

ERNEST R. BOWEN
3606 WEST END AVENUE
NASHVILLE, TENN. 37205

MINUTES

TWENTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL SESSION
OF THE

Southwest Virginia Association

Of

Freewill Baptist Churches



Held With The
First Freewill Baptist Church
Richmond, Virginia
May 18, 1963

The next session will convene with the Oak
Grove Freewill Baptist Church, Big Stone
Gap, Va., Saturday before the third Sunday
in May, 1964, at 9:00 a. m. (E S T).

P R E F A C E

For well over two hundred years there has been a Baptist people in the United States who preached and practiced "Freedom of the Will". A great many of the Baptists came from Wales and London to the eastern part of the United States in the early settling of this country. Among the earliest records available, we find the name of Paul Palmer, who preached and organized a church in Perquims, North Carolina, in the year 1727. This church was later lost to the Calvinistic Baptists. Not only this church was lost, but several others in the course of time were lost, but a sufficient number kept the "Faith once delivered to the saints" that a steady increase has prevailed throughout the years.

Those who are called Free Will Baptists in North Carolina were first called by this name by those who opposed the doctrine of "Freedom of the will". The same thing was true in the north with the Rev. Benjamin Randall and his followers, whose church was organized at New Durham, N. H., in the year of 1780. The name was later adopted by the believers in "Salvation by Grace through Faith", who preached freedom of the will.

Among these believers it was deemed wise to set forth certain outstanding fundamental doctrines as believed by the denominations. In several of the states there were booklets published setting forth the "Articles of Faith". Many of the Disciplines set forth had different ways of doing things, while the fundamental doctrine was the same in all. These Disciplines and the Articles of Faith set forth the fact that "these were set forth for the convenience" with the solemn declaration that "the Bible is infallible" and in every instance it was plainly set forth that "We believe the whole Scriptures to be the word of God".

In the year 1935, at Cofer's Chapel, Nashville, Tenn., a committee was elected for the purpose of formulating, by way of a revision, a treatise out of the various Disciplines and former Treatise, to be used in Free Will Baptist churches. This committee was composed of the following ministers, namely: J. C. Griffin, chairman; and Winford Davis, E. B. Joyner, J. S. Frederick, E. E. Morris, W. B. Davenport, Millard Vanhooose, C. B. Thompson, and Ralph Staten, with two laymen, M. L. Morris and Hubert Post. This committee worked for several hours and then reported. A motion was carried that the report be accepted. In

the year 1947, while the National Association was in session at Highland Park, F.W.B. Church in Detroit, Michigan, a resolution was passed in which several members of the General Board of the National Association and one member from each affiliated state convention or association was to meet and revise the Treatise and report at the next session of the National Association. This committee, composed of the following ministers, namely: J. L. Welch, chairman; R. B. Crawford, J. C. Griffin, J. F. Miller, K. V. Shutes, F. S. Vanhoose, L. A. Holliday, I. W. Yandall, M. L. Sutton, Ralph Staten, Harry Beatty, H. E. Willis, Floyd Cherry, R. N. Hinnant, Seldon Bullard, C. H. Curry and J. A. Lambert met at Cofer's Chapel in Nashville, Tenn., in April and the revision was made and presented to the National Association in session in the Pocahontas Free Will Baptist Church, Pocahontas, Arkansas, July, 1948, and was adopted.

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 sanctions 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 grace and the 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 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, admonish the erring, and, so far as we are able, promote the success of the church and of the Gospel.

We will everywhere hold Christian principle sacred and Christian obligations and enterprises supreme; counting it our chief purpose 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 the Lord Jesus Christ.

O F F I C E R S

Eld. W. B. Galloway, Moderator -- Big, Stone Gap, Va.
 Eld. H. V. Johnston, Asst. Moderator ----- Norton, Va.
 Leslie Ketron, Clerk ----- Herald, Va.
 Minnie Belle Ketron, Asst. Clerk ----- Herald, Va.
 E. J. Kilgore, Treasurer ----- Coeburn, Va.

League Field Worker

Paul Sams ----- Wise, Va.

Executive Board

	Exp. or Office
Wilton H. Dail, 3322 Lens Ave., Norfolk, Va.	1964
S. B. Culbertson, Woodway, Va.	1965
Elder W. B. Galloway, Big Stone Gap, Va.	1966

Wise County Executive Board

Elder H. V. Johnston, Norton, Va.	1964
Elder Harold Kilgore, Esserville, Va.	1965
J. D. Sturgill, Rt. 2, Wise, Va.	1966

Wise County Ordaining Council

Elder Kermit Moore, Pound, Va.	1964
Elder P. H. Miller, Big Stone Gap, Va.	1965
Elder Howard Ashworth, B-203, Kingsport, Tenn.	1966

Lee County Executive Board

Clarence Ramey, Jonesville, Va.	1964
Frank Shoemaker, Pennington Gap, Va.	1965
D. C. Sturgill, Dryden, Va.	1966

Lee County Ordaining Council

Elder L. H. Martin, Jonesville, Va.	1964
Elder Paul Pennington, Pennington Gap, Va.	1965
Elder Ray Gardner, Norton, Va.	1966

E N R O L L M E N T

DELEGATES: Leroy Hall Jr., Mrs. Wilton Dail, Nola Jackson, Octavia Jones, and Gertrude Whitehurst.

MINISTERS: Raymond Riggs, J. C. Lynn, Robert C. Hill, W. B. Galloway, Ralph Staten, Kenneth Walker, Thomas Scott, W. H. Fentress, C. H. Denton, Ralph W. Lynberry.

DEACONS: M. E. Howard, E. J. Kilgore, L. G. Ketron, Wilton Dail.

PROCEEDINGS

NINE O'CLOCK

Singing under the direction of Bro. M. E. Howard.
Prayer by Elder J. C. Lynn. Scripture reading by clerk,
Psalms 19-1-2.

The conference was called to order by clerk. Due to the absence of both moderators, the oldest minister present was called on to moderate the conference, namely Elder W. H. Fentress. Elder Fentress declined, and Elder J. C. Lynn was elected to serve.

The moderator took charge, and business resumed as follows: The minutes of the last association were accepted as read. We were indeed happy to welcome Bro. Cecil Howard, from Bethlehem Baptist Church, Jacksonville, N. C.

Reports from the quarterly conferences were accepted as they appear in these minutes.

After much discussion, the request of the Tidewater Quarterly Conference to leave the Southwest Virginia Association and form their own association, or district meeting was granted.

Election of officers as they appear elsewhere in these minutes. Due to the absence of Elder S. B. Culbertson, Elder Ralph Staten was chosen to serve on the Executive Board.

The Association voted to receive an offering for the Childrens' Home at the 11 o'clock worship service.

By regular motion, the association was adjourned until 1:00.

Eleven O'Clock

Singing under the direction of Elder Robert C. Hill.
Prayer by Elder W. B. Galloway. Offering received for Childrens' Home in amount of \$18.75.

Prayer of thanks, Elder Ralph Staten.

Messenger, Elder Kenneth Walker.

Scripture reading, Matt. 9-1-2.

Text: "The Concern of Christ for the People".

Benediction, Elder Raymond Riggs.

One O'Clock

Singing under the direction of Elder Raymond Riggs.
Prayer by Bro. Thomas Scott.

The moderator took charge and business resumed as follows: Oral reports were received from Elder Raymond Riggs on Foreign Mission, Elder Kenneth Walker (Bible College), Bro Wilton Dail (State Home Mission) and Bro. E. J. Kilgore (Childrens' Home).

The Executive Board recommended the following donations to be taken from the treasury: \$75.00 (State Association), \$100.00 (State promotional work), 50.00 (Childrens' Home), \$50.00 (Bible College).

Delegates to the State Association were Mrs. Wilton Dail, Mrs. Octavia Jones, Mrs. Gertrude Whitehurst, and Mrs. Nola Jackosn. The Clerk was given authority to write in the remaining delegates from those present at the Association.

Ministers' reports were accepted as they appear elsewhere in these minutes.

A rising vote of thanks was given to the First Free-will Baptist Church of Richmond for their wonderful fellowship throughout the Association. By regular motion, the Association was adjourned until Saturday before the third Sunday in May, 1964, when it shall convene with Oak Grove Church, Big Stone Gap, Va.

WISE COUNTY QUARTERLY CONFERENCE

Greetings: To the Southwest Virginia Association of Free Will Baptists when convened with the First Free Will Baptist church, Richmond, Va., May 18, 1963.

We send as delegates Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Ketron, Bro. E. J. Kilgore and Elder W. B. Galloway, whom we pray may sit with you in your godly work.

Our standing is as follows:

Number churches ----	36	Church members ----	2096
Number S. S. -----	36	S. S. members -----	2582
Number Leagues ----	16	League members ----	456
Church memb. rec'd..	113	Ordained ministers ---	70
Church Memb. diss...	38	Licentiates -----	5
Church memb. died --	26	Minute Fund ----	\$209.60

Done by order of the Wise County Quarterly conference of Free Will Baptists while in regular session with the Dungannon church, April 13, 1963.

Moderators:

Rev. S. H. Jackson
Rev. H. V. Johnston

Clerks:

Mr. and Mrs. L. G. Ketron
Herald, Va.

TIDEWATER CONFERENCE

Norfolk, Va., May 18, 1963

Greetings: To the Southwest Virginia Association of Free Will Baptists, when convened with the First Free Will Baptist Church, Richmond, Va.

It was appointed that the moderator choose our delegates from those present at this meeting, whom we pray may sit with you in your godly deliberations.

Our standing is as follows:

Number of churches -----	9
Membership -----	1569
Received this year -----	186
Number of Sunday Schools -----	9
Number of Leagues -----	8
Number of Prayer Meetings -----	9
Ordained Ministers -----	11
Licentiates -----	2
Minute Fund enclosed -----	\$156.90

Done by order of the Tidewater Quarterly Meeting of Free Will Baptists, while in session with the Richmond Free Will Baptist Church, April 13, 1963.

REV RAYMOND RIGGS, Moderator
4624 Larkin St., Norfolk 13, Va.
MRS. MILDRED WELTON, Clerk
2305 Charleston Ave.,
Portsmouth, Va.

LEE COUNTY QUARTERLY CONFERENCE

May 13, 1963

Greetings: To the Southwest Virginia Association of Freewill Baptists, when convened with the First Free-will Baptist Church at Richmond, Va., May 18, 1963.

We have chosen all delegates from our last conference as corresponding messengers. These, we pray, may sit with you in your godly work.

Our standing is as follows:

Number of Churches --- 7	Membership -----	390
Number received ----- 4	Members deceased ---	2
Number dismissed ---- 36		
Number Sunday Schools 7	Membership -----	518
Number Leagues ----- 2	Membership -----	80
Ordained ministers ---- 4		

Minute fund enclosed, \$39.00

Done by order of Lee County Quarterly Conference of Freewill Baptists, while in regular session with Rock Lick Church, April 6, 1963.

Elder S. B. Culbertson, Moderator
Woodway, Va.
Mrs. Howard Salley, Clerk
Woodway, Va.

**Treasurer's Report Of
SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF
FREE WILL BAPTISTS**

May 18, 1963

Balance brought forward from last year----- \$ 67.78

Receipts of May 18, 1963

Wise County Quarterly Conference--	\$209.60	
Tidewater Quarterly Conference-----	156.90	
Lee County Quarterly Conference---	39.00	405.50
		473.28

Disbursements of May 1, 1963

State Minute Fund -----	\$ 75.00	
State Promotional work -----	100.00	
Moderator -----	10.00	
Clerk (Postage and manuscript)----	55.00	
Childrens' Home -----	50.00	
Bible College -----	50.00	
Allowed for minutes -----	115.00	455.00

Balance in treasury May 18, 1963----- \$ 18.28

Respectfully submitted,
E. J. Kilgore, Sr., Treasurer

Annual Report of Wise County Churches

CHURCH	Member- ship	Paid Pastor	Paid Evangelist	Children's Home	Super- annuation	Home Missions	Foreign Missions	Literature	Pastors
Dungannon	162	\$314.52	\$243.26	\$359.16	\$ 19.00	\$.00	\$ 47.89	\$ 77.78	Ralph Flannery
Beech Grove	27	120.00	.00	15.00	.00	.00	.00	36.00	H. V. Johnston
Gillenwaters	40	.00	20.17	10.00	6.00	.00	.00	30.33	Roy Kilgore
Beckner's Chapel	48	11.25	.00	20.00	.00	.00	.00	67.08	Hansford Mullins
Mary's Chapel	152	453.01	95.17	44.15	9.00	.00	.00	151.58	W. E. Harris
Tacoma	28	59.00	119.50	60.00	20.00	20.00	.00	73.59	Ritz Large
Ramsey	96	212.07	.00	28.28	9.00	.00	.00	41.62	James Ramey
Stephens Chapel	62	130.00	60.00	.00	1.50	142.00	.00	36.00	Eddie Sturgill
Mt. Olive	38	.00	50.37	8.50	9.99	.00	.00	31.80	Bobbie Osgood
Wilsons Chapel	33	55.50	.00	69.00	20.00	.00	.00	37.47	Harold Kilgore
Mountain View	28	.00	.00	1.00	3.00	.00	.00	14.00	Oscar Powers
Indian Creek	131	20.00	.00	59.50	12.00	.00	.00	86.82	Carson Dotson
Davis Chapel	39	25.00	477.26	15.00	5.00	.00	.00	66.00	David Powers
Stallard Memorial	50	226.21	549.90	199.89	17.00	.00	24.12	19.51	Harold Hawkins
Bethel Chapel	17	.00	59.29	20.00	12.87	.00	.00	16.55	Ray Gardener
Oak Grove	128	450.00	15.00	270.00	30.00	45.00	40.00	284.75	W. B. Galloway
Hopkins Chapel	58	90.00	.00	.00	18.00	.00	.00	36.50	Eddie Sturgill
West End	78	550.00	131.00	221.61	.00	25.00	.00	25.70	P. H. Miller
Valley View	23	8.25	22.74	20.00	3.50	.00	.00	28.32	Ralph Flannery
Lone Pine	93	242.25	80.00	72.01	9.00	.00	.00	134.34	Wade Powers
Calvary	30	30.00	.00	3.00	4.50	.00	.00	17.93	J. V. Estep

ANNUAL MINISTERS' REPORT

Sermons Preached	Churches Pastored	Revivals Held	Professions Witnessed	Number Baptised	Additions to Church	Churches Organized	Funerals Preached	Miles Traveled	Money Received
Ralph Rice	27	0	32	0	0	0	0	16,600	\$1800.00
Raymond Riggs	104	1	102	26	0	0	6	20,000	3900.00
Ralph Staten	132	1	24	14	18	0	0	19,000	5830.00
Ralph Flanary	150	2	25	18	9	1	26	1,500	300.00
Clarence Johnson	80	1	3	0	0	0	0	800	.00
Kermit Moore	00	2	70	45	10	0	23	00	00
Jack Richmond	65	0	0	22	0	0	8	00	00
H. V. Johnston	91	2	2	4	9	1	1	3,000	133.00
Hansford Mullins	25	1	6	0	0	0	2	00	00
V. B. Thacker	83	1	0	5	0	0	7	500	00
Howard Ashworth	0	0	43	48	0	0	22	00	375.00
Harold Kilgore	165	2	3	10	0	0	10	3,000	350.00
Della Salyers	22	0	0	0	0	0	1	224	32.50
G. T. Francis	63	1	3	0	10	0	5	700	00
Ethel Robbins	25	0	0	0	0	0	2	.100	00
Robert Addington	61	1	4	2	0	0	3	1,200	121.77
C. B. Addison	47	0	3	26	0	0	0	.00	00
Milam Hall	0	1	35	28	1	0	0	.00	00
Gale Scott	0	1	6	6	5	0	7	.00	00
Eddie Sturgill	120	2	10	9	21	0	8	4,996	452.27
			11						

James Laney	155	1	6	75	50	40	0	0	3	3,000	00
Robert Dixon	12	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	.100	200.00
J. T. Grear	125	0	3	37	15	0	0	0	0	4,500	520.00
W. H. Fentress	42	1	3	32	0	0	0	0	1	1,000	00
J. V. Estep	40	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	1	.400	500.00
Ray Gardner	120	1	1	6	4	3	0	0	3	2,500	900.00
Paul Pennington	65	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,200	25.00
S. B. Culbertson	60	1	2	2	2	0	0	0	2	.00	702.60
L. H. Martin	85	2	0	27	0	4	0	0	3	.00	850.00
W. B. Galloway	40	1	0	2	2	1	0	0	11	1,900	600.00
James Rose	48	1	1	5	0	0	0	0	3	.00	35.00
C. H. Denton				Active in local work.							
J. L. Hicks				No report kept							
Jess Cowden				No report kept							
J. D. Kilgore				No report kept.							
S. M. McFall				No report kept							

B Y - L A W S

1. The clerk or assistant clerk, or in their absence, the senior minister in years, shall call the association into conference, and if a quorum is present, the moderator, or in his absence, the assistant moderator shall take charge; and if neither of them be present, the senior minister in years shall act as moderator.

2. It shall be the duty of the clerk to enroll the delegates to the association, who shall present themselves with proper evidence of their rights to seats therein, and those enrolled by the clerk shall compose the association. In case of questionable representation, however, the case under question shall be referred to the credential committee.

3. It shall be the duty of every body belonging to this association to send a letter to every annual session of this association reporting in the same its spiritual condition, benevolent work, and its statistics. Any body belonging to this association which shall fail to represent itself for two successive sessions may be dismissed from the association by a two-thirds vote of all members present.

4. Each meeting shall be opened by reading a portion of the Bible and with prayer, and shall be closed with prayer.

5. By a two-thirds vote of all members present, ruling of the moderator may be overruled.

6. This association may correspond by messenger or otherwise with other religious bodies.

7. This association shall sit with open doors except when it shall go into a committee of the whole.

8. Any person not a member of this association may be allowed to take part in its discussions by obtaining permission from the moderator.

9 It shall be the duty of all members of the association to be present at the time appointed for each meeting, and anyone wishing to retire shall first obtain leave of the moderator.

10. No member shall absent himself from the association during its meeting without first obtaining permission from the moderator.

11. No person shall be allowed to nominate more than one member of any committee, provided the person nominated be elected.

12. The moderator shall not allow discussion when not

carried on in a Christian spirit or when he thinks it will cause discord or division.

13. Anyone desiring to speak shall rise to his feet and address the moderator by the appellation, "Brother Moderator", but shall not speak further until recognized by the moderator.

14. The "yeas" and "nays" may be counted on any question by request of one-fifth of the members present.

15. No member of this association shall be allowed to speak more than ten minutes nor twice on the same subject without permission from the moderator.

16. It shall be the duty of the moderator to seat delegates in a body in a designated section of the assembly room at the beginning of each business session.

17. These by-laws may be altered or amended at any regular or adjourned session of this association by a two-thirds vote of the members present.

18. It shall be the duty of every minister who holds membership in this association to report in writing to every annual meeting of the association. If any minister fails to report to the association for two successive sessions, he may be dismissed from the association by two-thirds of the members present.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. **THE BIBLE.** The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments were given by the inspiration of God, and are our infallible rule of faith and practice.

2. **GOD.** There is one living and true God, revealed in nature as the Creator, Preserver, and Righteous Governor of the universe; and in the Scriptures 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 God; in His human nature, truly man, the mediator between God and man, once crucified. He is now risen and glorified, and is our ever-present Saviour 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 beings and all things by

maintaining the constitution and laws of nature. He also performs special acts of grace, not otherwise provided for, as the highest welfare of man requires.

6. **THE SINFULNESS OF MAN.** Man was created innocent but by disobedience fell into a state of 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 God by His incarnation, life, suffering, death and resurrection affected 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 hearty renunciation of it; 2. Faith or the unreserved committal of ones 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 in Christ 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 whosoever 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, or 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 true believers.

14. **TITHING.** God commanded tithes and offerings in the Old Testament; Jesus Christ endorsed it in the Gospel (Mat. 13:23), 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" (I Cor. 16:2).

15. THE CHRISTIAN SABBATH. The divine law requires that one day in seven be set apart from secular employments and amusements for rest, worship, holy works and activities, and for personal communion with God.

16. RESURECTION, JUDGMENT 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; then the wicked will "go away in eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life".

Beverly's Print Shop, Clintwood