

THE
SOUTHERN ILLINOIS
CONFERENCE
OF
FREE WILL BAPTISTS

1947

PROCEEDINGS OF THE
28TH ANNUAL MEETING

CONVENED AT
UNION FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH
OF THE FREEDOM QUARTERLY

MINISTERS' CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

The Southern Illinois Free Will Baptist Ministerial Conference when convened with the Union Free Will Baptist Church, Sept. 11, 1947.

Opened with song. by congregation.

Prayer by Bro. Charles Porter.

Scripture read by Bro. Claud Childers.

With Rev. J. M. Smith acting as Moderator pro tem Rev. Charles R. Porter was nominated and duly elected moderator by acclamation; Rev. C. H. Curry was appointed Assistant Moderator.

Business Committee appointed as follows: Bro. Wm. Buster, Bro. James Fite and Bro. Claud Childers.

Topic, Acts 10:14, opened by Rev. C. H. Curry making a very interesting talk; followed by others.

Rev. C. V. Clark was nominated and elected to bring the eleven o'clock message.

Moderator called for song and five minutes recess before the message. Bro. Clark preached a wonderful message stirring every heart.

After a handshake, the meeting was adjourned until 1:30 p.m.

AFTERNOON SESSION

Session opened by singing, "Throw out the Life Line".

Prayer by Bro. C. J. Kettelman.

Devotional service conducted by Bro. Louis Schrum.

The Business Committee made the following recommendation: "Since we believe Compulsory Military Training in peace time is contrary to the principles of true Democracy and destructive both morally and spiritually, in that it removes our youth from the shelter of the home and the church and also exposes them to unusual temptations in the adolescent period of their lives; therefore, be it resolved that we go on record as opposed to Compulsory Military Training in peace time." —Signed, Committee: Rev. Claud Childers, Rev. James Fite and Rev. Wm. Buster. The resolution having been read in conference was adopted.

The Topic of the afternoon, Isaiah 43:6, opened with

some interesting talks on the subject.

Rev. James Fite was duly elected to preach the introductory message next session.

Rev. Harold Whitsell was elected to bring the afternoon (3:00 p.m.) message. Bro. Whitsell preached a wonderful message. After a handshake the Conference stood adjourned until the next regular Ministerial Conference.

Those Attending the Ministerial Conference were:

Elder Ethel Hoffard.

Elder C. J. Kettelman.

Elder Paul Sulcer.

Elder T. R. Jones.

Elder Louis Schrum.

Elder Willie Huffman.

Elder C. V. Clark.

Elder William Buster.

Elder W. E. Russell.

Elder Harold Whitsell.

Elder Charles R. Porter.

Elder James Fite.

Elder C. H. Curry.

Elder Claud Childers.

Elder Sherman Sullivan.

Elder J. M. Smith.

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

The 28th Annual Meeting of the Free Will Baptist Yearly Conference of Southern Illinois when convened with the Union Free Will Baptist Church of the Freedom Quarterly, Sept. 12, 1947.

Opened by singing, "Standing on the Promises" and "Take the Name of Jesus with You".

Prayer by Bro. Throgmorton.

Song, "Savior Lead Me".

ORGANIZATION— Motion made by Bro. C. H. Curry and seconded by Bro. Wm. Buster to elect W. R. Burton

for Moderator. Bro. Burton duly elected by acclamation.

Minutes of previous meeting were read and approved.

Moderator appointed Bro. J. M. Throgmorton as Assistant Moderator.

The letters from the Quarterly meetings were read and delegates from the various churches received as letters were read. Delegates arriving late were seated as they arrived. Motion carried that the Moderator be empowered to substitute delegates if necessary.

A resolution from the Ministerial Conference was read by the Clerk, "We, the Business Committee of the Ministers' Association of Free Will Baptist Churches of Southern Illinois wish to recommend that, 'The Free Will Baptist Yearly Conference of Southern Illinois adopt the following resolution to be presented to the President of the United States.'" The resolution reads: "Since we believe Compulsory Military Training in peace time is contrary to the principles of a Democracy and destructive both morally and spiritually in that it removes our youth from the shelter of the home and the church, and also exposes them to unusual temptations in the adolescent period of their lives, therefore, be it resolved that we go on record as opposed to Compulsory Military Training in peace time." —Signed, Committee: Rev. Claud Childers Rev. James Fite and Rev. Wm. Buster.

Motion by Rev. Chas. R. Porter carried that a copy of this resolution be sent to both the President of the United States and the State Senator.

The Moderator at this time appointed a Business Committee with Bro. Chas. R. Porter, Chairman and Bros. John Willhite, Harry Smith and Floyd Hilliard as members. A Pulpit Committee was also appointed consisting of: Sis. Ada Hilliard, Bro. Jim Terhune and Bro. Louis Schrum.

Topic, "The Need of Unity in Our Churches Today," opened by Bro. Porter was very good.

A partial report of the Pulpit Committee named Sis. Ethel Hoffard to bring the eleven o'clock message.

Delegates from other churches arrived and were duly seated.

Report from the National Association was given at

this time by Sis. Opal Hiltibidal making a very good report. She reported that the next National Ass'n. will be held at Pocahontas, Ark. Report duly accepted.

Bro. Wm. Buster made mention that the Franklin Co. Quarterly Meeting is planning a week's school to study the Treatise on Monday night after the third Sunday in Sept.

Motion made by Bro. Buster and seconded by Bro. J. M. Smith that the Clerk have the Minutes of this Yearly Conference printed and distributed to the churches. Motion carried.

Motion by Bro. Buster and seconded by Bro. Oran Kersh to stand adjourned until 1:30 p.m. Carried.

ELEVEN O'CLOCK SERVICE

Service opened with song.

Prayer by Bro. Abel.

Song, "Praise Him".

Message by Sis. Ethal Hoffard stirred hearts and was surely inspired of the Lord. Sis. Hoffard based her remarks on the text, "Strive That Ye may Enter in at the Strait Gate."

A song and handshake followed with benediction by Bro. Porter.

AFTERNOON SESSION

Session opened with singing, "He's My Friend," and "Joybells Ringing in Your Heart".

Prayer by Bro. Curt Rogers.

Song, "I Shall Know Him".

Scripture read from 1st Peter 3:10-17 by Sis. Aline Hanna.

A special song, "The Way is Growing Better Every Day", rendered by Sis. Naomi Logdson. Good!

Business opened by reading a recommendation from the Business Committee. First, "We recommend an appointment of five (5) men together with the Moderator to be the Official Board of the Yearly Meeting to be empowered to act on any church business in absence of regular session and in session." Opened by Bro. Porter who also made the motion to adopt the recommendation. After second of the motion by Bro. Buster, Bro. John

Willhite (a member of the committee) talked about the board stating that it would not interfere with the Trustees of the Conference. Motion carried.

The Moderator duly appointed Bros. Porter, Brunell, Gullledge, Eden and Curry.

Second "What is the individual member's responsibility in our every individual church and in the Yearly Meeting?" This is meant as a spiritual responsibility, — signed Committee: Chas Porter, John Willhite, Harry Smith and Floyd Hartely. Committee on closing resolution appointed by Moderator as follows: Bros. H. Hale, W. Russell and O. Kersh.

Auditing Committee appointed as follows: Bros. C. Curry, C. Rogers and Chas. Shaw.

Pulpit Committee made their final report as follows:

Friday evening, Bro. Wm. Buster; Sat. 11:00 o'clock, Bro. C. H. Curry; Sat. 1:30 -Memorial Sermon-, Bro. W. R. Burton; Sat. night, Bro. Chas. Porter; Sunday morning, Bro. C. J. Kettelman; Sunday night, Bro. Lipton Harpole. —Signed, Committee: Ada Hillard, James Terhune and Louis Schrum.

Motion carried that the Clerk have 250 copies of the Constitution and By-Laws of the Yearly Meeting printed.

Bro. Chas. Porter asked the Wayne Co. Quarterly Meeting to have their churches recorded in the County Seat as belonging to the Free Will Baptist Yearly Conference of Southern Illinois.

The Clerk requested each Minister to make his annual report in order to receive the annual minister's card.

Time was given at this time to the Ladies' Auxiliary Program which was very enjoyable.

An offering amounting to \$35.40 was taken for Auxiliary work.

The next Yearly Conference is to be held in the Franklin County Quarterly Meeting on Wednesday after the Second (2nd) Sunday in Sept., 1948.

Bro. Curt Rogers was elected to preach the Introductory Message next year.

Bro. Tracey was re-elected as Clerk of Yearly Con-

ference.

Sis. Lucille Willhite was elected as Treasurer.

The Moderator appointed the Program Committee at this time, to wit: Wm. Buster, Jananita Smith and the Clerk, Tracey W. Dees, the Clerk to act as chairman.

The Wayne County Quarterly Meeting all to attend their next meeting at the Johnsonville Church.

Motion carried to adjourn.

FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICE

The Friday night service was very enjoyable to everyone present. Message by Bro. Wm. Bustor.

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

Session opened with song, "Let Him Have His Way With Thee".

Prayer by Bro. Oran Kersh.

Scripture lesson read from St. John 15.

Prayer by C. J. Kettelman.

Topic, "Do the Churches Need a Spiritual Tonic?" opened by Bro. E. J. Kettelman, followed by Bro. Willie Huffman and Br. J. M. Smith.

Bro. W. R. Spurlock made a stirring talk on the Topic, "If Man Would Yield to the Holy Spirit and let Him Enter Our Lives, We Would not Worry About Needing a Tonic."

Topic, Rev. 5:1-5, opened by Bro. C. H. Curry.

Motion carried that the Yearly Treasurer be authorized to send to Bro. Cawford at Nashville, Tenn. the dues for the National Association.

Motion carried to adjourn until 1:30 p.m.

ELEVEN O'CLOCK SERVICE

Service opened with singing and prayer.

Message by Rev. C. H. Curry who based his theme on the life of Joseph. We all received a lesson from this message. After the message, an old time handshake was enjoyed.

AFTERNOON SESSION

Opened with congregational singing.

Special song, "Looking for a City", by Agnes Rogers which everyone enjoyed.

Special number, "God is still on the Throne", by Bro. Paul Sulcer. This request number deeply touched our hearts.

Prayer by Bro. Marsh Harpole.

Scripture read by Bro. C. A. Curry from the 5th Chap. of Matthew.

Special Song, "Neith the Old Olive Tree", by Bro. Vaughn and daughter.

Memorial sermon by a very able speaker, the Rev. W. R. Burton. Rev. Burton went back to the organization of the Yearly Conference reading the names of the deceased of the past year.

Ministers filed their reports with the Clerk after which the examining board made their examination of them and returned them to the Clerk for the issuing of ministers' cards.

The Yearly Treasurer made her annual report.

The Auditing Committee examined the Treasurer's books finding them in good shape.

Motion carried to receive the Treasurer's report along with that of the Auditing Committee.

The Business Committee made their final report as follows:

1. We, the Business Committee recommend that each minister make his annual report to his Quarterly Conference or meeting by letter at the last Quarterly Conference before the Yearly Conference and that each Quarterly Conference Clerk send same to the Yearly Meeting Clerk.

Talk by Bro. John Willhite on recommendation.

Motion by Bro. Willhite to adopt same carried.

2. We, the Business Committee, request the Conference to allow Rev. Wallace Malone 15 minutes during the Saturday afternoon session for his superannuation report and his talk on missions.

—Signed, Committee.

Request granted.

Bro. Malone made a good report, and his talk n Foreign Mission work should stir every heart of those who profess to be Christians.

Bro. C. A. Curry made and Bro. C. J. Kettelman seconded a motion that October be set aside as Mission Month. Motion carried.

Sis. Aline Hanna made her report as National Treas-

urer.

Bro. John Willhite read a letter from the National Association about Illinois paying into the National Headquarters at Nashville, Tennessee the amount of \$500.

Motion carried to pass the request for the time being.

Closing Resolution Committee made its report expressing thanks in behalf of the Yearly Conference to the Union Free Will Baptist Church for their warm hospitality and also to the Moderator and other officers of the Conference for their efforts to make the Yearly Conference a success.

Motion made by Bro. Wallace Malone and seconded by Bro. Oran Kersh that the Yearly Clerk's salary be raised to \$20.00 and that the Yearly Treasurer's salary be raised to \$10.00. Motion carried.

An old time handshake was then enjoyed with the congregation singing, "Shut in with God", led by Bro. and Sis. Sulcer.

The Conference stands adjourned until next Yearly Conference in 1948. Done by order of the Free Will Baptist Yearly Conference of Southern Illinois when convened with the Union Free Will Baptist Church Sept. 12 & 13, 1947.

W. R. Burton, Moderator
Tracey W. Dees, Clerk

MINISTERS' CARDS ISSUED TO:

Elder H. T. Little, Elder Opal Hiltibidal, Elder Marsh Harpole, Elder Jake McAnally, Elder George Waggoner, Elder T. R. Jones, Elder George Morgan, Elder Vernell Clark, Elder J. M. Smith, Elder Willie Huffman, Elder L. E. Abel, Elder Chas. R. Porter, Elder Opal Jeffreys, Elder Tracey W. Dees, Elder C. H. Curry, Elder Cloy Myers, Elder Harold Whitsell, Elder James Fite, Elder C. J. Ketterman, Elder Oran Kersh, Elder W. E. Russell, Elder Raymond Boyd, Elder Louie Hanna, Elder Aline Hanna, Elder Floyd Hartely, Elder Everett Lewie, Elder C. A. Curry, Elder Sherman Sullivan, Elder Ethel Hoffard, Elder J. E. Harris, Elder Jesse Brooks, Elder John Hiltibidal, Elder Carlos Kersh, Elder Ella M. Hiltibidal, Elder W. R. Spurlock, Elder B. A. Merkle, Elder Wallace Malone, Elder Jasper Armstrong, Elder Barney Searles, Elder Louis Schrum, Elder Dewey Merritt, Elder Raymond Pitchford, Elder Paul E. Sulcer, Elder C. A. McBride, Elder J. W. Throgmorton, Elder Wm. Buster, Elder W. R. Burton and Elder Harlan Street.