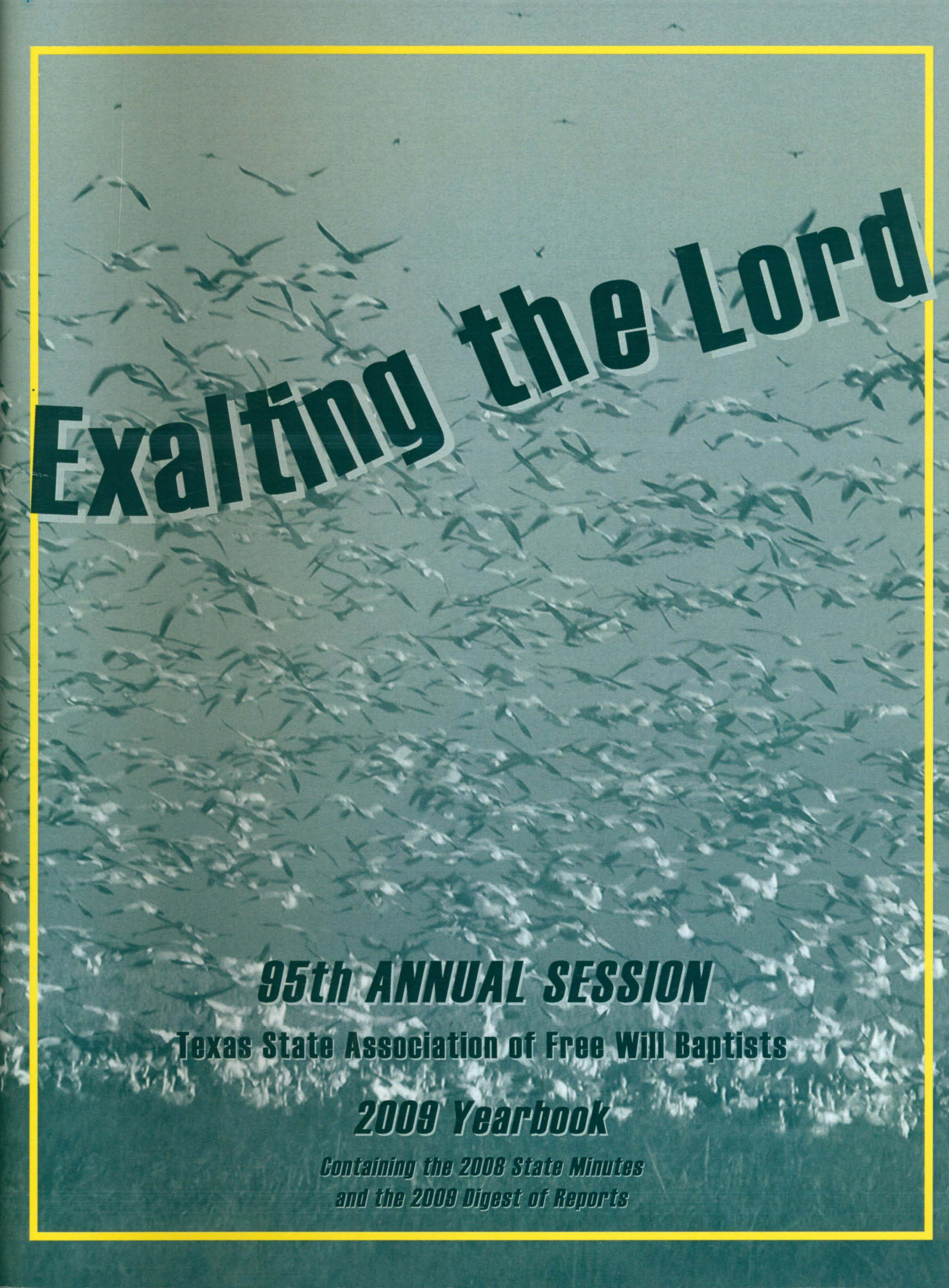


A large flock of birds, possibly seagulls, is captured in flight over a vast field of tall, green grass. The birds are scattered across the upper half of the image, creating a sense of movement and freedom. The grass in the foreground is dense and slightly out of focus, while the background shows more birds and a clear sky.

Exalting the Lord

95th ANNUAL SESSION

Texas State Association of Free Will Baptists

2009 Yearbook

***Containing the 2008 State Minutes
and the 2009 Digest of Reports***

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2008 Minutes of the 94th Annual Session

State Association of Free Will Baptists

Meeting June 11-13, 2008 at the Collin Creek FWB Church of Plano, Texas.
Wednesday Evening, June 11, 2008

Evening Worship Service – 7:00 PM

Presiding: Alan Barus (Lakehills, Cedar Park)
Music Director: Bobby Farrell (Collin Creek, Plano)
Instrumentalists: Collin Creek Praise Band

Congregational Song: “We Want to See Jesus Lifted High”

Special music by the Collin Creek Patch Club Choir: “The Secret Place”

Scripture reading (II Cor. 2:14) and prayer led by Rev. Freddy Gillentine (Heritage Parks, Abilene).

Congregational Songs: “Open the Eyes of My Heart”, “He Reigns”

Meeting called to order and visitors recognized by Moderator Keith Woody (Lakehills, Cedar Park).
Moderator Keith Woody named the appointed committees for the session:

Committee on Committees:
Kenneth Mayo, chair
Lynn Beck
Freddy Gillentine

Nominating Committee:
Eugene Richards, chair
Clyde Gillentine
David Rudd

Credentials Committee:
Chuck Vaughan, chair
Marcus Brewer
Ruth Richards

Offering was received (\$301.00), led in prayer by Michael Parker, (Collin Creek, Plano). Special Music by Faith Barus (Lakehills, Cedar Park): “Who Am I?”

Welcome by Rev. Robert Posner (Collin Creek, Plano). Bro. Posner made a presentation to the Randy Puckett family in recognition of their work at the Eagle Heights FWB Church in Sugar Land as they entered self-supporting status in January. Bro. Posner made a presentation to Rev. Allen and Sis. Vivian Moore upon their retirement, in recognition of their 40 years of service to Texas and to the Texas FWB Mission Board.

Congregational Songs: "Lord, I Lift Your Name on High", "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross/The Wonderful Cross"

Prayer by Bobby Farrell.

Message by Rev. Keith Burden, Executive Secretary, National Association of FWB, Nashville, TN – "A Great God" (Ex. 34:5-6)

Introduction: The theme of the conference is "Manifestations of Greatness", with a reference verse of I Chron. 16:25. From this verse, we can see three responsibilities that all Christians have:

1. Recognize that God is great.
2. Praise Him for His greatness; make Him the focus of our worship.
3. Have a healthy fear of God.

With these responsibilities in mind, the following attributes of God help us to focus on His greatness and respectfully fear Him:

I. Merciful

- A. This word, used 13 times in the Old Testament, is used to describe the most intimate relationship, that of a mother and her child.
- B. Picture the interaction between a mother and her child, magnify that by thousands of times, and we get a glimpse of God's relationship to us.
- C. A contemporary definition of mercy: when God does not give you what you deserve.

II. Gracious

- A. The definition of the Hebrew source word is "to bend or to stoop in kindness to an inferior".
- B. The definition underscores God's position of superiority.
- C. A contemporary definition of grace: when God gives you what you do not deserve.
- D. Obedience to the Savior

III. Longsuffering

- A. Long: "A long time" + suffering: "the nose". It refers to how the nostrils flare when one is angry. The two words used together describe God's anger, when chastising and disciplining His children.
- B. This is illustrated in Numbers 14, when God asked Moses in verse 11, "How long will this people provoke me?" Moses' answer was, "Pardon, I beseech thee, the iniquity of these people, according to the greatness of thy mercy."
 1. God had already tested the people 10 times, and God had forgiven them each time.
 2. Finally, on the tenth time, God's longsuffering had reached its limit.
 3. Moses recognized this and begged for God to spare the people.

IV. Abundant in Goodness

- A. The use of the word "abundant" underscores the plentiful nature of this attribute.
- B. It speaks of His forgiveness, with ample opportunity to return to God when we falter.

V. Abundant in Truth

- A. It speaks of His faithfulness.
- B. It speaks of our security, based on the absoluteness of God.
- C. Repentance is not a one-time event, but is an ongoing process.

Invitation Hymn: "How Great Thou Art"

Announcements:

- Pastor's Conference will meet in the Fellowship Hall Thursday morning at 8:30.

- TWAC meeting will meet in the auditorium at 8:30.
- Texas Youth Conference will provide a hamburger lunch at the church Thursday at noon, for their service project. A love offering is requested.
- Master's Men and youth service project at Twin City Mission (31st & Sims) at 8:00 AM.

Dismissed with congregational singing of "Alleluia" and prayer by Bro. Alan Barus.

Thursday Morning, June 12, 2008 – 8:30 AM

Pastor's Conference – Theme: "The Basics of Christianity"

Presiding: Rev. William Bushong (Pine Prairie, Huntsville)

Music Director: Allen King

Congregational Songs: "There's Something About That Name", "Redeemed"

Scripture reading (Psalm 51) and prayer by Rev. Brad Hodson (Lakehills, Cedar Park).

Message by Rev. Jeremy Lightsey (CrossLife, San Antonio)

"A Great Salvation" (Heb. 2:3-5)

Introduction: During college, I had a job as a janitor, with one task being to sweep the gym floor. The best way to do that was to push the dust mop in straight lines; however, if I got distracted, I began to get off track and meander. In order to stay on a straight line, I had to pick a point on the far wall and walk toward it, keeping my focus on that point and not be distracted by other things.

I. A Great Source

A. God is the source of our salvation. He is all-powerful, and He is perfect and holy.

B. There is no other source in the world that can provide the complete salvation that comes from God.

II. A Great Substitute

A. We each have a debt that we must pay for our sin.

B. The only way we can avoid that debt is to find a sinless substitute that is willing to pay the debt for us.

C. Jesus was that perfect substitute who died for our sins so that we can avoid death and separation from God.

III. A Great Change

A. If we accept this salvation from the Source through the Substitute, our lives should reflect a change that comes from the influence of God. (Heb. 2:1)

B. However, we cannot just reject salvation to avoid a change. We neglect salvation at our own peril. (Heb. 2:3)

C. As Christians, we are expected to use the power of the Holy Spirit to put away sins and other things that will distract us from being focused on the Source. (Heb. 12:1)

D. Avoiding distraction will help us to use our time wisely and effectively. (Eph 5:16)

Message by Rev. Michael Scott (CrossRoads, Lubbock)

"A Great Inheritance" (I Pet. 1:3-5)

I. The Heirs

- A. This characteristic addresses who is eligible to partake in this inheritance.
- B. We are born into the family of God when we are saved, and the inheritance is a birthright that comes with being a member of the family.
- II. The Reservation
 - A. Inheritances on earth are subject to diminishing values or even destruction; there are no guarantees for inheriting earthly treasures.
 - B. Our heavenly inheritance is guaranteed, reserved by God to be constant and eternal.
- III. The Requirements
 - A. In order to receive this inheritance, we must continue to be members of God's family; that is, we must be faithful and obedient to God.
 - B. This means putting aside those things which would draw us away from God and lead us into sin. (Col. 3:1)
- IV. The Equal Disbursement
 - A. Every person who is faithful to God at the time of death (or Christ's return) will receive an equal portion of the heavenly inheritance God has prepared.
 - B. God's inheritance is not finite; it can be expanded to accommodate each new member of the family.
 - C. God's inheritance is not corruptible, and it is undefiled. His inheritance will not decay, and His heirs will not be caught up in competing for shares that are unfairly distributed or unequal in value.

Dismissed in prayer by William Bushong.

Thursday Afternoon, June 12, 2008

Business Session – 2:00 PM

Presiding: Keith Woody, Moderator

Music Director: Marcus Brewer (Fellowship, Bryan)

Pianist: Hope Van Winkle (Fellowship, Bryan)

Congregational Song: "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms"

Moderator's Message: Rev. Keith Woody (Lakehills, Cedar Park)

"Yet There Is Room" – Luke 14:16-24

Introduction: This passage is concerned with Jews who had no desire to associate with or aid those who were different from them. Jesus used this illustration to instruct the Jews then, and us today, that we have a mission to all men, which can be applied to Free Will Baptists in Texas and our responsibility to expand the kingdom of Christ.

I. God's Gracious Invitation

- A. There is no lack of God's calling to be saved, and there is no lack of people who need to be saved.
- B. There is no reasonable explanation to reject the call to God and to be dedicated to His service; there are only excuses.

II. God's Great Instruction

- A. God has given us the command to go into the world and preach the Gospel to every creature.
- B. God has placed each of us in a position to reach people that no one else can reach.

- C. It is our responsibility to seek out all who are unsaved and bring them to Christ, regardless of stature or status.

Credentials Committee report given by Marcus Brewer. MMS&C to receive the report, accept the letters, and seat the delegates.

Reports from National Ministries:

- International Missions Board report was given by Barry Simpson, Director of Stateside Development.
- Executive Office report was given by Keith Burden, Executive Secretary.
- Free Will Baptist Bible College report was given by David Williford, Vice President for Institutional Advancement.
- Sunday School and Church Training Board report was given by Eric Puschmann.
- Hillsdale FWB College report was given by Tim Eaton, President.
- Harvest FWB Child Care Ministries report was given by George Hyatt.
- FWB Children's Home report was given by Mike Nabors.
- Seminary of the Cross and Mexico FWB report was given by Dr. Thomas Marberry.

MMS&C to adjourn until Friday morning.

Dismissed in prayer by Rev. Cory Thompson (First, Weatherford).

Thursday Evening, June 12, 2008

Evening Worship Service – 7:00 PM

Presiding: Randy Bishop (Evergreen, Iola)
Music Director: Bobby Farrell (Collin Creek, Plano)
Instrumentalists: Collin Creek Praise Band

Scripture reading (Phil. 2:5-11) and prayer led by Cory Thompson (First, Weatherford).

Congregational Songs: "Shout to the Lord", "He Set Me Free"

Offering was received (\$59.20), led in prayer by Jeremy Lightsey.

Congregational Songs: "I Love You, Lord", "Holy Is the Lord God Almighty"

Prayer by Bobby Farrell.

Special music by Dee Merritt (Collin Creek, Plano): "Amazing Grace"

Message by Rev. Keith Burden, Executive Secretary, National Association of FWB, Nashville, TN – "A Great Grace" (Eph. 2:8-9)

Introduction: A sermon on grace is daunting for three reasons: the concept of grace is fathomless, familiar, and foundational. Grace has an infinite depth that can be explored, it is a subject that most Christians have a working knowledge of, and it is a subject that Christians have to have a basic understanding of in order to be

Christians. There are two things to keep in mind: grace is a part of God's nature, and it is man's greatest need.

I. The Concept That Is Being Communicated

A. Definitions

1. God's unmerited favor
2. When God gives you what you don't deserve
3. God's Riches At Christ's Expense

B. Applications

1. God, in a position of superiority, grants us forgiveness and eternal life.
2. We, as Christians, are to be examples of God and forgive others.

II. The Catalyst That Activates Grace

A. A catalyst, in chemical terms, is something that provides the elements necessary to begin a chemical reaction.

B. Faith is the catalyst that provides the material necessary for grace to be activated.

III. The Clarification That Is Mentioned

A. We are saved by grace through faith, and not of works.

B. However, good works will be an evidence of the presence of faith.

C. Works will be the byproduct of genuine faith.

IV. The Contrast That Is Drawn

A. Paul reiterates that salvation by grace alone precludes the possibility of right standing with God on the basis of human efforts.

B. Works cannot be a requirement of a gift, and a gift is not an evidence of works.

V. The Character That Is Revealed

A. Grace is an evidence of God's love for us.

B. God does not have to "work at" loving us; it is a part of His nature.

C. Love, in the truest Biblical sense, is about giving and not about getting.

VI. The Caution That Is Sounded

A. Paul is not only talking about the nature of God, but also the nature of man.

B. Man has an inherent tendency toward pride; if salvation were possible through human effort, people would naturally be inclined to be prideful about their efforts and exclude the contribution of God.

Prayer by Clarence Hearn

Report of Committee on Committees:

Resolutions Committee:

Jeff Cates, chair

Jim Harris

Faron Thebeau

Obituary Committee:

Bill Van Winkle, chair

Barrie Sue Davis

Michael Scott

Announcements

Dismissed in prayer by Rev. Bill Van Winkle (Fellowship, Bryan).

Friday Morning, June 13, 2008 – 9:00 AM

Presiding: Keith Woody
Music Director: Allen King
Pianist: Hope Van Winkle

Congregational Song: "O Worship the King"

Scripture reading (Philemon 1:1-25) and prayer, led by Dr. Thomas Marberry (Primera, Weslaco).

Reports from State Ministries and Boards:

- TWAC Report was given by Kelly Reed, TWAC Vice-President (written report on pp. 38-44 in the 2008 Yearbook), received as information.
- Nominating Committee report was read (copy attached). MMS&C to receive the report.
- Missions Board report was given by Robert Posner (written report and proposed board and TEAM budgets on pp. 32-35).
 - o With Bro. Moore's retirement, David Rudd has assumed the position of Treasurer for the board.
 - o As a reminder, the salary for the Reeds in Conroe is covered under the General Fund and designated giving to the board.
 - o The new CrossRoads work in Lubbock (Mike and Nita Scott) is a joint project between the board and the Lakehills FWB Church in Cedar Park.
 - o The mission at Abilene has maintained steady attendance. They are meeting in an office area for weekly Bible study and a school training center for Sunday services.
 - o The CrossLife mission in San Antonio has been regularly meeting since Easter. They are currently holding services in an area movie theater and have an opportunity for advertising in the theater for the next six months.
 - o The permits for the new facilities at North Oaks in San Antonio are now before the city awaiting approval. Pray that this process will be successfully concluded soon so that construction can begin.
 - o The Deans are still on the field in China, but they are now there independently, due to changes in the way teachers are assigned by ELI.
 - o The Nichols are currently off the field, and will serve as missionaries in residence at Hillsdale in the 2008-09 academic year.
 - o MMS&C to receive the Missions Board report and adopt the budget.
 - o Missions Board positions were elected as nominated by the Nominating Committee.
- Executive Board report and State Office report were given by Marcus Brewer (written reports on pp. 25-27, financial reports on pp. 28-31).
 - o MMS&C to receive the reports and adopt the proposed 2009 budget and the distribution for state Cooperative giving.
- Christian Education Board report was given by Allen King (balance sheet and proposed 2009 budget on pp. 36-37).
 - o MMS&C to receive the Christian Education Board financial report and adopt the budget.
 - o Christian Education Board positions were elected as nominated by the Nominating Committee.
- Hillsdale report given by Clyde Gillentine (written report on p. 46); MMS&C to receive the report.

- Texas Challenge report given by Sally Wilcox, received as information.
- Master's Men report was given by Marcus Brewer, received as information.
- Obituary Committee report was given by Bill Van Winkle (copy attached), led in prayer by Thurmon Murphy.
- Resolutions Committee report was given by Faron Thebeau (copy attached). MMS&C to receive report and all items.
- Robert Posner gave an explanation of changes to the TEAM plan to coincide with changes to funding distribution by International Missions, beginning in 2010. All TEAM monies currently identified as sent to International Missions will be sent to the Global Evangelism Fund.
- Registration report (copy attached) was given by Marcus Brewer; there were 139 in total registration, received as information.
- State Officers were elected as nominated by the Nominating Committee.

Remaining Business:

- MMS&C to give the Moderator the authority to name delegates from the State Association to the National Association.
- MMS&C to hold the 2009 State Meeting at Abilene on June 10-12.
- Letter from the State Association to the National Association was read. MMS&C to accept the report.
- MMS&C to adjourn the business session.

Dismissed in prayer by David Rudd.

Minutes taken and typed by Marcus A. Brewer
Clerk, Texas State Association of Free Will Baptists

Credentials Committee Report 2008

The Credentials Committee has received letters and representation fees from the following district associations: Central Texas (19 churches), East Texas (10 churches), West Fork (11 churches), West Texas (5 churches) and Rio Grande Valley (1 church). These districts are entitled to one delegate for each hundred members or fractional part thereof. The Central Texas District, the West Fork District, and the West Texas District have specified no delegates to the State Association. Delegates from the East Texas and Rio Grande Valley Districts are to be appointed by their respective moderators. We recommend that these districts and their respective delegates be seated.

The Credentials Committee has received supplemental local church letters from the following churches:

Good Hope, Henderson
Lifegate, Tyler
Union Arbor, Beckville
Canyon Country, Canyon
Heritage Parks, Abilene
Primera, Weslaco
Evergreen, Iola
Fellowship, Bryan
North Oaks, San Antonio

The Credentials Committee has received no letters or dues from the following:

Northwest Brazos District Association
Oakdale First FWB Church, Amarillo

After discussion with the General Board during its meeting on June 11, the decision was made to continue including the Northwest Brazos District Association and the Oakdale First FWB Church as members of the Texas State Association, and the Texas State Mission Board will cover their representation fees for this year. The Mission Board and the Executive Board will continue to work with the church to bring them into good standing in the future.

Respectfully submitted,
Chuck Vaughan, Chair
Marcus A. Brewer
Ruth Richards

Registration Committee Report 2008

Out-of-State FWB Visitors	14
Texas State Officers	5
Texas Ordained Ministers	36
Texas Ordained Deacons	2
Wife of Texas Ordained Minister or Deacon	27
Elected Delegates	5
Texas FWB (non-delegate)	49
Other Visitor 1	
Pre-registered 87	
Registered on-site	52
TOTAL REGISTRATION	139

Respectfully submitted,

Marcus A. Brewer
Clerk, Texas State Association of Free Will Baptists

Obituary Committee Report 2008

CHURCH MEMBERS

CHURCH MEMBERS

Central Texas District

Bright Light, College Station
Anita Harper

Evergreen, Iola
Harold Trant

Fellowship, Bryan
Robert D. Davidson

Alvin Halbrook

Lakehills, Cedar Park
Allie Ferguson

East Texas District

First, Henderson
Norma June Teague

Good Hope, Henderson
Kenneth Green

Mt. Olive, Henderson
Gladys Berry

West Fork District

Pleasant Mound, Bellevue
Bud Fuller

West Texas District

First, Kermit
Ernie Fielding

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Van Winkle, chair
Barrie Sue Davis
Michael Scott

Resolutions Committee Report

1. Be it resolved that the Texas State Association of Free Will Baptists extend our complete support to the International Missions Vision and Plan to fund our missions program and that this resolution be forwarded to the National Convention in Charleston, West Virginia, as information.
2. Be it resolved that the Texas State Association of Free Will Baptists express its profound appreciation to Bro. Allen and Sis. Vivian Moore for over 40 years of service to the Free Will Baptist work in Texas.
3. Be it resolved that we express profound appreciation for the Board of Christian Education and the volunteers that worked with and provided activities and events for the young people of our State Association.
4. Be it resolved that we give a standing vote of thanks to the Collin Creek Free Will Baptist Church for their kind hospitality in hosting the 94th Annual Session of the Texas State Association of Free Will Baptists.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeff Cates, Chairman
Jim Harris
Faron Thebeau

Nominating Committee Report 2008

State Officers:

Moderator, replacing Keith Woody (2009),
Assistant Moderator, replacing Clarence Hearron (2009),
Clerk, Marcus Brewer (2009)
Assistant Clerk, Chuck Vaughan (2009)
Hillsdale Trustee, replacing Clyde Gillentine (2011)
Hillsdale Trustee, open position

Keith Woody
Clarence Hearron

Chuck Vaughan
Clyde Gillentine
Eugene Richards

Mission/Church Extension Board:

Chairman, Robert Posner (2010)
Treasurer, replacing David Rudd (2011)
Member, replacing David Ferguson (2009)
Member, Secundino Urena (2010)
Member, replacing Allen Moore (2011)

David Rudd
Randy Puckett

Faron Thebeau

Christian Education Board:

Chairman, replacing Ken Austin (2011)
Secretary, Marilu McDonald (2009)
Treasurer, Allen King (2010)
Competition Chair, Teressa Voltz (2010)
Member, replacing Faron Thebeau (2011)

Ken Austin

Kyle Howell

Master's Men Senator:

John Davis (2009)

National Association General Board Member:

Replacing Keith Woody (2010)

Keith Woody

Respectfully submitted,
Kenneth D. Mayo, Chairman
Harold Teague
Faron Thebeau

