

*Presented by*

Mr. Claudus Barnes

## PROCEEDINGS

The 31st annual session of the Vernon Freewill Baptist Association met with Pearce's Chapel church on Saturday before the 3rd Sunday in October, 1911.

The introductory sermon was preached by Rev. J. A. Brown. Text, Rom. 10th chap. and 12th verse.

After preaching, one hour was taken for refreshments; after which the ministers and delegates assembled in the church house. Rev. J. W. Porter, the former Moderator, and J. E. Chaffin, former Clerk, being present, took their seats and the Moderator called the Association to order.

A song was sung and the Moderator offered prayer, and then announced the Association ready for business.

2. By motion the Moderator was empowered to appoint all committees.

3. The Moderator appointed brothers J. Pearce and R. H. Yerby as reading clerks.

4. The letters from the various churches were called for, handed in, read and contents noted as per Statistical Table.

5. Called for petitionary letters. None presented.

6. On motion it was agreed to permanently organize the Body, which was done by electing Rev. W. H. Cowley, Moderator; J. E. Chaffin, Clerk, and R. H. Yerby, Corresponding Secretary, for the ensuing Associational year.

7. Called for corresponding messengers. None present.

8. On motion it was agreed that the Moderator appoint all committees, and the following were appointed:

On Preaching—R. C. Lockhart, A. J. Moats, with the Deacons of Pearce's Chapel church.

On Documents and Order of Business—Revs. J. A. Isbel, W. C. McCombs, E. A. Palmer, J. W. Porter, M. D. McGee, with the Moderator and Clerk.

On Publication and Literature—R. H. Yerby, M. P. Turner, I. G. Brown.

On Temperance—Rev. D. G. W. Hollis, J. M. Thompson, G. W. Chaffin, B. O. Guin and J. M. Brown.

On Finance—J. W. Adair, S. G. Johnson, J. T. Taylor.

On Deceased Members—J. H. Dill, A. E. Barnes, J. M. Brown and G. H. Dyer.

On Sabbath Schools—Rev. J. A. Brown, W. W. Barnes, A. J. Moats, D. R. Barnes and A. A. Burgin.

On Ministerial Credentials—D. W. Dill, R. C. Cooper, W. W. Mancel, L. B. Harman and Brunson Hollis.

On Queries and Resolutions—M. C. Lockhart, G. W. Chaffin and J. T. Taylor.

On motion the Committee on Devotion made the following report:

Rev. E. A. Palmer to preach at 9 o'clock Sunday morning; Rev. J. G. Boyett at 11 o'clock, and Rev. D. G. W. Hollis at night.

R. O. LOCKHART, Ch'n.

On motion the Association adjourned to meet Monday morning, at 8 o'clock. Prayer by Rev. D. G. W. Hollis. Benediction by the Moderator.

### SUNDAY SERVICES.

Sunday morning at 9 o'clock Rev. E. A. Palmer preached to a large congregation. Text: Rom. 1st chap and 19th verse. By the hour of 11 o'clock there had gathered a very large congregation, and Rev. J. G. Boyette ascended the stand and preached. Text: John 2nd chapter, 5-7 verses. At night Rev. D. G. W. Hollis preached to an attentive congregation. Text: Ephs. 2nd, 8th v., and 1st John 8rd chap. 21st verse.

### MONDAY—MORNING SESSION.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment. The congregation sung a song, and prayer was offered by Rev. J. W. Porter.

The Moderator then called the body to order, the Clerk called the roll, delegates answered to their names, the

Moderator announced a quorum present and the Association ready for business.

On motion the reading of minutes of Saturday's session was omitted.

Called for reports of the various committees:

We, your Committee on Documents and Order of Business, beg leave to submit the following report: 1. We recommend the former order of business. 2. We recommend a divide of the Association, on the grounds of the extensive territory which it covers. 3. We, furthermore, recommend that the dividing line be drawn so as the north side be composed of the following named churches: Union Chapel, Mt. Willing Fairview, Piney Grove, Pearce's Chapel, Beaverton, Corinth, Military Grove, Hiloam and Liberty; the same to be known as the Beaverton Freewill Baptist Association when organized. 4 We recommend that the Clerk superintend the printing of the minutes of this Association and that he have \$5.00 for his services. 5. We recommend that the next session of this Association convene with Piney Grove church, 4 miles southeast of Beaverton, Ala, on Saturday before the 2nd Sunday in October, 1912. Respectfully submitted,

J. A. ISBEL, Ch'n.

Report was received and the committee discharged. Rev. D. G. W. Hollis moved that the report be re-read and adopted by sections, which was done, and by taking a vote of the Association as a whole the body voted in favor of a divide of the Association, as recommended by the committee, the vote being 24 for and 8 against.

By motion adjourned one hour for refreshments.

#### AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment. The Moderator called the Body to order; Rev. W. C. McCombs offered prayer, the Clerk called the roll and, a quorum being present, the Body proceeded with business as follows:

Called for report of Committee on Publication, Education and Literature.

We, your Committee on Publication, Education and Literature, beg leave to submit the following report: On Publication we feel the great need of a better system of publishing literature for our people. On Education we feel the great need of our people being better informed on the true teachings of the Bible. We feel the need of a finance system in the bounds of our Association that our minister's widows and orphans may be better provided for.

Respectfully submitted, H. H. YERBY, Ch'n.

On motion the report was adopted and the committee discharged.

On Temperance—We, your Committee on Temperance, beg leave to submit the following report: Whereas we find that the cause of Temperance is on the increase; now brethren, as we know that the beverage use of malt liquors is one of the greatest agencies in the hands of Satan in destroying the morals of the young and rising generation; and, whereas, the Church has had more trouble with this evil, and as we feel that the Church is on gaining ground, let us still pray God to give us complete victory over the devil and his agents. And, whereas, we feel that it is our duty as members of the Church of Christ to condemn this evil, let us use our influence with our progress in our several localities to conquer from conquest to conquest, until victory shall be ours.

Respectfully submitted,

D. G. W. HOLLIS, Ch'n.

On motion the report was adopted and the committee discharged.

(After the above report was prepared, but before it was submitted, Rev. D. G. W. Hollis withdrew from the Association, and the report was submitted by others of the committee.)

On Deceased Members—We, your Committee on Deceased Members, beg leave to submit the following report: We find that our Heavenly Father has called eight of our faithful co-laborers in Christ to their eternal home, during



this Associational year. Their names are as follows: From Fairview church, D. A. Stanford, Precilla Oannon; from Piney Grove church, Malinda Chaffin, Rosa Trimm; from Beaverton church, Catharine Oann and Minnie Gahn; from Springfield church, Lucinda Merchant; from Siloam church, Martha Seals. All of the above named members died in the triumphs of a living faith and in hope of eternal happiness. And we bow in humble submission to the will of Him who doeth all things well. Dear brethren in Christ, our labors are increased, so let us strive to accomplish the work once assigned to these, our beloved brother and sisters in Christ, and while we mourn their loss we feel that our loss is their eternal gain. So let the churches contribute to the widows and orphans who are in destitute condition. We pay this our last tribute to our deceased brother and sisters, and shall endeavor to say, "Our Father who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is heaven."

Respectfully submitted, J. H. DILL, Ch'n.

On motion the report was adopted and the committee discharged.

On Sabbath Schools—We, your Committee on Sabbath Schools, beg to report.

We find but little interest in Sabbath Schools. We think it the duty of our ministers to try to impress their congregations with the importance of this work.

Respectfully submitted,

J. A. BROWN, Chairman.

On motion the report was adopted and the committee discharged.

On Queries and Resolutions—We, your Committee on Queries and Resolutions, beg leave to submit the following report: We find no queries that we wish discussed.

Respectfully submitted,

M. O. LOCKHART, Ch'n.

On motion the report was adopted and the committee discharged.

On Ministerial Credentials—We, your Committee on Ministerial Credentials, beg leave to submit the following report: We find all our ministers in good standing in their respective churches. Respectfully submitted,

D. W. DILL, Ch'n.

On motion the report was adopted and the committee discharged.

On Finance—We, your Committee on Finance, beg to submit the following report: After calling for the Minute money we find that we have collected \$11.00.

Respectfully submitted,

J. T. TAYLOR, Ch'n.

On motion the report was accpeted and the committee discharged.

On motion the money to be turned over to the clerk.

Called for motions and resolutions.

We, your Committee on Resolutions beg leave to submit the following resolution:—We tender our thanks to Pearce's Chapel Church and community for kindness shown us during our stay among them.

Respectfully submitted,

M. C. LOCKHART, Ch'n.

On motion the resolution was adopted as read.

On motion the Moderator appointed messengers to sister Associations, as follows: To Jasper, Rev. C. A. Chaffin, A. J. Moats, J. T. Taylor. To Bear Creek, Rev. J. A. Brown, J. A. Isbell and J. M. Thompson. To State Line, Rev. J. W. Porter, W. C. McCombs and G. H. Dyer.

On motion the Moderator appointed Rev. J. W. Porter to preach the introductory sermon at the next meeting of this Association, and Rev. W. C. McCombs, alternate.

The business of the Association being completed, a motion was made and carried to meet with Piney Grove Church on Saturday before the second Sunday in October, 1912.

Then a song was sung and the parting hand was taken amid tears of grief and joy. Then prayer was offered by Rev J. A. Brown and the benediction was pronounced by the Moderator.

REV. W. R. COWLEY, Moderator.

J. E. CHAFFIN, Clerk.

R. H. YERBY, Cor. Secretary.

### MINISTERS AND THEIR ADDRESSES

D. G. W. Hollis	Bedford, R. 1	Ala
J. A. Brown	Covin, R. 2	"
C. A. Chaffin	Winfield, R. 2	"
M. D. McGhee	Vernon	"
J. R. Robertson	Millport, R. 2	"
C. B. Taylor	Melborne, R. 1	"
J. A. Isbel	Orews, R. 1	"
W. R. Cowley	Smithville	Miss
J. W. Porter	Winfield, R. 2	Ala
I. T. Neighbors	Kernedy	"
T. M. Loller	Covin, R. 1	"
E. A. Palmer	Hamilton, R. 4	"
J. B. White	Hamilton, R. 2	"
J. T. Harris	Philcamel	"
W. C. McCombs	Crews	"
J. C. Cain	Smithville	Miss

### ARTICLES OF FAITH.

Article 1. We believe there is one true and living God who is the supreme ruler of heaven and earth, self-existent Creator of all things, revealed under the personal distinction of Father, Son and Holy Ghost, equal in every divine perfection, and existing in distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.

Art. 2. We believe the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired, and is a treasure of Heavenly instructions; that it has God for its author, Truth for its matter

and Salvation for its end; that it reveals the principles upon which God will judge us, and therefore is and shall remain to the end of this world the center of Christian union. the supreme standard by which all human conduct creeds and opinions will be tried.

Art. 3. We believe that man was created holy, under the law of his Maker, but from voluntary transgression fell from that holy state, in consequence of which all mankind are now depraved and wholly unable of their own free will and ability to recover from the fallen state which they are in by nature.

Art. 4. We believe that God has not fixed the future state of mankind by an absolute and unconditional decree but salvation is offered in the Gospel free to all, and if sinners are lost forever it will be their own fault.

Art. 5. We believe that Christ, by his death and sufferings, made an atonement for the sins of mankind in general, and every individual in particular, however, that none but those who believe in Him can partake of the divine benefits.

Art. 6. We believe that true faith cannot proceed from the exercise of our natural faculties and powers, or from the force and operation of free will, since man, in consequence of his natural corruption, is incapable of thinking or doing anything spiritually good

Art. 7. We believe in the general application of the grace of God to fallen man sufficiently to enable him, morally and actually, to obey the requirements of the law of liberty, Jas. 1:5, this is the act of saving faith. John 1:9 however, none but those who believe or acquiesce, in Christ will be saved thereby.—Acts 17:32, Rom. 2:19, John 3:9.

Art. 8. We believe in the moral agency of man, by the grace of God, before and after conversion, that he is laid under no invincible necessity, by his Creator to act in any given way; that if he lives after the flesh he shall die, but if he through the spirit do mortify the deeds of the body



he shall live, and therefore man is always a proper subject of admonition and exhortation. Heb. 11:12, 13; Rom. 13:14; Mark 13: 12; Eze. 18:24; Rev. 2 and 8 chaps; Eze. 33:13 and 28; I Tim. 4:1; Heb. 3:5; Cor. 1:12 and 24; I Peter 1:10.

Art. 9. We believe that the visible church of Christ is a congregation of believers, associated by covenant in the faith of fellowship of the Gospel, observing the ordinances of Christ, governed by His law and exercising the gifts, rights and privileges invested in them by His word; that its only proper officers or bishops, are pastors, and deacons, whose qualifications and duties are defined in the Epistles to Timothy and Titus.

Art. 10 We believe that Christian baptism is immersion in water, in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, and that believers are the proper subjects;

Art. 11. We believe the Lord's Supper is of perpetual obligation, by which the members of the Church, in the form of bread and wine, are to commemorate together the dying love of Christ, preceded always by solemn self examination,

Art. 12. We believe in open and free communion, and the churches of our body are authorized through the pastors to invite all Christians of orthodox churches who are in good standing in their respective churches, to commune with us at the Lord's table.

Art. 13. We believe in the resurrection of the dead, and the general judgment; that the joys of the righteous and the punishment of the wicked shall be eternal, upon the principles of grace and justice.

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#### RULES OF DECORUM.

Article 1. The Association shall be called to order by the Moderator who presided at the last session. Former Clerk shall also officiate until the body is fully organized.

Art. 2. The Association shall be opened and closed with singing and prayer.

Art. 3. The Moderator and Clerk shall be chosen by

ballot at each session of the Association. A majority of the votes of the delegates present elects.

Art. 4. The names of delegates from the different churches shall be enrolled and called as often as necessary during the session.

Art. 5. A majority of delegates shall rule in all cases, except in the reception of churches, and then it shall be unanimous.

Art. 6. The Moderator shall not be entitled to vote except in case of a tie, and then he shall give the deciding vote. He shall be entitled to speak on any question after others have spoken, provided he appoint some one to the chair while he is speaking.

Art. 7. Only one person shall speak at the same time and he shall rise to his feet and address the Moderator, and after recognition by the Moderator, proceed.

Art. 8. No brother shall be interrupted while speaking, unless he depart from the subject under discussion, or use words of personal reflection.

Art. 9. No person shall be allowed to speak more than twice on the same subject without leave of the Association, nor more than fifteen minutes at a time.

Art. 10. No member shall laugh or talk during the time the debates are going on.

Art. 11. No member shall absent himself from the Association without leave of the Moderator.

## CONSTITUTION.

Article 1. This Association shall be known as the Vernon Freewill Baptist Association of Alabama, and being composed of ministers and delegates from the different churches forming the same, each church being entitled to three delegates.

Art. 2. This body shall be considered an advisory council, but having no authority over the affairs of the churches, unless they depart from the articles of faith of the association. In case any church depart from the articles

of faith and supports doctrines of heresy, or allows any minister of her body to teach doctrine not in keeping with our articles of faith, the same shall be dealt with by the association as it may see proper according to the teachings of the Bible.

Art. 3. Each church of this association shall be considered an advisory body and shall control its own internal affairs in matters of discipline, etc., though the association shall rule in matters doctrine and general interest, though the church may in extreme cases call in aid from sister churches.

Art. 4: All questions of doctrine and matters of general interest shall be settled by a two-third vote of the association, and the decision shall be final.

Art. 5. The officers of the association be a Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer, who shall be chosen at each session by a majority vote.

Art. 6. The association shall meet annually at such time and place as may be agreed upon by previous annual session, and shall not adjourn finally, until all the business is transacted.

Art. 7. Churches wishing to become members of this association must adopt our Articles of Faith and conform to its usages.

Art. 8. We agree as churches of this association to use our best influence to promote the interests of all moral and benevolent institutions, such as the Temperance cause, Sabbath Schools, a Missionary work, etc.

Art. 9. No member of this association shall be eligible to the office of Moderator more than two successive sessions unless no other member be competent to act in that capacity.

# Statistical Table of Vernon Freewill Baptist Association

Churches, County and State	Delegates	Pastors	Clerks and Post Office	Baptised	Rec'd by Let'r	Rec'd on Faith	Restored,	Deceased,	Dism'd by L.	Excluded,	Meet'g Days,	Number of Members	Paid for Minutes	
Vernon, Lamar Co. Alabama	M D McGee													
Springfield, Lamar Co. "	Not represented													
Union Chapel, Lamar "	M P Turner													
Mt Willing, Fayette county "	J T Taylor, J E Chaffin	C A Chaffin	W V Hancy, Guin Alabama						7		3	49	\$1 25	
Fairview, Lamar county "	D W Dill, J H Dill, M C Lockhart	E A Palmer	J H Dill, Crews "	1	1		1	2				64	1 00	
Mt Harmony, Lamar chunty "	S G Johhson, B C Guin	D G W Hollis	A A Burgin, Millport "	14	1	1			11	52	3	132		
Mt Pleasant, Lamar county "	J W Adair	M D McGee	J H Stany, Vernon "	5	2				1			95		
Piney Grove, Lamar county "	G W Chaffin, J Motes, A E Barnes	C A Ohaffin	F S Lee, Guin "	10	9		1	2			1	2	73	1 70
Friendship, Lamar county "	Not represented													
Pearce's Chapel, Monroe Co., Miss	S L Cowley, J A Thomson, G H Dyer	W R Cowley	J B Pearce, Smithville, Miss.	10	3						2	157	2 00	
New Mt Pleasant, Monroe co. "	Not represented													
Beaverton, Lamar county, Alabama	L B Harmon	J A Brown	A S Gann, Beaverton "	1	5			2			4		75	
Corinth, Lamar county "	D R Barnes, Bransom Hollis	J A Brown	J N McClung, Vernon "	1	2							44	75	
Military Grove Lamar couaty "	D A Holmes, B M Mixon, W W Mansel	E A Palmer	D A Hoimes, Beaverton "				4					68	1 65	
Sileam, Marion county "	J M Brwon, I G Brown, R C Cooper	J A Isbell	J H Rye, Detroit "	3					1		3	66	1 10	
Liberty, Lamsr county "	R H Yerby, W W Barnes	M D McGee	John McClung, Vernon "	6	1						2	93	2 00	