328.24	3,927.52	680.00	1,744.90	250.00	2,300.00	10,716.85	21,489.62	250,000.00
PILGRIMS REST	17,655.00	2,500.77	142.06	1,528.52	625.00	400.00	150.48	300.00	192.50		2,045.13	6,500.00	100,000.00
PLEASANT HILL	16,739.40		2,327.36	2,466.81	650.00		1,045.72	565.44	164.50		604.38	9,100.00	130,000.00
SARDIS	80,176.13	28,942.28	758.75	8,090.84	7,078.60	1,820.00	2,770.00		225.00	1,986.00	14,544.63	28,191.25	393,000.00
UNION GROVE	INFORMATION NOT PROVIDED												
TOTAL	254,512.95	48,654.63	8,169.07	22,983.33	13,317.74	10,438.02	6,553.90	3,310.34	1,484.00	8,480.58	27,910.99	95,510.87	1,207,000.00

Schedule H

**FIRST QUARTERLY SESSION
PLEASANT HILL FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH
JANUARY 18, 1997**

The first quarterly session of the Southeastern Association of Free Will Baptist convened with the Pleasant Hill Church on January 18, 1997 with registration at 9:30 A. M. . The meeting was called to order by our moderator Brother Ralph Baker. The opening prayer was by Brother Thomas Kirkland.

The moderator, Brother Ralph Baker, took his Scripture from Psalms chapter 95 and made his remarks on everyone worshipping God with thanksgiving and praise for He is worthy. Very good!

Brother Brandon Baxley from the host church gave the welcome and Sister Pam Pettis gave the response. There was already the witness of the Holy Spirits presence meeting with us.

Brother Levon Overstreet gave the morning devotion taking his Scripture from 1 John chapter 4 verses four and five. He spoke on the subject of loving one another as being God's command. His remarks were very inspiring.

Brother Dave Collins, Pastor of Union Grove Church led the congregational singing.

There was an offering taken with the offertory prayer being led by Brother Gene White.

Special singing was rendered by Brother Dave Collins and the host Church. There was truly a great Spirit witnessed in the singing.

After the devotion was given Brother Baker gave recognition of Ministers and Deacons and asked for any non delegate members, there were fifteen present.

There were eleven ordained ministers present for this meeting. They were Brother Gene White, Brother Thomas Kirkland, Brother Dave Collins, Brother Ross Peters, Brother Clarence Culpepper, Brother Ricky Gilmore, Brother Joey Pettis, Brother Bobby Register, Brother James Franklin, Brother Ted Medley, and Brother Ralph Baker.

We had eight Deacons present for this meeting. They were Brother Earl Money, Brother Odis L. Buxton, Brother Levon Overstreet, Brother Johnny Gilmore, Brother Joe Whitehead, Brother Jessie Barnett Jr. and Brother Lowell Vickers.

Out of the eleven Churches reporting there were twenty four Delegates and six alternates who answered the roll call. They were Sister Teresa Ketchum from Chester Chapel; Sister Pam Pettis, Sister Lisa Harden, Sister Rita Moffett, and Sister Beulah Peavy from Evergreen ;Sister Sharon Peters and Sister Wilma Bullard from First Free Will; Sister Nina Vickers, Sister Leigh Adams, and Sister Dolly Vickers from Mount Zion; Sister Linda Cordell, Sister Barbara Register, Sister Emma Tew, and Sister Linda Sowell from New Prospect; Brother Roy Dean Smith, Sister Fay Culp, Sister Barbara Kirkland, and Sister Jeanette Trammell from New Zion; Brother Victor Wilson, Sister Betty Wilson, Sister Ruby Money, and Sister Mary Culpepper from Pilgrims Rest; Sister Kathy Land, Sister Mary Folds, Brother Brandon Baxley,

Brother Clifton Overstreet, and Sister Ann Anderson from Pleasant Hill; Sister Vivian Hopkins, Sister Sylvia Ethridge, and Sister Pearl Collins form Union Grove.

After the roll call of the Delegates they were seated along with the ordained for voting purposes.

The Moderator called for any announcements and any committee reports that might be ready. There was an announcement of the Pastors and Workers Conference to be held at the Madison Free Will Baptist Church in Madison, Alabama February 3, 4, 5, 1997. Everyone was encouraged to attend.

A short recess was taken at this time and we reassembled for the morning service. The song service was led again by Brother Dave Collins with a special from the host Church. Brother Thomas Kirkland was the speaker for this service. His Scripture was taken from John's Gospel chapter one. The title of the message was "Christ the Word."

After the invitation was given and the service was closed Brother Baker call on the host Church for directions for the noon meal and prayer.

We reassembled after the noon meal at 1:30 for the purpose of attending to the Associational Business:

The Credentials and Examining Committee had no report.

The Christian Board of Education report was given by Brother Joey Pettis.

Report:

Your Board Of Christian Education makes the following report:

For our first annual winter retreat we had 19 campers with 7 workers representing 5 Churches. Total combined attendance including the State Line Association was 63. The preaching of Bro. Randy Wright, the effective teaching of our staff and the activities of the day resulted in a very successful retreat. Thank you to all campers, workers and Churches who supported this event for the welfare of our youth.

The Board would like to suggest that we omit the February youth rally due to Churches possibly having Valentine Banquets that night and being unable to participate.

The Board has discussed and request your opinion regarding reducing rallies to two or three per year. Those would begin late afternoon with activities and culminate with a time of song and devotion.

The Youth Revival will be held March 24, 25 and 26 beginning at 7:00 P.M. The location will be announced later. Bro. Chris Mitchell will be the Evangelist. Encourage Youth from your Church to prepare special music for the week. Let any of the Board members know who will sing so we can schedule the all during the revival.

We would like to ask each Church to allow the board to present the slide presentation from camp '96 at your Church. We will be asking for a love offering for the Board's expenses at that time, however, if you are unable to give, we understand,

but still like to show the slides so you can see what goes on at Camp and why your young people love it.

This Year's Camp is scheduled for June 23 - 27 at the Coffee Baptist Vineyard with Bro. Nate Ange as Senior Evangelist and Bro. Chris Mitchell as Jr. Evangelist. We appreciate your support through the years and again ask you to encourage parents to send their youth again this year. Especially encourage the junior-age youth to attend. This age level has been dropping off while our teens are increasing. We need to get them involved while they are young, The cost to the Board continues to be \$99.00 per Camper. We have been absorbing the difference between the set cost and the amount charged to the Camper. The '97 camper fee will be announced after we determine our financial condition.

Since our skating social last year was such a success we hope to schedule another one within the next few months.

Respectfully submitted:

Bro. Ashley Culp

Bro. Mike O'Hearn

Bro. Joey Pettis

The Children's Home report was given by Brother Gene White.

The Finance Committees report was given by Sister Leigh Adams.

Report:

We the Finance Committee recommend that today's plate offering of \$95.02 be split equally between the General Fund and the Christian Board Of Education. Although funds are needed in the General Fund to defray costs of printing the minutes, the Board Of Christian Education continues to operate in the red. Therefore, we also recommend and challenge each Church to make a contribution if possible to this Board so they may continue to work for our young people without the burden of fund raising for their main objective.

The Board Of Christian Education is doing an excellent job as a Committee, but as an outreach of the Association, we should all take on the responsibility and provide as much support as possible.

Respectfully submitted:

Sis. Leigh Adams

Sis. Edna Whitehead

The Missions Committee had no report.

The nomination Committee report was given by Sister Nina Vickers.

Report:

We the Nominating Committee recommend that Bro. Thomas Kirkland serve as clerk and that the Southeastern Free Will Baptist Association bank account remain with Bro. Ralph Baker and Bro, Thomas Kirkland signing checks

We also recommend that Sister Pam Pettis serve as Assistant Clerk.

Respectfully Submitted;

Sis. Nina Vickers

Sis. Barbara Register

The Resolution Committee report was given by Sister Pam Pettis.

There was some miscellaneous. business ready for discussion which came under the heading of the election of a Children's Home Board Member to replace Brother Davey Lee Kirkland. Brother Gene White was elected to replace Brother Davey Lee Kirkland.

There was a need for a member of the Credentials and Examining Board to be replaced. Brother James Franklin was elected to replace Brother Dave Lee Kirkland.

The Associational Body requested that Brother Gene White ask for an annual financial report from the Children's Home.

The Meeting was dismissed by a rising vote of thanks to the host Church for their hospitality with prayer.

**SECOND QUARTERLY SESSION
HICKORY GROVE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH
APRIL 19, 1997**

Registration began at 9:30 A. M. for the 2nd quarterly meeting of the Southeastern Association of Free Will Baptist. The meeting was called to order by the Moderator Brother Ralph Baker at 10:00 A. M. Brother Ricky Gilmore led in the opening prayer. After prayer Brother Baker gave the opening Moderators remarks by giving a brief history of Free Will Baptist holding to the faith.

Welcome was given by brother Ted Medley. Response was given by Brother Gene Carr. Brother Charles Hinesley led the congregation in three songs "Redeemed," "Victory In Jesus" and "I Love To Tell The Story." The singing was spirit filled and everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves.

Brother Ted Medley brought the devotion taking his Scripture from second Chronicles 7:14. He did an explanation on "Humility," "Praying" ""Seeking His Face" "and "Turning From Our Wicked Ways. He stressed that if we followed this pattern and kept Jesus number one in our lives that He would hear, forgive and heal. An inspiring devotion.

Brother Baker then recognized the visitors, ministers, and deacons that were present. There were twelve visitors, eight ministers and fifteen deacons.

Registered ministers were; Brother Ricky Gilmore from Sardis, Brother Ted Medley from Hickory Grove, Brother David Collins from Union Grove, Brother Joey Pettis from Evergreen, Brother Gene White from Pleasant Hill, Brother Bobby Register from New Prospect, Brother Ross Peters from First Free Will and Brother Thomas Kirkland from New Zion.

Deacons that registered were; Brother Lowell Vickers from Mount Zion, Brother Levon Overstreet from Pleasant Hill, Brother Earl Money from Pilgrims Rest, Brother Gene Carr from Pilgrims Rest, Brother Emmett O'Hearn from Sardis, Brother Johnny Gilmore from Sardis, Brother Oscar Richards from Hickory Grove, Brother Joe Whitehead from New Zion, Brother Larry Peavy from Evergreen, Brother Bart Harden from Evergreen, Brother Billy Hudspeth Chester Chapel, Brother John Coates from Chester Chapel, Brother Kenneth Blalock from Hickory Grove and Brother William Sowell from New Prospect.

Visitors who registered were; Sister Tiny Harpe Hickory Grove, Sister Jo Overstreet Pleasant Hill, Sister Merlene Trawick Hickory Grove, Kelsey and Brenda ? Sister Fay Culp New Zion, Sister Ellen Brooks ? Sister Rosa Lee Bagwell Pilgrims Rest,

Brother Jeffery Pettis Evergreen, Sister Annette White Pleasant Hill, Sister Ruth Smith Pilgrims Rest and Sister Gladys Wilson Pilgrims Rest.

Delegates are as follows: Chester Chapel Sister Jean Bush, Sister Annis Hudspeth and Sister Mildred Coates; Evergreen, Sister Beulah Peavy, Sister Lisa Harden; First Free Will, Sister Sharon Peters, Sister Wilma Bullard; New Zion, Brother Roy Dean Smith, Sister Barbara Kirkland, Sister Wilma Nell Barnett, Sister Lori Shelley and sister Edna Whitehead; Hickory Grove, Sister Martha Blalock, Sister Estelle Blalock, Sister Jane Stinson and Sister Donna Medley; Mount Zion, Sister Nina Vickers; New Prospect, Sister Terry Nance, Sister Barbara Register, Sister Christine Brown; Union Grove, Sister Linda Floyd, Sister Rosa McCoy, Sister Willie Mae Skeen; Pi;grims Rest, Sister Thelma Hancock, Sister Ruby Money and Sister Mary Culpepper; Pleasant Hill, Sister Dorothy Overstreet, Sister Ann Anderson and Brother Andy Anderson. Sardis Sister Faye O'Hearn. There was also one alternate registered, Sister Johnnie Taylor.

Time was given by the Moderator for announcements. There were several sings and two revivals announced. After the announcements there was a short recess..

We reassembled at 11:00 A. M. for the morning worship service, Our Moderator Brother Ralph Baker opened the service by leading in prayer, Brother Charles Hinesley led the congregation with two songs "Love Lifted Me" and "There Is Power In The Blood"

An Offering was taken of \$111.00 to be designated by the Finance Committee. Bor. Bobby Register and Bro. Ted Medley served as ushers.

The special singing was rendered by Brother Ted Medley and his wife Sister Donna. The Moderator introduce the speaker , Brother Joey Pettis, Pastor of Evergreen Church..

Brother Joey chose for his Scripture Isaiah chapter forty verse eleven. The theme was "Preach The Word" and he titled his message "Look After The Lambs." It was a very touching and inspiring message.

We were dismissed for a very good lunch prepared by the host Church. Everyone enjoyed themselves eating and the good fellowship.

We reassembled at 1:30 P. M. for the purpose of taking care of the business of the Association with prayer led by Brother Ross Peters. There was only the giving of the committee reports at this session so we began by having the report on The Board Of Christian Education. The report were as follows:

The Board Of Christian Education submits the following report:

Our annual youth revival was held March 24th - 26th at New Zion and was a great success. We appreciate all those who came and especially the many youth which attended and participated.

We canceled the last youth rally due to churches having their valentines banquets during that time. Our next rally will be May 17th at Sardis.

We thank all the churches that allowed Bro. Ashley to show the slide presentation from Camp '96, We greatly appreciate the offerings. This money will be spent wisely. We feel your youth have benefited from this presentation. Several youth who have never attended camp before have been inspired to attend this year.

Each Church should have received worker applications and a poster. If you wish to work this year please complete these applications and within the next week to.

**Bro. Mike Beckon
Route 1, Box 162
Slocomb, AL 36375**

Camper applications will be sent to each Church soon. Cost this year will be \$75.00 per camper. We have been able to keep this cost down due to your faithful giving to finance the Board's activities for the youth.

Most importantly, we appreciate your prayerful support and are looking forward to working with all the Churches in the Association in our youth ministries.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Bro. Mike O'Hearn
Bro. Ashley Culp
Bro. Joey Pettis**

The report for the Finance Committee:

There was an offering of \$111.00 and it was recommended that \$61.00 be give to a graduating student at the Children's Home and the balance to be allocated to the missions fund to help pay the cost of having Brother Dennis Haygood at the annual session.

Second; In the past our association has paid Bro. Davey Kirkland \$100.00 per quarter to defray cost of attending Board meetings at the Children's Home. This was stopped due to lack of funds. At the time we elected Bro. Gene White to represent our Association on the Children's Home Board, we did not discuss this. We recognize that

Bro. Gene has expenses of gas, motel, and food in attending these meetings and make a motion we pay Bro. Gene \$100.00 per quarter from the general fund to help on expenses, as long as the Association has the funds available, this is effective as of today.

Respectfully submitted;
Estelle Blalock
Edna Whitehead

Motion was seconded and the vote was carried.

The report of the Missions Committee was given by Brother Ricky Gilmore.

The Children's Home report was given by Brother Gene White.

Resolutions Committee had no report.

The placement Committee had no report.

The Examining and Credentials Committee was given by Brother Lowell Vickers as follows:

The Credentials and Examining Committee wishes to advise the Association that Rev. Pat Wilson has voluntarily surrendered his Free Will Baptist Credentials to our moderator. Rev. Wilson has joined another denomination.

Respectfully submitted;
Bro. Lowell Vickers

Misc. of floor business for discussion. None.

Motion for rising vote of thanks for the good food and fellowship given by Bro. Johnny Gilmore. Association Adjourned.

THIRD QUARTERLY SESSION
SARDIS FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH
JULY 12, 1998

Registration began at 9:30 A.M. for the 3rd Quarterly meeting of the Southeastern Association of Free Will Baptist Meeting was called to order by our Moderator Bro. Ralph Baker at 10:00 A.M. Bro. Mike O'Hearn led in the morning prayer. Bro. Baker gave the Moderators opening remarks on "Having High Praise Of The Lord In Your Heart."

Welcome was given by Bro. Johnny Gilmore. Response by Bro. Lowell Vickers. Bro. Bryan Gilmore led the congregation in two songs, "Victory In Jesus" and "Just A Little Talk With Jesus." There was a great Spirit in the singing.

Bro. Johnny Gilmore brought a real good devotion giving the "Qualifications and Duties of Preachers" using Scriptures from 1 Timothy 3; 1 Peter 5:1-4; Acts 20:28; and Ezekiel 34; about "Failing to feed the flock." He challenged the members there "Not to allow circumstances to keep you from enjoying worshipping. We need to come and worship God." A very timely devotion.

Bro. Baker then recognized the visitors, ministers, and deacons who were present There were ten ministers, fourteen visitors, twenty six delegates, and ten deacons who registered at this meeting,

Ministers who registered were Bro. Thomas Kirkland from New Zion, Bro. Ralph Baker from Mount Zion, Bro. Ricky Gilmore form Sardis, Bro. Dave Collins from Union, Bro. Clarence Culpepper from Pilgrims Rest, Bro. Gene White from Pleasant Hill, Bro. Joey Pettis from Evergreen, Bro. Randy Stokes from Chester Chapel, and Bro. Ross Peters from First Church.

There were fourteen visitors who registered; Sis. Hannah Adams from Mount Zion, Sis. Hayley Adams from Mount Zion, Sis. Heather Sanders from Pilgrims Rest, Bro. Mike O;Hearn from Sardis, Sis. Trevor Tuner from Mount Zion, Bro. Joey Hudspeth from Chester Chapel, and Bro. Tracy Gissendaner, Sis. Cathy Gilmore, Sis. Loree Clark, Bro. Ed Clark, Sis. Lisa Gilmore, Sis Renee Gilmore, Sis. Beverly O'Hearn, Sis. Wylena Cutchen all from Sardis.

Delegates answering roll call were; Chester Chapel, Sis. Kaye Ludlum, Sis. Debbie Davis, and Sis. Annice Hudspeth; Evergreen, Sis. Beulah Peavy, Sis. Lisa Harden, Sis. Pam Pettis; Mount Zion, Sis Leigh Adams, Sis Melinda Owens, Sis. Lillie Thompson, Sis. Dolly Vickers, Sis. Nina Vickers; New Prospect, Bro. Everett Mullins; New Zion, Sis. Miriam Shelley, Sis. Johnny Taylor, Sis Edna Whitehead, Sis. Barbara Kirkland,

Sis. Jeanette Trammell; Pilgrims Rest, Sis. Thelma Hancock, Sis. Ruby Money, Sis. Mary Culpepper, Sardis, Sis. Jennings Gilmore, Bro. Scott Land; Union, Sis. Linda Floyd, Sis. Pearl Collins, Sis Sylvia Ethridge.

Deacons who registered were; Bro. Earl Money from Pilgrims Rest, Bro. Johnny Gilmore from Sardis, Bro. Lowell Vickers from Mount Zion. Bro Bryan Gilmore from Sardis, Bro. Joe Whitehead from New Zion, Bro. Bart Harden from Evergreen, Bro. Gene Carr from Pilgrims Rest, Bro. John Coates from Chester Chapel, Bro, Billy Hudspeth from Chester Chapel, and Bro. William Sowell from New Prospect.

After the roll call of the delegates they were seated by the ordained who were present and any business that was ready was called for. There was no business at this time and announcements were called for. There were two revivals announced; one at New Prospect and Union. Also, two sings, one at Pleasant Hill and Sardis. The Body was dismissed for a short recess.

We reassembled at 11:00 A.M. for the morning worship service This was called to order by the vice Moderator Bro. Ricky Gilmore. Bro. Bryan Gilmore led the congregation with singing, "Just Over In Glory Land," "I'll Be Satisfied," and an offering was taken, Bro. Mike O'Hearn praying the offertory prayer. Bro. Bryan Gilmore led in two more songs, "Kneel At The Cross," and "Living By Faith." Bro. Ricky Gilmore a special, a real touching song, "I Will Praise The Lord." Bro. Joey Hudspeth also sang a beautiful song, "He Makes It Rain For Me." Bro. Ricky Gilmore introduced the morning speaker, Bro. Dave Collins, Pastor of Union Grove Church.

Bro. Dave Collins took his Scripture from 11 Timothy 4:2. and preached on "Three Things We Need To Preach The Word." 1. We Must Be Called. 2. We Must Be Convicted to Preach The Word. 3. We Must Be Committed to Preaching The Word. We need to be friendly, helpful, interested in people, love them, generous, cautious in criticism, and very considerate of other persons views. A very good and timely message. At the close of the message Bro. Ricky Gilmore gave an invitation. Bro. Bryan Gilmore led the invitation Hymn, "Just As I Am." The Body was dismissed for lunch served by the host Church. A very delicious meal prepared by the ladies at Sardis.

We reassembled for business with prayer led by Bro. Ralph Baker. There was no old business to come before the body, only the reports and business of the committees.'

The report of the Board Of Christian Education was given by Bro. Joey Pettis. He gave his report of the Youth Rally that was held at Sardis and challenged all the Churches to participate in the rallies and the Pastors to promote it in their Churches. He thanked

everyone for making camp a great success. We had sixty five campers and workers . He also thanked the workers for their hard work and dedication during camp week and the Churches for their financial support to camp. Then announced a meeting at Camp Vineyard for planning for 1998. The date was Tuesday July 15th.

Respectfully Submitted;
Bro. Mike O'Hearn
Bro. Ashley Culp
Bro. Joey Pettis

The Children's Home report was given by Brother Gene White; His report was the rain had ruined their garden this year and they needed foods for the freezers. the new buildings were finished and plans for a gymnasium was being drawn up. One was found in Florida but it had to be disassembled and reassembled on site. They had hired new house parents and ask for continued support. Next meeting for the board was August 2nd, 1997. Joey Price sent thanks for the donation given him. Report given as information.

Respectfully;
Bro. Gene White

Finance Committee report given by Sis. Leigh Adams;
There was an offering of \$113.75 and the committee made the following request.
We the Finance Committee recommend that today's plate offering of \$113.75 go to the Board Of Christian Education to help defray the cost of Youth Camp.

Respectfully Submitted;
Sis. Edna Whitehead
Sis. Leigh Adams

A motion was made to this effect, seconded and carried.

Missions Committee report was given by Bro. Ricky Gilmore as follows;
We the Missions Committee submit that Bro. Dennis Haygood will be preaching our annual Association meeting in October. We also submit that we get him a room at Best Western in Abbeville.

Submitted By;
Bro. Ricky Gilmore
Bro. Dave Collins
Bro. Gene Carr

Motion was made, seconded and carried.

The Credentials and Examining Committee report was given by Bro. Lowell Vickers. July 12, 1997. The Credentials committee on this date met and examined Bro. Randy Stokes as was requested by Chester Chapel Church. It is the unanimous opinion of this committee that Bro. Stokes is not grounded in Free Will Baptist Doctrine and does not believe Free Will Baptist Doctrine. Therefore, the Credentials Committee cannot recommend that Bro. Stokes be licensed as a Free Will Baptist minister at this time.

Respectfully Submitted;
Bro. Lowell Vickers, Chairman

Motion was made, Seconded and carried by the body.

There was a lengthy letter of withdrawal prepared by Bro. Billy Hudspeth, Chairman of the Board Of Deacons of Chester Chapel, read by Bro. Joey Hudspeth to the Association Body.

The Moderator, Bro. Ralph Baker, requested everyone come to the altar and pray for God's leadership and guidance to remain with us. After the prayer at the altar we had as our closing song, "Amazing Grace."

A rising vote of gratitude was given to the Host Church for their hospitality for the day and Bro Ross Peters prayed our closing prayer.

AUGUST 15, 1997 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

The Executive Board met at Mount Zion Church for the purpose of discussing whether to inform Chester Chapel about their membership status with the State and National Associations, and, also Hickory Groves standing with the Association under the condition of the marital condition of their Pastor.

The meeting was called to order by our Moderator, Bro. Ralph Baker who led the Committee in prayer. All members of the Committee were present. The decision was to notify Chester Chapel their withdrawal automatically withdrew them from the State and National Associations, and to write Bro. Kenneth Blalock to get his Deacon Board and Pastor together to meet with the Credentials and Examining Board at Hickory Grove August 29, 1997, 7:00 P.M. if possible.

On August 29, 1997 the Credentials and Examining Board met at Hickory Grove Church. The meeting was called to order by our Moderator, Bro Ralph Baker who explained the reason for the meeting and led in prayer. All members of the Board was present along with the Deacons of Hickory Grove (Bro. Franklin Was out of town and could not meet with us). The Deacons present were; Bro. Kenneth Blalock, Chairman
Bro. Oscar Richards
Bro. William W. Lee

There was a lengthy discussion giving Scriptural reasons for the actions the Credentials and Examining Committee was compelled to take and was answered by Bro. Kenneth Blalock who said; "Bro. Franklin told them he was going to marry again if they felt it was wrong he would resign the Church." He stated the Church voted to back Bro. Franklin in his decision what ever he decided. Again Scriptural matters were discussed and the results were left to the Deacons to resolve.

**ANNUAL SESSION - FRIDAY NIGHT
PILGRIMS REST FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH
OCTOBER 17, 1997**

We assembled with Pilgrims Rest Church with registration beginning at 6:30 P.M. and the Moderator, Bro. Ralph Baker called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. making remarks of "how blessed we were for having the privilege to come to the meeting," Bro. Bobby Register prayed the opening prayer and Bro. Baker welcomed everyone. Special Welcome and recognition was extended to Bro. Ronnie Floyd and Bro. Dennis and Sis. Judy Haygood.

Song service consisted of three songs led by Bro. Earl Money with Bro. Roy Wilson serving as musician. The songs were "Amazing Grace"
"I'll Fly Away"
"He Set Me Free"

An offering was taken and Bro. Dave Franks Jr. prayed the offertory prayer and especially recognized him as our Foreign Missionary to Uruguay.

Bro. Ricky Gilmore introduced Bro. Dennis Haygood Home Missionary to South Huntsville, Alabama as our speaker for the evening message.

Bro. Dennis took his Scripture from Habakkuk 3:2, and titled his message "Hunger For Revival." He emphasized there was two places where the hunger for revival must begin, it was first in the pulpit; secondly in the pew, and in order for this to be accomplished God's Word must be received as Truth, believed and obeyed. There must also be a rejection of Godless things of the world and a walk that is well pleasing to God. That we realize our responsibility to people and our obligation to God with deep compassion for the lost, recognizing that multitudes are going to hell. Many of us here tonight are saved because someone cared enough to witness and pray for our Salvation. A very good timely and pointed message.

An invitation was given with many responding by coming to the altar praying for real revival in our Churches.

Sis. Pam Pettis was appointed to serve on the Children's Home Committee for Saturday.

Bro. Johnny Gilmore was appointed to serve on the Placement Committee for Saturday. We dismissed to the fellowship Hall of the Church for some delicious refreshments.

The Credentials and Examining Committee met with Bro. Ronnie Floyd, Pastor of Sardis Church, and found him to be Doctrinally and morally sound.

There were thirty five who registered for the Friday evening service. Seven Pastors, Six Deacons, Eight Delegates and thirteen Visitors.

**ANNUAL SESSION - SATURDAY
NEW PROSPECT FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH
OCTOBER 18, 1997**

Registration began at 9:30 A.M. Meeting was called to order by the Vice Moderator, Bro. Ricky Gilmore and altar prayer was led by Bro. Ronnie Floyd. After prayer Sis. Lillian Wilson ask for time to give her testimony about God's healing her from cancer. A very good testimony giving the Lord the glory.

Welcome was given by Bro. Everett Mullins. Response by Bro. Bro Joey Pettis.

Congregational singing was led by Bro Everett Mullins with Sis. Linda Sowell as musician. Bro, Mullins led us in two songs; "Surely Goodness And Mercy" and "The Wonder Of It All"

Bro. Bobby Register brought the morning devotion from 11 Timothy 4:2 He challenged us to; "Preach The Word"

"Be Instant (Be Ready)."

"We'll Give An Account Of Every Service"

The Word Of God Is Powerful"

A very good devotion!

Recognition of Ministers, Deacons, Visitors and roll call for the Delegates. There were nine Ministers six Deacons, eighteen Delegates and twelve Visitors present at this meeting. Roll call for the Delegates and they were seated by the ordained.

Ministers present were Bro Clarence Culprpper, Bro. Thomas Kirkland, Bor. Ralph Baker, Bro. Bobby Register, Bro. Ronnie Floyd, Bro. Ricky Gilmore, Bro. Joey Pettis and Bro Ross Peters. We had two visiting Ministers with us: They were Bro. Dave Franks Jr. and Bro Dennis Haygood.

Deacons present were; Bro, Earl Money, Bro Lowell Vickers, Bro Jessie Barnett, Bro. Joe Whitehead, Bro. Johnny Gilmore and Bro. Bryan Gilmore.

Delegates and Alternates answering roll call; Evergreen, Sis. Pam Pettis, Sis Lillian Wilson and Sis Lisa Harden; Mount Zion, Sis Lillie Thompson and Sis Nina Vickers; New Prospect, Sis. Christine Brown, Sis. Joyce Mullins, Sis. Terry Nance, Bro. Everett Mullins and Bro. Lang Sowell; New Zion, Bro. Larry Whitehead, Sis Edna Whitehead, and Sis. Johnnie Taylor; Pilgrims Rest, Sis. Ruby Money, Sis. Judy Wilson and Sis. Mary Culpepper;

Pleasant Hill, no Delegates present; Sardis, Sis. Juleen Gilmore; Union Sis Betty Ethridge and Sis. Sylvia Ethridge. A total of nineteen.

Visitors who registered were Sis. Barbara Register, Sis Wilma Nell Barnett, Sis. Lori Shelley, Bro. Jeffery Pettis, Sis. Jane Sowell, Sis. Gwen Sowell, Sis. Sharon Peters. Sis. Janett Cordell, Sis. Jerri Cordell and Sis. Linda Cordell. There were two visiting Ministers , they were; Bro, Dave Franks Jr, and Bro. Dennis Haygood and wife Judy.

A motion was made and seconded to seat the Delegates and the vote was carried. The voting body for the annual meeting consisted of eight Ministers, six Deacons, and nineteen Delegates making a total of thirty three voters.

Announcements were called for and any reports that was ready at this time. The Board Of Christian Education was ready to give their report and reported as followers:

We would like to thank everyone for their attendance at the August Rally. There were three Churches of our Association present with one visiting Church. We would also like to thank you for your continued financial support. The endeavours of this Board depend on the funds available. We appreciate your concern for our youth.

The Youth Revival has not been finalized. We will bring you information as it comes together.

We would like to make the following changes in the Youth Rallies:

- (1) Change the February Rally to March because of Churches having Valentine's Banquets during that time.
- (2) Extend the length of Rally to provide a time of fun and fellowship prior to the program or service. We believe our youth need to have more fellowship with one another to strengthen their bonds in Christ

March 9th - New Zion

May 16th - Sardis

August 15th - Evergreen

November 14th - New Prospect

The Winter Retreat will be January 2nd and 3rd, 1998 at the Vineyard with Bro. Danny Smith as the Evangelist. Youth Camp will be June 22nd through 26th, 1998. Bro. Randy Wright will be the Evangelist and Bro. Mike Beckon will be the Director.

Respectfully Submitted ;

Bro. Mike O'Hearn

Bro. Ashley Culp

Bro. Joey Pettis

The State letter was completed by adding the names from the letters who volunteered as Delegates. They were Sis. Barbara Register, New Prospect;

Sis. Barbara Kirkland, New Zion and Sis. Nina Vickers, Mount Zion.

The Moderator announced a short recess to return by 11:00 O'clock for the morning worship service.

At 11:00 A.M. we returned to our seats and Bro. Everett Mullins led the congregation with three beautiful songs; "He Took My Sins Away"

"He Set Me Free"

and "Redeemed"

an offering was taken by Bro. Ronnie Floyd and Bro. Johnny Gilmore serving as Ushers. Special singing was by Sis. Linda Sowell; "He Hung The Moon"

and "The Middle Man"

A great job with much expression.

Bro. Ricky Gilmore introduced our speaker for the morning message, Bro. Dennis Haygood. He selected Acts 6:8-15 for the Scripture reading stating in his opening remarks that we must preach to our people because of crisis that are sure to come. The title of his message was; "How Christians respond to crisis," showing how Stephen responded to the crisis facing him, with a twelve point outline. He challenged us by stating, "It was at death that Stephen left the greatest testimony. Therefore, look beyond death and see Jesus, take courage God still cares." A very informative and inspiring message.

Directions were given to the fellowship hall and Bro. Lowell Vickers prayed the dismissal prayer and also the blessing on the noon meal.

After a very delicious lunch prepared by the ladies of New Prospect Church we assembled back into the sanctuary to attend to the Associational business. The session was opened by prayer led by Bro. Ralph Baker. Special singing was by Sis, Linda Sowell. She sang, "In Midst Of It All." A beautiful song.

A report was given by Bro. Dave Franks Jr. on the work in Uruguay. One thing they will face when returning to Uruguay is the place they are meeting in will not be available after May 1998. Requested prayer that they find a suitable place for their meeting place. This was received as information.

Conditions of the standing of Hickory Grove was explained by the Moderator, Bro. Ralph Baker stating that they be declared out of fellowship until such time that they get their house in order. A motion was made that we withdraw fellowship until this was taken care of. It was seconded and vote was carried.

The report of Committees were as follows:

The Credentials and Examining Committee make the following report;

At the request of Sardis Church, the Credentials and Examining Committee met with their Pastor, The Rev. Ronnie Floyd, who is requesting membership in our Association. Bro. Floyd furnished our clerk with his former Association. a request for a letter of recommendation will be made. Pending receipt of said letter, Bro. Floyd was welcomed into the Association by this Committee, and we recommend that the body of the Association do likewise. Respectfully submitted by;

Bro. Lowell Vickers, Chairman

M S C

The Credentials and Examining Committee considered a letter to the Association from First Free Will Baptist Church in Eufauls, Alabama. Their letter was to advise that they were temporarily withdrawing fellowship with the Association. No reason was given for their action. Respectfully Submitted;

Bro. Lowell Vickers, Chairman

M S C

The Missions Committee make the following report;
We recommend that we pay Bro. Dennis Haygood \$650,00. Respectfully Submitted;

Bro. Ricky Gilmore

Bro. Gene Carr

Bro. David Collins

M S C

The Finance Committee make the following report.
Designate plate offering for Friday night and Saturday totalling \$93.00 be given to Missions account to help defray cost of Missions expenses.

Recommend allocation of funds for next fiscal year to continue as before:

General Treasury	35%
Board Of Christian Education	25%
Children's Home	15%
Missions Committee	5%
Moderator	7%
Clerk / Treasury	7%
Vice Moderator	3%
Assistant Clerk	3%

Respectfully Submitted; Sis. Edna Whitehead

Sis. Lisa Harden

Sis Christine Brown

M S C

We the Nominating Committee recommend the following nominations;

For Moderator = Bro. C. L. Culpepper
Vice Moderator - Bro. Ralph Baker
Clerk - Bro. Thomas Kirkland
Assistant Clerk - Sis. Pam Pettis

Credentials & Examining Committee

Bro. Thomas Kirkland	Term expires	2001
Bro. Lowell Vickers	“ “	2001
Bro. Joey Pettis	“ “	1998

Christian Board Of Education

Bro. Joey Pettis	Term expires	2000
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Children's Home

Bro. Johnny Gilmore	October	2000
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Finance Committee

Sis. Leigh Adams	October	2000
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Missions Committee

Sis. Johnnie Ruth Taylor	October	2000
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Nominating Committee

Sis Barbara Register	October	2000
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Placement Committee

Sis. Sylvia Ethridge	October	2000
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Resolutions Committee

	October	2000
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Respectfully Submitted;

Sis. Nina Vickers
Sis. Barbara Register
Sis. Linda Sowell

The complete slate was presented for the nominee's to be voted on together.
Motion was made, seconded and carried.

The Placement Committee gave the following recommendations;

They recommend the following Churches host the Association in 1998:

January 17th, 1998

Mount Zion

April 18th, 1998

New Zion

July 11th, 1998

Union Grove

October 16th, 1998

Evergreen

October 17th, 1998

Sardis

Respectfully Submitted;

Sis. Ruby Money

Sis Lillie Thompson

Sis Virginia Kirkland

We had a memorial service after the reports were finished. It was given by Bro. Bobby Register. He took his text from Hebrews 11:13-15 and gave very inspiring comments on behalf of the deceased of the past year. Those who had expired were;

Union Grove

Bro. Dan Edward Welcher

Mount Zion

Sis. Mildred Stanley

Sis. Lorane Sowell

Sis. Katherine Champion Turner

New Zion

Sis. Ruth Herring

Bro. Jack Shelley

Sis. Maudie Snellgrove Kirkland

Hickory Grove

Bro. Thomas Hartley

A very good inspiring service

The business session was finished Bro. Ralph Baker turned the position over to Bro. Clarence Culpepper the new Moderator. Bro. Clarence requested that we have an Executive Board Meeting on October 28, 1997 at Mount Zion Church for the purpose of making the 1998 year calendar.

Substitute speaker for the year is; Bro. Ralph Baker.

Memorial service is; Bro. Thomas Kirkland

A motion was made to give New Prospect Church a rising vote of appreciation for their hospitality and the good lunch served. Motion made to adjourn and carried . Pray that God will lead, guide and guard us throughout the new year and help us grow first in grace and knowledge of His Word, then in souls added to His Churches.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
OCTOBER 28,1997**

The Executive Committee met at Mount Zion Free Will Baptist Church October 28, 1997 at 7:00 P.M. to plan the program for the coming year. The meeting was called to order by Bro. C. L. Culpepper Who ask Bro. Ralph Baker to pray the opening prayer.

The members present for this meeting were; Bro. Larry Peavy and Bro. Joey Pettis, Evergreen; Bro. Lowell Vickers and Bro. Ralph Baker, Mount Zion; Bro. Troy Barron and Bro Bobby Register, New Prospect; Sis. Edna Whitehead and Bro. Thomas Kirkland, New Zion; Bro. Victor Wilson and Bro. Clarence Culpepper, Pilgrims Rest; Bro. Levon Overstreet and Bro. Gene White, Pleasant Hill: Bro. Johnnie Gilmore and Bro. Ronnie Floyd, Sardis; Bro. Holt Stokes and Bro. Dave Collins, Union Grove. These were accompanied by Bro. Joe Whitehead, Sis. Pam Pettis, and Sis. Betty Wilson.

The first item was to come up with a Theme for the preaching of the year. There were many suggestions but the body settled on two very good ones; "As For Me And My House We Will Serve The Lord" (Joshua 24:15) and "Lighting The Revival Fires" (Psalms 39:3). The conclusion was to use Joshua 24:15, "As For Me And My House We Will Serve The Lord" which carried the majority vote.

Speakers was then selected for each quarterly session. They were the following;

First Quarter - Mount Zion January 18, 1998 - Bro. Joey Pettis

Second Quarter - New Zion April 18, 1998 - Bro. Dave Collins

Third Quarter - Union Grove July 11, 1998 - Bro. Ronnie Floyd

The annual meeting:

Friday evening - Evergreen Committee Suggest that Missions Committee

Saturday morning - Sardis get speaker for both services.

Bro. Ralph Baker was selected for the substitute speaker for the year

Bro. Thomas Kirkland was selected for the Memorial service.

The program, Acts 1:8, which was accepted by the State Association was discussed and motion made to get our State Promotional Director to come to the First Quarterly session and present the program to the Association. **M S C**

SOUTHEASTERN LADIES WNAC

The Southeastern WNAC met with Sardis Free Will Baptist Church on Friday, March 27, 1997, at 7:00 P.M. Thirteen members from three churches were present. Mrs Unice Starling called the meeting to order and led in prayer. We sang "The Old Rugged Cross" and "Glory To His Name", With Mrs. Georgia Gilmore playing the piano and Mrs. Unice Starling leading.

The minutes were read and approved. Oral reports were given by the different churches. Pilgrims Rest Free Will Baptist Church will host the next session on Friday evening, March 27, 1998.

Mrs. Cathy Gilmore gave a very inspiring talk about Patience. We were dismissed with prayer by Mrs. Nina Vickers, Delicious refreshments were served in the church fellowship hall.

Nina Vickers, Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance Brought Forward	\$201.42
Received at Convention	<u>18.00</u>
Total	\$218.42
Paid to Cathy Gilmore (Speaker)	-25.00
Balance on Hand	\$194.42

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS
OF THE
SOUTHEASTERN ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL
BAPTIST CHURCHES

PREAMBLE:

IN ORDER TO ENCOURAGE AND INSPIRE THE CHURCHES OF THE ASSOCIATION TO ENGAGE IN A MORE DEFINITE PLAN OF WORK, TO LABOR TOGETHER IN UNITY AND TO COORDINATE THEIR EFFORTS FOR A GREATER PROGRAM TO CHRIST AND HIS KINGDOM, WE DO HEREBY ADOPT THIS CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS.

CONSTITUTION:

ARTICLE 1. NAME - THIS ORGANIZATION SHALL BE KNOWN AS THE SOUTHEASTERN ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCHES.

ARTICLE 2. OFFICERS - THE OFFICERS OF THIS ASSOCIATION SHALL BE A MODERATOR, AN ASSISTANT MODERATOR, A CLERK AND TREASURER AND AN ASSISTANT CLERK AND TREASURER. THE OFFICES OF CLERK AND TREASURER MAY BE COMBINED.

ARTICLE 3. MEMBERSHIP - THIS ASSOCIATION SHALL BE COMPOSED OF CHURCHES IN GOOD STANDING ACCORDING TO THE FAITH AND PRACTICES OF THE TREATISE OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTIST.

ARTICLE 4. ADDITIONS - CHURCHES DESIRING MEMBERSHIP IN THIS ASSOCIATION SHALL SEND DELEGATES BEARING A PETITIONARY LETTER. IF THE ABOVE CHURCH(ES), UPON EXAMINATION BY THE CREDENTIALS AND EXAMINING COMMITTEE, ARE FOUND TO BE IN ORDER AND PROPERLY ORGANIZED AS SPECIFIED IN THE TREATISE, THEY SHALL, BY VOTE OF THIS BODY, BE RECEIVED IN FULL FELLOWSHIP.

ARTICLE 5. REPRESENTATION - EACH CHURCH IN THIS ASSOCIATION IS EXPECTED TO BE REPRESENTED AT EACH QUARTERLY AND ANNUAL SESSION OF THE ASSOCIATION BY LETTER AND DELEGATES AS PRESCRIBED IN THE BY-LAWS.

ARTICLE 6. INDEPENDENCE OF CHURCHES EACH CHURCH OF THIS ASSOCIATION IS A DISTINCT AND INDEPENDENT ORGANIZATION HAVING FULL AND ABSOLUTE AUTHORITY TO MANAGE IT'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS, TO ELECT IT'S PASTOR, OFFICERS, TO RECEIVE AND DISMISS MEMBERS.

SECTION 1. EACH CHURCH IN THIS ASSOCIATION SHALL HAVE, HOLD AND CONTROL IT'S PROPERTY, REAL AND OTHERWISE.

SECTION 2. THE ASSOCIATION HOLDS NO AUTHORITY OVER OR IN THE MEMBER CHURCHES. IT IS ONLY A VEHICLE THROUGH WHICH MEMBER CHURCHES FELLOWSHIP, WORK AND COOPERATE IN ALL THINGS WHICH TEND TO PROMOTE AND ADVANCE THE CAUSE OF CHRIST AND THE FREE WILL BAPTIST FAITH IN GOD'S KINGDOM.

SECTION 3. DISCIPLINE - THIS ASSOCIATION SHALL ACT ONLY IN AN ADVISORY CAPACITY. SHOULD THERE ARISE IN THE LOCAL CHURCH ANY QUESTION IN DOCTRINE, PRACTICES OR DISCIPLINE, THE BIBLE AND THE TREATISE OF THE FAITH AND PRACTICES OF THE FREE WILL BAPTIST SHALL BE CONSIDERED THE FINAL AUTHORITY. HOWEVER, IF SAID CHURCH(ES) FAIL TO COMPLY WITH SAME, THIS BODY, WHEN IN SESSION, MAY, BY MAJORITY VOTE OF THE DELEGATES PRESENT, WITHDRAW THE HAND OF FELLOWSHIP UNTIL SUCH TIME AS CHURCH(ES) HAVE SET THEIR HOUSE IN ORDER.

ARTICLE 7. MEETINGS - THE ASSOCIATION SHALL MEET IN QUARTERLY SESSIONS ON SATURDAY BEFORE THE THIRD SUNDAY IN JANUARY AND APRIL. THE JULY SESSION WILL CONVENE ON SATURDAY BEFORE THE SECOND SUNDAY. (CHANGE MADE 4/95. THE ANNUAL SESSION SHALL CONVENE ON FRIDAY NIGHT BEFORE THE THIRD SUNDAY IN OCTOBER FROM 7:00 PM UNTIL 9:00 PM AND ON SATURDAY BEFORE THE THIRD SUNDAY IN OCTOBER. THE THREE QUARTERLY SESSIONS AND THE SATURDAY ANNUAL SESSION SHALL BE CALLED TO ORDER AT 10:00 AM ON EACH DAY OF THE ASSOCIATION.

SECTION 1. ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER SHALL BE USED AS A GUIDE IN ALL BUSINESS TRANSACTIONS AND PARLIAMENTARY USAGES.

ARTICLE 8. PASTORS - ALL CHURCHES IN THIS ASSOCIATION ARE EXPECTED TO REQUIRE THEIR PASTOR TO BE A MEMBER OF THE CONGREGATION HE SERVES. IN THE EVENT A PASTOR SERVES MORE THAN ONE CHURCH HE IS EXPECTED TO BECOME A MEMBER OF ONE OF THE CHURCHES HE SERVES. ALL CHURCHES ARE EXPECTED TO REQUIRE A PASTOR JOINING THE CHURCH TO PETITION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THIS BODY NOT LATER THAN THE NEXT ASSOCIATION MEETING. (SEE THE CREDENTIALS AND EXAMINING COMMITTEE SECTION UNDER THE BY-LAWS FOR RULES AND REQUIREMENTS ON BECOMING A MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING FOR MINISTERS.)

ARTICLE 9. PROVISION FOR THE ORDAINED AUTHORITY:

SECTION 1. ALL ORDAINED MINISTERS AND DEACONS MUST BE A MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING WITH A CHURCH IN GOOD STANDING WITH THIS ASSOCIATION.

SECTION 2. ORDAINED MINISTERS AND DEACONS CANNOT HAVE MORE THAN ONE LIVING WIFE, LIKEWISE, ORDAINED MINISTERS AND DEACONS WIVES CANNOT HAVE MORE THAN ONE LIVING HUSBAND.

SECTION 3. ORDAINED MINISTERS CAN HOLD NO CREDENTIALS OTHER THAN THOSE RECOGNIZED BY THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTIST AND THIS ASSOCIATION.

ARTICLE 10. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE THIS COMMITTEE IS COMPOSED OF THE MODERATOR, VICE MODERATOR, CLERK AND TREASURER, ALL ORDAINED MINISTERS WHO ARE IN GOOD STANDING WITH THIS ASSOCIATION AND PASTORING A CHURCH IN GOOD STANDING IN THIS ASSOCIATION, ALONG WITH ONE ELECTED MEMBER FROM EACH CHURCH IN GOOD STANDING WITH THIS ASSOCIATION.

ARTICLE 11. OTHER ELECTED COMMITTEES TO HELP PLAN, PROMOTE, ORGANIZE AND ASSIST IN CARRYING ON THE BUSINESS OF THE ASSOCIATION IN A CHRISTIAN MANNER THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES ARE ELECTED BY THE ASSOCIATION WHILE IN SESSION FROM THOSE PROPERLY NOMINATED TO HOLD THAT OFFICE. THE DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS OF THESE ELECTED COMMITTEES ARE SET OUT IN THE BY-LAWS OF THE CONSTITUTION. THESE COMMITTEES ARE:

A. CREDENTIALS AND EXAMINING COMMITTEE COMPOSED OF SEVEN MEMBERS FROM THE ORDAINED AUTHORITY OF THE ASSOCIATION IN GOOD STANDING WITH THIS BODY AND MEMBERS OF A CHURCH IN THIS ASSOCIATION IN GOOD STANDING. THESE SHALL BE ELECTED TWO FOR FOUR (4) YEARS, TWO FOR THREE (3) YEARS, TWO FOR TWO (2) YEARS AND ONE FOR ONE (1) YEAR. EACH YEAR AT THE ANNUAL SESSION ONE OR MORE MEMBERS SHALL BE UP FOR REPLACEMENT OR RENOMINATION. SEE THE BY-LAWS FOR THE DUTIES TO BE PERFORMED.

B. CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE COMPOSED OF THREE MEMBERS ELECTED FROM NOMINATIONS PRESENTED TO THE BODY WHILE IN SESSION. THESE ARE ELECTED ONE FOR THREE (3) YEARS, ONE FOR TWO (2) YEARS, ONE FOR ONE (1) YEAR. EACH YEAR AT THE ANNUAL SESSION ONE MEMBER SHALL BE UP FOR REPLACEMENT OR RE-NOMINATION. SEE THE BY-LAWS FOR THE DUTIES TO BE PERFORMED.

C. MISSIONS COMMITTEE COMPOSED OF THREE MEMBERS ELECTED FROM NOMINATIONS PRESENTED TO THIS BODY WHILE IN SESSION. THESE ARE ELECTED ONE FOR THREE (3) YEARS, ONE FOR TWO (2) YEARS, ONE FOR ONE (1) YEAR. EACH YEAR AT THE ANNUAL SESSION ONE MEMBER SHALL BE UP FOR REPLACEMENT OR RE-NOMINATION. SEE THE BY-LAWS FOR THE DUTIES TO BE PERFORMED.

D. CHILDREN HOME COMMITTEE COMPOSED OF THREE MEMBERS ELECTED FROM NOMINATIONS PRESENTED TO THIS BODY WHILE IN SESSION. THESE ARE ELECTED ONE FOR THREE (3) YEARS, ONE FOR TWO (2) YEARS, ONE FOR ONE (1) YEAR. EACH YEAR AT THE ANNUAL SESSION ONE MEMBER SHALL BE UP FOR REPLACEMENT OR RE-NOMINATION. SEE THE BY-LAWS FOR THE DUTIES TO BE PERFORMED.

1. AT THE ANNUAL SESSION EACH YEAR A NOMINEE SHALL BE PLACED BEFORE THE ASSOCIATION TO SERVE AS A BOARD MEMBER TO THE CHILDREN HOME. THIS BOARD MEMBER IS TO BE ABLE TO ATTEND THE MEETINGS AT THE HOME, VOTE ON THE PROCEEDINGS AT THE HOME AND KEEP THIS ASSOCIATION PROPERLY INFORMED OF ALL THAT OCCURS AT THE HOME THAT WOULD HAVE MEANING TO ALL THE MEMBERS OF THIS ASSOCIATION. THE BOARD MEMBER WOULD NOT BE AN ACTIVE PART OF THE CHILDREN HOME COMMITTEE UNLESS ALSO SERVING AS AN ELECTED MEMBER OF THAT COMMITTEE WITHIN THE ASSOCIATION.

E. PLACEMENT COMMITTEE COMPOSED OF THREE MEMBERS ELECTED FROM NOMINATIONS PRESENTED TO THIS BODY WHILE IN SESSION. THESE ARE ELECTED ONE FOR THREE (3) YEARS, ONE FOR TWO (2) YEARS, ONE FOR ONE (1) YEAR. EACH YEAR AT THE ANNUAL SESSION ONE MEMBER SHALL BE UP FOR REPLACEMENT OR RE-NOMINATION. SEE THE BY-LAWS FOR THE DUTIES TO BE PERFORMED.

F. NOMINATING COMMITTEE COMPOSED OF THREE MEMBERS ELECTED FROM NOMINATIONS PRESENTED TO THIS BODY WHILE IN SESSION. THESE ARE ELECTED ONE FOR THREE (3) YEARS, ONE FOR TWO (2) YEARS, ONE FOR ONE (1) YEAR. EACH YEAR AT THE ANNUAL SESSION ONE MEMBER SHALL BE UP FOR REPLACEMENT OR RE-NOMINATION. SEE THE BY-LAWS FOR THE DUTIES TO BE PERFORMED.

G. FINANCE COMMITTEE COMPOSED OF THREE MEMBERS ELECTED FROM NOMINATIONS PRESENTED TO THIS BODY WHILE IN SESSION. THESE ARE ELECTED ONE FOR THREE (3) YEARS, ONE FOR TWO (2) YEARS, ONE FOR ONE (1) YEAR. EACH YEAR AT THE ANNUAL SESSION ONE MEMBER SHALL BE UP FOR REPLACEMENT OR RE-NOMINATION. SEE THE BY-LAWS FOR THE DUTIES TO BE PERFORMED.

H. RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMPOSED OF THREE MEMBERS ELECTED FROM NOMINATIONS PRESENTED TO THIS BODY WHILE IN SESSION. THESE ARE ELECTED ONE FOR THREE (3) YEARS, ONE FOR TWO (2) YEARS, ONE FOR ONE (1) YEAR. EACH YEAR AT THE ANNUAL SESSION ONE MEMBER SHALL BE UP FOR REPLACEMENT OR RE-NOMINATION. SEE THE BY-LAWS FOR DUTIES TO BE PERFORMED.

ARTICLE 12. ANY INDIVIDUAL NOMINATED TO HOLD ANY OFFICE OR POSITION IN THIS ASSOCIATION MUST BE A MEMBER OF GOOD STANDING WITH A MEMBER CHURCH OF THIS ASSOCIATION THAT IS IN GOOD STANDING WITH THIS ASSOCIATION.

ARTICLE 13. REQUIRED QUORUM - THIRTY (30) DELEGATES FROM SIX (6) OR MORE CHURCHES WHO ARE MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING WITH THIS ASSOCIATION SHALL CONSTITUTE A QUORUM. A LESSER NUMBER MAY ADJOURN UNTIL SUCH A QUORUM IS PRESENT.

BY-LAWS TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE
SOUTHEASTERN ASSOCIATION OF
FREE WILL BAPTIST

ARTICLE 1. OFFICERS - ALL OFFICERS SHALL BE ELECTED ANNUALLY. ANY OFFICER MAY SUCCEED THEMSELVES IN OFFICE IF SO NOMINATED.

ARTICLE 2. DUTIES OF ASSOCIATION OFFICERS:

SECTION 1. MODERATOR - THE MODERATOR SHALL PRESIDE OVER ALL MEETINGS OF THE ASSOCIATION, APPOINT TEMPORARY COMMITTEES AND CALL THE MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TOGETHER WHEN NECESSARY.

SECTION 2. VICE MODERATOR - THE VICE MODERATOR SHALL PRESIDE OVER THE MEETINGS OF THE ASSOCIATION IN THE ABSENCE OF THE MODERATOR, CALL THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE INTO SESSION IN THE ABSENCE OF THE MODERATOR WHEN NECESSARY AND ASSIST THE MODERATOR IN THE GENERAL WORK OF THE ASSOCIATION.

SECTION 3. CLERK - THE CLERK SHALL RECORD THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE QUARTERLY AND ANNUAL SESSIONS OF THE ASSOCIATION AND OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND SHALL HAVE THEM EDITED AND PRINTED INTO ANNUAL MINUTES. CLERK SHALL TURN ALL RECORDS OF THE ASSOCIATION OVER TO HIS/HER SUCCESSOR IN OFFICE. THE CLERK OF THE ASSOCIATION SHALL PREPARE AN ASSOCIATIONAL REPORT TO THE ALABAMA STATE ASSOCIATION.

SECTION 4. TREASURER - THE TREASURER SHALL HAVE CHARGE OF ALL ASSOCIATION FUNDS. TREASURER SHALL KEEP A RECORD OF ALL MONIES RECEIVED AND PAID OUT BY THE ASSOCIATION. TREASURER SHALL DISTRIBUTE FUNDS AT THE DIRECTION OF THE ASSOCIATION WHILE IN SESSION OR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BY A MAJORITY PRESENT. TREASURER SHALL TURN ALL RECORDS OF THE ASSOCIATION OVER TO HIS/HER SUCCESSOR IN OFFICE.

SECTION 5. PROVISION FOR MODERATOR IN CASE OF THE ABSENCE OF BOTH THE MODERATOR AND VICE MODERATOR, THE SENIOR MINISTER OF THE STANDING DELEGATES SHALL ACT IN THAT CAPACITY.

ARTICLE 3. DUTIES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND OTHER ELECTED COMMITTEES ESTABLISHED BY THE CONSTITUTION:

SECTION 1. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SHALL MEET IN OCTOBER FOLLOWING THE ANNUAL SESSION OF THE ASSOCIATION ON A DATE, TIME AND PLACE APPOINTED BY THE MODERATOR FOR THE PURPOSE OF PLANNING THE NEXT YEARS ASSOCIATIONAL CALENDAR AND ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT MIGHT PROPERLY COME BEFORE THIS COMMITTEE IN THE PERFORMANCE OF ITS DUTIES.

A. THIS COMMITTEE MAY BE CALLED INTO ORDER AT ANY TIME THE ASSOCIATION IS NOT IN SESSION BY THE MODERATOR OR IN HIS ABSENCE, THE VICE MODERATOR.

B. THIS COMMITTEE SHALL ACT AS THE PROMOTIONAL AGENCY FOR THE VARIOUS WORK OF THE ASSOCIATION.

C. THIS COMMITTEE SHALL ACT FOR THE ASSOCIATION OF CHURCHES ON THINGS WHEN IT IS NOT IN SESSION THAT CANNOT WAIT UNTIL THE NEXT SESSION.

SECTION 2. CREDENTIALS AND EXAMINING COMMITTEE DUTIES:

A. TO EXAMINE ALL CHURCH LETTERS PRESENTED TO THE ASSOCIATION AND MAKE RECOMMENDATION AS TO ORDER OF LETTER AND DELEGATES.

B. TO EXAMINE, AT THE REQUEST OF THE LOCAL CHURCH, ANY CANDIDATE DESIRING A LICENSE TO PREACH AS A FREE WILL BAPTIST MINISTER AND MAKE RECOMMENDATION TO THE BODY.

C. TO EXAMINE ALL CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE OF DEACON, AT THE REQUEST OF THE LOCAL CHURCH, AND MAKE RECOMMENDATION TO THE BODY.

D. TO EXAMINE ALL CANDIDATES FOR ORDINATION, MINISTER OR DEACON, AT THE REQUEST OF THE LOCAL CHURCH AND MAKE A RECOMMENDATION TO THIS BODY.

E. TO EXAMINE ALL MINISTERS COMING FROM OTHER SISTER ASSOCIATIONS TO PASTOR IN THIS ASSOCIATION AND MAKE RECOMMENDATION TO THIS BODY.

F. TO EXAMINE ALL MINISTERS COMING FROM OTHER DENOMINATIONS OR INDEPENDENT CHURCHES WHO DESIRE TO OBTAIN LICENSE TO PREACH IN THE FREE WILL BAPTIST DENOMINATION. SUCH CANDIDATES MUST FIRST SURRENDER ANY CREDENTIALS CURRENTLY HELD. ANY CANDIDATE COMING FROM ANOTHER DENOMINATION OR INDEPENDENT CHURCH WILL BE PLACED UNDER THE WATCH CARE OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR A PERIOD OF TIME NOT LESS THAN ONE YEAR. ANY CANDIDATE NOT RECOMMENDED FOR ACCEPTANCE INTO THIS BODY WILL HAVE ALL PERSONAL PAPERS RETURNED TO HIM.

G. THIS COMMITTEE MAY USE ORAL, WRITTEN OR COMBINATION OF BOTH, IN IT'S EXAMINATION OF CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE. WRITTEN FORMS WILL BE PROVIDED BY THIS COMMITTEE.

H. THIS COMMITTEE SHALL GRANT TO A MINISTER LEAVING THIS ASSOCIATION HIS LETTER OF GOOD STANDING FROM THIS ASSOCIATION TO A NEW ASSOCIATION IN THE TIME THIS ASSOCIATION IS NOT IN SESSION, PROVIDED THERE ARE NO CHARGES FILED BY THE CHURCH HE IS LEAVING OR THERE ARE NO ASSOCIATIONAL CHARGES FILED AGAINST HIM.

SECTION 3. CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE DUTIES:

A. TO PLAN, ORGANIZE AND SUPERVISE YOUTH RALLIES, A YOUTH REVIVAL, CTS COMPETITION, SUNDAY SCHOOL PROMOTION AND SUMMER CAMPS FOR THE ASSOCIATION.

B. TO PROMOTE THE BIBLE COLLEGE AND EDUCATION OF OUR PEOPLE.

C. TO RECOMMEND TO THE ASSOCIATION A CAMP DIRECTOR WHO IS TO BE NOMINATED AND ELECTED NO LATER THAN THE APRIL SESSION OF THE ASSOCIATION. THIS COMMITTEE AND THE ELECTED CAMP DIRECTOR SHALL HAVE AUTHORITY TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE PLACE CAMP IS HELD, SECURE AN EVANGELIST, SOLICIT WORKERS, PURCHASE SUCH TEACHING MATERIALS AND AIDS AS NECESSARY, ESTABLISH DRESS CODES FOR CAMP AND SET UP THE ACTIVITIES FOR THE CAMP.

SECTION 4. MISSIONS COMMITTEE DUTIES:

A. TO PROMOTE MISSION WORK IN THIS ASSOCIATION.

B. TO KEEP BEFORE THE CHURCHES OF THIS ASSOCIATION THE NEEDS OF OUR MISSIONARY FAMILIES, HOME AND FOREIGN.

C. TO BRING TO OUR ASSOCIATION MEETINGS MISSIONARY FAMILIES OR THE MISSIONARY HIMSELF WHEN POSSIBLE, TO KEEP ALL INFORMED; TO PLAN RETREATS, CONFERENCES, ETC. IN THE MISSION AREA.

SECTION 5. CHILDREN HOME COMMITTEE DUTIES:

A. TO PLAN WAYS WITHIN THE ASSOCIATION TO RAISE FUNDS TO RELIEVE STRAIN ON THE HOME.

B. TO KEEP THE ASSOCIATION INFORMED AS TO THE PRESSING NEEDS OF THE HOME.

C. TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS TO HAVE REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE HOME AS OFTEN AS POSSIBLE TO GIVE THE ASSOCIATION A FEELING OF THE HOME.

SECTION 6. PLACEMENT COMMITTEE DUTIES:

A. TO CO-ORDINATE WITH OUR SISTER CHURCHES THE PLACES FOR THE QUARTERLY AND ANNUAL SESSIONS OF THE ASSOCIATION.

SECTION 7. NOMINATING COMMITTEE DUTIES:

A. TO NOMINATE CANDIDATES FOR ASSOCIATIONAL OFFICERS ANNUALLY.

B. TO NOMINATE CANDIDATES FOR VARIOUS COMMITTEES COMING UP FOR ELECTION AT EACH ANNUAL SESSION.

C. TO NOMINATE REPLACEMENTS FOR VARIOUS COMMITTEES WHEN NECESSARY AT QUARTERLY SESSIONS WHEN A COMMITTEE HAS LOST A MEMBER FOR ANY REASON.

SECTION 8. FINANCE COMMITTEE DUTIES:

A. TO PREPARE AN ANNUAL BUDGET FOR THE ASSOCIATION AND PRESENT IT TO THE ANNUAL SESSION OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL.

B. TO RECOMMEND TO THE ASSOCIATION AT EACH SESSION THE DISPOSITION OF THE PLATE OFFERING.

C. TO ASSIST, AT THEIR REQUEST, THE CHRISTIAN BOARD OF EDUCATION IN FINANCING THE CAMP, THE RALLIES, THE YOUTH REVIVAL.

SECTION 9. RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE DUTIES:

A. TO BRING TO THE ASSOCIATIONS ATTENTION ANY MATTER THAT NEEDS OUR ATTENTION IN THE AREA OF LOCAL, STATE OR NATIONAL AREAS.

SECTION 10. EACH COMMITTEE SHALL GIVE A REPORT OF ITS ACTIVITIES AT EACH SESSION OF THE ASSOCIATION IN ORDER TO KEEP THE ASSOCIATION PROPERLY INFORMED.

SECTION 11. ANY COMMITTEE MAY BRING TO THE ATTENTION OF THE MODERATOR MATTERS THAT COULD AFFECT THE ASSOCIATION IN SUCH A WAY THAT A MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MIGHT BE REQUIRED TO HANDLE THE MATTER. IF THE MODERATOR FEELS THE NEED TO BE PRESSING AND CANNOT WAIT UNTIL THE NEXT REGULAR SESSION HE MAY CALL THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE INTO SESSION TO HANDLE SUCH MATTER.

ARTICLE 4. REPRESENTATION OF CHURCHES TO THE ASSOCIATION:

SECTION 1. EACH CHURCH IS EXPECTED TO SEND QUARTERLY AND ANNUAL REPORTS OF PROGRESS ON FORMS FURNISHED BY THE ASSOCIATION.

SECTION 2. EACH CHURCH IS EXPECTED TO BE REPRESENTED AT EACH SESSION OF THE ASSOCIATION BY ELECTED DELEGATES DETERMINED BY THE NUMBER OF ACTIVE CHURCH MEMBERSHIP AS PRESENTED AT THE PRECEDING ANNUAL SESSION. EACH CHURCH SHALL BE ENTITLED TO THREE (3) DELEGATES FOR THE FIRST 50 ACTIVE MEMBERS OR PORTION THEREOF. EACH CHURCH SHALL BE ENTITLED TO ONE (1) ADDITIONAL DELEGATE FOR EACH ADDITIONAL 25 MEMBERS OR PORTION THEREOF.

SECTION 3. ALL ORDAINED MINISTERS AND DEACONS WHO ARE MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING WITH A CHURCH IN GOOD STANDING WITH THIS ASSOCIATION SHALL BE A STANDING DELEGATE.

SECTION 4. DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES SEATED AT ANY SESSION OF THE ASSOCIATION MUST HAVE BEEN ELECTED BY THEIR HOME CHURCH AND THEIR NAME SHOWN ON THE CHURCH'S LETTER PRESENTED TO THAT SESSION OF THE ASSOCIATION. NO APPOINTMENTS MAY BE MADE BY A CHURCH PASTOR NOR MAY ANY SUBSTITUTE BE MADE IN ANY OTHER MANNER TO STAND IN FOR AN ELECTED DELEGATE OR ALTERNATE. TO BE SEATED THE NAMES MUST BE ON THE CHURCH LETTER.

SECTION 5. DELEGATE DUES ARE FIXED AT \$5.00 PER AUTHORIZED DELEGATE TO THE QUARTERLY SESSIONS AND \$10.00 PER DELEGATE TO THE ANNUAL SESSION.

SECTION 6. TO HELP DEFRAY THE COST OF THE OPERATION OF THE ASSOCIATION IT IS REQUESTED THAT EACH CHURCH SEND AN ADDITIONAL FIFTY CENTS (\$.50) PER ACTIVE CHURCH MEMBER TO SUPPORT LOCAL CAUSES IN THE ASSOCIATION TO EACH SESSION OF THE ASSOCIATION.

ARTICLE 5. USE OF FUNDS:

SECTION 1. FUNDS ARE TO BE USED FOR PRINTING OF THE ANNUAL MINUTES.

SECTION 2. ASSOCIATION IS TO SUPPORT HOME AND FOREIGN MISSIONS, PROMOTE THE BIBLE COLLEGE IN NASHVILLE, THE CHILDREN HOME AND THE SUPERANNUATION OF OUR OLDER MINISTERS.

SECTION 3. PAY SUCH FUNDS AS PRESCRIBED IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET.

SECTION 4. FUNDS DESIGNATED AT ANY SESSION OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR SUCH CAUSE AS MAY PROPERLY BE BROUGHT BEFORE THE ASSOCIATION AND VOTED ON.

SECTION 5. PLATE OFFERINGS, SPECIAL OFFERINGS OR OTHER GIFTS AS DESIGNATED BY THE BODY AT EACH SESSION.

SECTION 6. FUNDS ARE TO BE DISBURSED AT THE TIME AUTHORIZED AND IN SUCH QUANTITY AS AUTHORIZED AND TO WHOM AUTHORIZED.

ARTICLE 5. AMENDMENTS:

SECTION 1. THIS CONSTITUTION AND THESE BY-LAWS SHALL NOT BE CHANGED OR ALTERED EXCEPT AND ONLY BY A TWO-THIRDS (2/3) MAJORITY VOTE OF DELEGATES PRESENT FROM MEMBER CHURCHES IN ANY SESSION OF THE ASSOCIATION.

SECTION 2. ALL AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS SHALL BE PRESENTED IN WRITING TO ANY SESSION OF THE ASSOCIATION AND SHALL BE READ IN THE HEARING OF THOSE ASSEMBLED DELEGATES AND SHALL BE TABLED UNTIL THE NEXT SCHEDULED ASSOCIATIONAL MEETING AND THEN SHALL BE REMOVED FROM THE TABLE, READ AGAIN IN THE HEARING OF THOSE ASSEMBLED, AND THEN ACTED UPON BY THE ASSOCIATION.

RULES OF DECORUM:

1. THE ASSOCIATION, WHEN CONVENED, SHALL BE OPENED AND CLOSED BY SINGING AND PRAYER.
2. ONLY ONE PERSON SHALL SPEAK AT A TIME, AND HE WILL RISE TO HIS FEET AND ADDRESS THE MODERATOR.
3. EACH PERSON THUS SPEAKING SHALL NOT BE INTERRUPTED IN SPEECH, EXCEPT BY THE MODERATOR, UNTIL HE GETS THROUGH; NOR SHALL THE MODERATOR INTERRUPT HIM UNLESS HE GETS OUT OF ORDER.
4. THE PERSON THUS SPEAKING SHALL ADHERE TO THE QUESTION AND SHALL IN NO WAY CAST REFLECTIONS ON ANY PERSON WHO MAY HAVE SPOKEN BEFORE HIM.
5. NO PERSON SHALL SPEAK MORE THAN THREE (3) TIMES ON THE SAME SUBJECT WITHOUT LEAVE OF THE ASSOCIATION.

6. NO PERSON SHALL LAUGH OR WHISPER IN TIME OF PUBLIC SPEECH.
7. MEMBERS SHALL ADDRESS EACH OTHER BY THE APPELLATION OF BROTHER OR BROTHERN AND SISTER(S).
8. NO MEMBERS OF THIS ASSOCIATION SHALL ABSENT HIMSELF WHEN THE ASSOCIATION IS SITTING IN CONFERENCE WITHOUT LEAVE OF THE MODERATOR.
9. THE NAMES OF THE MEMBERS OF THIS ASSOCIATION SHALL BE ENROLLED AND CALLED AS OFTEN AS THE ASSOCIATION THINKS IS NECESSARY.
10. NO MEMBER SHALL SPEAK LONGER THAN FIVE (5) MINUTES AT ANY ONE TIME WITHOUT LEAVE OF THE MODERATOR.

ARTICLES OF FAITH:

1. THE BIBLE - THE SCRIPTURE OF THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS WERE GIVEN BY INSPIRATION OF GOD AND ARE OUR INFALLIBLE RULE OF FAITH AND PRACTICE.
2. GOD - THERE IS ONE TRUE AND LIVING GOD, REVEALED IN NATURE AS THE CREATOR, PRESERVER AND RIGHTEDUS GOVERNOR OF THE UNIVERSE AND IN SCRIPTURE 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 MAN. THE MEDIATOR BETWEEN GOD AND MAN, ONCE CRUCIFIED, HE IS NOW RISEN AND GLORIFIED, AND IS OUR EVER PRESENT SAVIGUR AND LORD.
4. THE HOLY SPIRIT - THE SCRIPTURES ASSIGN TO THE HOLY SPIRIT ALL THE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD.
5. THE GOVERNMENT OF GOD - GOD EXERCISES A WISE AND BENEVOLENT PROVIDENCE OVER ALL THINGS BY MAINTAINING THE CONSTRUCTION AND LAWS OF NATURE. HE ALSO PERFORMS SPECIAL ACTS, NOT OTHERWISE PROVIDED FOR AS THE HIGHEST WELFARE OF MEN REQUIRE.
6. THE SINFULNESS OF MAN - MAN WAS CREATED INNOCENT, BUT BY DISOBE-
DIENCE FELL INTO SIN AND CONDEMNATION. HIS POSTERITY THEREFORE INHERIT
A FALLEN NATURE OF SUCH TENDENCIES THAT ALL WHO COME TO YEARS OF
ACCOUNTABILITY SIN AND BECOME GUILTY BEFORE GOD.

7. THE WORK OF CHRIST - THE SON OF MAN BY HIS INCARNATION, LIFE AND SUFFERINGS, DEATH AND RESURRECTION EFFECTED FOR ALL A REDEMPTION FROM SIN THAT IS FULL AND FREE AND IS THE GROUND OF SALVATION BY FAITH.

8. THE TERMS OF SALVATION - THE CONDITIONS OF SALVATION ARE; (1) REPENTANCE OR SINCERE SORROW FOR SIN AND THE HEARTY RENUNCIATION OF IT. (2) FAITH OR THE RESERVED COMMITMENT 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) CONTINUANCE 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 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 AND 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 WHOSEVER 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 - 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 BELIEVERS.

14. TITHING - GOD COMMANDED TITHES AND OFFERINGS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT AND JESUS CHRIST ENDORSED IT IN THE GOSPEL (MATT: 23:23), AND THE APOSTLE PAUL SAID "UPON THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK LET EVERY ONE 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 APART FROM SECULAR EMPLOYMENTS AND AMUSEMENTS FOR THE REST, WORSHIP, HOLY WORKS AND ACTIVITIES AND FOR THE PERSONAL COMMISSION WITH GOD.

16. RESURRECTION, JUDGEMENT AND FINAL RETRIBUTION - 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; THE WICKED WILL "GO AWAY INTO ETERNAL PUNISHMENT, BUT THE RIGHTEOUS INTO LIFE ETERNAL."

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 TOGETHER FOR CHURCH CONFERENCE, PUBLIC WORSHIP AND THE OBSERVANCE OF THE ORDINANCES OF THE GOSPEL, NOR FAIL TO PAY 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 SO FAR AS WE ARE ABLE, PROMOTE THE SUCCESS OF THE CHURCH AND THE GOSPEL.

WE WILL EVERYWHERE HOLD CHRISTIAN PRINCIPLE SACRED AND CHRISTIAN OBLIGATIONS AND ENTERPRISES SUPREME, COUNTING IT OUR CHIEF BUSINESS IN LIFE TO EXTEND THE INFLUENCE OF CHRIST IN SOCIETY, AND CONSTANTLY PRAYING AND TELLING 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 THE EVANGELISTIC EFFORTS FOR THE SALVATION OF THE WORLD. AND MAY THE GOD OF PEACE SANCTIFY US WHOLLY AND PERSEVERE US BLAMELESS UNTO THE COMING OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.

DID YOU KNOW?

IN CHOWAN COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA IN 1727 THE FIRST FWB CHURCHES WAS FORMED BY PAUL PALMER. THIS WAS KNOWN AS THE FWB CHURCHES OF THE SOUTH. FIFTY YEARS LATER BENJAMIN RANDALL FORMED THE FWB CHURCHES OF THE NORTH. THERE WAS DIFFERENCE IN THE ORDINANCES ON THE PRACTICE OF FEET WASHING BETWEEN THE TWO. THE SOUTH PRACTICED FEET WASHING, BUT THE NORTH DID NOT.

IN THE YEAR 1827 THERE WAS THREE CHURCHES IN THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

THE FWB DENOMINATION MOVED ON TO THE STATE OF GEORGIA IN APPROXIMATELY 1835 AND SETTLED IN THE COLUMBUS, GEORGIA AREA. WE BELIEVE THE FWB THEN MOVED ON TO THE EUFAULA, ALABAMA AREA AS COLUMBUS, GEORGIA AND EUFAULA, ALABAMA WAS TRADING POST CENTERS. AS THE PEOPLE MOVED THE FWB MOVED. THIS TOOK PLACE SOMETIME BETWEEN 1835 AND THE CIVIL WAR.

WE BELIEVE THE SOUTHEASTERN ASSOCIATION HAD ITS BEGINNING IN THE YEAR OF 1878.

JOSEPH WHITAKER WAS BORN IN 1865. HE IS BURIED AT THE HOWARD GROVE FWB CHURCH AND WE HAVE OBTAINED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION FROM HIS RECORDS. IN THE YEAR OF 1879 HOWARD GROVE FWB CHURCH WAS A MEMBER OF THE SOUTHEASTERN ASSOCIATION OF FWB. IN THE YEAR 1886 THE SOUTHWESTERN ASSOCIATION CONVENED AT GOODWATER FWB CHURCH THEN LOCATED IN DALE COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE YEAR OF 1886 THE SOUTHEASTERN ASSOCIATION PROPOSED TO DO AWAY WITH THE PRACTICE OF FEET WASHING AS A CHURCH CHRISTIAN ORDINANCE. HOWARD GROVE FWB CHURCH LEFT THE SOUTHEASTERN ASSOCIATION FOLLOWED BY HICKORY, SILVER RUN, AND NEW PROSPECT CHURCHES. THEY APPOINTED HOWARD GROVE AS THEIR MEETING PLACE AND FORMED THE STATE LINE ASSOCIATION.

IN THE EARLY CHURCHES PEOPLE WAS SO MANY TIMES CALLED UP FOR DOING WRONG. DANCING AND DRINKING WAS ONE OF THE MAIN ACKNOWLEDGMENTS MADE.

FROM THE EARLY MINUTES OF THE UNION GROVE CHURCH ESTABLISHED IN 1877 WE HAVE TAKEN THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION.

ON SATURDAY BEFORE THE 5TH SUNDAY IN AUGUST 1890 THERE WAS AN ASSOCIATIONAL MEETING AT MOUNT ZION. THIS WAS TO ESTABLISH OR DISCUSS A NEW CONSTITUTION FOR THE SOUTHEASTERN ASSOCIATION. ON AUGUST 1, 1891 DELEGATES WAS ELECTED FROM UNION GROVE TO GO TO THE ASSOCIATION. IN 1891 UNION GROVE CHURCH PAID .50 FOR ASSOCIATIONAL PURPOSES.

THE ASSOCIATIONAL MEETING WAS HELD AT PLEASANT HILL FWB CHURCH ON THE 3RD SATURDAY IN DECEMBER 1892.

IN APRIL 1894 THE CHURCH OF UNION GROVE APPROVED THE BUYING OF ONE HALF DOZEN HYMN BOOKS.

IN SEPTEMBER 1896 UNION GROVE ELECTED DELEGATES TO REPRESENT THEM IN THE ASSOCIATIONAL MEETING AND THE CHURCH PAID \$1.00 FOR MINUTES AND \$.75 FOR ASSOCIATIONAL PURPOSES.

IN THE YEAR OF 1897 THE ASSOCIATIONAL DUES WAS RAISED TO \$2.00 (TIMES HAVE CHANGED).

IN THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 1898 THE ANNUAL SESSION OF THE SOUTHEASTERN ASSOCIATION WAS HELD WITH PROSPECT CHURCH IN HENRY COUNTY, ALABAMA. PINEY GROVE, NEW PROSPECT, ANTIOCH AND EVERGREEN WITHDREW FROM THE SOUTHEASTERN ASSOCIATION WITHOUT ANY AUTHORITY FROM THEIR RESPECTIVE CHURCHES. THEY THEN FORMED AN ASSOCIATION KNOWN AS THE EVERGREEN ASSOCIATION. THIS ASSOCIATION WAS CONTRARY TO ANY PRECEDENT KNOWN TO THE ECCLESIASTICAL LAW AND WITHOUT AUTHORITY FROM THE SOUTHEASTERN ASSOCIATION AND ADOPTED A DECORUM CONTRARY TO ANY BAPTIST OR CONGREGATIONAL FORM OF GOVERNMENT. THE SOUTHEASTERN ASSOCIATION WOULD NOT ALLOW ANY PASTOR OF THE EVERGREEN ASSOCIATION TO SERVE IN A CHURCH IN THE SOUTHEASTERN ASSOCIATION.

ON FRIDAY BEFORE THE 3RD. SUNDAY IN OCTOBER 1910 THE SOUTHEASTERN ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTIST CONVENED AT NEW PROSPECT CHURCH IN HENRY COUNTY, ALABAMA FOR THE 32ND ANNUAL SESSION. BROTHER J. H. GUILFORD WAS MODERATOR AND BROTHER C. B. SEARCY, CLERK. THE FOLLOWING REPORT WAS BROUGHT BEFORE THE ASSOCIATION ON DOCUMENTS.

TEMPERANCE: WE YOUR COMMITTEE SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING REPORT. AS THE LORD HAS COMMANDED HIS CHILDREN TO BE TEMPERATE IN ALL THINGS, WE WILL SUBMIT AND SURRENDER TO BE TEMPERATE IN SUCH ACTS AND DEEDS AND AS GOD'S WORD PRONOUNCES "WOE UNTO HIM THAT GIVETH HIS BROTHER DRINK OR PUTTETH THE BOTTLE TO HIS NEIGHBOR'S LIPS TO MAKE HIM DRUNK." WE WILL NOT ONLY ABSTAIN FROM IT OURSELVES, BUT DO EVERYTHING AGAINST THE SALE OF IT OR THE USE OF IT IN ANY WAY. WE SEE THAT WHISKEY IS A DESTRUCTION OF HUMANITY AND THE CHURCH. WE GIVE BELOW THE ESTIMATE OF WHAT ONE BUSHEL OF CORN WILL MAKE. THE DISTILLER GETS 4 GALLONS OF WHISKEY WHICH RETAILS AT \$16.00; THE FARMER GETS \$1.00 FOR HIS CORN; THE GOVERNMENT GETS \$4.40; THE RAILROAD GETS \$1.00 FOR CARRYING ; THE MANUFACTURER GETS \$9.35; THE DRAYMAN GETS \$.15; THE CONSUMER GETS DRUNK; THE WIFE AND CHILDREN GO HALF CLAD IN IGNORANCE AND SHAME.

IN 1910 THE ASSOCIATION PAID \$15.00 FOR THEIR MINUTES AND ON SATURDAY THE PUBLIC COLLECTION WAS \$8.65. A MOTION WAS MADE TO SEND \$10.00 TO THE AYDEN, NORTH CAROLINA SCHOOL. THERE WAS ALSO A MOTION MADE TO PAY THE MODERATOR \$10.00 FOR HIS SERVICES.

ONLY 4 CHURCHES IN THE SOUTHEASTERN ASSOCIATION WAS HAVING A SUNDAY SCHOOL (SABBATH SCHOOL). C. A. ARNOLD ASKED THAT THE CHURCHES PUT FORTH A SPECIAL EFFORT TO HAVE SABBATH SCHOOLS AS IT WAS A STEPPING STONE TO RELIGION FOR THE BOYS AND GIRLS.

IN 1910 THERE WAS 15 CHURCHES IN THE SOUTHEASTERN ASSOCIATION. THEY WERE: ANTIOCH, BETHSAIDA, CHRISTIAN HOME, EPHEBUS, EVERGREEN, GOODWATER, JUDSON, MOUNT ZION, NEW PROSPECT, PINEY GROVE, PLEASANT HILL, PILGRIM'S REST, SARDIS, UNION GROVE AND ZION.

ON FRIDAY BEFORE THE 3RD. SUNDAY IN OCTOBER 1936 THE SOUTHEASTERN ASSOCIATION CONVENED AT NEW ZION CHURCH FOR THEIR 58TH ANNUAL SESSION. BROTHER J. H. GUILFORD, MODERATOR; BROTHER D. F. PELT, VICE MODERATOR; BROTHER J. S. VICKERS, CLERK; AND D. E. SHIRLEY, TREASURER.

THE FOLLOWING REPORT WAS GIVEN ON TEMPERANCE. WE URGE THAT OUR MEMBERS OBEY PAUL'S INSTRUCTIONS, "BE YE TEMPERATE IN ALL THINGS." ESPECIALLY PERTAINING TO STRONG DRINKS, AND WE RECOMMEND THAT ALL OUR CHURCHES DEAL WITH ITS MEMBERS THAT WALK DISORDERLY IN ANY RESPECT.

SIX CHURCHES REPORTED AS HAVING SUNDAY SCHOOLS. EACH CHURCH WAS URGED TO ORGANIZE A SUNDAY SCHOOL AND TAKE THE WORK TO HEART.

BROTHER J. T. HUTTO HELD THE CONGREGATION ALMOST SPELLBOUND WITH OLD TIME PREACHING. THIS WAS VERY IMPRESSIVE AND ENJOYED BY ALL.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL CONVENTION WAS SET TO MEET SATURDAY BEFORE THE 2ND. FIFTH SUNDAY IN 1937 AND GOES TO GOODWATER.

THE FOLLOWING MEN WAS GIVEN AS MINISTERS; E. O. SELLERS, BOB BEASLEY, J. H. GUILFORD, C. P. GUILFORD, THOMAS GILLEY, J. M. SHIRLEY, D. F. PELT. THERE WAS 12 CHURCHES IN THE ASSOCIATION IN 1936.

ON FRIDAY BEFORE THE THIRD SUNDAY IN OCTOBER 1938 THE SOUTHEASTERN ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTIST MET AT UNION GROVE CHURCH. BROTHER J. H. GUILFORD, MODERATOR; D. F. PELT, VICE MODERATOR; J. S. VICKERS, CLERK; AND J. L. STOKES (LONG), TREASURER.

ON FRIDAY BROTHER T. B. MILLETTE PREACHED THE TRUE GOSPEL OF CHRIST TO A CONGREGATION THAT ENJOYED IT AND WAS TRULY THANKFUL FOR SUCH A MESSAGE. AN INTERMISSION OF ONE HOUR AND FIFTEEN MINUTES AND GIVEN DURING WHICH TIME A BOUNTIFUL FEAST WAS SPREAD AND ENJOYED BY ALL. SONG SERVICE WAS LED BY BROTHER BOB STOKES.

ONLY FIVE CHURCHES WAS HAVING SUNDAY SCHOOL IN 1938.

PILGRIM CHURCH GAVE THE FOLLOWING REPORT. FROM THE DAYS OF JESUS DOWN TO OUR AGE OR THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE HISTORY OF THE CHRISTIAN RELIGION, WOMEN HAVE BEEN FOUND AMONG THE MOST LOYAL AND ARDENT FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST. THE LADIES AUXILIARY WORK AFFORDS OPPORTUNITY FOR WOMEN TO LEND A HELPING HAND IN CARRYING OUT JESUS' COMMAND "GO YE INTO ALL THE WORLD."

A MOTION WAS MADE TO PAY THE CLERK \$15.00 AND \$10.00 WAS GIVEN TO BROTHER D. F. PELT FOR HIS EXPENSES TO THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION. THERE WAS 12 CHURCHES IN THE ASSOCIATION. EVERGREEN HAD THE LARGEST ATTENDANCE WITH 229 MEMBERS. BROTHER G. W. NOBLES WAS PASTOR.

ON FRIDAY BEFORE THE 3RD. SUNDAY IN OCTOBER THE SOUTHEASTERN ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTIST CONVENEED WITH SARDIS CHURCH FOR THE 68TH ANNUAL SESSION. THIS WAS IN THE YEAR 1946. BROTHER D. F. PELT WAS MODERATOR; J. L. STOKES, TREASURER.

ON SATURDAY MORNING THE SONG SERVICE WAS LED BY BROTHER LONG STOKES. BROTHER HUMAN HAD THE DEVOTION FOR THE MORNING AND BROTHER PELT IN THE AFTERNOON.

A MOTION WAS MADE TO SELL JAMES CHAPEL CHURCH AND THE PROCEEDS TO BE DONATED TO HOLMES NEW CHURCH.

THERE WAS 14 CHURCHES IN THE ASSOCIATION. THEY WERE: CHESTER CHAPEL, EVERGREEN, FRIENDSHIP, GOODWATER, HICKORY GROVE, HOLMES, JUDSON, MOUNT ZION, NEW PROSPECT, NEW ZION, PILGRIM'S REST, PLEASANT HILL, SARDIS AND UNION GROVE.

EVERGREEN STILL HAD THE LARGEST MEMBERSHIP WITH 239 MEMBERS.

ON FRIDAY BEFORE THE 3RD. SUNDAY IN OCTOBER 1947 THE SOUTHEASTERN ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTIST CONVENEED AT UNION GROVE CHURCH FOR THE 69TH ANNUAL SESSION.

BROTHER D. F. PELT WAS MODERATOR; LUCILLE BODIFORD, CLERK; AND J. LONG STOKES, TREASURER. THE THEME FOR THIS SERVICE WAS "CHRISTIANITY WILL NEVER END."

BROTHER K. V. SHUTES GAVE A REPORT ON THE JUNIOR COLLEGE, THE CHILDREN HOME IN ELDRIDGE, ALABAMA AND A DONATION OF \$47.28 WAS GIVEN.

PILGRIM'S REST HAD JOHNNIE WILSON AND CARL WILSON ORDAINED AS DEACONS.

J. LONG STOKES WAS TREASURER AND HE SHOWED A BALANCE OF \$51.20 IN THE TREASURY.

THERE WAS 14 CHURCHES LISTED AS MEMBERS. THE LARGEST MEMBERSHIP WAS UNION GROVE WITH 191 MEMBERS. THE PASTOR PAID THE LARGEST SALARY WAS T. B. MILLETTE FROM FRIENDSHIP. HE WAS PAID \$600.00.

TIMES HAVE REALLY CHANGED SINCE THE BEGINNING OF OUR ASSOCIATION. SOME FOR THE BETTER, SOME FOR THE WORSE.

IT IS A PLEASURE TO HAVE HAD YOU WITH US AT GOODWATER ON THIS 100TH ANNUAL SESSION OF THE ASSOCIATION.