

SOUTHERN UNION ASSOCIATION

OF

FREE WILL BAPTISTS

MINUTES

1994

MINUTES
of the
SIXTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL SESSION
of the
SOUTHERN UNION ASSOCIATION
OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

convened in
Holt, Florida
September 24, 1994

1995 Session
Camp Nebo
Holt, Florida
September 23, 1995
10:00 A.M.

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MEMBER CHURCHES

FIRST FREE WILL BAPTIST OF MOBILE ... (334) 478-7798
1252 Navco Road, Mobile, AL 36605
Pastor Douglas Carey (334) 660-8956

NEW BETHANY FREE WILL BAPTIST None
5478 Penny Creek Road, Holt, FL 32564
Pastor W. A. Wilkinson (904) 537-3192

SHADY HILL FREE WILL BAPTIST (334) 222-2887
Route 1, Andalusia, AL 36420
Pastor Andrew J. Orsa (904) 537-7181

GENERAL OFFICERS FOR 1994

Moderator Mr. Ralph Bass
Route 1, Box 177, Andalusia, AL 36420 (334) 222-2887

Assistant Moderator Rev. Andrew J. Orsa
5333 Olin Merritt Street, Baker, FL 32531 (904) 537-7181

Clerk Mrs. Ina Walters
5478 Penny Creek Road, Holt, FL 32564 (904) 537-6752

Reading Clerk Mrs. Glynda Cupp
4814 Van Horn Drive, Milton, FL 32583 (904) 623-3408

Treasurer Mr. Randy Bass
Route 1, Andalusia, AL 36420 (334) 222-3654

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Rev. W. A. Wilkinson (904) 537-3192
5440 Steele Road, Baker, FL 32532

Mr. Ralph Bass (334) 222-2887
Route 1, Box 177, Andalusia, AL 36420

Rev. Andrew J. Orsa (904) 537-7181
5333 Olin Merritt Street, Baker, FL 32532

ORDAINING COUNCIL AND DATE OFFICE EXPIRES

Rev. W. A. Wilkinson 1997
5440 Steele Road, Baker, FL 32531

Rev. Andrew J. Orsa 1998
5333 Olin Merritt Street, Baker, FL 32532

Rev. Douglas Carey 1999

Mr. Ed Bass 2000
Route 1, Andalusia, AL 36420

CAMPSITE COMMITTEE

Rev. W. A. Wilkinson
Mr. Ralph Bass

MINISTERS PRESENT FOR ANNUAL MEETING

Rev. W. A. Wilkinson
Rev. Andrew J. Orsa
Rev. Douglas Carey

DELEGATES NOMINATED BY CHURCHES
TO ATTEND ANNUAL MEETING

First Free Will Baptist of Mobile

New Bethany Free Will Baptist
Glynda Cupp
Naomi Wilkinson

Shady Hill Free Will Baptist
Randy Bass
Treva Bass
Wavie Lee Mims
Joyce Bass

- * It is noted that all pastors and deacons of the association are standing delegates.

Total attendance of the meeting was 17

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ANNUAL MEETING

The Sixty-eighth session of the Southern Union of the Free Will Baptist met on September 24, 1994 at Camp Nebo near Holt, Florida.

The meeting began at 9:00 a.m. Brother Ralph Bass (Moderator) welcomed those in attendance, and asked Brother Ed Bass to lead in prayer. Brother Ed Bass directed the congregation in singing. The customary handshake took place in the auditorium. Then had prayer by Brother Tony Orsa.

Sister Glynda Cupp read the annual church reports (reports are found in a chart at the end of this publication). All reported information was accepted by majority vote.

Letter read from First Free Will Baptist Church of Flomaton asking to be dismissed from our Association.

Brother Jim Turner read the annual treasurer report and it was accepted by the body.

Rev. Douglas Carey was accepted as Minister into the Association by majority.

The body agreed the only committee necessary was the suggestion committee. Appointed by the moderator to serve on this committee were Glynda Cupp, Randy Bass, Treva Bass, Naomi Wilkinson, and Douglas Carey.

Rev. Douglas Carey delivered the morning message, dealing with discouragement; how to relate to changes in Church and society; don't be afraid to change; fight bitterness; don't look back; and minister to people where they are today.

Prayer by Brother Orsa. Break for lunch.

AFTERNOON SESSION

The congregation convened at 1:15 p.m. Singing, "Tis So Sweet To Trust In Jesus". Devotion by Brother Ralph Bass, "What's In It For Me?".

Suggestion committee suggested that we go to semi-annual meetings instead of quarterly. The body voted to meet in March and September. Mobile will be the host Church for meeting March 19, 1995. Meeting to start at 10:00 a.m. Annual meeting to be held at Camp Nebo on September 23, 1995 starting at 10:00 a.m. Brother W. A. Wilkinson and Brother Ralph Bass to be on campsite committee.

The body requested that W. A. Wilkinson be on the Children Home Board for one more year.

Pay insurance and keep camp for one more year. Try to get more interest in camp. Be more active in Churches and camp.

Send Spence Brothers a Thank-you card for all the yard work they have done at Camp Nebo.

Prayer by Sister Wavie Lee Mims, followed by collection of \$53.00 for Children Home and \$98.00 for Camp Nebo.

Meeting ended with song, "Till We Meet Again", and handshake to welcome Brother Douglas Carey into our association.

ANNUAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Treasurers' Report given by: James A. Turner

Date	Transaction	Received	Paid	Balance
				\$1,932.15
09-25-93	Fees from Churches	\$600.00		\$2,532.15
09-28-93	State Association		\$300.00	2,232.15
09-28-93	FWB Children Home Building Fund		792.84	1,439.31
09-28-93	Insurance of Camp		493.00	946.31
09-25-93	Offering taken at Association for FWB Children Home	63.00		1,009.31
09-28-93	FWB Children Home		63.00	946.31
11-08-93	Premiere Copies 1993 Minutes		68.40	877.91
11-17-93	Greg Hollifield		100.00	777.91
03-05-94	FWB Children Home Offering taken at Quarterly meeting for FWB Children Home	24.75 49.00	24.75 49.00	777.91 777.91

Temperance Committee: We, the temperance committee, suggest that Christian people avoid all appearance of evil, to abstain from sinful amusements and worldly conformity to the world, from all sanction of the use and sale of intoxicating beverages and drugs, to provide things honest in the sight of all men and pray for and encourage each other daily.

Sunday School Committee: We, the committee on the Sunday School, find three (3) churches have an active Sunday School with a total of 55 members. We would like to stress the importance of Sunday School in teaching the fundamentals of the faith and ground of the body of Christ. We pray for saving of souls and the cause of Christ to be strengthened. We ask each member of the association to pray and strive for an active Sunday School showing our youth a way of life to be desired and a vision of heavenly things to come.

Ladies Auxiliary Committee: We, the Ladies' Auxiliary Committee, find one active auxiliary in our association. We regret some of the other groups have failed to function recently. We show a total membership of ten (10). We have a central thrust of missions and try to assist the pastor and other officers in the church where possible. In these times we strongly urge our women to form an active group where none exist and let us all strive to further the cause of Christ. Only one church has a Ladies' Auxiliary at this time.

Resolutions Committee: Be it resolved that the Southern Union Association of Free Will Baptists re-affirm the fundamental principles of orthodox Christian faith and morality:

That we stand for public morality, withstanding the
social ills of feminism, abortion, and
homosexuality;

That we stand for the reintroduction of prayer into the
public schools, as well as the fair and objective

treatment of Biblical creation in the public
school classroom; and
That we re-affirm our orthodox position on the plenary-
verbal inspiration, infallibility, and inerrancy
of Holy Scripture in a day when such doctrines
are easily dispensed with.

Obituaries Committee: With deepest regret, we report the death of
this member.

Brother J. C. Mathews

Our loss is Heavens' gain.

Suggestions Committee: The following suggestions were made by
the committee and passed by majority vote:

1. Continue Association with 3 current member Churches.
2. Recommend churches use camp for church functions.
Insurance paid on camp for one more year.
3. Send Thank-you letter to Spence Brothers for up-keep of
grounds at Camp Nebo.
4. Go to bi-annual meeting in March with annual meeting
in September.

March 19, 1995, 10:00 a.m. at Mobile church

September 23, 1995, 10:00 a.m. at Camp Nebo

Resolution of Thanks: We, the people of the Southern Union wish
to express in written form our gratitude for the work of the New
Bethany Free Will Baptist Church and Shady Hill Free Will
Baptist Church in preparing Camp Nebo for our annual meeting.
Furthurmore, we wish to thank everyone else that has made this
past associational year a successful one. To attempt to name
everyone who has been involved in that success would be futile.
May the Lord who leaves no good deed unrewarded smile upon
you each.

Respectfully,

Ina Walters

FIRST QUARTERLY MEETING

January 8, 1994, 10:30 a.m.

Canaan Free Will Baptist Church

The meeting was called to order. Congregation singing lead by Rev. Clyde Bruley. Songs sung were, "Are You Washed In The Blood", "The Blood That Stained The Old Rugged Cross", and "Have You Really Been A Friend".

Special singing by Jesse Odom, Ralph and Frances Beasley.

Rev. Clyde Bruley brought the morning message from I Thessalonians 5:1,6 and II Timothy 1:3.

Prayer by Rev. Orso.

Break for lunch.

Singing was led by Rev. Bruley, followed with prayer by Rev. Orso.

Devotion was given by Rev. Orso (Acts 1:3 and 13:1).

Brother Ralph Bass (Assistant Moderator) took over for business. No minutes to read. Asked for old business - none. New business: Brother Greg Hollifield resigned; Sister Frances Beasley was nominated by Jimmy Carden, James Turner seconded motion, motion was made to close nomination. Rev. Clyde Bruley was nominated on ordaining council. Rev. Bruley fill all Brother Hollifields' duties. Brother Jesse Odom sits in for Brother Hollifield for this day. The ordaining council examined Rev. Tony Orso. Rev. Clyde Bruley gave report. Rev. Tony Orso was ordained a minister. The right hand of fellowship was given to him. The moderator asked the clerk to write Mobile and New Home a letter of remembrance. Camp Nebo report given by Rev. Wilkinson. Treasurer report given by Brother Turner.

Offering of \$34.75 and \$75.00 were received for Children Home and Camp Nebo.

Motion to adjourn made by Rev. Bruley, seconded by Brother Turner.

SECOND QUARTERLY MEETING

April 9, 1994

Shady Hill Free Will Baptist Church

Congregation singing led by Brother Ed Bass. Songs sung were, "Brethren We Have Met To Worship" and "Just A Little Talk With Jesus".

Special by Brother Tony Orso. "Sacred Heart", "Amazing Grace", "The Glory Of The Cross", and "Alas, And Did My Saviour Bleed".

Duane Street

Rev. Orso sang, "Lord Put Me Down" and "We've Got The Power".

The morning message was from Philippians 3:1. Prayer and dismissed for lunch.

Meeting was called to order by moderator Charlie Roberson. Prayer was offered by Brother Orso. Minutes were read and approved. Devotion by Rev. Bruley from I Corinthians 3:10,11 and 15:1-4. Brother Ralph Bass made a motion to omit camp this year. Rev. Bruley second. Discussed not enough children. Get a youth director at association.

Offering taken for camp \$39.00. Moderator gave report on a building to be paid off at Children Home. Report on Bible College in the black. Report on foreign mission, got address for each one. Children Home \$44.00

Dismissed by Brother Wilkinson.

THIRD QUARTERLY MEETING
July 16, 1994, 10:30 a.m.
New Bethany Free Will Baptist Church

Meeting was called to order by the moderator, Brother Charley Roberson.

Congregation singing by the church body.

The morning message was brought by Brother Jimmy Carden, "Letting Worldly Things Get Between You And God", about putting God first in our lives.

After lunch, letter was read by clerk from Canaan Church asking to be dismissed from this association.

Brother Douglas Carey thanked the churches for a warm reception, and asked that he be recognized as the pastor of the Mobile church. Brother Carey brought a letter of recommendation from Central Organization of Florida.

Report from Brother Wilkinson. Camp treasury has \$450.00. Children Home report will put up another building. Treasury report \$29.75 to Children Home. \$68.40 was paid to Brother Hollifield for 1993 minutes. \$794.82 to Children Home last year. \$493.00 to camp insurance for last year. Reports accepted by majority vote. Collection for Children Home was \$49.00 and for Camp Nebo was \$123.00.

Associational letter forms were given to the churches to complete and bring to yearly meeting.

Meeting adjourned by majority vote of the body.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. As to God--One God and Father of all. Eph. 4:6.
2. As to Scripture--All Scripture is given by inspiration of God. II Tim. 3:16.
3. As to Freedom of Will--"Ye will not come unto me." John 5:40.
"Whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." Rev. 22:17.
4. As to Condition of Salvation--He (Christ)died for all.
II Cor. 5:15. "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." Romans 10:13. "For in due season ye shall reap if ye faint not." Gal. 6:9. "Be thou faithful unto death and I will give thee a crown of Life." Rev. 2:10.
5. As to Election--"God is no respecter of persons, but in every nation he that feareth Him and worketh righteousness is accepted with Him." Acts 10:34-35.
6. As to Grace--"For the grace of God that bringeth Salvation hath appeared to all men." Titus 2:11. "For by grace are you saved through faith." Eph. 2:8.
7. As to Faith--"Justified by faith." Rom. 5:1. "This is the victory which overcometh the world, even our faith."
I John 5:4.
8. As to Works--"Faith without works is dead." James 2:26. "God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." Eph. 2:10.
9. As to Baptism--"And they went down both into the water, and when they were come up out of the water." Acts 8:39. "We are buried with Him by baptism unto death." Rom. 6:4.
10. As subject to Baptism--"If thou believest with all thine heart thou mayest." Acts 8:37. "So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God." Rom. 14:12.
11. As to Oneness of the Christian Church--"Is Christ divided?" I Cor. 1:13.
"I am the vine, ye are the branches." John 15:5. "That they may be one as we are." John 17:11-21. "There is one body and one spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling." Eph. 4:4.
12. As to Communion--"This do in remembrance of Me." Luke 22:19. "But let a man examine himself and so let him eat the bread and drink of the cup." I Cor. 11:28. "Let no man therefore judge you." Col. 2:16.

13. As to the Resurrection—"For the hour cometh in which all that are in the grave shall hear his voice and shall come forth." John 5:28. "For the trumpet shall sound and the dead shall be raised incorruptible and we shall be changed." I Cor. 15:52.
14. As to the Judgment, Reward and Punishment—"For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ." Rom. 14:10. "And these shall go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into life eternal." Matt. 25:46.
15. As to Feet Washing—"Ye also ought to wash one another's feet." John 13:14. "For I have given you an example." John 13:15. "Verily, verily, I say unto you, the servant is not greater than his Lord." John 13:16. "If you know these things happy are ye if ye do them." John 13:17. "Because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example." I Peter 2:21.

AS TO THE RULES - ARTICLE 1

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| Section 1 | When a sufficient number of members are ready for organization, the articles of faith and the covenant shall be read, and if adopted, the right hand of fellowship shall be extended. After prayer, they shall proceed to the election of officers, after which they shall be declared organized and ready for business. |
| Section 2 | No church shall be organized with less than three male members nor within six miles of another church of the same faith, unless in towns or cities. |
| Section 3 | The officers of a church shall be a pastor, one or more deacons, a clerk and treasurer, and not less than three trustees. |
| Section 4 | The church shall call their pastor at the next conference preceding the last regular conference in the associational year, unless in case of vacancy, in such a case they may call a conference for that purpose. |
| Section 5 | Any church, in case of necessity, may call a conference and elect one of their members or a visiting minister as moderator. |
| Section 6 | The church may hold a conference as often as it deems necessary. |

- Section 7 It is suggested that the church commune and wash the members' feet as often as convenient, and it shall not be postponed on account of disobedient members.
- Section 8 The church shall not try a member without a hearing unless said member refuses to attend the conference when notified to do so.
- Section 9 The church is to recommend the questioning of any member for licensing, the same as for ordination.
- Section 10 A presbytery of 5 ordained men shall be appointed by the moderator to hold office for 5 years to conduct ordination of ministers or deacons for this association or any church connected with this association.
- Section 11 Deacons shall not be ordained until they are tried.
- Section 12 Each minister shall be a member of some live church and in good standing with the church.
- Section 13 It shall be the duty of every member, male or female, to attend each conference meeting if possible. On that day, the pastor is expected to instruct the church in a spiritual manner by giving plain and pointed lessons on doctrine, discipline, the rule of holy living, and the church member's duties.
- Section 14 As the Scriptures teach against worldliness in any form, be it resolved that each member seek the divine guidance of the Holy Spirit in things that pertain to holy and righteous living.

ARTICLE 2

- Section 1 The pastor shall attend his church unless providentially hindered and shall sit as moderator to see that justice is carried out. In case of his absence, he is to appoint some suitable brother to assume his responsibility when he thinks the situation warrants such action. He shall also hold a protracted meeting with his church once a year.
- Section 2 The deacons shall be elected by the church and shall hold office at the discretion of the church. They shall watch the flock, advise the unruly members, and report such to the church in conference when necessary. They may administer the ordinance of baptism, shall make all necessary arrangements for the communion, monitor the needs of the church and the support of the pastor. They shall take notice of such members who refuse or neglect to partake of the Lord's Supper and wash each other's feet, and endeavor to ascertain the cause that the same may be laid before the church in conference.
- Section 3 The clerk shall be elected by the church and shall hold office at the discretion of same. He shall keep a record of the members and minutes of the business transactions of the church and shall read the same in conference as often as the church may demand. He shall turn all books and papers over to his successor in office.
- Section 4 The treasurer shall be elected by the church, shall hold office at the will of the church, shall hold monies paid into the church for general expenses, and shall turn over all money and papers to his successor.
- Section 5 The trustees shall be elected by the church, and shall hold office for two years until their successors are elected, unless removed for cause. They shall look after the repairs of the church, but they cannot sell or otherwise dispose of the church property without an order from the church in conference.
- Section 6 No one shall be received in the church unless Scripturally baptized by immersion by an ordained baptizer.
- Section 7 Members must pay their debts contracted by themselves or make satisfactory arrangements with their creditors, and they shall help pay their pastor.

- Section 8 We recommend that each church elect a Home Missions Treasurer and all money collected for Home Missions be retained in the church and paid out only by order of the church.
- Section 9 No preacher has a right to organize and bring a church into our Association without the arm of a church in our Association to help organize and presbytery same.
- Section 10 We recommend that each ordained minister in our Association obtain credentials showing the denomination that ordained him, the name of the church, the country, and the state. If possible, the presbytery that ordained him should also be named.
- Section 11 It is required of each church to do everything possible to promote religious work by encouraging your members to speak in public in behalf of our Saviour.
- Section 12 Each church shall encourage its members to attend every conference possible, to study the minutes, follow the rules and the articles of faith which are to be read in the church at least once a year.
- Section 13 No member shall leave the house without sufficient cause nor engage in conversation without being subject to being called to order by the moderator.
- Section 14 All discussion in conference must be conducted with calmness and good feelings. Those who speak Section 14 must rise to their feet, address the moderator and stay with the point in debate.
- Section 15 No member shall speak more than twice on the same subject without permission from the moderator, nor shall the remarks of any member be unreasonably long.
- Section 16 When the moderator speaks in debate, he shall nominate some other moderator in his stead.
- Section 17 No one shall be interrupted while speaking unless it is necessary to call him to order.
- Section 18 The Executive Committee is the governing body of the Association to act on things pertaining to the Association when the Association is not in session.

PERMANENT REGULATIONS

1. The officers shall be elected every 2 years.
2. Each church may appoint up to 4 delegates to the Association each year.
3. All deacons from the different churches are to be counted as standing delegates to the Association.
4. Minutes will be kept by Clerk of the Quarterly Meetings and recorded in the Annual Minutes.
5. The clerk is to write the Resolution of Thanks.
6. Each church is to record and report their Children's Home offering separate from other offerings.
7. A letter of explanation from each church is to be sent in absence of representation at the Quarterly Meetings.
8. No minister shall be held responsible for marrying anyone unknowingly who has previously been married, having a living husband or living wife.
9. No minister is to be called as pastor or used as an evangelist in any church in this Association without being subject to questioning by the ordaining council.
10. No minister is to be used as an evangelist in this Association except one of Free Will Baptist Faith.
11. Each church recommends someone from their membership to be placed on the executive committee every two years.

GUIDELINES FOR ORDINATION

1. This Association ordains no man that has more than one living wife; nor a man whose wife has more than one living husband.
2. Every minister carries a license until he is either called to a church or enters full time evangelistic work. The license of ministers licensed by this Association are to be reissued each year if the church of which they are member makes this request.
3. This Association ordains no one that doesn't fully believe the faith and practices of the Free Will Baptist Treatise.
4. This Association ordains no one that doesn't believe and practice tithing.
5. This Association ordains no one that doesn't believe in the verbal inspiration of the Word of God.

6. This Association will not ordain women to preach the Gospel.
7. This Association will not ordain anyone that is affiliated with the World Council of Churches.
8. This Association will not ordain anyone with a bad testimony with them that are without.
9. This Association will not ordain anyone that doesn't believe and practice the ordinances of the church.
10. This Association will not ordain anyone that doesn't believe a person can apostatize and be lost.

CHURCH COVENANT

Having given ourselves to God, by faith in Jesus 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 men.

We agree faithfully to discharge our obligations in reference to 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 in knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

We will not forsake the assembling of ourselves together for church conferences, public worship, and the observance of the ordinances of the gospel, nor fail to pay according to our ability for the support of the church, of 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 to one another's happiness and reputation, seek to strengthen the weak, encourage the afflicted, admonish the erring, and as far as we are able, promote the success of the church and the gospel.

We will everywhere hold Christian principles sacred and Christian obligations and enterprises supreme; counting it our chief business in life to extend the influence of Christ in society; constantly praying and toiling 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 evangelistic efforts for the salvation of the world.

And may the God of Peace sanctify us wholly, and preserve us blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

STATISTICAL TABLES

CHURCH	CLERK	MEMBERSHIP	PAID FEE	SERVICE SCHEDULE
First FWB Mobile, Alabama	Diane Weaver 7364 Havenwood Dr Theodore, AL 36582 (334) 653-8974	42		Sunday Mornings and Evenings Wednesday Evenings
New Bethany FWB Holt, Florida	Glynda Cupp 4814 Van Horn Road Milton, FL 32583 (904) 623-3408	19	\$100.00	Fourth Sunday Preaching S.S. each Sunday
Shady Hill FWB Andalusia, Alabama	Mavis McVay Rt 1, Box 182 Andalusia, AL 36420 (334) 222-3764	22	\$100.00	Sunday Mornings Wednesday Evenings

CHURCH	SUNDAY SCHOOL ENROLLMENT	BAPTISMS	MEMBERS ADDED	C.T.S. MEMBERS
First FWB Mobile, Alabama	26	0	2	0
New Bethany FWB Holt, Florida	7	0	1	0
Shady Hill FWB Andalusia, Alabama	22	0	5	0

