

MINUTES
of the
Seventy-First Annual Session
of the
STATE LINE ASSOCIATION
of
FREE WILL BAPTISTS

held with
NEW HARMONY CHURCH
Houston County, Ala.
and
SPRINGFIELD CHURCH
Houston County, Ala.
Oct. 12, 13, 1956

OFFICERS

Rev. G. H. Jordan, Moderator.....Cottonwood, Ala.
Rev. Ralph L. Bell, Ass't. Moderator.....Ashford, Ala.
Mrs. Mary Edna Cook, Clerk.....Dothan, Ala.
A. C. Womack, Treasurer.....Cottonwood, Ala.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

E. S. Jones, Ashford, Ala.; Millard Jones, Ashford, Ala.; C. J. Duke,
Columbia, Ala.; Ulas Granger, Cottonwood, Ala.; B. W.
West, Cottonwood, Ala.; Earnest Granger,
Cottonwood, Ala.

HOME MISSION BOARD

Maxwell Sims, Ashford, Ala.; James Calloway, Cottonwood, Ala.;
Dewey Jones, Cottonwood, Ala.; Leona Granger, Cotton-
wood, Ala.; John Lewis Womack, Cottonwood, Ala.

The next session meets with Shiloh Church for one day, Thursday before the second Sunday in October, 1957, at 10:00 a. m. The church is located northeast of Dothan, Alabama; 10 miles out Columbia Highway turning off left at Shiloh F. W. B. Church Sign for about 3½ miles direct to church. The association meets with New Hope Church for the second day, Friday before the second Sunday in October, 1957. New Hope Church is located 7 miles North of Midland City, Alabama, on the Echo and Midland City Highway.

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ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Organize
2. Invite visiting brethren to seats with us
3. Call for letters from different churches
4. Call for petitionary letters
5. Elect officers
6. Call for correspondents from sister associations
7. Appoint committees
8. Call the roll and read decorum
9. Call for report of committees
10. Appoint correspondents to sister associations
11. Call for treasurer's report
12. Call for miscellaneous business
13. Adjournment

ORDAINED MINISTERS

Ralph J. Bell, Cowart's Creek Route 1, Ashford, Ala.
Bobby L. Jones, First F. W. B. of Dothan 603 Benard St., Dothan, Ala.
G. H. Jordan, Howard's Grove Cottonwood, Ala.
G. W. Nobles, Howard's Grove Cottonwood, Ala.
C. B. Craddock, Howard's Grove 511 Madison Ave., Dothan, Ala.
Horace Herndon, Magnolia Route 5, Dothan, Ala.
Dan Windham, New Hope Route 1, Midland City, Ala.
L. C. Mixon, Pleasant Home Black, Ala.
C. W. Edmunson, Shiloh Route 2, Columbia, Ala.
Hubert Henderson, Shiloh Columbia, Ala.
P. A. Brackin, Shiloh Newville, Ala.
Madison Taylor, Springfield Gordan, Ala.
A. C. Tolar, Union Springs Center Hill, Fla.

LICENSED MINISTERS

W. W. Hall, Cowart's Creek Dothan, Ala.
O. A. Sellers, New Harmony Tampa, Fla.
O'Neil Kirkland, Pleasant Home Midland City, Ala.
Walter Houston, Shiloh Route 1, Graceville, Fla.

Proceedings

The State Line Association of Free Will Baptists convened its seventy-first annual session with New Harmony Church, Houston County, Alabama, on Thursday, October 12, 1956, and with Springfield Church, Houston County, Alabama, on Friday, October 13, 1956.

THURSDAY MORNING SESSION

The body was called to order by the moderator, Rev. G. H. Jordan.

The congregation was led in singing the following hymns: "Jesus Is Calling," "The Old Rugged Cross," "The Unclouded Day" and "Heavenly Sunshine"; followed with prayer by Brother Williams.

The morning devotional was given by the moderator, Rev. G. H. Jordan. His Scripture was taken from James 1:26, 27 and Micah 6:8, and his topic was "What Is Religion?" He spoke concerning three walks of true religion, namely: Do justly, love mercy and walk humbly before God. He closed with prayer.

Visiting brethren were invited to seats with us.

A finance committee was appointed by the moderator as follows: Dewey Jones, J. A. Calloway and E. T. Ingram.

Letters from the different churches were called for with the following reporting with delegates:

Cowart's Creek: Mrs. Stacy Fowler, Harvey Anderson and Mr. Willie Silcox.

First F. W. B. of Dothan: E. T. Ingram, Dorman Deal, C. E. Battle, Roxie Battle, Docia Allen and Charles Mathis.

Howard's Grove: Millard Jones, Eunice Jones, Nina Mae Jones, Annie Lou Kirkland and Johnnie B. Parson.

Magnolia: W. T. Weed, L. R. Dassinger, Mrs. L. R. Dassinger, L. R. Medley, Mrs. Eleanor Dykes, Oliver Segers, Evelyn Segers and Grace Segers.

New Harmony: Ulas Granger, Leona Granger, James Calloway, Donia Calloway, Stella Vann, Dora Tice and Mattie Belle Puckett.

New Hope: Billy D. Ammos, Lydia Ammons, Davey Lee Kirkland and Cleo Smathers.

Pittman Creek: G. H. Hawthorne, J. P. Conner, Mrs. Lizzie Shairy and Mrs. J. P. Conner.

Pleasant Ridge: Louise Granger, Doris Jean Monday, Jessie West, Ernest Granger, Ralph Monday and Elmer Monday.

Shiloh: Walter Houston, Ruby Houston and Wyatt Edmunson.

Springfield: David Rabon, Otho Rabon, Jack Bell, Mrs. Jack Bell and Lendon Hamrick.

Springhill: I. A. Tolar, Mrs. I. A. Tolar and M. H. Taylor.

Union Springs: Earl Henderson, Alex Henderson and Thurman Drinkwater.

Grangerburg: Mrs. Stella Pittman and Mrs. B. W. West.

By motion church letters to be read.

Moderator appointed Mrs. Donia Calloway and G. W. Nobles to read the church letters, and by motion of the association the letters were received with the delegates being seated.

Motion to suspend business session until the afternoon session with a short recess being given before the preaching service.

The congregation sang "Brethren We Have Met to Worship," followed by the morning message by Rev. Coy Watson. His subject was "Where Is Elijah's God and Where Is God's Elijah?" which was taken from 2 Kings 2:9-14. The outstanding message will long be remembered by all who heard it.

Dismissed for the noon hour by Ralph L. Bell.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

The congregation sang "When the Battle's Over" and "The Lily of the Valley," to open the afternoon session. Rev. Bobby L. Jones gave the afternoon devotional, his Scripture being taken from Jeremiah 23 and Isaiah 30.

By motion night services were omitted.

By motion officers of the association were elected by nomination and acclamation as follows: Rev. G. H. Jordan, re-elected moderator; Ralph L. Bell, re-elected assistant moderator; Mrs. Mary Edna Cook, re-elected clerk; and A. C. Womack, re-elected treasurer.

A call was made for correspondence from sister associations with the following reporting with delegates:

Midway: Rev. Ralph Bell, Rev. R. L. Tedder, Brother Williams and Rev. Coy Watson.

Southeastern: M. H. Taylor.

Union Springs: Rev. Houston.

Liberty: Brother Henderson.

Salem: Brother and Sister C. B. Green and Lillie Maude Vaughn.

Auburndale Church: Mr. and Mrs. Sellers.

By motion these representatives from sister associations were seated in body as visiting brethren.

The moderator appointed the following committees:

Education: W. T. Weed, Billy D. Ammond, W. B. Outlaw.

Home Missions: C. B. Craddock, I. A. Tolar, Dora Tice.

Obituary: G. W. Nobles, Elmer Monday, Stella Pittman.

Auxiliaries: Eunice Jones, Mrs. I. A. Tolar, Thurman Drinkwater.

Nominations: Ulas Granger, Millard Jones, Oliver Segers.

Temperance: Ralph Monday, Mrs. Jack Bell, M. H. Taylor.

Suggestions: Charles Mathis, Lendon Hamrick, Nina Mae Jones.

Character of Ministers and State of Churches: C. E. Battle, Jessie West, David Rabon.

Motion to omit roll call and reading of decorum.

Delegates to sister associations were appointed as follows:

Liberty: G. H. Jordan, G. W. Nobles.

Salem: G. H. Jordan, G. W. Nobles, C. B. Craddock.

Midway: Mary E. Cook, G. W. Nobles, Bobby L. Jones.

Southeastern: C. B. Craddock, G. W. Nobles.

Union Hill: Mr. and Mrs. Walter Houston, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Bell, David Rabon, Mary F. Rabon.

C. J. Duke was appointed to take Ralph L. Bell's place on the executive committee as Brother Bell is assistant moderator. Millard Jones was appointed to serve actively for his father, E. S. Jones, who is in ill health. Ernest Granger, Ulas Granger and B. W. West were retained as members of the executive committee.

Motion to retain home mission board for another year.

By motion to represent at the Alabama State Association by letter and delegates as follows: Mrs. Mary Edna Cook, Mrs. Walter Houston and Mrs. Docia Allen.

A rising vote of appreciation was given New Harmony Church for the hospitality shown this association.

By motion the association was adjourned until 10:00 a. m. Friday, October 13, 1956, to meet with Springfield Church. The congregation sang "Heavenly Sunlight," followed with prayer by Rev. C. B. Craddock.

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION

The association assembled with Springfield Church at 10:00 a. m. Friday, October 13, 1956, with the moderator, Rev. G. H. Jordan, presiding, followed with the congregation singing "Where He Lead's I'll Go," "Stand Up for Jesus" and "Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus."

The morning devotion was brought by Rev. G. W. Nobles, using as his subject "Luke-warm Christians," with his Scripture being taken from the 3 chapter of Revelation.

A call was made for church letters with one being received as follows:

Corinth: Mr. W. B. Outlaw, Mrs. W. B. Outlaw, Mr. A. J. Benefield, Mrs. A. J. Benefield and Mrs. Minnie Jackson.

After the reading of the letters they were accepted and the delegates seated in the association.

A call was made for correspondence for the sister association with the following reporting:

Liberty: Rev. and Mrs. C. A. Huckaby and Mrs. Baxter.

Midway: Rev. T. B. Mellette, Rev. Carlton Houston and S. T. Boyd.

By motion the associations were welcomed and the delegates seated in the body.

By motion the roll was called by the clerk.

By motion roll call of committees was made.

Report of finance committee was read and accepted.

The association recessed the business session until 1:15 p. m. with a short intermission being given before worship service.

The congregation joined in the singing of "Nothing but the Blood" and "Trust and Obey"; after which Rev. Bobby L. Jones brought the morning message, using Matthew 7:7 and portions of Psalms as his text. His subject was "Prayers Answered and Unanswered."

The association was dismissed for the noon hour with prayer by Rev. T. B. Mellette.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

The afternoon session opened with the congregation singing, "Love Lifted Me" and "The Nail Scarred Hand."

The afternoon devotion was conducted by Rev. Chester A. Huckaby; his text being taken from John 6:1-13, and his subject, "What Am I Worth to My Church?"

Report of the obituary committee was read and accepted; followed by a memorial service being conducted by Brother Bobby L. Jones. First Thesalonians 4:13-18 and Revelation 14:13 was the Scripture used, also the hymn, "Near to the Heart of God."

A call was made for committee reports.

Report of home mission board was read and adopted.

Report of education was read and adopted.

Report of character of ministers and state of churches was read and adopted.

Report on auxiliaries was read and adopted.

The temperance committee report was read and adopted.

The nomination committee report was read and adopted.

The suggestions committee report was read and adopted.

A report from the state promotional secretary, Rev. C. B. Craddock, of what the State Line Association had done toward state support was read.

Motion to adopt new associational church letter as presented by Brother G. W. Nobles.

Motion to retain \$30 in association treasury.

A freewill offering was taken for the children's home in the amount of \$32.72.

A rising vote of thanks to Springfield Church for the hospitality shown the association.

Motion to adjourn with the singing of "Blest Be the Tie" and prayer by Brother Houston.

Rev. G. H. Jordan, Moderator
Mrs. Mary Edna Cook, Clerk

Report of Committees

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

We, your committee on nominations, nominate Shiloh Church to entertain the association on Thursday and New Hope Church on Friday. We also name Rev. Horace Herndon to bring the introductory sermon, with Rev. G. W. Nobles as alternate. We nominate Rev. W. W. Hall to bring the message on the second day, Friday, with Ralph L. Bell as his alternate.

Ulas Granger
Millard Jones
Oliver Segers

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

We, your committee on education, make the following report:

So far as literary education is concerned, there are more enlightened people at the present than has ever been, and yet so many people are delinquent on spiritual education that we feel, to a great extent, the proper advice is not being taught in the homes. Many times parents expect their children to be taught things at our schools that should be taught at home, especially the kind of education that will make them church workers. We should leave off the modern things that are so often practiced in our churches; for what we need most is old-time religion carried on in an humble and sincere way. We recommend that we all do everything in our power to have more spiritual education in our churches by seeking divine wisdom and of which our heavenly Father will be pleased.

W. T. Weed
W. B. Outlaw
Billy D. Ammons

SUGGESTIONS COMMITTEE

We, your committee on suggestions, make the following report:

We must be loyal to the church, the only institution Christ placed His approval upon, and put the kingdom of God first in everything we do.

We suggest that our ministers help in educating our people in the practice of Free Will Baptist doctrine and help in the development of Free Will Baptist work in the district, state and national work.

We suggest that our pastors and deacons use their influence to allay any strife or dissention in the churches.

We also suggest that each church in the State Line Association invite the association each year.

We suggest that the home mission committee be omitted and let the home mission board make the report.

We suggest that there be services on Thursday night of the association.

Charles G. Mathis
Nina Mae Jones
Lendon Hamrick

TEMPERANCE COMMITTEE

We, your temperance committee, make the following report:

Temperance means moderation not only in drinking but in eating, dressing and in all our daily living.

Our Bible tells us in Isaiah 5:22, 23: "Woe unto them that are mighty to drink wine, and men of strength to mingle strong drink: Which justify the wicked for reward, and take away the righteousness of the righteous from him!" Also in Galatians 5:22, 23 we read: "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, Joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."

Mrs. Jack Bell
M. H. Taylor
Ralph Monday

COMMITTEE ON AUXILIARIES

We, your committee on auxiliaries, make the following report:

We find that of the 14 churches represented in this association, 13 churches have Sunday schools with an enrollment of 664; 8 churches have Free Will Baptist leagues with an enrollment of 315; and 3 churches have woman's auxiliaries with the enrollment of 57.

We urge all auxiliaries to be active in their respective churches and that each auxiliary organize a young people's auxiliary.

Eunice Jones
Ida Tolar
Thurman Drinkwater

HOME MISSIONS COMMITTEE

We, your home missions committee, do hereby recommend:

That this association adopt as its home missions project for this associational year assistance to the cooperative league rally in building an outdoor tabernacle for our youth camp.

Charles B. Craddock
I. A. Tolar
Dora Tice

STATE OF CHURCHES AND CHARACTER OF MINISTERS COMMITTEE

We, your committee of state of churches and character of ministers, make the following report:

Judging from the report of letters from each individual church, we find they are in good condition and supporting the different denominational enterprises more each year.

We are well pleased with the ministers that are willing to spend time in working for God's Kingdom. We want to extend our appreciation and

prayers to the men and boys who have accepted the call to the ministry and are going forward to carry God's Word.

Mrs. Jessie West
C. E. Battle
David Rabon

OBITUARY COMMITTEE

Brethren and sisters in Christ:

Since our last session of the State Line Association there have been several members of our churches to depart from this life. They are as follows:

First F. W. B. of Dothan: Harry K. Battle, Charlie Rogers and Edna Stephenson.

Howard's Grove: Annette Adams and Alberta Bowen.

New Hope: C. R. G. Kirkland.

Magnolia: Robert H. Medley and Ella Hollingsworth.

New Harmony: Mrs. Andrew Granger and Mrs. Ola Moore.

Pittman Creek: Cleve Helms and Alma Sanders.

Union Springs: Mrs. Ida Jenkins, Mr. W. F. Sims and Odell Cook.

Springhill: Hamilton Hatcher.

Cowart's Creek: Mrs. Dora Vann.

Shiloh: J. H. Edmondson.

Corinth: Mrs. Mittie Stevens.

Pleasant Home: Mrs. Lula Whitehead and P. H. Owens.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. G. W. Nobles
Mrs. Stella Pittman
Earl Henderson

FINANCE COMMITTEE

We, your committee on finance, report a total of \$193.00 received for associational purposes.

Dewey Jones
J. A. Calloway
E. T. Ingram

TREASURER'S REPORT

Receipts

Cash on Hand Beginning of 1955 Session		\$ 51.77
Received from Churches	\$223.50	
Offering for Children's Home	29.04	
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Total Receipts of 1955 Session		252.54
		<hr/>
Total to Account For		\$304.31

Disbursements	
G. H. Jordan, Moderator's Salary	\$ 10.00
Mrs. Mary E. Cook, Clerk's Salary	15.00
Mrs. Mary E. Cook, Postage for 1954 Minutes	2.96
Cooperative Plan	23.35
Youth Camp	10.00
Children's Home	79.04
Free Will Baptist Press for 1955 Minutes	120.00
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Total Disbursements	259.35
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Balance in Treasury	\$ 44.96
Received from State Line Sunday School Convention	10.00
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Cash on Hand at Beginning of 1956 Session	\$ 54.96

OBITUARIES

ADAMS—On January 3, 1956, Annette Adams, age 18, passed from this life. She left this world of trouble and sorrow and has gone to her heavenly home. She was a member of Howard's Grove Church and was a loyal and faithful member. She was happy in doing something for the Lord. She thought of the Lord as One to help her bear the pains she had to suffer. But now she has no pain and is waiting at the pearly gates of heaven for her loved ones and her friends to meet her one day. I am sure Annette is in the arms of our loving Saviour and is happy with the Lord.

Written by her aunt,
Mrs. Pearl Ingram, Iron City, Ga.

BOWEN—In memory of our beloved sister, Mrs. Alberta Bowen, who departed this life October 4, 1956. She left her husband and a host of friends and relatives to mourn for her.

Sister Bowen accepted the Lord many years ago. Even in her days of sorrow, she showed great joy in counting the blessings God had blessed her with.

She left a vacancy in her home, her church and the community that cannot be filled.

Sister Bowen was laid to rest under a mound of beautiful flowers. The funeral was conducted by Rev. G. H. Jordan, assisted by Rev. Huckaby.

Written by a friend,
Eunice Jones

VANN—In memory of our beloved sister, Dora Vann, who was called from this life in the spring of 1956 to be united in the heavenly kingdom.

She was a member of the Cowart's Creek Church and was one of the oldest members of that church. She remained faithful to her church as long as she was able.

Now she has conquered that last foe and has gone to receive her reward.

Sister Vann was laid to rest under a beautiful mound of flowers at the Cowart's Cemetery.

Written by a friend,
Mrs. K. B. Fowler

GRANGER—In memory of Mrs. Andrew J. Granger who was called from this life on January 19, 1956. She was a life-long member of New Harmony Church and a faithful servant. She lives on in memory of relatives and friends.

Written by her pastor,
Rev. G. W. Nobles

EDMONDSON—In memory of a true friend, J. N. Edmondson, who departed this life July 1, 1956. He left a faithful wife, one son and a host of friends to mourn for him.

He had been a faithful worker of Shiloh Church for many years, and a deacon for several years. Brother Edmondson taught the adult Sunday school class for quite a while.

Brother Edmondson was laid to rest at Shiloh Church Cemetery beneath a mound of beautiful flowers. Brother Madison Taylor and Brother J. N. Barnes conducted the funeral.

"Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord."

Written by a friend,
Irene Duke

REPORT OF PROMOTIONAL SECRETARY OF ALABAMA STATE

Total Gifts for Alabama to National Work:

Superannuation	\$ 3.00
Foreign Missions	2,200.90
Home Missions	1,241.28
F. W. B. Bible College	1,792.38
Cooperative Plan	796.02
Total	\$6,033.58

Total Gifts from the State Line Association Churches to National and State Work:

Superannuation	\$ 3.00
Foreign Missions	105.96
Home Missions	365.36
Bible College	320.00
Cooperative Plan	89.19
Children's Home	89.19
State Missions	39.22
Total	\$1,027.95

Charles B. Craddock

Churches	Increase by Baptism	Increase by Letter	Increase by Restoration	Deceased by Death	Deceased by Letter	Deceased by Expulsion	Total Membership	Value of Church Property	Associational Purposes	Pastor's Salary	Evangelistic Services	Repairs & Improvements	Fuel, Lights, Janitor	Conference Dues	Local Charity	Literature	Missions	Children's Home	Christian Education	Superannuation	Cooperative Plan	Causes Not Listed	Total Paid Out All Purposes	No. S. S. Rooms	No. in Sunday School	No. in League	No. in Woman's Auxiliary
Corinth	2	3		1	12		111	\$ 3,500	\$12.00	\$ 433.60	\$ 45.50	\$ 7.58	\$ 21.83	\$	\$	\$ 94.58	\$	\$ 12.00	\$	\$	\$	\$307.89	\$ 922.89		55	25	
Cowart's Creek	2	6		1			118	3,000	15.00	590.00	80.00		8.24	15.00	9.50	10.90	27.00	55.00					726.23	4	35		
First F.W.B. of Dothan	8	2	1	3	23		248	25,000	10.00	2,880.00	253.50		478.30	52.50	149.75	195.30	102.41	158.99	48.64	11.01	504.84	107.05	6,601.94	10	114	66	21
Grangerburg	1	5		1			31	6,000	5.00	197.34	50.00				15.00			21.35					283.69	2	31	30	
Howard's Grove	4	6		1	5		480	15,000	50.00	625.00	150.00	55.00	136.99	66.48	46.76	120.19	142.00	110.62	45.66			349.00	1,747.70	3	90	52	25
Magnolia	7	5		2	2		116	5,000	12.00	680.44	117.00	895.00	42.10	10.00	26.00	79.21	55.25	10.00					2,115.00	2	52	27	
New Harmony			1	2	2		114	5,000	10.00	404.46	65.00	610.87	15.48		7.00	25.00	3.00	10.00					1,140.75				
New Hope	5			1			23	1,000	10.00	126.87	30.00	200.00	20.00		30.00	36.00					200.00	462.87		30	31		
Pleasant Home				2	2		325	3,250	10.00	115.45	33.00		13.00		150.00	65.00							376.45	2	40		
Pittman Creek		4		3			39	2,000	8.50	142.00			13.75			25.00							211.05		46		
Pleasant Ridge	2	1					112	4,000	10.00	210.32	50.00		13.00			15.72	13.05						312.09		20		
Shiloh	10			1			206	1,300	20.00	315.00	78.24		2.24	5.00	16.50	24.00	46.22	15.21				18.90	506.28	2	41		
Springfield	1	3		2			122	4,000	10.00	773.50	150.00	345.00	16.45	15.00	45.90	96.89	34.28	112.50				210.14	1,799.66	4	57	32	11
Springhill			1	2	7		276	4,200	10.00	600.00	119.38	402.02	8.84	45.00	37.40	72.12	38.11	5.00			26.70	25.00	1,379.57	3	44	27	
Union Springs	4			3	3		158	3,500	10.00	689.42	70.00	135.00	5.92			33.32	5.62	56.05				60.00	1,055.33		53	25	

Churches	Pastors	Clerks and Post Offices	Meeting Days
Corinth	Horace Herndon	S. Jackson, Rt. 1, Midland City, Ala.	1st & 3rd
Cowart's Creek	Ralph L. Bell	Maude Fowler, Rt. 3, Dothan, Ala.	1st & 3rd
First F.W.B. of Dothan	Bobby L. Jones	Mrs. Irell Ingram, Rt. 4, Box 229, Dothan, Ala.	Full Time
Grangerburg	Coy Watson	Royce Askew, Rt. 1, Gordon, Ala.	1st & 3rd
Howard's Grove	Charles B. Craddock	A. C. Womack, Rt. 1, Cottonwood, Ala.	2nd & 4th
Magnolia	Horace Herndon	Mrs. Edna Dykes, Rt. 1, Midland City, Ala.	2nd & 4th
New Harmony	G. W. Nobles	Mrs. James Calloway, Rt. 1, Cottonwood, Ala.	2nd & 4th
New Hope	Wallace Dorriety	Z. A. Ammons, Rt. 1, Midland City, Ala.	4th
Pleasant Home	L. C. Mixon	Lloyd Bottoms, 316 Live Oak St., Geneva, Ala.	2nd & 3rd
Pittman Creek	L. C. Mixon	Earl Sowell, Black, Ala.	1st & 4th
Pleasant Ridge	G. W. Nobles	Sidney Tindell, Cottonwood, Ala.	3rd
Shiloh	Madison Taylor	Edwin Rhodes, Rt. 2, Ashford, Ala.	1st & 3rd
Springfield	Ralph L. Bell	Billy Rabon, Box 102, Ashford, Ala.	2nd & 4th
Springhill	Ralph Bell	Elvy Cherry, Gordon, Ala.	2nd & 4th
Union Springs	Carlton Houston	Thurman Drinkwater, Rt. 2, Ashford, Ala.	2nd & 4th

The State Line Sunday School Convention

July 29, 1956

The State Line Sunday School Convention met the fifth Sunday in July at Shiloh Church.

The delegates were seated, followed by a song, "Heavenly Sunlight," and prayer by Brother Raymond Riggs.

Visitors were welcomed and all ministers were recognized. Ministers attending during the day were: Revs. Bob L. Jones, Dan Windham, Madison Taylor, Raymond Riggs, Ralph Bell, Hubert Henderson, W. W. Hall, G. H. Jordan and Charles B. Craddock.

The morning devotional was given by Mr. C. B. Crowley of Cowart's Creek Sunday School. The welcome address was given by Shiloh, followed by the response given by Union Springs.

We then entered the morning business session. The minutes of last year's convention were read and adopted. The officers were elected for the next year: President, Gordon Odom; vice-president, Barnet Crowley; secretary and treasurer, Sara Lou Scott.

The convention paid Miss Gladys Adams \$5.00 on her expenses to the state convention in 1956.

The committees were as follows:

Banner: Edwin Rhodes, David Rabon and Jo Ann West.

Home: Robert Palmer, Joe Bottoms and Faye Taylor.

Finance: Gladys Adams, Glenda Seay and Lovone Crowley.

Resolutions: B. T. Malory, Mrs. Maude Fowler and Rev. Dan Windham.

Program: Mr. John C. Womack, Mr. Dock Hamrick and Mr. Ralph Bell.

Fifth Sunday Rally: Edwin Rhodes, David Rabon and Robert Palmer.

We sang a song, "I Am Resolved," then the Riggs family rendered special music. The Sunday school lesson was given by Mr. A. C. Womack. We sang another song, "Only Believe," and were dismissed for lunch with prayer by Rev. Hubert Henderson.

After a very enjoyable noon hour, we had a song service. The afternoon devotional was given by Rev. Dan Windham. Miss Patricia Odom sang a solo, "The Lord's Prayer."

Brother Raymond Riggs brought a very interesting talk on the Sunday school. Several announcements were made and Rev. Bob L. Jones brought a message on "The Importance of Sunday School."

The committee gave their reports. The banner went to Grangerburg. Cowart's Creek will be the host of the 1957 convention, and the next rally will go to Howard's Grove Church.

Move was made and carried that we give the same amount to everything this year as we gave last year which was: Children's home, \$10.00; association to help print minutes, \$5.00; cooperative plan, \$30.00; and the secretary, \$10.00. It was also voted to pay the Alabama State Youth Camp \$10.00 and the District Youth Camp \$10.00, also to pay the children's home and additional \$15.00.

All the Sunday schools are to send delegates to the state convention in 1957.

A rising vote of thanks was given Shiloh Church for the hospitality to the convention.

We sang a chorus, "Let Go and Let God Have His Way," and then we were dismissed with prayer by Brother W. W. Hall.

Gordon Odom, *President*
Barnet Crowley, *Vice-President*
Sara Lou Scott, *Secretary-Treasurer*

Minutes of Cooperative League Convention, 1956

"Free Will Baptist League, Key to Christian Leadership" was the theme for the 1956 session of the Cooperative League Convention which convened with Springfield Church on Friday night before the second Sunday in May, 1956.

The convention was called to order by the president, David Rabon. The congregation sang the league song, "Onward Christian Leaguers," and Gail Whittaker gave an interesting devotion on leadership, using Scripture taken from the 17th chapter of Genesis. Dannie Sue Jones led the congregation in singing choruses, teaching several new ones.

The reports were received with a carried move and second that we accept Grace Free Will Baptist League of Dothan into the convention. We had seven leagues represented, they were as follows: Howard's Grove, Springfield, Springfield, Grangerburg, Magnolia and First F. W. B. of Dothan. Moved and seconded that delegates of leagues be seated.

The secretary and treasurer reports were read and accepted. Officers for the next year were elected as follows: President, David Rabon; vice-president, Dorman Deal, secretary-treasurer, Dannie Sue Jones.

The following committees were appointed:

Banner: Sue Parker, Faye Kirksey and Mrs. Virginia Lawler.

Home: Betty Deal, Gayle Whittaker and Dorothy Kaye.

Motion carried that banner committee give its report at next league rally.

By motion intermediate sword driller receive \$5.00, plus expenses to the state convention. Delegates to the state convention were appointed as follows: Mary Edna Cook, Peggy Seay, Sara Lou Scott and Glenda Cook.

The junior and intermediate sword drills were conducted by Miss June West, with the winners being as follows: Judy Burkett, Springhill League, winner of the junior division, receiving as reward a plaque; and Dannie Sue Jones, Howard's Grove League, winner of the intermediate division, her reward to be \$5.00, plus her expenses to the state convention.

Ministers and visitors were recognized.

We were entertained by a short playlet by the Springfield Junior League and special music by the F. F. A. Trio of Ashford, Alabama.

It was suggested that the convention convene again next year on the last rally night of the convention year and if it proves to be satisfactory to continue to do so.

An expression of appreciation was given to Springfield League and Church for entertaining the convention. They favored the convention with a chicken supper following the convention.

We were dismissed by prayer.

David Rabon, *President*
Lovone Crowley, *Secretary*

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance Brought Forward	\$20.96	
Dues Received at 1956 Convention	35.00	
	<hr/>	
Total Received		\$55.96
1956 State Convention Dues	\$10.50	
Intermediate Sword Driller	5.00	
	<hr/>	
Total Disbursed		15.50
		<hr/>
Balance in Treasury		\$40.46

Church Covenant

Having been brought, as we believe, by the divine grace to accept the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour and Preserver, we do now solemnly and joyfully covenant and agree, by God's help, to walk together in brotherly love:

We therefore enter into covenant as members of this church and as Christians, that we will watch over each other in love, sharing together each others joys and sorrows; that we will not forsake the assembling of ourselves and others; that by divine assistance we will endeavor to bring up those under our care in the nurture and admonition of the Lord; that in all things we will abstain from all sinful conformity to the world, to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements and exemplary in all our deportment; that we will abstain from the sale and use of intoxicating liquors as a beverage; that we will sustain the worship, ordinances, discipline and doctrine of this church; that we will contribute cheerfully, according to our ability, to the support of the ministry, the expense of the church, the relief of the poor and the general spread of the gospel.

In keeping this solemn covenant may we enjoy the blessing and presence of the great Head of the Church.

Constitution

Art. 1. This association shall be composed of delegates sent annually from the churches upon which it is based.

Art. 2. Each church shall be entitled to two delegates for every twenty-five members and one delegate for the fractional part of twenty-five. Providing any church having less than 25 members, it shall be entitled to two delegates.

Art. 3. The delegates from each church shall bear a letter certifying their election, to which shall be subjoined a table stating the number baptized, received by confession of faith, by letter, by restoration, dismissed by letter, excluded or died within last year, amount of all contributions, the time of the monthly meeting, the membership, ordained and licentiated ministers with their post office and signed by the pastor and clerk of the church with their post office.

Art. 4. Newly constituted, or other churches, desiring admission into this union shall petition by delegation and letter and if upon examination found to be orthodox and orderly, they be received into the association and such reception shall be manifested by giving the right hand of fellowship.

Art. 5. It is expected that the churches composing this body will send delegates and contributions every session and that no church withdraw from the association without assigning reason.

Art. 6. The officers of this association shall be moderator, clerk, treasurer,

executive committee and home mission board. The executive committee and the home mission board shall be composed of five members each.

Art. 7. The association shall meet annually, according to adjournment, and shall have power to transact all business pertaining to the general good of the body.

Art. 8. The constitution may be altered or amended by a majority of the delegates present during any season.

Decorum

Art. 1. The moderator, clerk, treasurer, executive committee and home mission board shall be elected any way that the association shall determine.

Art. 2. Moderator shall preside over the deliberations of the association when in session, preserve order and submit motions and other matters. He shall have the same right to vote as any other member, and provided the chair is occupied, the right to speech.

Art. 3. Every motion receiving a second shall be submitted to the body unless withdrawn.

Art. 4. Only one person shall be allowed to speak at a time and such speaker shall address the moderator and shall not be interrupted while speaking except by the moderator and then only when he departs from the subject under debate, provided, however, any brother may address the moderator to a point of order.

Art. 5. The clerk shall record the proceedings of the body when in session and superintend the publication of the same and all other writing pertaining to business of the association. He shall also preserve a file of the minutes of this association, which he shall deliver to his successor in office.

Art. 6. The treasurer shall keep a correct account of all funds received and disbursed by him, showing the balance, if any, on hand. He shall only pay out money on the order of the association or the executive committee.

Art. 7. The executive committee shall have power to execute the laws and regulations of the association when the association is not in session and to make rules to the constitution or decorum of the association.

Art. 8. It shall be the duty of the home mission board to work for church extension and church preservation, for which purpose they shall draw on the executive committee and various others for the necessary funds when the association is not in session. The board makes rules and regulations for their government that are not in conflict with the constitution or decorum of this association.

Art. 9. The association shall be opened and closed with prayer.

Art. 10. This decorum may be altered or amended by a majority of the delegates present during any session.

Church Decorum

1. The church may choose a pastor annually at the last regular conference in associational year; or if they prefer it may choose a pastor for an indefinite length of time, to continue from year to year, so long as they may deem it proper to keep up the connection.

2. When it becomes necessary a pastor may be chosen at any other time than at the last regular conference of the associational year.

3. The pastor shall be the moderator of the church, but when he is absent or does not sit as moderator being present, a suitable brother shall be appointed to sit in his place.

4. The pastor of each church shall have the power to form a presbytery and ordain deacons for the church; also examine ordained ministers who make application to our order, shall be set apart in rank but not reordained.

5. There shall be two or more deacons in the church whose duty it shall be to superintend the collection and disbursement of the contributions made by the church for the pastor, etc., and to distribute the bread and wine in the administration of the Lord's Supper.

6. The deacons shall take notice of such members as refuse or neglect to partake of the Lord's Supper and endeavor to ascertain the cause; the same may be laid before the church in conference if necessary.

7. Some suitable member shall be appointed clerk, and it shall be his duty to do all the recording and other writing pertaining to the business of the church, and to preserve a file of the minutes of the association.

8. When a new clerk is appointed, all books, etc., belonging to the clerk shall be immediately delivered to him by his predecessor.

9. When a church deems it necessary a committee of not less than three male members, well acquainted with business, shall be appointed whose duty it shall be to give advice to brethren who apply to them relative to case of dealing, etc., with the church.

10. The church shall hold a two-day meeting monthly embracing Saturday and the Lord's Day following, the first of which shall be the regular time of conference.

11. It shall be the duty of every member, male and female, to attend each conference meeting if they can, for on that day the pastor is expected to instruct the church in a spiritual manner by giving plain and pointed lessons on doctrine, discipline and the rule of holy living.

12. Any church member who shall fail to attend three successive conferences and any member whatsoever who may be generally remiss in attending the meetings of the church according to the covenant (Art. 10), shall be cited to appear in conference and answer for neglect, but the church may exempt members from the rule if necessary.

13. Conference after prayer and divine service shall be opened and conducted as follows: (1) Inviting brethren to seats; (2) opening door of

church for reception of members; (3) calling for absentees; (4) acknowledgments; (6) for reference of deferred business; (6) for new matters of dealing which are to come before the body; (7) for miscellaneous business.

14. Visiting brethren, as helps, called from sister churches shall be allowed to speak and make motions but not to vote.

15. Any orderly member of the Baptist church may be received into the church without a letter, when it is made apparent that his Christian character is unimpeachable, and that he has applied for a letter and could not obtain it because he desired to join this or some other sister church. All other members must join by letter or baptism.

16. No member shall be received without the unanimous consent of the members present; but unreasonable objection shall not be valid, and unless withdrawn by the member who makes them be liable to be taken under dealing by the church.

17. When the moderator calls for the absentees, the clerk shall inform the church what members have been absent for three consecutive conferences and the moderator shall appoint some brother or brethren to cite each of them to the next conference.

18. No member shall be expelled unless he has been cited verbally or in writing to attend his trial, provided his residence be known to the church.

19. When a witness, not a member of the church, is introduced he shall not be examined until the question has been put to the church: "Will you hear the testimony of this witness?"

20. The evidence in every case of dealing and acknowledgement shall be minuted in the church book.

21. Members dismissed from the church by letter who becomes disorderly or continue to hold their letters without good reason shall be cited to the conference to answer for their conduct.

22. A vote shall not be taken upon any question without a move and a second, and in all important questions the vote shall be taken by rising to the feet.

23. No motion shall be made while a move and second is before the conference.

24. It shall be considered disorderly for any member to absent himself from conference when an important question is to be decided, but a member, upon his request, may be exempted from voting on either side in peculiar cases.

25. No member shall leave the house during conference without sufficient cause, nor engage in conversation or whispering without permission.

26. All discussions in conference must be conducted with calmness and good feeling. Those who wish to speak must rise to their feet and address the moderator and keep to the point in the debate.

27. No one shall speak more than three times on the same motion

without permission from the moderator, nor shall the remarks of anyone be unreasonably long.

28. When the moderator speaks in debate he must nominate some brother in his stead.

29. No one shall be interrupted while speaking unless it is necessary to call him to order.

30. It shall be the duty of each church to attend to the administration of the Lord's Supper and Feet Washing, at least once a year.

31. Members not in good standing shall not commune, but the administration shall not be deferred on account of any ordinary matter of dealing.

32. Public fasting, humiliation and prayer shall be observed on proper occasions.

33. The decorum may be amended or altered by the vote of two-thirds of members present at any two successive monthly conferences.

Articles of Faith

1. OF GOD—We believe that there is one and only one living true God, infinite in His attributes, the Creator, Preserver and Governor of the universe, revealed to us in the Scripture as the Father, Son and Holy Ghost (1 Timothy 1:17; Isaiah 45:22; St. John 17:2).

2. THE HOLY SCRIPTURES—We believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments were given by inspirations of God and binding on all as our infallible rule of faith and practice (2 Timothy 3:16; Romans 16:4; 4:23, 24; Peter 1:18-21).

3. OF CHRIST—We believe He is God manifest in the flesh being in His divine nature the true God, in human nature the true man, united in persons the Messiah and the Mediator for the redemption of the world (Luke 2:4-12; Matthew 1:18-21).

4. OF THE HOLY SPIRIT—We believe that He is the third person in the Holy Trinity and possesses all personal divine attributes being the Re-prover, Comforter and Sanctifier (John 14:25; 15:26; 16:7-15).

5. OF SALVATION—That the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the gospel, that it is the immediate duty of all to receive it by cordial and obedient faith, and that nothing prevents the salvation of any so long as the spirit continues to strive with them; but their own voluntary refusal to submit to the Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 1:16; Philippians 2:12; Hebrews 2:3).

6. THE FALL OF MAN—We believe that man was created sinless, but by disobedience fell into a state of sin and condemnation. All posterity will sin and come short of the glory of God except that they receive salvation through the Lord Jesus Christ (Genesis 3:6; 1:26; 5:1; 9:6; Mark 16:16; Acts 10:43).

7. ATONEMENT—We believe that Christ is His great compassion offered Himself as a sacrifice in our stead; therefore God desires the salvation of all and the gospel invites all, and whosoever will may come and partake of the waters of life (1 Corinthians 1:7; Ephesians 5:2; Hebrews 29; Romans 3:5; Revelation 22:17).

8. OF ELECTION—We believe that God has not fixed the future state of men by any unconditional decree delivered from the beginning, except to save all who comply with the terms of salvation (John 8:31; Luke 11:28; Acts 10:35; Deuteronomy 11:26-28).

9. OF PERSEVERANCE—We believe that none will be finally saved but those who through grace, persevere in holiness to the end (John 8:31; 1 Timothy 1:19; Peter 2:21, 22).

10. GOSPEL ORDINANCES—We believe that baptism or the burial of believers in water and the Lord's Supper and Washing of Feet are ordinances to be perpetuated under the gospel of universal salvation and to be observed by all true believers. Reference for baptism (John 3:5 and Romans 6:4); reference for the Lord's Supper (Matthew 26:26-28); reference for Washing the Saints' Feet (John 13:5-17).

11. THE LORD'S SUPPER—We believe that the Lord's Supper was instituted by our Saviour or a commemorative ordinance; that the bread and wine represent His body and the blood; that it was instituted for Christians and that all Christians should unite in performing the sacred service, regardless of name, denomination or distinction (Galatians 6:4; Matthew 7:10; Romans 4:3).

12. THE RESURRECTION—We believe when resurrection takes place the soul and body will reunite and form an immortal being; that the righteous will be received into everlasting happiness and that the wicked will be driven into everlasting darkness where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth (John 5:29; Acts 14:16; Isaiah 17; Hebrews 9:27).

Statistics of the Association

The State Line Association was organized at Howard's Grove Church, November 20, 1886.

Year	Moderator	Clerk	Church	Members
1886—	D. L. Chandler,	Calvin Dykes,	Howard's Grove	449
1887—	D. L. Chandler,	Calvin Dykes,	Beulah	557
1888—	R. M. Gray,	Calvin Dykes,	Macedonia	403
1889—	R. M. Gray,	Calvin Dykes,	Friendship	516
1890—	R. M. Gray,	Calvin Dykes,	Loveweed	448
1891—	R. M. Gray,	Calvin Dykes,	Prospect	339
1892—	R. M. Gray,	Calvin Dykes,	Silver Run	444
1893—	D. M. Chandler,	J. D. Stephens,	Hickory Grove	456
1894—	R. M. Gray,	J. D. Stephens,	Spring Hill	422
1895—	D. L. Chandler,	J. D. Stephens,	Pittman Creek	503
1896—	Calvin Dykes,	J. D. Stephens,	Howard's Grove	568
1897—	D. L. Chandler,	J. D. Stephens,	New Hope	653
1898—	D. L. Chandler,	J. D. Stephens,	Rocky Grove	633
1899—	D. L. Chandler,	J. D. Stephens,	Prospect	671
1900—	G. W. Cherry,	J. D. Stephens,	Free Will Rest	803
1901—	Calvin Dykes,	J. W. D. Stephens,	Antioch	916
1902—	Calvin Dykes,	J. W. D. Stephens,	Union Springs	947
1903—	J. D. Stephens,	J. W. D. Stephens,	Hickory Grove	786
1904—	J. D. Stephens,	J. W. D. Stephens,	Howard's Grove	786
1905—	J. D. Stephens,	J. W. D. Stephens,	New Pilgrim	745
1906—	J. D. Stephens,	J. W. D. Stephens,	Springfield	958
1907—	R. L. Hunter,	J. W. D. Stephens,	Rocky Grove	1099
1908—	J. D. Stephens,	J. W. D. Stephens,	Pleasant Home	1199
1909—	J. D. Stephens,	J. W. D. Stephens,	Free Will Rest	1315
1910—	D. L. Chandler,	J. W. D. Stephens,	Silver Run	1365
1911—	D. L. Chandler,	J. W. D. Stephens,	New Life	1442
1912—	D. L. Chandler,	J. W. D. Stephens,	Pittman Creek	1447
1913—	J. M. Murdock,	J. W. D. Stephens,	Spring Hill	1462
1914—	G. W. Cherry,	J. W. D. Stephens,	Union Springs	1553
1915—	J. D. Stephens,	J. W. D. Stephens,	Hickory Grove	1721
1916—	W. S. Cook,	J. W. D. Stephens,	Rocky Grove	1611
1917—	W. S. Cook,	J. W. D. Stephens,	Long Branch	1715
1918—	W. S. Cook,	J. W. D. Stephens,	Magnolia	1456
1919—	W. S. Cook,	J. W. D. Stephens,	New Hope	1646
1920—	G. W. Cherry,	J. W. D. Stephens,	Prospect	1804
1921—	G. W. Cherry,	J. W. D. Stephens,	Howard's Grove	2004
1922—	G. W. Cherry,	J. W. D. Stephens,	Pleasant Home	2043
1923—	J. D. Stephens,	J. W. D. Stephens,	New Harmony	2039
1924—	J. C. Howell,	J. W. D. Stephens,	Corinth	2094
1925—	J. C. Ingram,	J. W. D. Stephens,	Magnolia	2042
1926—	G. W. Cherry,	C. B. Green,	Springfield	2302

1927—J. J. Burdeshaw, J. W. D. Stephens, Hickory Grove.....	2344
1928—W. S. Cook, J. W. D. Stephens, Prospect.....	2229
1929—J. W. D. Stephens, C. B. Green, Rocky Grove.....	2875
1930—J. W. D. Stephens, C. B. Green, Union Springs.....	2450
1931—J. W. D. Stephens, C. B. Green, Howard's Grove.....	2323
1932—J. W. D. Stephens, C. B. Green, Free Will Rest.....	2374
1933—A. H. Godfrey, C. B. Green, Spring Hill.....	2360
1934—A. H. Godfrey, C. B. Green, Shiloh.....	2539
1935—W. S. Cook, C. B. Green, Pleasant Home.....	2495
1936—A. H. Godfrey, C. B. Green, New Harmony.....	2479
1937—G. W. Nobles, C. B. Green, Corinth.....	2447
1938—G. W. Nobles, C. B. Green, Prospect.....	2536
1939—G. W. Nobles, C. B. Green, Pleasant Ridge.....	2661
1940—G. W. Nobles, C. B. Green, Hickory Grove.....	2619
1941—G. W. Nobles, C. B. Green, Rocky Grove.....	2853
1942—J. C. Howell, C. B. Green, Pleasant Home.....	2672
1943—G. W. Nobles, C. B. Green, Pittman Creek.....	2727
1944—G. W. Nobles, C. B. Green, Howard's Grove.....	2788
1945—G. H. Jordan, C. B. Green, Union Springs.....	2717
1946—G. H. Jordan, C. B. Green, Cedar Grove.....	2756
1947—G. H. Jordan, C. B. Green, Springfield.....	2756
1948—G. H. Jordan, C. B. Green, Spring Hill.....	2743
1949—G. H. Jordan, C. B. Green, New Harmony.....	2760
1950—G. H. Jordan, C. B. Green, Prospect and Pleasant Ridge.....	3083
1951—G. H. Jordan, Mary E. Cook, Home and Pittman Creek.....	2761
1952—G. H. Jordan, Mary E. Cook, Howard's Grove and Cowart's Creek	2747
1953—G. H. Jordan, Mary E. Cook, Spring Hill and Union Springs	2663
1954—G. H. Jordan, Mary E. Cook, Corinth and Magnolia.....	2577
1955—G. H. Jordan, Mary E. Cook, Pleasant Ridge and Grangerburg.....	2527
1956—G. H. Jordan, Mary E. Cook, New Harmony and Springfield.....	2476