

MINUTES

of the

Seventy-Sixth Annual Session

of

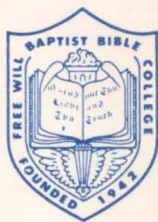
TENNESSEE RIVER ASSOCIATION
FREE WILL BAPTISTS

CONVENED WITH

PINEY GROVE CHURCH

WAYNE COUNTY, TENNESSEE

Friday before the third Sunday in September, 1954



FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

Presented by

Mr. W. W. Berry

MINUTES

of the

TENNESSEE RIVER ASSOCIATION FREE WILL BAPTISTS

CONVENED WITH
PINEY GROVE CHURCH
WAYNE COUNTY, TENNESSEE
Friday before the third Sunday in September, 1954

The next Association will convene with New Pleasant Grove Church, at Savannah,
on Friday before the third Sunday in September, 1955,
at 11 o'clock a. m.

Associational Officers and Their Addresses

REV. B. H. SOUTHERLAND, *Moderator*.....Savannah, Tennessee
REV. J. W. PHILLIPS, *Assistant Moderator*.....Corinth, Mississippi
REV. L. L. WILSON, *Clerk*.....Adamsville, Tennessee

Home Mission Board

BRO. FRANCE MASSENGILL, *Chairman*.....Stantonville, Tennessee
BRO. ANDERSON JONES, *Secretary*.....Stantonville, Tennessee
BRO. ROY L. HARPER, *Treasurer*.....Cypress Inn, Tennessee

Associational Pastor

REV. J. C. McCLANAHAN.....Florence, Alabama

Examining Committee

REV. J. B. HARPER, Cypress Inn, Tennessee.....REV. ELTON COTNER, Adamsville, Tennessee
REV. LIGE DICKEY, Cypress Inn, Tennessee

Moderator of Fifth Sunday Meetings

REV. L. L. WILSON, *Moderator*.....Adamsville, Tennessee
REV. V. H. GEAN, *Assistant Moderator*.....Waterloo, Alabama
BRO. R. L. HARPER, *Clerk*.....Cypress Inn, Tennessee

Board of Trustees

REV. W. C. JONES, Waterloo, Alabama.....REV. V. H. GEAN, Waterloo, Alabama
REV. B. H. SOUTHERLAND, Savannah, Tennessee

Church Clerks and Their Addresses

Harmony—Claude T. Lowery, Leighton, Alabama, Route 1
Mt. Zion—Joyce Jeffreys, Town Creek, Alabama, Route 1
Midway—Lela Hall, Leighton, Alabama, Route 2
Murphey's Chapel—Vernette Ford, Waterloo, Alabama, Route 2
Second Creek—Mrs. Vernon Scott, Waterloo, Alabama, Box 35
Bumpas Creek—Bro. Marvin Michael, Waterloo, Alabama, Route 1
Piney Grove—Bro. Frank Wright, Lutts, Tennessee, Route 1
Mt. Olivet—Mrs. Cloteel Jones, Florence, Alabama, Route 6
New Chapel—Sister Irene Robinson, Counce, Tennessee
Solitude—Sister Mary Finley, Adamsville, Tennessee
Meek's Grove—Bro. F. M. Massengill, Stantonville, Tennessee
Shady Grove—Mrs. Clairce Franks, Olive Hill, Tennessee, Route 2
Scott's Chapel—Roy L. Harper, Cypress Inn, Tennessee
Fairview—Sister Thelma M. Dixon, Iron City, Tennessee, Route 3
Maple Grove—Mrs. Herman L. Hagood, Madison, Alabama, Route 3
White's Creek—Mrs. Ora Stricklin, Lutts, Tennessee
Lutts—Bro. John C. Warrington, Lutts, Tennessee
Rayborn Chapel—Mrs. Effie Sherrill, Lutts, Tennessee, Route 2
Liberty—Mrs. W. E. Horton, Waynesboro, Tennessee, Route 4
Popular Springs—Absent
New Pleasant Grove Church, at Savannah—Yvonne Wilson, Adamsville, Tennessee
New Home Church—Mrs. Ethel Davidson, Henderson, Tennessee, Route 4
Pleasant Hill—Mrs. Minnie Bell Lamb, Cherokee, Alabama

Ordained Ministers and Addresses

Rev. J. W. Phillips, Corinth, Miss.	Rev. Earnest Wood, Iuka, Miss.
Rev. W. C. Jones, Waterloo, Ala.	Rev. Nick White, Savannah, Tenn.
Rev. J. B. Harper, Cypress Inn, Tenn.	Rev. G. W. Arnold, Unknown
Rev. V. H. Gean, Waterloo, Ala.	Rev. L. J. Vandiver, Leighton, Ala.
Rev. Eargen Warren, Lutts, Tenn.	Rev. Curtis Briley, Leighton, Ala.
Rev. L. L. Wilson, Adamsville, Tenn.	Rev. Lige Dickey, Cypress Inn, Tenn.
Rev. Dewey Stults, Cypress Inn, Tenn.	Rev. J. C. McClanahan, Florence, Ala., Rt. 4
Rev. L. L. Moore, Morris Chapel, Tenn.	Rev. J. M. Harbin, Cherokee, Ala., Rt. 1
Rev. Elton Cotner, Adamsville, Tenn.	Rev. Burlon Jones, Florence, Ala.
Rev. R. P. Owen, Adamsville, Tenn.	Rev. B. G. Gibson, Deceased
Rev. B. H. Southerland, Savannah, Tenn.	Licensed Ministers
Rev. W. M. Briley, Hillsboro, Ala.	Rev. Charlie Robbins, Waynesboro, Tenn.

Pastor and Assistant Pastor of Each Church and Their Addresses

Harmony—Rev. C. C. Kimbrough, Phil Campbell, Alabama, Route 1
Mt. Zion—Rev. W. M. Briley, Hillsboro, Alabama
Midway—Rev. J. M. Pace, Phil Campbell, Alabama
Maple Grove—Rev. J. B. Harper, Cypress Inn, Tennessee
Second Creek—Rev. L. L. Wilson, Adamsville, Tennessee
Murphey's Chapel—Rev. Hollis Southerland, Savannah, Tennessee
Bumpas Creek—Rev. Nick White, Savannah, Tennessee
Piney Grove—Rev. Nick White, Savannah, Tennessee
Mt. Olivet—Rev. Burlon Jones, Florence, Alabama, Route 6
Popular Springs—Absent
New Chapel—Rev. Hollis Southerland, Savannah, Tennessee
Solitude—Rev. J. B. Harper, Cypress Inn, Tennessee
Meek's Grove—Rev. Lige Dickey, Cypress Inn, Tennessee
Shady Grove—Rev. Elton Cotner, Adamsville, Tennessee
Scott's Chapel—Rev. Nick White, Savannah, Tennessee
Fairview—Rev. Virgil Gean, Waterloo, Alabama
White's Creek—Rev. Elton Cotner, Adamsville, Tennessee
Lutts—Rev. L. L. Wilson, Adamsville, Tennessee
Rayborn Chapel—Rev. Elton Cotner, Adamsville, Tennessee
Liberty—Rev. Lige Dickey, Cypress Inn, Tennessee
New Pleasant Grove at Savannah—Rev. L. L. Wilson and Rev. Lige Dickey
New Home—Rev. B. H. Southerland, Savannah, Tennessee
Pleasant Hill—Rev. W. M. Briley, Hillsboro, Alabama

PROCEEDINGS

Introductory sermon was delivered by Rev. Raymond Riggs, Nashville, Tennessee. Adjourned to meet at one o'clock.

Friday Afternoon Session

Met according to previous adjournment with singing and Scripture reading by Rev. J. C. McClanahan, reading 13th chapter I Corinthians and prayer by Rev. J. W. Phillips.

After reading of names of the Associational Officers, visitors were invited to sit with us. The visiting ministers were: Rev. W. H. Ryland, Rev. A. J. Lambert, Rev. Paul Sanderson, Rev. Raymond Riggs and Rev. Sanders.

Reading clerks appointed: Bro. L. M. Gober and Bro. Earl Dixon.

Finance Committee appointed by Rev. J. W. Phillips, the assistant moderator: Bro. Jake Craig, Rev. W. C. Jones and Rev. Dewey Stults.

Called for letters from various churches.

Harmony—By letter and delegates: Bro. Oscar Posey, Bro. Andrew McCaig and Bro. Lonnie Briley.

Mt. Zion—By letter and delegates: Bro. John Jeffreys and Bro. John Parvin.

Maple Grove—By letter and delegates: Bro. U. G. Lowery, Bro. Jake Craig and Bro. Henry Berryman.

Midway Chapel—By letter and delegates: Sister Anna George, Sister Lutie Kidd, and Sister Lela Hall.

Solitude—By letter and delegates: Sister Artie Massengill, Sister Hattie Hannah and Sister Myrtle Cotner.

Second Creek—By letter and delegates: Bro. George Cean and Bro. Billie Hinton.

Murphey's Chapel—By letter and delegates: Bro. Earl Dixon and Bro. Ernest Morrow.

Bumpas Creek—By letter and delegate: Bro. Marvin Michael.

Piney Grove—By letter and delegates: Bro. Ira Gillis, Bro. Willie Wright, Bro. Willard Reeves and Bro. Lonzo Wright.

Mt. Olivet—By letter and delegates: Bro. Lawrence Higgins and Sister Artie Jones.

New Chapel—By letter and delegates: Bro. Bill Mayhall, Sister Lillian Mayhall and Sister Ruth Phillips.

Scott's Chapel—By letter and delegates: Bro. Arlie Pigg, Bro. Lonzo Harper, Bro. Clyde Berry and Bro. Earnest Berry.

Shady Grove—By letter and delegates: Bro. William Shephard, Sister Sarah Shephard and Bro. Carl McLin.

Meek's Grove—By letter and delegate: Bro. Austin Kemp.

White's Creek—By letter and delegate: Bro. Clearence Stricklin.

Popular Springs—Absent.

Fairview—By letter and delegates: Bro. Emerald Bailey and Bro. Tom Obyrant.

Lutts—By letter and delegate: Sister Ruby Southerland.

Rayborn's Chapel—By letter and delegates: Bro. Dalton Bratcher and Bro. Thomas Reathford.

Liberty—By letter and delegate: Bro. Bill Horton.

New Pleasant Grove at Savannah—By letter and delegate: Bro. Charles Kilburn.

New Home—By letter and delegates: Bro. and Sister J. C. Crouse.

Pleasant Hill—By letter and delegate: Rev. J. M. Harbin.

Community—Asked for letter from the Tennessee River Association to the Muscle Shoals State Line Association. Move and second to grant them a letter.

The appointing of various committees:

General Business—Rev. L. L. Moore, Rev. Elton Cotner, Rev. J. C. McClanahan, Rev. Nick White and Rev. V. H. Gean.

Sunday School—Bro. Austin Kemp, Bro. Emerald Bailey, Sister Lillian Mayhall and Sister Mattie Ruth Phillips.

Educational—Sister Myrtle Cotner, Sister Anna George, Sister Ruby Southerland and Sister Lutie Kidd.

Temperance—Bro. Ira Gillis, Bro. Earnest Morrow, Bro. Arlie Pigg and Bro. Billie Hinton.

Obituary—Bro. W. T. Banks, Bro. Anderson Jones and Bro. Floyd Michael.

Resolution of Thanks—Bro. John Warrington, Rev. J. M. Harbin, Rev. Curtis Briley and Bro. Clay Sherrill.

Benevolence—Rev. Burlon Jones, Bro. Lonzo Wright and Bro. Marvin Michael.

Business adjourned until Saturday morning at eight o'clock.

A short talk was given by Rev. W. H. Ryland, Superintendent of the Children's Home in Eldridge, Alabama.

Friday night's service opened with singing and prayer by Rev. L. L. Moore and Rev. Curtis Briley. Preaching by Rev. Elton Cotner and Rev. J. C. McClanahan.

Saturday Morning Session

Met according to previous adjournment by singing and Scripture reading by Rev. W. C. Jones, and prayer by Rev. Burlon Jones.

General Business Report

We, your Committee on General Business, recommend that each church send \$35.00 or more to the Home Mission Board. The reason why raising the amount, on account of higher cost of living and expenses.

We also recommend that it be sent in by the first of the year.

We recommend that we continue the election of an associational pastor each year and that we get behind him with our finance and with our prayers. We recommend that any that is recommended by his church, be licensed for twelve months, then if his church further recommends him to the Ordaining Council at the end of the twelve months, and if he is qualified, that he be ordained as a minister.

We recommend that deacons to be ordained be appointed for one year, then be recommended to the Ordaining Council for ordination. We also recommend that they be granted a Certificate of Ordination when ordained.

We recommend that we retain an Examining Committee and place their names in the minutes.

We also recommend that any ordained minister with the quorum to organize churches as he sees fit by the authority of the Tennessee River Association.

We recommend that each church get its letter in to the association on Friday.

We, also recommend, officers of the fifth Sunday meeting to be elected and the place of each fifth Sunday meeting at the last fifth Sunday meeting before the association.

We, also recommend, that we pay our fifth Sunday meeting clerk \$25.00 for his service and pay him out of the Home Mission Treasure.

Report adopted.

REV. V. H. GEAN, *Chairman*

Sunday School Committee

We, your Committee on Sunday Schools, beg to submit the following: We have 16 churches with an enrollment of 881, and the average of 41 regular attendance. We have one church with Sunday school but did not give attendance. We also have four churches without Sunday schools.

We recommend that these churches organize Sunday schools as soon as possible.

We recommend that the pastor and deacons of each church recommend and encourage Sunday schools.

We recommend that the parents go to Sunday school and carry the children that they might be more attentive to the word of God, and invite everyone to attend.

We also recommend that leaders of the Sunday school be true Christians, inviting everyone to attend and encourage the young people.

We should pray earnestly for the upbuilding of our churches and Sunday schools, and encourage the uplifting of God's kingdom while in this world.

Report adopted.

BRO. EMERALD BAILEY, *Chairman*

Educational Committee

We, your Committee on Education, wish to recommend the following: We suggest that parents and leaders in our churches and homes study the Bible and Christian literature more, so they will be more prepared to teach in our Sunday schools and Christian worship.

We recommend that parents visit our schools more often and co-operate with the teachers as long as it is not against the teaching of the Bible and stand against that which is wrong.

We find the Bible says in 2 Timothy 2:15, "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

Report adopted.

SISTER RUBY SOUTHERLAND, *Chairman*

Temperance Committee

We submit the following: We find the word *Temperance* in regard to such things as beer, wine, and whiskey, and to mean total abstinence.

We should be temperate at home, at church, and at business.

We find the Bible says to be temperate in all things as our Lord is the light of the world, as we should be the light of the church.

Report adopted.

BRO. IRA GILLIS, *Chairman*

Obituary Committee

We, your Committee on Obituary, beg leave to report with sadness that death has taken 9 of our beloved members since the last association: Solitude-2: Bro. J. E. Martin and Bro. Robert Conder; Bumpas Creek-1: Bro. Henry Scott; New Chapel-1: Bro. D. E. Stockton; Piney Grove-1: Sister Lissie Horton; New Home-1: Bro. J. H. Davidson; Mt. Zion-1: Bro. B. G. Gipson; Midway-1: Bro. Lonnie Pace; Maple Grove-1: Bro. Josh Bridges.

We pray our loss is heaven's gain.

Report adopted.

BRO. ANDERSON JONES, *Chairman*

Report of Benevolence

We, the Committee on Benevolence, recommend that each church give liberally to the support of orphan children everywhere. The Scriptures say, "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the father is, to visit the fatherless and widows in their afflictions and to keep himself unspotted from the world."

The Scripture says, "Not to be a hearer only, but a doer also. If a man knoweth to do good and doeth it not, to him it is sin."

"Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me, but ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee?" In tithes and offerings.

We recommend that each church work out some plan each month to send donations to the orphan homes, if possible.

Report adopted.

REV. BURLON JONES, *Chairman*

Clerk's Report

Printing of Minutes	\$ 95.00
Paid Clerk	25.00
Mailing Expenses	1.96
Total Paid Out	\$121.96
Amount Paid In by Churches	\$121.42
Amount Turned In by Clerk Last Year	1.84
Total	\$123.26
Total Paid Out	121.96
Balance Left Over	\$ 1.30

REV. L. L. WILSON, *Clerk*

Address: Adamsville, Tennessee

Report of Home Mission Board

Amount Brought Forward	\$ 18.68
Harmony	None
Mt. Zion	25.00
Midway	12.00
Murphey's Chapel	35.00
Second Creek	25.50
Bumpas Creek	25.00
Piney Grove	25.00
Mt. Olivet	None
New Chapel	35.00
Solitude	25.00
Meek's Grove	35.00
Shady Grove	None
Scott's Chapel	35.00
Fairview	35.00
Maple Grove	25.00
White's Creek	None
Lutts	25.00
Rayborn Chapel	10.00
Liberty	None
Poplar Springs	None
New Pleasant Grove at Savannah	23.00
New Home	22.10
Pleasant Hill	None
Total	\$436.28
Paid Associational Pastor	\$300.00
Check Book & Postage	2.53
Treasure Fee	10.00
Balance	\$312.53
Paid Clerk of the Fifth Sunday Meeting at Association	25.00
Balance	\$337.53
Amount Received	\$436.28
Amount Paid Out	337.53
Total Left Over	\$ 98.75

BRO. ROY L. HARPER, *Treasurer*
Address: Cypress Inn, Tennessee

Finance Committee Report

Harmony	\$ 5.00
Mt. Zion	5.10
Maple Grove	7.00
Midway Chapel	4.00
Solitude	6.00
Second Creek	4.50
Murphey's Chapel	4.00
Bumpas Creek	6.40
Piney Grove	4.00
Mt. Olivet	4.00
New Chapel	15.00
Scott's Chapel	6.25
Shady Grove	3.35
Meek's Grove	4.50
White's Creek	3.00
Fairview	4.10
Lutts	3.00
Rayborn Chapel	3.00

Liberty	3.50
New Pleasant Grove at Savannah	5.00
New Home	5.45
Pleasant Hill	4.39
Balance Left Over From Last Year	1.30
Total	\$111.84
Report adopted.	

REV. W. C. JONES, *Chairman*

Ordained Ministers and Their Reports

Rev. W. M. Briley—Pastored 1 church, sermons preached 73, communion service 1, funeral services 5, held 1 revival, assisted in 1 revival, received in the church 6, baptized 2, money received \$417.87, mileage unknown, expenses unknown.

Rev. J. W. Phillips—Verbal.

Rev. L. J. Vandiver—Verbal.

Rev. V. H. Gean—Pastored 3 churches, assisted in 1, held 3 revivals, assisted in 3, received into church 7, baptized 3, held 3 communion services, held 4 conferences, money received \$633.64.

Rev. W. C. Jones—Verbal.

Rev. Elton Cotner—Pastored 2 churches, preached 75 sermons, conducted 3 revivals, assisted in 2 revivals, held 2 conferences, held 2 communion services, conducted 5 funerals, baptized 8, money received \$391.00, miles traveled and expenses unknown.

Rev. L. L. Moore—Verbal.

Rev. J. C. McClanahan—Conducted 3 revivals, assisted in 1 revival, witnessed 11 conversions, money received for evangelist work \$201.54, from Home Mission Board \$300.00, total \$501.54.

Rev. G. W. Arnold—Absent.

Rev. J. B. Harper—Pastored 4 churches, conducted 4 revivals, received in church 5, baptized 2, communion services 4, conference 1, funerals 7, assisted in 2 funerals, money received \$1,495.61, expenses unknown.

Rev. Eargen Warren—Absent.

Rev. Dewey Stults—Verbal.

Rev. Ernest Wood—Absent.

Rev. R. P. Owen—Absent.

Rev. L. L. Wilson—Pastored 1 church half-time, conducted 1 revival, assisted in 3 revivals, held 2 conferences, conducted 1 communion service, assisted in 2 communion services, conducted 1 funeral, assisted in 1 funeral, received 10 in church, baptized 7, money received \$311.89, expense unknown, traveled 5,351 miles to and from services, preached 94 sermons.

Rev. B. H. Southerland—Pastored 4 churches, conducted 4 revivals, assisted in 2, received in church 8, baptized 8, conducted 4 communion services, 4 conferences, money received \$1,104.03, miles traveled unknown.

Rev. Curtis Briley—Verbal.

Rev. B. G. Gipson—Deceased.

Rev. Nick White—Verbal.

Rev. Lige Dickey—Pastored 2 churches, assistant pastor of 1 church, conducted 2 revivals, assisted in 3 revivals, held 2 conferences, 2 communion services, money received \$456.45, miles traveled unknown, expenses unknown.

Rev. Burlon Jones—Pastored 1 church, held 2 revivals, held 1 conference, 1 communion service, preached 80 sermons, miles traveled 4,570, money received for service \$98.32, expense \$97.28.

Rev. J. M. Harbin—Held 2 revivals, assisted in 3, held 1 conference, received about \$52.00, miles traveled and expenses unknown.

Moved to elect associational pastor. Elected Rev. J. C. McClanahan, Florence, Ala.

Officers of the fifth Sunday meeting were elected at the last fifth Sunday meeting be-

fore the association. They are as follows: Rev. L. L. Wilson, moderator; Rev. V. H. Gean, assistant moderator; Bro. R. L. Harper, clerk.

The same associational officers holds for two years. They are as follows: Rev. B. H. Southerland, moderator; Rev. J. W. Phillips, assistant moderator; Rev. L. L. Wilson, clerk.

Minutes of fifth Sunday meetings read by clerk, Bro. Roy L. Harper, and turned in to go in the minute of the association.

Adjourned the business session for a few minutes rest.

Rev. L. J. Vandiver and Rev. Dewey Stults brought the Saturday morning messages for the 11 o'clock hour.

Saturday Afternoon Session

Met according to previous adjournment by singing and Scripture reading by Rev. V. H. Gean, and prayer by Bro. Wayford Berry.

Moderator of fifth Sunday meeting, Rev. L. L. Wilson, took charge of the presbyterial session.

The Examining Committee consists of Rev. V. H. Gean, Rev. W. M. Briley and Rev. B. H. Southerland. After the examination by the committee, Rev. J. B. Harper read the qualifications and duties of a deacon. Bro. Wayford Berry was ordained. Bro. Earl Dixon was found worthy but had not been recommended for twelve months; he will be ordained.

Ministers' Cards Granted: Rev. J. W. Phillips, Rev. W. C. Jones, Rev. J. B. Harper, Rev. V. H. Gean, Rev. Eargen Warren, Rev. L. L. Wilson, Rev. Dewey Stults, Rev. L. L. Moore, Rev. Elton Cotner, Rev. R. P. Owen, Rev. Hollis Southerland, Rev. W. M. Briley, Rev. Curtis Briley, Rev. Nick White, Rev. J. C. McClanahan, Rev. Lige Dickey, Rev. J. M. Harbin, Rev. Burlon Jones, Rev. L. J. Vandiver and Rev. George Arnold.

A committee was appointed to visit one other minister that has been absent for two years. His card was held until the committee reports. The committee appointed was: Rev. B. H. Southerland, Rev. J. W. Phillips, Bro. Alf Layton and Rev. J. M. Harbin.

Resolution of Thanks

We, your Committee, beg leave to report to this body as assembled together, and to express our heartfelt thanks for your hospitality and your love for God that has taught you to sacrifice for our comfort.

May the grace of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit abide with us forever. If we never meet again on earth, may we meet in heaven in one eternal gathering together.

REV. J. M. HARBIN, *Chairman*

Fifth Sunday Meetings for the Ensuing Year

The committee appointed to place fifth Sunday meetings were: Rev. L. L. Moore, Bro. W. T. Banks, Rev. Lige Dickey, Bro. France Massengill and Bro. Billie Hinton. Their decisions are as follows:

1—October, 1954	Bumpas Creek
2—January, 1955	New Home
3—May, 1955	Pleasant Hill
4—July, 1955	Second Creek

The next association will convene with New Pleasant Grove Church at Savannah, Tennessee, on Friday before the third Sunday in September, 1955, at 11 o'clock.

Two visiting ministers brought some wonderful messages before we adjourned; they were Rev. Paul Sanderson, Florence, Alabama, and Rev. Edward Smith, Stantonville, Tennessee.

Adjourned until Saturday night.

Saturday Night Service

Opened by singing and prayer by Rev. L. L. Wilson. Rev. J. W. Phillips conducted an offering for the Children's Homes to be divided equally: first the children, \$30.55; then the adults, \$73.37; making a total of \$103.92. Then the service was turned over to Rev. W. C. Jones and Rev. V. H. Gean bringing some good messages.

Sunday Morning Session

Opened by singing and prayer by Rev. Floyd Michael and Rev. J. B. Harper; preaching by Rev. L. L. Wilson and Rev. B. H. Southerland. The association closed with an old-time hand shake and everybody happy.

Minutes of Fifth Sunday Meetings

AT SCOTT'S CHAPEL CHURCH, NOVEMBER, 1953

Saturday Morning Service

Called together with singing and prayer by Rev. Lige Dickey and Rev. G. W. Arnold. Preaching by Bro. J. C. McClanahan, reading in Jude, bringing a wonderful message.

Dismissed by Rev. V. H. Gean.

Saturday Afternoon Service

Called together with singing and prayer by Bro. Jake Craig. Scripture reading by Bro. B. H. Southerland, reading a part of the 4th chapter of Ephesians.

Then going into the business part with 11 churches represented, 10 preachers and 4 deacons present. Ask for unfinished business: Move and second to accept Bro. Raphael Parker's credentials. Rev. G. W. Arnold was granted a card. The committee reported they did not see Bro. L. J. Vandiver, and his card was held. The committee was released, which was Rev. J. B. Harper, Rev. J. C. McClanahan and Rev. L. R. Craig. The remaining preachers' cards were presented.

New business: A committee was appointed to arrange a program for the next fifth Sunday meeting, the three appointed were: Rev. J. B. Harper, Bro. Jake Craig and Bro. W. T. Banks. The business session was closed by a move and second.

Dismissed by Bro. Wayford Berry.

Saturday Night Service

Called together with singing and prayer by Bro. W. C. Jones. Devotional was conducted by Bro. Charlie Robbins, reading Romans 12:14. Preaching by Bro. W. C. Jones and Bro. B. H. Southerland, having a good service.

Dismissed by Bro. J. B. Harper.

Sunday Morning Service

Called together with singing and prayer by Rev. J. C. McClanahan and Rev. J. W. Phillips. Preaching by Rev. Lige Dickey, reading John 17:20, and by Bro. V. H. Gean, having a wonderful service.

Dismissed by Bro. L. R. Craig.

Sunday Afternoon Service

Called together with singing and prayer by Bro. Nick White. Preaching by Bro. G. W. Arnold, bringing a wonderful message.

Dismissed by Rev. V. H. Gean.

REV. L. L. WILSON, Capleville, Tenn., *Moderator*
ROY L. HARPER, Cypress Inn, Tenn., *Clerk*

AT NEW CHAPEL CHURCH, JANUARY, 1954

Saturday Morning Service

Called together with singing and prayer by Bro. Berry Grisson. The opening message was delivered by Bro. L. L. Wilson, reading Ecclesiastes 12:13, followed with another message by Bro. J. M. Harbin, reading Job. 20:2-8.

Dismissed by Bro. J. W. Phillips.

Saturday Afternoon Service

Called together with singing and prayer by Rev. Lige Dickey. Scripture reading by Bro. B. H. Southerland, reading 1 Corinthians 2. The Church Covenant and Articles of Faith were read by Rev. L. L. Wilson.

Going into the business session with 13 churches represented, 14 preachers, 1 visiting preacher, and 7 deacons present. The minutes of the last fifth Sunday meeting were read by the clerk. Called for unfinished business: A discussion on Bro. L. R. Craig preaching a different doctrine than that of Free Will Baptist. A move was made by Rev. J. M. Harbin and seconded by Rev. L. L. Moore that a vote be taken on whether or not this body would

stand behind Bro. Craig in his preaching or not. The vote went against him. Bro. Craig, being present, agreed to turn in his credentials when he found them which were lost at that time.

New business: A committee was appointed to arrange a program for the next fifth Sunday meeting, which was: Rev. J. B. Harper, Bro. Anderson Jones and Bro. Alfred Layton. Nothing more came before the body so the business session was closed by a move and second.

Dismissed by Bro. Elton Cotner.

Saturday Night Service

Called together with singing and prayer by Bro. L. L. Moore. Devotional was conducted by Rev. J. C. McClanahan, reading John 15. Preaching by Bro. Lige Dickey, reading 1 John 4:1-12, bringing a good message.

Dismissed by Rev. J. W. Phillips.

Sunday Morning Session

Called together with singing and prayer by Rev. G. W. Arnold. Preaching by Bro. Nick White, reading 2 Thessalonians 2, followed with another message by Rev. B. H. Southerland, reading Matthew 12:38-42, having a wonderful service.

Dismissed by Rev. J. C. McClanahan.

Sunday Afternoon Service

Called together with singing and prayer. Preaching by Rev. Burlon Jones, reading Jeremiah 8:19, followed with a message by Rev. Elton Cotner, reading Revelations 3. Short talks were made by Rev. V. H. Gean and two visiting ministers: Bro. L. B. Bishop, a Methodist from Memphis, and Bro. Evans, a Missionary Baptist from Henderson. Services closed with an old-time hand shake.

Dismissed by Rev. V. H. Gean.

REV. L. L. WILSON, Adamsville, Tenn., *Moderator*
ROY L. HARPER, Cypress Inn, Tenn., *Clerk*

AT MAPLE GROVE CHURCH, MAY, 1954

Saturday Morning Service

Called together with singing and prayer by Bro. Emerald Bailey and Rev. V. H. Gean. A special song was rendered by the McClanahan children. The opening message was delivered by Rev. Lige Dickey, reading 1 Corinthians 12:12-26, bringing a good message.

Dismissed by Bro. W. W. Berry.

Saturday Afternoon Service

Opened with singing and prayer by Bro. Burlon Jones. In absence of the moderator, the body appointed Rev. J. B. Harper as moderator. The program consisted of preachers who were not on the program, using first Bro. Charlie Robbins, reading St. John 14:1, making a short talk. This was followed with talks by Rev. Burlon Jones, Bro. Staggs, a visiting minister, Bro. L. R. Craig and Bro. J. M. Harbin.

Going into the business part with 10 churches represented, 11 preachers, 2 visiting preachers and 4 deacons present. The minutes of the last fifth Sunday meeting were read. New business: Bro. V. H. Gean was elected assistant moderator of the fifth Sunday meetings by the body. Bro. L. R. Craig made a report that he was sure his credential papers had been burned by mistake.

A committee was appointed by Rev. V. H. Gean to arrange a program for the next fifth Sunday meeting, they were: Rev. J. B. Harper, Bro. Hamp Tune, Bro. Jake Craig, Bro. Emerald Bailey and Bro. J. A. Wilson. Some nice talks were made on the new church building and how they appreciated Bumpas Creek Church granting them the opportunity to meet with them. Nothing more came before the body so the business session closed by a move and second.

Dismissed by Rev. J. M. Harbin.

Saturday Night Service

Opened with singing and prayer by Bro. J. D. Jackson from Oklahoma. Preaching by

Rev. V. H. Gean, reading Hebrews 9:1-22, and by Rev. J. B. Harper, having a good service.
Dismissed by Bro. Jake Craig.

Sunday Morning Service

Opened with singing and prayer by Rev. W. M. Briley. Rev. J. B. Harper gave a short talk. The devotional was conducted by Rev. J. W. Phillips. Preaching by Rev. J. C. McClanahan, reading a part of John 16, bringing a good message. Closed with an old-time hand shake.

Dismissed by Rev. G. W. Arnold.

Sunday Afternoon Service

Opened with singing and prayer by Rev. Lige Dickey, followed with special music. Rev. W. M. Briley opened the preaching service by reading Hebrews 11:23, using as his subject "A Choice." This was followed with another message by Rev. B. H. Southerland, reading Matthew 26:32. Both were good messages.

Dismissed by Rev. J. C. McClanahan.

REV. L. L. WILSON, Adamsville, Tenn., *Moderator*

REV. V. H. GEAN, Waterloo, Ala., *Assistant Moderator*

ROY L. HARPER, Cypress Inn, Tenn., *Clerk*

AT SOLITUDE CHURCH, AUGUST, 1954

Saturday Morning Service

Called together with singing and prayer by Rev. J. C. McClanahan. Preaching by Rev. L. L. Wilson, reading a part of St. John 10, followed with a message by Rev. Burlon Jones, reading a part of Proverbs 14.

Dismissed by Rev. J. M. Harbin.

Saturday Afternoon Service

Met according to previous adjournment with singing and prayer by Rev. V. H. Gean. Scripture reading by Rev. J. C. McClanahan, reading John 17. Going into the business session with 15 churches represented, 12 preachers, 2 visiting preachers and 4 deacons present. The minutes of the last fifth Sunday meeting were read by the clerk. A move was made by Rev. J. M. Harbin and second by Rev. L. L. Moore to keep the same officers which are: Rev. L. L. Wilson, moderator; Rev. V. H. Gean, assistant moderator; and Roy L. Harper, clerk. The fifth Sunday meeting will meet as follows: October, 1954, Bumpas Creek Church; January, 1955, New Home Church; May, 1955, Pleasant Hill Church; July, 1955, Second Creek Church. The committee placing the fifth Sunday meetings is composed of the following: Rev. L. L. Moore, Bro. W. T. Banks, Rev. Lige Dickey, Bro. France Massengill and Bro. Billy Hinton. A committee was appointed to arrange a program for the next fifth Sunday meeting consisting of Rev. V. H. Gean, Bro. John Martin and Roy L. Harper. Nothing more came before the body so the business session closed by a move and second.

Some nice talks were made by preachers who were not on the program. They were: Bro. Phillips, using the subject, "My Weeping Christ," Bro. White and Bro. Harper.

Bro. L. R. Craig made a statement to the body that he had left the Free Will Baptist church and went to the Missionary Baptist church. He asked the clerk of Meek's Grove Church to take his name and his family's name off their church record.

Dismissed by Rev. J. W. Phillips.

Saturday Night Service

Opened with singing and prayer by Rev. Lige Dickey. Preaching by Rev. J. M. Harbin, reading Psalm 46, using the subject, "A Present Help in Time of Trouble." This was followed with a message by Rev. B. H. Southerland, reading Luke 10:23-35, using the same subject as Bro. Harbin.

Dismissed by Rev. John Martin.

Sunday Morning Service

Opened with singing and prayer by Bro. Phillips. Preaching by Bro. V. H. Gean, reading Romans 5:1-5, using the subject, "Faith," followed with another message on the same subject by Rev. J. C. McClanahan.

Dismissed by Rev. J. B. Harper.

Sunday Afternoon Service

Opened with singing and prayer by Bro. L. L. Moore. Devotional was conducted by Rev. Lige Dickey. Preaching by Bro. Lonnie Bishop from Memphis, Tennessee, reading from Acts 1, bringing a wonderful message. Closed with an old-time hand shake.

Dismissed by Bro. Charlie Robbins.

REV. L. L. WILSON, Adamsville, Tenn., *Moderator*

ROY L. HARPER, Cypress Inn, Tenn., *Clerk*

FORM OF CHURCH CONFERENCE

- 1—Call church to order.
- 2—Call for peace of the church.
- 3—Invite visiting brethren and sisters to take seats with us.
- 4—An opportunity to reception of members.
- 5—Reading minutes of previous conferences.
- 6—Call for unfinished business.
- 7—Call for new business.

The Constitution

ARTICLE 1. This Association shall be called the *Tennessee River Association of Free Will Baptists*, and shall be composed of such consistent, well regulated Free Will Baptist churches as shall unite in this compact, and agree to this Constitution.

ARTICLE 2. The acting members of this Association shall be such as are chosen by several churches of which the Association is composed, to represent them in this Association, every church being entitled to one delegate, every church containing fifty members to two delegates, and one additional delegate for every additional twenty-five members.

ARTICLE 3. The Officers of this body shall be a Moderator, a Treasurer, Corresponding and Recording Secretary, who shall be elected for a term of two years, and said election to take place one year prior to their entering upon the duties of said office.

ARTICLE 4. Any regular organized Free Will Baptist Church, maintaining Gospel order, agreeing with the denomination in doctrine and practices, and in favor of the benevolent enterprise, as Sunday Schools, Missions, Temperance and Education, may be received into their Association on application, by the vote of the Association to which such application is made or referred.

ARTICLE 5. This Association shall have power to discipline its churches for unchristian conduct, a want of conformity to gospel order, or a violation of the conditions of the compact, and expel them in case of unsuccessful labor; to license and ordain ministers such as give evidence of being qualified and called of God, by request of churches to which such persons belong; to settle such questions of discipline and doctrine as the churches may refer to them and transact such other business as may be necessary for the benefit of religion, consistent with liberty and independence of the churches, according to the usage of the Free Will Baptist Denomination, and not repugnant to the regulations of the yearly meeting, with which this Association may be connected; and to make by-laws necessary to its regulations not repugnant to this Constitution.

ARTICLE 6. The session of this Association shall be on the _____ when it shall be the duty of all churches of which it is composed to represent themselves by letter and delegates.

ARTICLE 7. This Constitution may be altered or amended by a vote of any session of this Association, notice of such intended alteration having been given in writing at the next previous session of Association.

By-Laws

1. The clerk and assistant clerk or in their absence, the senior minister in years, should 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 is present the senior member in years shall act as moderator.

2. All persons declared by a committee on credentials to be duly entitled to a seat in

this Association are hereby made constituted members of this body and are authorized to act in all respects according to the provisions of Constitution and By-Laws under which this Association is organized.

3. It shall be the duty of every body belonging to this Association to send a letter to the annual session of this Association, reporting to the same its spiritual condition, benevolent work, and its statistics. Any body which belongs to this Association, which fails to report 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 by prayer, and shall be closed by prayer.

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

6. This Association may correspond by messengers or otherwise with other religious bodies.

7. The Association shall sit with open doors, except when it shall go into 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 this 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 Christian spirit or when he thinks it will cause discord or division.

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

14. No member of this Association shall be allowed to speak more than ten minutes, nor twice on the same subject without permission of the moderator.

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

16. 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.

Articles of Faith

1. **THE BIBLE**—The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments were given by 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 a 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 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.

4. **THE HOLY SPIRIT**—The scriptures assign to the Holy Spirit all the attributes of God. He is the Reprover, Comforter, Guide and Sanctifier of men.

5. **THE GOVERNMENT OF GOD**—God exercises wise and benevolent providence over all beings 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 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 one's self to Christ as Saviour and Lord, with the 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 of 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 the water of life freely.

12. **PERSEVERANCE**—All believers in Christ, who through grace preserve 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 they be administered to all true believers.

14. **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.

15. **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 into the eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

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 sanction 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 forget the assembling of ourselves together for church conferences, public worship, and the observance of Ordinances of the Gospel, nor fail to pay according to our ability for the support of the church, of its poor, and all its benevolent work.

We agree to accept Christian admonition and reproof with meekness, and to watch over one another in love, endeavoring to "Keep the unity of the Spirit," in the bonds of peace, to be careful of one another's happiness and reputation, and seek to strengthen the weak, encourage the afflicted, admonish the erring, and as far as we are able promote the success of the church and of the Gospel.

We will everywhere hold Christian principle sacred and Christian obligations and enterprises supreme, counting it our chief business in life to extend the influence of Christ in society; constantly praying 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 education and denominational enterprises, the support of missions, the success of Sunday Schools, and evangelistic efforts for the salvation of the world, and may the God of peace sanctify us wholly and preserve us blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

FORM LETTER OF DISMISSION

_____, 19____
This certifies that _____ is a regular member
of the Free Will Baptist Church at _____, in good
standing as such. We recommend _____ to the fellowship of
God's people, and when we are informed that _____ has
united with some other evangelical church, we shall consider _____
regularly dismissed from this church. In behalf of the Free Will Baptist Church at _____
_____.

_____, *Pastor*
_____, *Clerk*

FORM OF CHURCH LETTER TO THE ASSOCIATION

We, the Free Will Baptist Church of Christ, at _____
send greetings to the ministers and messengers composing the Tennessee River Association,
when convened with _____ Church. We send our
beloved to-wit _____ to sit with you in your deliberations
and to help transact any legal business that may come before your honorable body. The
statistics of our church are as follows:

Received by profession of faith and baptism _____; by letter _____; by
experience _____; restored by confession _____; dismissed by letter _____;
withdrawn _____; expelled _____; dead _____; Total membership _____.
Number of students enrolled in Sunday School _____; average attendance _____;
number of Deacons _____; number of Ordained Ministers _____; number of
Licensed Ministers _____. We have elected Rev. _____.

Address _____ to pastor our church for the
ensuing year. Valuation of church house and property \$ _____. Contribution paid
pastor \$ _____; pastoral help \$ _____; given to Home Missions \$ _____;
Minute funds \$ _____.

Moderator _____, Address _____
Clerk _____, Address _____

CHURCHES	Deacons	Licensed Ministers	Ordained Ministers	By Restoration	Received by Letter	Withdrawals	Expelled	Dismissed by Letter	Deaths	Amount Given	Minute Funds	Membership	Pastoral Help	Amount Paid Pastor	Church Value	Average Attendance	S. S. Enrollment	Experience	Baptisms	Home Mission Funds	Meeting Days
Harmony	3								\$		\$ 5.00	104	\$	\$279.00	\$1,500.00	48	60		3	\$	
Mt. Zion	4			1	1			1	1		5.10	127	20.00	122.64	850.00	50	50			25.00	
Midway	1								1		4.00	76	20.00	210.30	1,500.00	40	78			12.00	
Second Creek	1									5.00	4.25	30	38.30	210.30	900.00				25.50	4th	
Murphy's Chapel	1		1	1	2			2			6.40	46	34.00	240.00	1,500.00	40	60		2	35.00	3rd
Bumpas Creek	1								1		4.00	104	79.80	69.50	1,500.00	35	35		3	25.00	
Piney Grove	1								1		4.00	130	35.50	98.00	800.00	38			4	25.00	3rd
Mt. Olivet	1									20.00	4.00	75	15.11	48.25	800.00						
New Chapel	1							2	1		15.00	55	85.00	380.00	1,500.00	45	69			35.00	
Solitude	4			1							6.00	141	34.00	393.02	2,500.00	56	90		3	35.00	1st
Meek's Grove	2										4.50	101	45.00	282.01	1,000.00		23		1	35.00	4th
Scott's Chapel	3										6.25	107	42.50	137.42	1,250.00	65	80		2	35.00	1st
Farview	2										4.10	96	98.99	145.10		30	60		1	35.00	2nd & 4th
Maple Grove	4			1	1			1	1		7.00	73	85.00	348.00	5,000.00	40	60		1	25.00	
White's Creek	1										3.00	21	19.00	96.75	1,000.00	35				25.00	2nd
Luts	2										3.00	16	25.00	240.00						10.00	
Rayborn Chapel	1										3.00	16	25.00	154.50	1,000.00						
Liberty	1							1	1		3.50	48	23.84	121.44	1,200.00					22.10	1st
New Home	1		1	1							5.45	50	35.85	233.04	2,000.00	35	30		1	23.00	1st & 3rd
New Pleasant Grove	1										5.00	33	40.94	167.23	2,000.00	35	47		2		
Pleasant Hill	1							1			4.39	7	40.00	50.00					3		
Shady Grove	3										3.35	80	44.67	146.50	1,000.00	42	66				2nd & 4th

