

MINUTES
OF THE
SIXTIETH ANNUAL SESSION
OF THE
Vernon Free Will
BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

HELD WITH
PINEY GROVE CHURCH
OCTOBER 19, 20, AND 21, 1940

OFFICERS

Rev. C. A. Chaffin ----- Moderator

H. S. Chaffin ----- Clerk

The next session of this Association will meet with Springfield Church, two (2) miles west of Vernon, Alabama, Saturday before the third Sunday in October 1941. Rev. C. A. Chaffin to preach the Introductory Sermon. Rev. Joe S. Frederick, alternate.

PROCEEDINGS

The 60th annual session of the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association met with Piney Grove Church on Saturday before the third Sunday in October 1940.

Services were opened by a song directed by Rev. M. E. Carpenter. After which prayer was offered by Rev. Joe S. Frederick.

The Introductory sermon was preached by Rev. E. W. Graves, his text was from Romans 3:9-22. "For there is no difference."

After the Introductory sermon the congregation stood and sang "Kneel At The Cross". Dismissed for lunch by Rev. S. F. Lee. Moderator.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON

1. After song by choir directed by Bro. J. T. Johnson and prayer by Rev. A. L. Warren, the body was called to business.

2. Due to the former Clerk being absent a move was made and carried for the Moderator to appoint a Clerk protem to serve until the body could be permanently organized. H. S. Chaffin was appointed Clerk protem.

3. Move was made and carried for Moderator to appoint reading Clerks to read the letters from the various Churches. Rev. W. D. Martin and Rev. E. W. Graves were appointed as reading Clerks.

4. Names of Churches were called, letters read and contents noted as per statistical table.

5. A move was made and carried to elect Moderator and Clerk. Rev. C. A. Chaffin was elected Moderator, H. S. Chaffin, Clerk.

After appropriate remarks by the Moderator for the honor conferred on him due to his ripening years, he promised to discharge his duties to the best of his ability.

6. Called for corresponding Preachers, Deacons, Delegates and visitors. The following came forward and were welcomed by Moderator and Clerk: Rev. J. M. Haas, North East Mississippi Association; Bro. and Sister J. T. Johnson, Progresssive Association; Rev. A. L. Warren, Jasper Association; Rev. W. D. Martin, Jasper Association; Bro. Jim Fowler, Jasper Association; Bro. Brandon Estes, Jasper Association.

7. Moved and seconded that the Moderator appoint all committees. On Devotional Services—R. H. Yerby, P. H. Woods with Deacons of Piney Grove Church. On Documents and Order of Business—Rev. Joe S. Frederick, Rev. M. E. Carpenter, Rev. S. F. Lee with Moderator and Clerk. Moved and seconded to adjourn until 6:30 P. M. to attend a funeral being held at Mt. Willing Church.

SATURDAY NIGHT SERVICES

Services opened by choir singing directed by Bill McDonald, followed by special music rendered by a Quartet composed of Geraldine Noles, soprano; Christine Noles, Alto; Lorene Kilgore, tenor; Beatrice Manasco, bass, with Floy Bell Dudley at the piano.

The Moderator proceeded to appoint the committees during the

singing.

On Deceased Members—C. E. Roberts, J. G. Taylor, D. W. Dill, Elzie Guin and J. R. Williams.

On Sabbath Schools—Rev. E. W. Graves, Monroe Perkins, E. G. Jordan, C. C. Chaffin and J. D. Shelnut.

On Temperance—H. D. Williams, C. E. Roberts and Harrison Gosa.

On Literature—Thomas Hankins, R. N. Yerby and J. M. Chaffin.

On Querries and Resolutions—W. W. Barnes, Johnny Stanley and Frank Collins.

On Credentials—J. E. Chaffin, D. C. Hall and J. A. Robertson.

On Home Mission—Mrs. J. A. Robertson, Bertha Cotton, Carrie Dill, Irene Perkins and Lela Prater.

On Finance—G. W. Chaffin, W. D. Glasgow, A. J. McDonald and Benett Black.

7:30 O'CLOCK

Rev. J. M. Haas preached to a large congregation, his text being Luke 16, Genesis 24:49 verse.

SUNDAY SERVICES

Sunday at 9:30 o'clock, Rev. I. D. Nix preached to a large congregation from First John 3:1 verse, "Behold what manner of Love the Father Hath Bestowed Upon us.

Sunday at 11:00, Rev. Joe S. Frederick preached to an attentive congregation. Text, Phil. 4:19 verse, "My God Will Supply All Your Needs." After the sermon, Communion and Foot Washing services were held.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON SERVICES

Song service directed by Ernest Roberts and Harrison Gosa.

Sermon by Rev. O. C. Weaver. Text, St. John 3:16, "For God So Loved The World."

Sunday night, Rev. A. L. Warren preached from Luke 16, "And He Had Great Compassion."

MONDAY SESSION

The Association met pursuant to adjournment, the congregation sang a song directed by Rev. E. W. Graves. Rev. W. S. Flippo offered prayer.

The delegated body was called to order by the Moderator. The Clerk called the roll of delegates and the Moderator announced a quorum present and the Association was ready for business.

On motion omitted reading of the minutes of Saturday's business.

The Moderator called for reports of the various committees.

REPORT ON DOCUMENT AND ORDER OF BUSINESS

We, your Committee on Document and Order of Business beg to make the following report.

1. We recommend the regular order of business.
2. We recommend that this delegated body decide the place for the next session of this Association.

3. We recommend that we do not accept the baptism of any unordained minister.

4. We recommend that Rev. C. A. Chaffin preach the Introductory Sermon at the next session of the Association and Rev. Joe S. Frederick alternate.

5. We recommend that we hold a business meeting composed of all Ministers, Deacons, and Clerks of this Association to be held with Mt. Willing Church. The same to convene Friday and Saturday before the 3rd Sunday in November 1940. To convene at 9 o'clock.

6. We recommend that the Clerk have full charge of the printing of the minutes, and for the Clerk to have five hundred (500) copies printed.

7. We recommend that Rev. S. F. Lee be appointed as an Evangelist of this Association, to preach to the various Churches during this associational year.

8. We recommend that Communion and Foot Washing services be held Sunday night at each session of this Association.

Respectfully submitted

Rev. Joe S. Frederick, Chairman.

Report received and Committee discharged. Report re-read by sections, each section adopted as read.

Moved and seconded to adjourn the business in order for Rev. W. D. Martin to preach at 11:00 o'clock.

Rev. W. D. Martin preached from Matthew 16:Text. "Upon This Rock I Will Build My Church."

AFTERNOON SESSION

Service opened by special songs furnished by Miller Sisters.

REPORT ON DECEASED MEMBERS

After a prayerful investigation we find that God, in his divine wisdom, saw fit to call from our midst the following. While we realize this to be a great loss to their fellowman, we also realize their going is Heaven's gain. We extend heartfelt sympathy to the bereaved.

Mt. Willing—Dosha Shelnut, Lena McDonald.

Piney Grove—Nancy Jane Shelnut.

Union Chapel—Sister T. M. Lollar, E. J. Thomas.

Mt. Harmony—Esker Wheeler and Susie Sims.

Respectfully submitted,

C. E. Gault, Chairman.

Report received and adopted as read and the Committee discharged.

REPORT ON SABBATH SCHOOLS

We, the Sabbath School Committee beg to report as follows:

We find to our sorrow that some of our Churches do not have Sunday Schools. In others some do not support or approve of such schools. Since we believe that Sunday Schools are entirely scriptural and are vitally necessary to the growth of our Churches and

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are designed to meet the commands, to study and to teach the Word of God.

We therefore recommend:

1. That the Pastor place special emphasis upon this great part of church activity as belonging to the Church and not as a sideline or something separate and apart to regular Church work.

2. That Sabbath Schools be nourished to attract and hold the interest of the youth and to provide work for more people.

3. That this Association endorse and support the Sunday School Convention to be held at Friendship the 2nd fifth Sunday in 1941.

Respectfully submitted

Bert Graves, Chairman.

Report received and Committee discharged. Report adopted as read.

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE

We, your Committee on Temperance after a careful study and examination do believe there is much danger confronting us in the movement and enactment being put in force throughout our land and we recommend that we the Church of the living God adopt resolutions to curb this evil. We further recommend that we as members of the Church of the living God be sober by practicing total abstinence led by the Spirit of our Lord in this matter carry the battle on in Spirit of Meekness by example as well as by teaching.

Respectfully submitted,

C. E. Roberts, Chairman.

Report received and Committee discharged. Report adopted as read.

REPORT ON LITERATURE

We, your Committee on Literature recommend that our Churches and Sunday Schools take the Bible for our guide and use Free Will Baptist literature.

Respectfully submitted,

J. M. Chaffin, Chairman.

Report received and Committee discharged. Report adopted as read.

QUERRIES AND RESOLUTIONS

We, the Committee on Querries and Resolutions beg to report as follows:

1. Is there a distinction between the Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of Heaven? Where is the Kingdom of Heaven?

2. Resolved that the Association extend a rising vote of thanks and appreciation to the Church and Community of Piney Grove for the fine hospitality and kindness shown to us during our stay among them.

Respectfully submitted,

W. W. Barnes, Chairman.

Section 1 tabled. Section 2 received and adopted.

REPORT ON CREDENTIALS

We, your Committee on Ministerial Credentials beg to submit the following report.

After a careful investigation we find all our Ministers in good standing with their respective Churches and preaching the Bible and warning of the dangers that confront us.

Respectfully submitted,

J. E. Chaffin, Chairman.

Report received and Committee discharged. Report adopted as read.

REPORT ON HOME MISSIONS

No report.

FINANCE REPORT

We, your Committee on Finance submit the following report.

We have collected as minute funds \$22.75.

Respectfully submitted,

G. W. Chaffin, Chairman.

Report received and Committee discharged. Report adopted as read.

Moved and seconded to turn the money over to the Clerk.

On motion, the Moderator appointed delegates to sister associations and the following were appointed to Jasper, Rev. S. F. Lee and J. E. Chaffin; to North East Mississippi, Rev. M. E. Carpenter, Rev. Joe S. Frederick and D. C. Hall; to State Line, Hiram McDonald and J. R. Williams; to Progressive, Joe S. Frederick and Bert Graves; to Mt. Mariah, R. H. Yerby and A. J. Wilson; to State Conference, Rev. Bert Graves, D. C. Hall and A. J. Wilson.

Moved and seconded for Rev. M. E. Carpenter to make a short memorial talk. Rev. Carpenter made an excellent talk in memory of the deceased members.

The business of the Association being completed move made and seconded to adjourn to meet with Springfield Church on Saturday before the third Sunday in October 1941.

A song was sung and collection taken for associational funds.

Dismissed by Rev. M. E. Carpenter.

PROGRAM FOR HOLDING ASSOCIATION

1. The Association shall be called to order and presided over by the officers elected at the close of the last session.

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

3. The Moderator and Clerk shall be chosen by ballot just prior to the close of each session of the Association, by a majority vote of the delegates present.

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

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

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

7. Only one person shall speak at a time and he shall rise and address the Moderator and after recognition by the Moderator shall proceed.

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

9. No person shall be allowed to speak more than twice on the same subject without the authority of the Association more than fifteen minutes.

10. No person shall laugh or talk during discussions.

11. No person shall absent himself from the Association without permission of the Moderator.

CONSTITUTION

1. The Association shall be known as the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association of Alabama, being composed of ministers, deacons and delegates from different churches forming the same. All having full power to vote on all questions which come before the Association. Each church being entitled to three delegates in addition to ministers and deacons.

2. This Body shall be considered an advisory council, having no authority over the internal affairs of the churches unless they depart from the Articles of Faith of this Association. This Association shall have authority over all ministers in the matter of doctrine, character, and etc. In case any minister in this Association depart from and teach doctrine not in keeping with the Articles of Faith of this Association, the same shall be dealt with by the Association as it may seem proper, according to the teachings of the Bible.

3. Each church of this Association shall be considered an advisory body and shall control its own internal affairs in matters of discipline, and etc. If any Brother feels impressed to preach the Gospel, the Church shall or may recommend such a Brother to the Association and upon examination of the Brother's qualifications, if in the judgement of the Body, the Brother would be useful, they shall confer ordination, same being done at the Association by a legal Presbytery.

4. All questions of doctrine and general interest shall be settled by a majority vote of the Association, and the decision shall be final.

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

6. The Association shall meet annually at such time and place

as may be agreed upon at the previous session and shall not adjourn finally until all business matters are transacted.

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

8. We agree as church of this Association to use our best influence to promote the interest of all moral and benevolent institutions, such as temperance cause, Sabbath Schools, Missionary work, etc.

9. No member of this Association shall be eligible to serve as Moderator for more than two consecutive sessions unless no other member be competent to act in that capacity.

10. Any member of this Association who shall be guilty of circulating reports of any nature or aiding in the circulation of any report that is untrue on a brother minister, that is calculated to injure his moral reputation and religious influence, the same shall be dealt with by this Association. Any minister of this Association who is known to be guilty of using intoxicating spirits by drinking as a beverage, which is calculated to destroy his influence and usefulness, the same shall be dealt with by this Association as it may deem proper, according to the teachings of the Bible.

11. The Association shall in all cases in the transaction of all business brought before it, be governed by a majority of all delegates present, and any church or delegates failing or refusing to do so is and shall be considered by the Association as being out of order. Each member is to be a party to the enforcement of same.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. We believe there is one true and living God who is the ruler of Heaven and earth, self-existent Creator of all things, revealed under 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.

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 principles upon which God will judge us and therefore is and shall remain to the end of the world the center of Christians Union, the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds and opinions will be tried.

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 is now deprived and unable of his own free will and ability to recover from the fallen state which he is in by nature.

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.

5. We believe that Christ by His death and suffering made an

atonement for the sins of mankind in general and every individual in particular who believes in Him can partake of the Divine benefit.

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

7. We believe in the general application of the grace of God to fallen men sufficiently to enable him, morally and actually to obey the requirement of the law of liberty (James 1:5), this the Act-saving Faith (John 1:9). However, none but those who believe in Christ will be saved thereby (Acts 17:32; Romans 2:19; John 3:9).

8. We believe in the free moral agency of man, by the grace of God, before and after conversion; that he is 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; Romans 13:14; Mark 13:12; Ezekiel 18:24; Rev. 2nd and 8th chapters; Ezek. 33:13 28; I Tim. 4:1; Heb. 3:5; Cor. 1:12-24; I Peter 1:10).

9. We believe the visible Church of Christ is a congregation of believers, associated by covenant in the fellowship of the Gospel observing the ordinance of Christ, governed by His law and exercising the gifts, rights and privileges invested in them by His Word; that its only proper officers are bishops, pastors and deacons whose qualifications and duties are defined in the epistles of Timothy and Titus.

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

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

12. We believe in open and free communion, and the churches of our Body are authorized, through their 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.

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

14. Concerning the washing of the Saint's feet as a Gospel ordinance, each member shall have the right to participate in such ordinance, as he can best answer his own conscience to God, without criticism on the part of anyone.

STATISTICAL TABLE

CHURCHES	PASTORS	CLERKS AND POSTOFFICES	NAMES OF DELEGATES	Received by Baptism	Received by Letter	Dismissed by Letter	Expelled	Deceased	No. of Members	Days of Meeting	Sunday School	Paid Pastor	Paid Helper	Minute Fund	Property	Value of Church
Beaverton --		Not Represented -----		18	0	0	0	0	204		*	\$143.50	\$68.55	\$3.00	\$3000	
Belk -----	M. L. Hollis --	R. H. Yerby, Belk, Ala. -----	J. G. Taylor, R. H. Yerby, H. D. Williams -----	0	0	0	0	0	42	1				\$1.60		
Fairview ---	Grady Hudson --	A. E. Roberts, Beaverton, Ala. -----	D. W. Dill, Carrie Dill, Bertha Cotton -----	6		3		0				\$ 56.51	\$19.25	\$1.55		
Friendship --	M. E. Carpenter	J. A. Robertson, Steens, Miss. -----	J. A. Robertson and wife -----						161		*		\$26.00	\$2.00	\$1250	
Liberty ----	M. L. Hollis ---	Clemmie Poore, Vernon, Ala. -----	Thomas Hankins, Monroe Perkins, R. H. Yerby -----	2	0	0			187	3	*	\$145.35	\$52.00	\$2.55	\$3000	
Mt. Harmony	M. E. Carpenter	O. C. Robertson, Millport, Ala. -----	Johnny Stanley, Lela Prater -----													
Mt. Pleasant		Not Represented -----														
Mt. Willing	Joe S. Frederick	G. C. McGowan, Guin, Ala. -----	Elzie Guin, H. H. Gosa, J. E. Chaffin -----	17	4	0	0	2	250	3		\$ 76.00	\$10.00	\$5.00	\$2500	
Piney Grove	A. L. Warren --	J. R. Williams, Guin, Ala. -----	J. M. Chaffin, Frank Collins, Claude Fuller -----	8	5	1	0	1		2				\$1.15		
Springfield --	Joe S. Frederick	O. L. Hall, Vernon, Ala. -----	W. W. Barnes, E. G. Jordan, C. E. Gault -----	2	1	0	0		267	1	*	\$ 55.25		\$2.35	\$2500	
Union Chapel	M. E. Carpenter	W. D. Glasgow, Vernon, Ala. -----	P. H. Woods, W. D. Glasgow, Dewey Harrison --	9	8	0	0	2	105	4	*	\$131.50		\$3.55		

NAMES OF MINISTERS

Rev. C. A. Chaffin ----- Guin, Alabama
 Rev. J. W. Porter ----- Guin, Alabama
 Rev. S. F. Lee ----- Guin, Alabama
 Rev. T. M. Lollar ----- Covin, Alabama
 Rev. E. A. Palmer ----- Hamilton, Alabama
 Rev. Joe S. Frederick ----- Covin, Alabama
 Rev. M. E. Carpenter ----- Fernbank, Alabama
 Rev. E. W. Graves ----- Covin, Alabama

CLERK REPORT

Minute Funds ----- \$22.75
 Public Donation ----- 8.25
 Moderator ----- 5.00
 Clerk ----- 5.00
 State Conference ----- 5.00
 PRINTING MINUTES ----- 18.50