

MINUTES

Twenty-Eighth Annual Session

Of The

Southwest Virginia Association

Of

Freewill Baptist Churches



Held With The

Oak Grove Freewill Baptist Church

May 16, 1964

Big Stone Gap, Virginia

The next session will convene with Lone Pine Chapel Church, Pound, Va., Saturday before the third Sunday in May, 1965, 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. Vanhooose, 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.

OFFICERS

G. T. Francis, Moderator ----- Pound, Va.
 J. Harold Kilgore, Asst. Moderator ----- Esserville, Va.
 Mr. and Mrs. L. G. Ketron, Clerks-- Coebun, Rt. 4, Va.
 E. J. Kilgore, Treasurer ----- Coeburn, Rt. 2, Va.

League Field Worker

Paul Sams ----- Wise, Rt. 2, Va.

11:00 Speaker

James Boatwright ----- Fort Blackmore, Va.

Executive Board

	Exp. of Office
S. B. Culbertson, Woodway, Va.	1965
W. B. Galloway, Big Stone Gap, Va.	1966
Arthur C. Easterling, Wise, Va., Box 541	1967

Wise County Executive Board

Harold Kilgore, Esserville, Va.	1965
J. D. Sturgill, Rt. 2, Wise, Va.	1966
W. E. Harrison, Norton, Va.	1967

Wise County Ordaining Council

Paul Harry Miller, Big Stone Gap, Va.	1965
Howard Ashworth, Box 203, Kingsport, Tenn.	1966
Eddie Sturgill, Jenkins, Ky.	1967
Hobert Addington, Esserville, Va.	1968
Ralph Flannery, Dungannon, Va.	1969

Lee County Ordaining Council

Paul Pennington, Pennington Gap, Va.	1965
Rav Gardener, Esserville, Va.	1966
L. H. Martin, Jonesville, Va.	1967

Lee County Executive Board

Frank Shoemaker, Pennington Gap, Va.	1965
D. C. Sturgill, Dryden, Va.	1966
Clarence Ramey, Jonesville, Va.	1967

E N R O L L M E N T

MINISTERS—W. B. Galloway, Ben Powers, Leonard Hicks, Jeff Salyers, Sylvan Wilson, James Boatwright, Jess Cowden, Delia Salyers, G. T. Francis, Hershel Ramey, J. C. Lynn, W. H. Fentress, Hobert, Addington,

C. P. Lane, J. V. Estep, Robert Dixon, Wade Powers, S. R. Ball, Ralph Flanary.

DEACONS—W. H. Dail, Proctor Kennedy, Leslie Ketron, E. J. Kilgore, D. L. Boggs.

DELEGATES—Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Easterling, Bernice Hicks, Mrs. Leonard Hicks, Maggie Robinett, O. M. Skeen, Gladys Flanary, H. M. Osborne, Mr. and Mrs. D. L. Boggs Sr., Mrs. Paul Sams, Sybil Fry Mver, Mrs. E. J. Kilgore, Mrs. Willard Brickey, Louise Stidham, Lola Sturgill.

PROCEEDINGS

The Association opened with a short devotional. Singing was under the direction of Bro. Ralph Callohan; prayer by Elder Jim Boatwright, and scripture reading by Elder W. B. Galloway (1st Psalms).

The moderator took charge and business transacted as follows: Enrollment of all delegates as they appear elsewhere in these minutes. The chair was given power to appoint an assistant moderator, namely, Elder G. T. Francis, and a protom for the Executive Board, namely, Elder Robert Dickenson.

We were very happy to have corresponding messengers from the following Associations: Elder J. D. Boatwright, from the Clinch Valley, gave an oral report of the fine work being done in that section. By regular motion, this oral report was gladly received. Elder J. C. Lynn, from the Tidewater Association, presented a written report of the wonderful work already being done by this newly organized association. The report was gladly accepted as read, and appears elsewhere in these minutes. We were happy to have other visitors from Tidewater, Elder W. H. Fentress, Bro. W. H. Dail and Sister Octavia Jones. It has been a privilege to work with all of you from the Tidewater section. The miles may separate us but the Christian fellowship we have shared together for the past several years will always be an echo of strength to us. God bless you in your new association.

By regular motion, reports from wise and Lee County quarterly conferences were accepted as they appear elsewhere in these minutes.

The treasurer's report was accepted as it appears elsewhere in these minutes. Bro. E. J. Kilgore's resignation was accepted, but after consideration, Bro. Kilgore agreed to serve for another year. He has served for fourteen years as treasurer. A standing ovation was given Uncle Emmett for the life of service he has given to the support of every phase of work supported by the Freewill Baptists. Many spoken words of praise for him came from many delegates of the association. Yes there many roses placed upon a well deserving life.

By request of Bro. E. J. Kilgore, a committee was selected to audit the treasurer's books. Elder Ben Powers, Elder Ralph Flanary, Bro. Delbert Boggs were chosen.

The Executive Board chose Elder Ben Powers to bring the eleven o'clock message.

ELEVEN O'CLOCK

Mrs. Ray Turnage gave a fine song program with four girls from the childrens' home. She also made a wonderful talk concerning the progress of the home at this time, which was quite encouraging. An offering was received for the home (\$45.00). Twenty-five dollars was voted from the treasury of the Association for the home. A prayer of thanks was offered by Elder Ralph Flanary.

Messenger, Elder Ben Powers

Scripture, 2nd Chapter Timothy, 8 verses.

Text, "Make full proof of thy ministry", from which Elder Powers brought a very timely message.

Prayer, Elder Sylvan Wilson.

Fellowship service enjoyed by all.

Benediction, Brother Arthur Easterling.

Singing under the direction of Bro. Ralph Callohan.

Scripture reading, 23rd Psalm by Elder G. T. Francis.

Prayer by Elder Harold Kilgore.

The Moderator took charge and business resumed as follows: Selection of officers by the Executive Board was approved as they appear in these minutes.

A few moments of silent prayer was offered in memory of Elder H. V. Johnston. He was a truly great soldier and had been a faithful member of the Executive Board for many years. He will surely be missed by the Association but his words of counsel will surely echo as long as we gather for the Southwest Virginia Association.

The committees's report on the treasury book was found in perfect order.

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

Elder J. C. Lynn spoke to us for a few moments. His words were very uplifting and seasoned with the spirit of God. Delegates were elected to the State Association as follows: Elder Ralph Flanary, Elder Ben Powers, Faye Sams, Paul Sams, Sybil Fry Mir, Maggie Robinett, Elder Leonard Hicks, Mrs. Leonard Hicks.

Conference was adjourned until Saturday before the third Sunday in May, 1965, when it shall convene with Lone Pine Chapel of Pound, Va.

Benediction by Elder S. R. Ball.

IN MEMORY

Rev. H. V. Johnston, aged 74 years, who passed away Dec. 22, 1963, a member of Wilson's Chapel 49 years and pastor of same at his death. He will be greatly missed by the ministers conference, the conference association, and all who knew him. The association extends its prayers and sympathy to his wife, Mrs. Mariah Johnston, three children, five step-children, and grandchildren. We all feel our loss is heaven's gain. Mat. 25-21, Well done thou good and faithful servant thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many. Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord. Funeral service conducted by Rev. S. M. McFall and Rev. Harold Kilgore.

Submitted by Rev. Della Salyers.

IN MEMORY

Mrs. Ruth Ross, who departed this life Feb. 11, 1964. She was a devoted christian, attended the West Norton church, supporting financially and attending as long as her health permitted. Her intention was to unite with this church but she was taken seriously ill and never was able to return. We miss her so much, but feel our loss is heaven's gain.

Submitted by Mrs. Gladys Flannery

IN MEMORY

Rev. Jacob Welch and brother Joseph Fields, both of Mary's Chapel Church, Coeburn, Va. Uncle Jake as

everyone knew him, his ministerial work is over, but as a singer he and Bro. Joe along with many more of us have been practising here through life, now we feel they both are ready for the heavenly choir and the Master just called them home. The Association extends our sympathy to their families.

Submitted by Leslie Ketron.

LEE COUNTY QUARTERLY CONFERENCE

Greetings: To the Southwest Virginia Association of Freewill Baptists, when convened with the Oak Grove Church, Big Stone Gap, Va., May 16, 1964.

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

Our standing is as follows:

Number churches.....	6	Number S. S.....	6
Church membership --	344	S. S. Membership ----	439
Members received ----	13	Number leagues -----	2
Members Dismissed ----	29	League membership --	82
Ordained ministers ----	4	Minute Fund -----	\$34.40

Done by order of the Lee County Quarterly Conference of Freewill Baptists, while in regular session with the Rock Lick Church, April 4, 1964.

Moderator, Elder S. B. Culbertson, Woodway, Va.

Clerk, Mrs. Howard Salley, Woodway, Va.

WISE COUNTY QUARTERLY CONFERENCE

Greetings: To the Southwest Virginia Association of Freewill Baptists when convened with Oak Grove FWB Church, May 16, 1964, Big Stone Gap, Va.

We have chosen all delegates from our last conference, whom we pray may sit with you in your godly work. Our standing is as follows:

Number of churches....	35	Number youth leagues	15
Church membership--	1987	League membership --	504
Number S. S.....	35	Ordained ministers....	75
S. S. membership....	2563	Licentates -----	1

Minute Fund enclosed \$198.70

Done by order of Wise County Quarterly Conference of Freewill Baptists while in regular session with

Mary's Chapel, April 15, 1964, Coeburn, Va.

Moderators: Rev. Hobert Addington

Rev. Ralph Flannery

Clerks: Mr. and Mrs. L. G. Ketron

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance brought forward May 1963-----	\$ 46.03
Reimbursed minute fund -----	21.25
Wise County Quarterly Conference -----	209.60
Lee County Quarterly Conference -----	39.00
Tidewater Quarterly Conference -----	156.90
E. J. Kilgore -----	.50
	\$473.28

DISBURSEMENTS

Rev. J. B. Chism, state minutes-----	\$ 75.00
W. H. Dail, state promotional work-----	100.00
Rev. J. C. Lynn, moderator -----	10.00
Leslie Ketron, manuscript, clerk, postage-----	55.00
Greeneville Home for Children -----	50.00
F. W. B. College -----	50.00
Beverly's Print Shop, minutes -----	104.25
Crescent Printery, minister's cards -----	9.18
	\$453.43

Balance as of May 16, 1964----- 19.85

I have been treasurer for the past 14 years. I feel that at this time someone else should have it, so I hereby submit my resignation.

Respectfully submitted,

E. J. KILGORE, SR.

ANNUAL REPORT OF WISE COUNTY CHURCHES

CHURCH	Mem.	Paid Pastor	Paid Evangelist	Orphanage	Super- Annuation	Home Missions	Foreign Missions	Literature	PASTOR
Dungannon	159	\$414.00	\$110.10	\$496.82	\$20.00	\$134.50	\$192.51	\$109.47	Ralph Flannery
Beech Grove	29	91.00	85.00	40.00	.00	.00	.00	47.04	S. M. McFall
Gillenwaters	41	.00	.00	.00	9.00	19.00	.00	22.15	Roy Kilgore
Beckners Chapel	50	12.90	51.25	40.00	6.00	.00	.00	.00	Hansford Mullins
Mary's Chapel	145	765.00	263.80	265.70	18.00	60.00	.00	153.02	W. E. Harrison
Tacoma	29	.00	74.00	50.00	10.00	.00	.00	27.21	Ritz Large
Ramsey	104	298.24	10.06	37.97	12.00	386.12	.00	37.03	James Ramey
Stephens Chapel	66	180.00	228.13	.00	69.83	109.00	.00	51.13	Eddie Sturgill
Mt. Olive	31	50.00	.00	30.00	10.00	.00	.00	87.41	Jimmie Bowman
Wilson Chapel	34	81.00	241.00	81.00	21.00	101.81	.00	56.51	Harold Kilgore
Mountain View	27	30.00	90.00	50.00				19.00	J. E. Laney
Indian Creek	129	.00	.00	104.85	12.00	41.00	.00	88.44	Carson Dotson
Davis Chapel	35	49.60	107.60	18.00	.00	50.00	.00	46.00	Paul Leonard
Stallard Memorial	55	421.17	450.36	253.25	20.00	79.03	.00	10.42	Harold Hawkins
Bethel Chapel	12	53.12	8.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	41.00	Casper Lane
Oak Grove	138	600.00	140.00	360.00	40.00	60.00	60.00	299.47	W. B. Galloway
Hopkins Chapel	58	120.00	.00	22.66	12.00	.00	.00	38.00	Eddie Sturgill
West End	77	600.00	40.00	405.02	35.00	46.00	.00	26.03	Paul H. Miller
Valley View	25	12.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	22.30	Perry Honeycutt
Lone Pine	94	283.40	58.00	211.47	12.00	25.00	25.00	119.60	Wade Powers
Martha's Chapel	56	50.00	39.22	.00	.00	.00	.00	23.80	J. D. Kilgore
Glamorgan	43	1050.00	155.00	240.00	12.00	25.00	.00	23.80	Ben Powers

Dry Fork	29	143.90	67.00	43.50	6.00	38.92	.00	32.60	Jeff Salyers
Central	65	1680.00	225.00	240.00	6.00	210.00	40.00	196.90	Paul H. Miller
Inman	36	264.00	30.70	55.00	7.00	.00	.00	27.30	James Ramey
West Norton	32	47.30	123.42	20.00	12.00	.00	.00	29.29	Della Salyers
Esserville	76	176.00	45.00	55.00	9.00	197.00	5.00	179.80	Harold Kilgore
Bondtown	30	.00	.00	4.00	3.00	.00	.00	35.60	Jess Cowden
Addisons Chapel	39	151.53	113.90	.00	.00	65.00	.00	68.92	James Rose
Huff Cloverlick	39	16.03	.00	.00	.00	54.04	.00	17.40	Clarence Johnson
Durham Chapel	33	14.00	.00	.00	1.00	5.00	.00	14.95	J. T. Greear
Flatwood	60	69.85	.00	46.81	4.00	32.00	.00	23.80	James Rose
Pippins Chapel	39	.00	.00	26.80	4.00	4.00	6.00	12.50	Willard Kiser
Kelly View	48	.00	.00	17.24	4.00	.00	.00	13.60	Theo. Holmes
Toms Creek	28	8.65	.00	.00	.00	15.75	.00	5.75	Milam Hall

ANNUAL REPORT OF LEE COUNTY CHURCHES

CHURCH	Member-ship	Paid Pastor	Paid Evang.	Orphanage	Literature	PASTOR
Mount Hope	50	\$900.00	\$.00	\$.00	\$18.00	Ray Gardener
Rock Lick	68	500.00	59.03	.00	62.79	Robert Addington
Mount Carmel	98	681.43	.00	80.00	168.36	S. B. Culbertson
Ocoonita	81	.00	.00	47.00	27.50	
Willis	21	.00	.00	.00	4.70	L. H. Martin
Hoovers Chapel	26	77.18	14.60	.00	22.53	Willie Manness

ANNUAL MINISTERS' REPORT

Sermons Preached	Churches Pastored	Revolts Held	Professions Witnessed	Number Baptised	Additions to Church	Churches Organized	Funerals Preached	Miles Traveled	Money Received
Addington, Hobert	98	2	0	3	1	0	5	2,859	\$614.00
Adams, W. E.	18	0	1	2	0	0	0	864	54.00
Addison, C. B.	46	0	0	4	3	0	1		
Bail, S. R.	0	0	0	0					
Berr, Burley	60	0	1	5	0	0	0	250	
Blevins Palmer	300	0	4	20	0	0	5	1,500	
Broskey, Bernice	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	300.00
Bowman, A. J.	45	1	0	0	6	0	1	200	9.14
Cowden, Jess	52	1	2	0	0	0	3	0	0
Culbertson, S. B... ..	60	1	0	0	2	0	4	0	30.00
Dixon, Robert	13	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	681.16
Dotson, Carson	75	1	1	21	6	0	20	0	00
Estep, J. V.	66	1	1	0	0	0	0	1,278	250.00
Flannery, Ralph	155	1	3	6	4	0	19	2,500	99.12
Fields, L. J.									600.00
Francis, G. T.	62	0	1	3	0	0	4	1,062	165.00
Galloway, W. B....	50	1	0	7	5	0	14	1,200	600.00
Gardener, Ray . . .	100	1	3	30	0	0	10	2,540	900.00
Greear, J. T.	84	1	3	0	1	0	0	1,200	75.00
Green, Harley	65	1	0	5	0	0	1	0	00
Harrison, W. E.	139	1	3	37	31	0	0	2,360	720.00
Hall, Milam		1	2	7	5	0	1	0	00
				12					

Hicks, Leonard	60	1	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	2	1,200	25.00
Honeycutt, Perry	60	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1,200	50.00
Holmes, Theo		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	5	4,000	00
Jessee, Vestus	36	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	40.00
Jackson, Shelby H.	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	150	50.00
Johnson, Clarence		1	0	11	7	7	7	7	0	1	0	00
Kilgore, J. T.	135	1	1	11	9	10	10	0	0	6	3,250	00
Kilgore, Harold	160	2	3	20	25	15	15	0	0	20	3,500	350.00
Laney, J. E.	150	1	5	50	40	0	0	0	0	40	0	00
Lane, C. B.	50	1	1	18	0	2	0	0	0	0	500	00
Leonard, Paul	60	0	2	5	0	1	0	0	0	0	2,000	200.00
Maness, W. C.	102	1	2	10	0	1	0	1	0	1	2,424	20.00
Moore, Melvin	37	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	250	192.00
Martin, L. H.	34	1	0	3	0	1	0	1	0	0	1,152	111.97
Mullins, George	60	1	0	1	1	6	0	0	0	5	1,000	40.00
Moore, Kermit	150	2	1	35	3	7	0	0	0	4	5,000	250.00
Miller, Paul H.	186	2	3	41	15	17	0	0	0	39	10,000	1,800.00
Miller, Earl	75	0	2	15	5	0	0	0	0	0	1,500	105.00
McFall, S. M.												
Maggard, J. B.		1	4	17	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	00
Mullins, Charlie	30	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	300	00
Mullins, Hansford	50	1	1	6	5	2	0	0	0	0	0	28.80
Noles, C. W.												
Powers, Ben	75	1	1	15	15	5	0	0	0	104	5,000	650.00
Powers, David	65	1	0	12	0	0	0	0	0	11	0	00
Powers, Wade	75	1	3	32	32	32	0	0	0	50	5,000	200.00
Powers, Oscar	80	1	3	31	8	0	0	0	0	5	2,000	00
Powers, Lacy	90	0	6	49	0	0	0	0	0	2	3,000	600.00

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ANNUAL MINISTERS' REPORT

Preached	Churches	Pastored	Reverals	Held	Professions	Witnessed	Number	Baptised	Additions	Churches	Organized	Funeris	Miles	Traveled	Money	Received
Pennington, Paul	35	1	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	78.00	
Ramey, Robert	110	0	4	4	37	4	4	0	0	0	0	3	3,000	0	189.00	
Richmond, Jack	60	0	0	0	60	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	00	
Rose, James	50	1	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	250	0	45.00	
Robinette, C. A.	25	0	0	0	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	200	0	5.00	
Ramey, J. A.		3	6	6	48	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	00	
Robbins, E'hel	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	200	0	00	
Ramey, Hershel	80	0	0	0	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	00	
Sturgill, Eddie	111	2	1	1	9	15	15	10	10	0	0	3	4,564	0	390.40	
Salyers, Jeff	73	2	3	3	9	4	4	4	4	0	0	19	1,800	0	344.54	
Salyers, Della	36	1	2	2	7	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	803	0	83.00	
Thacker, V. B.	74	1	3	3	14	7	7	7	7	0	0	9	700	0	00	
Vanover, R. H.	85	0	2	2	15	5	5	0	0	0	0	1	1,800	0	00	
West, James																

TIDEWATER ASSOCIATION

Southwest Virginia Association,
of Free Will Baptists,
Big Stone Gap, Va.

May 11, 1964

Dear Brethren, Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

We, the Tidewater Association of Free Will Baptists, have duly authorized Rev. J. C. Lynn as our corresponding messenger to convey our greetings and salutations to you during your session of 1964.

The first Annual Session of the newly organized Tidewater Association convened with the Fairmount Park F.W.B. Church on April 18th. Following is a report of the nine churches composing Tidewater Association for the last Association year:

Members received during the year -----	368
Present membership -----	1919
Paid to Tidewater Ass'n (1% reg. offgs.	\$877.20
Total Receipts -----	\$166,930.92
Total paid out -----	166,529.19

STATE WORK

Promotional work -----	\$ 31.25
Home missions -----	50.00
Children's home -----	1,458.67
Superannuation -----	206.25

NATIONAL WORK

Cooperative program -----	4,273.71
Foreign missions -----	10,899.68
National home missions -----	4,780.66
Radio and T. V. -----	125.00
Executive department -----	442.82
Bible College -----	2,100.24
Superannuation -----	164.33
League board -----	380.46
Sunday School Board -----	7.74
Headquarters building -----	600.00
Stewardship commission -----	6.00

We have elected Rev. J. C. Lynn as moderator of our Association for the next fiscal year, and Mrs. E. V. Welton as our clerk-treasurer.

We bid you Godspeed in your deliberations and may

we express our heartfelt thanks to you for all the blessings we received while in your fellowship and it is our desire and hope that both Associations will really go forward for the Lord.

Rev. Raymond Riggs, Moderator, 1963-1964

BY - 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. RESURRECTION, 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".

