



**1880 - 1980**

**OFFICERS FOR 1980  
CENTENNIAL SESSION**

**MODERATOR..... REV. EDWARD PUCKETT**  
**ASSISTANT MODERATOR..... REV. WALTER D. JAGGERS**  
**CLERK..... RAPHAEL H. YERBY**

The next session of the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association will be held with Springfield Free Will Baptist Church, beginning at 9:00 A.M. on Saturday, October 16, 1981.

**OFFICERS FOR 1981**

**MODERATOR..... REV. WALTER D. JAGGERS**  
P. O. Box 31, Belk, Alabama 35545  
Telephone.....932-3144

**ASSISTANT MODERATOR..... REV. MILTON GANN**  
Route 2, Vernon, Alabama 35592  
Telephone.....695-9400

**CLERK..... RAPHAEL H. YERBY**  
Route 3, Fayette, Alabama 35555  
Telephone.....932-4595

**PROCEEDINGS**

The Centennial Session of the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association was held with Union Chapel Free Will Baptist Church on October 18, 1980. Rev. Edward Puckett served as moderator, Rev. Walter D. Jaggers served as assistant moderator, and Raphael H. Yerby served as clerk.

The meeting opened with a song, "Victory In Jesus", directed by Rev. M. H. Hollis, with Mrs. Ora Jordan at the piano. The opening prayer was by Rev. Dennis Kizzire

We were welcomed to the Union Chapel Free Will Baptist Church by the host pastor, Rev. Fred Graham.

We had another song, "Have Faith In God", directed by Rev. Roger Lucas with Sister Ora Jordan at the piano.

The morning devotion was brought by Rev. Roy Barnes, using II Peter 3:8 as his scripture. His subject was "One Day As A Thousand Years." Prayer was by the speaker.

We had a special song by David Clifton. "How Long Has It Been."

The 100th session of the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association was called to order by the moderator, Rev. Edward Puckett. The moderator gave a special welcome to everyone to this centennial session of the association and used Acts 2:1 as his scripture for his opening remarks.

The moderator appointed the assistant moderator, Rev. Walter D. Jaggers to the chair and asked the Credential Committee and Rev. Willard Pless to meet with him for a few minutes to complete to committee report.

We had a roll call of the delegates to the association by the clerk. We had a motion, second, and vote carried to seat the delegates.

The moderator called for a report of the Committee on Committees. The report was given by Rev. Tom Scott, chairman, and the various committees were appointed. (See List). We had a motion, second, and vote carried to receive the report and discharge the committee.

The moderator appointed a Committee on Committees for the 1981 associational year. (See List).

The moderator recognized visiting brethren and invited them to seat with us during this session of the association. Those present were:

Rev. and Mrs. Byron Meyer, Jasper Association

Rev. and Mrs. Leander McAdams, N. E. Mississippi Association

We had a report of the Digest Committee by Bro. Robert Carter, chairman. We had a motion, second and vote carried to receive the report and discharge the committee.

The moderator called for petitionary letters. None were received.

We had a song, "Old Time Power," directed by Bro. Quinton Boyett with Sister Kitty Taylor at the piano.

We had a partial report of the Credential Committee. We had a motion, second, and vote carried to table the item of the business in this part of the report until the afternoon session, since it dealt with a change of the constitution.

We had a very interesting and informative report by Rev. Dennis Kizzire on the summer youth camp activities. M. S. C.

We had an interesting report of the Board of Christian Education by Bro. Mike Rogers on the youth activities of our association. M. S. C.

Next we had a financial report of the Northwest Alabama Free Will Baptist Youth Camp by Rev. Walter Jaggers. M. S. C.

We had a report of information on the Master's Men of Bro. Richard Dean from the Eastside Free Will Baptist Church. We had a motion, second, and vote carried to receive the report as information.

We had a report of the Women's Auxiliary activities of our association by Sis. Elwanda Oakes. We had a motion, second, and vote carried to receive the report as information.

We had a report of the Temperance Committee by Sister Sandra Carter. We had a motion, second, and vote carried to receive the report as information and discharge the committee.

We had a report of the Historical Committee by the clerk, Raphael Yerby, on the history of our association and the churches in the association. We had a motion, second, and vote carried to receive the report as information and discharge the committee.

We were dismissed by the moderator for a short recess and time of fellowship.

After recess, we had a congregational song, "He Lives" directed by Bro. Dickie Dees with Sister Kitty Taylor at the piano. Prayer was by Rev. Milton Gann.

Next, we had a special in song by Sister Nina Gann, "When I'm All Alone".

The Key Note Message was brought at 11:00 A. M. by Rev. M. H. Hollis, pastor of the Piney Grove Free Will Baptist Church. The subject of his message was 'Perseverance,' using St. John 6:66-67 as his scripture text.

After a very challenging message we had a song of invitation, "Nothing Between," directed by Bro. Dickie Dees with Sister Kitty Taylor at the piano.

After the song we had an altar prayer of dedication. The prayer was led by Rev. Byron Meyer and closed by Rev. M. H. Hollis.

We were dismissed for the noon hour. The dismissal prayer was by Bro. Derrell Wheeler.

### AFTERNOON SESSION

At a delicious lunch, which everyone enjoyed, and the noon hour of fellowship, we convened at 1:00 P. M. We had a congregational song, "Leaning On The Everlasting Arms," directed by Bro. Dickie Dees with Sister Alice Carruth at the piano. Prayer was by Rev. Willard Pless.

The afternoon devotion was brought by Bro. Tommy Dubose from the Liberty Free Will Baptist Church, using Matthew 4:18-22 as his scripture. His subject was "Follow Me And I Will Make You Fishers of Men."

We had a special in song by a quartet made up of Rev. M. H. Hollis, Rev. Milton Gann, Rev. Dickie Dees and Sister Dees, with Sister Alice Carruth at the piano.



The moderator called for a final report of the Credential Committee. We had a motion, second, and vote carried to take up the item of this report that was tabled in the morning session. The report was given by the clerk, Raphael Yerby. We had a motion, second, and vote carried to take up the report and vote on it item by item. Each item was adopted.

The Ordination service was held next. Bro. Dickie Dees of the First Free Will Baptist Church of Sulligent, Bro. Michael Rogers of the First Free Will Baptist Church of Vernon, and Bro. Dexter Guin of the Piney Grove Free Will Baptist Church were all ordained to preach the Gospel. Rev. Milton Gann delivered the Ordination Message, using Titus 1:1-9 as his scripture. The Charge was given by Rev. Tom Scott, using II Timothy 3:16-17 and 4:1-5 as his scripture. The Ordination Prayer was by Rev. Roy Barnes. After the Ordination Service, we had a song and the congregational was invited to come by and shake hands with these ministers along with the other new ministers, Rev. Lloyd George and Rev. Willard Pless, coming into our association and welcome all of them to the Vernon Association.

The moderator called for a report of the Finance Committee. The report was given by Sister Louise Shelnut, chairman. We had a motion, second, and vote carried to receive the report and discharge the committee.

A report of the Appreciation Committee was given by Bro. Steve Butler, chairman. We had a motion, second, and vote carried to receive the report and give the Union Chapel Free Will Baptist Church a rising vote of appreciation for their fine hospitality.

The Sunday School and C. T. S. Committee report was given by Sister Elwanda Oaks, chairman. We had a motion, second, and vote carried to adopt the report and discharge the committee.

The moderator called for a report of the Deceased Members Committee. The report was given by the clerk, Raphael Yerby. After one correction, we had a motion, second, and vote carried to receive the report. After the report, the congregation sang "Precious Memories" in memory of these loved ones. We had a moment of silent prayer and then was led in prayer by Rev. Walter Jaggers.

At this time, the moderator appointed Rev. Tom Scott to serve a five year term on the Credential Committee.

The moderator called for the election of one member to serve the three year term on the Board of Christian Education. Rev. Willard Pless was elected to serve on this board.

The moderator called for the election of one member to serve a three year term on the Youth Camp Board of Directors. Rev. Walter D. Jaggers was elected to succeed himself on this board.

Next a place was chosen for the next setting of the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association. Eastside Church, Springfield Church, and Vernon Church all requested the next meeting of the association. The body voted to hold the 1981 session of the association at Springfield Free Will Baptist Church. The meeting will be held on October 16, 1981.

The moderator called for the election of officers for the next year. First was the nomination for clerk of the association. Bro. Raphael Yerby was the only nominee and was elected to serve as clerk.

Next, nomination was opened for moderator of the association for the coming year. Rev. Milton Gann, Rev. Walter D. Jaggers, and Rev. Tom Scott were all nominated. Rev. Walter D. Jaggers was elected to serve as moderator.

Nomination was opened for assistant moderator for the next year. Rev. Milton Gann was nominated and elected to serve as assistant moderator.

We had a song, "Blest Be The Tie," directed by Rev. M. H. Hollis.

The moderator appointed the Executive Committee for the next year.

Delegates to the Alabama State Free Will Baptist Association were appointed next. They are:

Mr. Robert Carter  
Mrs. Robert Carter  
Mrs. Dennis Kizzire  
Mrs. Ambers Aldridge  
Mr. Rickey Otts  
Mr. Clyde Motes  
Mrs. Clyde Motes  
Mrs. Willard Pless

Delegates to other associations were appointed next.

**Alabama-Mississippi State Line Association**

Rev. Edward Puckett

Rev. Roy Barnes

**Progressive Association**

Rev. Walter D. Jaggers

**Jasper Association**

Rev. Dickie Dees

We had a motion, second, and vote carried to adjourn this session of the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association. We were dismissed in prayer by Rev. M. H. Hollis.

Meeting adjourned.

**CHURCHES AND DELEGATES AS LISTED**

BEAVERTON - Bro. Bobby Dyke, Freddie Pickle, and Sister Emma Harris.

BELK - Bro. H. L. Williams, Jim Gilreath, Sisters Lois Howard, Dee Williams, and Jeannie Gilreath.

DAVIS CHAPEL - Did not report.

EASTSIDE - Bro. Charles Fowler, Sisters Ida Lewis, and Edna Thompson.

FREE WILL CHAPEL - Bro. Robert Carter, Rickey Otts, Sisters Sandra Carter, Doris Shaw, and Pat Pless.

FRIENDSHIP - Sisters Lura Moore and Edna Newell.

LIBERTY - Bro. Steve Butler, Bill Lanier, Roy Perkins, Tommy Dubose, Sisters Sue Hester, Loree Christian, Annette Butler, Eula Mae Dubose, and Sula Gann.

LOVE JOY - Bro. Elberton Mixon, Sisters Ellie Mixon, and Sara Taylor.

MT. HARMONY - Bro. Leonard Corbett, Sisters Mattie Johnson, Mildred Perkins, Alma Spann, and Theresa Taggart.

MT. PLEASANT - Sisters Helen Chandler and Sherrilley Cunningham.

MT. WILLING - Bro. Harkins Garrison, Sisters Eunice McDonald, Harkins Garrison, Sammy Roberts, Majorie Lee, and Ray White.

PINEY GROVE - Bro. Clyde Weeks, Timothy Hollis, Dexter Guin, Sister Carloe Barnes.



SULLIGENT - Bro. Shirley Whaley, Leon Sizemore, David Clifton, Sisters Mat Crosby, Alice Carruth, Margie McKay, Kittie Taylor, and Debra McKay.

TAYLOR SPRINGS - Bro. Jerome Bradford, Sisters Charlene Cooper, Sheila Perkins.

UNION CHAPEL - Sisters Gladys Freeman, Avis Graves, Carlos Bradford, W. H. Clearman, and Nancy Rushing.

VERNON - Bros. Gordon Parker, Clyde Motes, Sisters Lavore Nesbitt, Elwanda Oaks, Helen McLemore, Beatrice Christian, Louise Shelnut, and Braxine Spann.

### GENERAL BOARD

BEAVERTON - Bro. Freddie Pickle

BELK - Bro. H. L. Williams

DAVIS CHAPEL - None Listed.

EASTSIDE - Bro. Charles Fowler

FREE WILL CHAPEL - Bro. Robert Carter

FRIENDSHIP - None Listed

LIBERTY - Bro. Bobby Joe Black

LOVE JOY - Bro. Loyd Carter

MT. HARMONY - Bro. Leonard Corbett

MT. PLEASANT - Bro. Lowell Hankins

MT. WILLING - Bro. Jack McDonald

PINEY GROVE - Bro. Tommy Roberts

SPRINGFIELD - Bro. Dewey Jordan

SULLIGENT - Bro. John Quinton Boyett

TAYLOR SPRINGS - None Listed

UNION CHAPEL - Bro. Benny Hardy

VERNON - Bro. Jack McLemore

The following churches will elect a new member to serve a two [2] year term on the General Board and send them to the next session of the association:

Mt. Harmony  
Mt. Pleasant  
Mt. Willing

Piney Grove  
Springfield  
Sulligent

Taylor Springs  
Union Chapel  
Vernon

**COMMITTEE AND MEMBERS FOR 1980**

**CREDENTIAL COMMITTEE**

Bro. Dewey Jordan - 1981  
Bro. Pascal Yerby - 1982  
Rev. Roy Barnes - 1983  
Rev. Milton Gann - 1984  
Rev. Tom Scott - 1985

**SUNDAY SCHOOL AND  
C. T. S. COMMITTEE**

Sister Elwands Oaks  
Sister Nancy Rushing  
Sister Jeannie Gilreath  
Sister Ida Lewis  
Sister Eunice McDonald

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Sister Louise Shelnut  
Bro. Charles Fowler  
Bro. Elberton Mixon

**DECEASED MEMBERS  
COMMITTEE**

Bro. Dexter Guin  
Sister Gladys Freeman  
Sister Mattie Johnson

**BOARD OF CHRISTIAN  
EDUCATION**

Bro. Michael Rogers, 1981  
Rev. Dennis Kizzire, 1982  
Rev. Willard Pless, 1983

**DIGEST COMMITTEE 1981**

Bro. Leonard Corbett  
Sister Shelia Perkins  
Bro. Freddie Pickle  
Bro. Timothy Hollis  
Bro. Doug Barnes

**APPRECIATION COMMITTEE**

Bro. Steve Butler  
Sister Helen Chandler  
Bro. Gordon Parker  
Sister Ora Jordan

**TEMPERANCE COMMITTEE  
1981**

Bro. Robert Carter  
Sister Sammy Roberts  
Bro. H. L. Williams  
Sister Eula Mae Dubose  
Sister Kitty Taylor

**YOUTH CAMP COMMITTEE**

All pastors of the Vernon  
Association

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Rev. Walter D. Jaggers  
Rev. Milton Gann  
Bro. Raphael Yerby  
Bro. Freddie Pickle  
Bro. H. L. Williams  
Bro. Robert Carter  
Bro. Bobby Joe Black

**COMMITTEE ON  
COMMITTEES, 1981**

Bro. Fred Graham  
Rev. Milton Gann  
Rev. Dennis Kizzire

**YOUTH CAMP BOARD  
OF DIRECTORS**

Bro. L. C. Steedly - 1981  
Rev. M. H. Hollis - 1982  
Rev. Walter D. Jagers - 1983

**CREDENTIAL COMMITTEE REPORT**

We, the Credential Committee make the following recommendation as to a change in the Constitution.

We recommend that the General Board of the association be granted the authority to authorize the Credential Committee to ordain ministers, between sessions of the association, who have been licensed by a local church and who has been accepted as pastor in a Free Will Baptist Church before his year of license has expired.

NOTE: This recommendation was tabled until the afternoon session and then taken up again, voted on, and passed.

We your Credential Committee make the following report and recommendation concerning ministers.

1. We recommend that Bro. Michael Rogers, Bro. Dexter Guin, and Bro. Dickie Dees be ordained at this session of the association as ministers of the Gospel. M. S. C.
2. We recommend that Rev. Willard Pless from the Mt. Moriah Association be accepted as a minister in our association. M. S. C.
3. We recommend that Rev. Lloyd George, a member of the Springfield Free Will Baptist Church and an ordained minister from the Independent Methodist Church, be accepted as an ordained minister in the Vernon Association M. S. C.
4. We recommend that Rev. L. B. Nix be granted a letter of recommendation from our association to the Northeast Mississippi Association. M. S. C.
5. We recommend that Rev. Quineth Haney be granted a letter of recommendation from the association to the Alabama-Mississippi State Line Association. M. S. C.
6. We recommend that Rev. Milton Gann deliver the Ordination Message, that Rev. Tom Scott give the Ordination Charge, and that Rev. Roy Barnes pray the Ordination Prayer. M. S. C.

Respectfully submitted  
Rev. Edward Puckett, chairman

**SUNDAY SCHOOL AND C. T. S. COMMITTEE REPORT**

We, the Sunday School and C. T. S. Committee offer the following report:

Our Sunday School enrollment is 1425 with an average attendance of 1118. We show a decrease in enrollment of 13 members but an increase of 37 in average attendance.

Our C. T. S. enrollment is 729 with an average attendance of 598. We show an increase of 55 members enrolled and an increase of 117 members in average attendance.

One church reported that they had a C. T. S., but did not include their figures. Six churches in our association do not have a C. T. S. All churches reporting have a Sunday School. One church did not report.

We praise the Lord for the increase in average attendance and enrollment in C. T. S. and for the increase in average attendance in Sunday School, but we need to pray for a better year in Sunday School.

This is the "Year of the Sunday School" in our denomination. At the National Association, we were informed that a multi-media presentation of the Sunday School History and Development was available to be shown to any large group of interested churches. We would like to recommend that our association ask for a showing at one of our churches.

Respectfully submitted,  
Miss Elwanda Oaks, chairman

**FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

We, the Finance Committee have examined the finances and find a total of \$731.00 was sent as associational minute funds. There is a balance in the treasury from 1979 of \$583.89 and our total estimated expenditures for 1980 is 783.40, leaving a balance of 531.49. M. S. C.

Respectfully submitted  
Louise Shelnut, chairman

**[Clerk's Note:]**

This will not represent a true expenditure and balance as it was based on last year's printing cost. Since we are printing the history of our association in the minutes this year will be more.



### TEMPERANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

We, the Temperance Committee make the following report:

“And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.” II Peter 1:5-7.

In this passage, Peter lists the fourth quality or characteristic of living a christian life as being temperance or self-control. It is our responsibility as born-again christians to abide by these qualities, to challenge us to live a more God-honoring life, and to give us assurance that we can successfully follow the walk of Faith. This exhortation refers not only to moderation and discrimination in what we eat and drink, but to every facet of life. We are to control our desires and appetites rather than have them dominate us. A lack of self-control (temperance) is destructive both to the individual and to society. The wisdom of the world is not sufficient to teach people to exercise self-discipline in their lives. The Gospel of Christ can meet this need. When a person believes in the Lord Jesus Christ, he is given power to exercise self-control by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

Respectfully submitted  
Sandra Carter, chairman

### APPRECIATION COMMITTEE REPORT

We, the Appreciation Committee make the following report:

We wish to extend our deepest thanks to the Union Chapel Free Will Baptist Church for their wonderful friendship, hospitality, and fellowship toward the 100th session of the Vernon Association.

We praise the Lord for the oneness we have seen, and the Spirit we have felt, and the christian fellowship demonstrated by all the brethren. Again we appreciate all that was done to make this meeting one to cherish and remember.

Respectfully submitted,  
Steve Butler, chairman



**COMMITTEE REPORT ON DECEASED MEMBERS**

We, the Committee on Deceased Members make the following report:

BEAVERTON - None Listed  
BELK - Bro. Roy Gilreath and Sister Ila Gilreath  
DAVIS CHAPEL - None Listed  
EASTSIDE - None Listed  
FREE WILL CHAPEL - Sister Emma Humphries  
FRIENDSHIP - None Listed  
LIBERTY - Bro. Clifton Black and Bro. F. E. Dubose, Jr.  
LOVE JOY - None  
MT. HARMONY - Bro. Henry Miller, Dewey Johnson, and Sister Lona Barnes.  
MT. PLEASANT - None  
MT. WILLING - Bro. Jack McDonald and Bro. Elman Crews.  
PINEY GROVE - Bro. Howard Markham and Bro. Billy Gosa.  
SPRINGFIELD - Bro. Murray Jordan and Sister Ethel Clearman Hollis.  
SULLIGENT - None  
TAYLOR SPRINGS - None  
UNION CHAPEL - Sister Omie Glasgow  
VERNON - Bro. Elton Morgan and Bro. Clarence Holcomb

We recommend that we stand and sing "Precious Memories" in memory of these loved ones.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dexter Guin, chairman

**BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION REPORT**

During the past year the Board of Christian Education met together with the Youth Rally officers and made plans for promoting the Youth Rallies in our association. The officers along with the member of the board prepared a slide presentation on the activities of our Youth Rallies. A letter was mailed to the churches within the association explaining our idea. We then set a time with the responding churches to present our program. We hope this will expand our Youth Rally interest so more young people will become involved.

Also during the year, in November, we held our annual Youth Retreat at the Youth Camp and saw an increase over the past year. February was the month for the Valentine Banquet. It was held at the Sulligent High School Cafetorium.

Interest in our competitive activities this year was curbed due to the National Association being in Anaheim, California. Janice Wheeler of the Springfield Church won first place nationally for an entry of creative writing [short story].

Representing the Vernon Association at the State Competition were: Nina Gann, Melanine Black, Mirinda Black all of the Liberty Free Will Baptist Church, David Clifton of the Sulligent Church, and Darlene Carter of the Free Will Chapel Church.

Nina Gann, Darlene Carter, and Mirinda Black all won first place at the State level.

A great deal of desire has been expressed concerning a future Area-Wide Youth Crusade. This is being expressed especially among our youth. Please pray earnestly about this that some decision might be made within the near future.

Pray also for the Youth Rally officers during the coming year that we might win more young people for Christ.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rev. Fred Graham, chairman  
Rev. Dennis Kizzire  
Rev. Michael Rogers

REPORT OF DIGEST COMMITTEE

Statistics

Church Membership

Resident. ....	1,952
Non-Resident. ....	306
Total Membership. ....	2,258

Members Received

By Baptism. ....	83
By Letter. ....	99
Total Members Recieved. ....	182

Members Lost

Lost to Non-Free Will Baptist Churches. ....	20
Total Members Lost . . . . .	95

## Sunday School Enrollment

Number Enrolled .....	1,365
Average Attendance .....	1,165

## C. T. S. Enrollment

Number Enrolled .....	729
Average Attendance .....	598

## Women's Auxiliary Enrollment

Number Enrolled .....	42
Average Attendance .....	48

## Master's Men Enrollment

Number Enrolled .....	43
Average Attendance .....	30

## Mid-Week Service

Average Attendance .....	455
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## Evangelistic Outreach

Visitation .....	12
Revivals .....	15
Others .....	5

## Vacation Bible School

Enrollment .....	843
Average Attendance .....	725

Number of Ordained Ministers .....	22
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Number of Licensed Ministers .....	9
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Number of Students at F. W. B. Bible College .....	1
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Other Colleges .....	20
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## Pastors

Full Time Employment .....	6
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No Outside Employment .....	4
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Part Time Employment .....	4
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## Financial

## Church Finances

Total Receipts, Tithes and Offerings .....	\$338,256.33
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Amount Borrowed .....	102,506.00
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Total Receipts .....	458,592.67
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Spent For Local Causes	
Pastor's Salary .....	\$132,841.94
Other Staff .....	8,161.13
Paid For Remodeling and Building .....	97,825.49
Debt Retirement .....	84,571.53
Other Local Expenditures .....	108,582.28
Total Spent For Local Causes .....	\$431,982.37

Spent For Outside Causes	
Executive Offices .....	\$ 101.00
Foreign Missions .....	10,525.07
Retirement and Insurance Board .....	354.88
Other National Ministeries .....	.00
F. W. B. Bible College .....	3,592.48
Home Mission and Church Extension .....	7,181.02
Designated District or State Ministeries .....	10,925.64
Total Spent For Outside Causes .....	\$32,680.09

Respectfully submitted,  
Robert Carter, chairman

YOUTH CAMP REPORT

The 1980 Vernon Association Youth Camp that was held at our camp grounds was very successful. We enjoyed the fruits of many dedicated efforts in the decisions that were made. We had a total of 84 decisions and 23 of these were for salvation.

We wish to express our thanks to everyone that put forth an effort to make this a record camp.

Statistics

Staff Workers .....	25
Campers .....	(63 girls, 49 boys) 112
Campers By Churches:	
Belk .....	11
Eastside .....	2
Liberty .....	6
Mt. Harmony .....	1
Mt. Pleasant .....	2
Piney Grove .....	14
Love Joy .....	2
Springfield .....	16
Sulligent .....	24
Taylor Springs .....	1
Union Chapel .....	6

Vernon .....	7
From Other Associations	
Macedonia (Mt. Moriah) .....	20
Total .....	112

Financial Reports:

Paid Out:	
Camp Rent .....	\$ 200.00
Insurance.....	189.95
Literature .....	174.95
Printing .....	63.15
Evangelist .....	250.00
Other Personnel (lifeguard, cook) .....	225.00
Food and Supplies .....	1,517.67
Recreation and Crafts .....	67.23
Snack Bar Materials .....	618.65
Bank Charge .....	14.00
Total Paid Out .....	\$3,320.55

Receipts:

Fees and Sales .....	\$3,153.76
Snack Bar Sales .....	684.82
Balance Brought Forward .....	1,173.76
Total .....	5,012.34

Total Disbursements ..... \$3,320.55

Balance In Bank, August 31, 1980 - \$1,691.79.  
Respectfully submitted  
Rev. Walter D. Jagers, Director  
Rev. Dennis Kizzire, Sec.-Treas.

VERNON FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION  
FINANCIAL REPORT

Balance from 1979 .....	\$ 583.89
Minute Funds Received .....	731.00
Total .....	1,314.89

Expenditures

Moderator.....	50.00
Assistant Moderator .....	25.00
Clerk .....	75.00
State Association Dues .....	170.00
Postage and Supplies .....	50.00



# VERNON FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

CHURCH	PASTOR	PASTOR'S TELEPHONE	CLERK	Members Received	Members Deceased	Total Members	Number In Sunday School	Number in C.T.S.	Number In Ladies Auxiliary	Ordained Ministers
BEAVERTON	Rev. Gary Berryhill Route 2 Winfield, Ala. 35594	468-3803	Freddie Pickle P. O. Box 93 Beaverton Ala. 35544	11	0	44	35	0	0	2
BELK	Rev. Walter D. Jagers P. O. Box 31 Belk, Ala. 35545	932-3144	Rose Lea Atkins Box 45 Belk, Ala. 35545	4	2	141	104	60	0	1
DAVIS CHAPEL	Rev. Kenneth Bozeman Route 3 Berry, Ala. 35546		Shelia Bozeman Route 3 Berry, Ala. 35546	1	0	91	65	0	0	1
EASTSIDE	Rev. D. Ray Lewis 931-21 St. Ave. East Tuscaloosa, Ala. 35404	556-4985	Karen M. Wyatt 440-26th Ave., East Tuscaloosa, Ala. 35404	14	0	152	91	60	12	1
FREE WILL CHAPEL	Rev. Willard Pless Route 2 Sulligent, Ala. 35586	695-9826	Michael Gideon P. O. Box 101 Vernon, Ala. 35592	8	1	143	120	63	0	2
FRIENDSHIP	Rev. James C. Newell Route 1, Box 109 Vernon, Ala. 35592	695-6101	Lura Moore Route 1 Steens, Miss. 39766	0	0	48	12	0	0	1
LIBERTY	Rev. Milton Gann Route 2 Vernon, Ala. 35592	695-9400	Steve Butler Route 2, Box 74 P-1 Fayette, Ala. 35555	6	2	240	130	70	0	1

LOVE JOY	Rev. Richard Saylor Route 1 Beaverton, Ala. 35544	695-8854	Ellie Ruth Mixon Route 1 Beaverton, Ala. 35544	14	0	70	80	0	0	2
MT. HARMONY	Rev. Don Taggart 108-2nd Ave., S.W. Vernon, Ala. 35592	695-7546	Erbie Robertson Route 3, Box 295 Vernon, Ala. 35592	2	3	114	68	41	0	1
MT. PLEASANT	Rev. Lloyd W. Vail P. O. Box 535 Vernon, Ala. 35592	695-9583	Mrs. Lorene Crossley Vernon, Ala. 35592	9	0	72	47	0	0	1
MT. WILLING	Rev. Ambers Aldridge Brilliant, Ala. 35548	465-9121	Mrs. Lucian Flynn Guin, Ala. 35563	5	2	169	30	0	0	1
PINEY GROVE	Rev. M. H. Hollis P. O. Box 183 Vernon, Ala. 35592	695-7736	Jackie Atkinson Route 1, Box 85-A Guin, Ala. 35563	4	2	158	80	60	15	2
SPRINGFIELD	Rev. Dennis Kizzire P. O. Box 515 Vernon, Ala. 35592	695-6354	Roy Ashby, Jr. Route 1 Vernon, Ala. 35592	14	2	256	150	100	0	2
SULLIGENT	Rev. Edward Puckett Route 1, Box 45-A Sulligent, Ala. 35586	698-8177	Margaret Price P. O. Box 681 Sulligent, Ala. 35586	46	0	215	150	135	0	1
TAYLOR SPRINGS	Rev. J. W. Spencer Route 1 Brilliant, Ala. 35548	468-2704	Dianne Spencer Route 1 Beaverton, Ala. 35544	2	0	71	55	0	0	1
UNION CHAPEL	Rev. Fred Graham Route 2 Vernon, Ala. 35592	695-9631	James E. Maddox Route 2 Vernon, Ala. 35592	5	1	95	70	-	0	3
VERNON	Rev. Thomas M. Scott P. O. Box 582 Vernon, Ala. 35592	695-9730	Mrs. Paul Shelnut P. O. Box 57 Vernon, Ala. 35592	38	2	270	203	140	21	3

CHURCH	Paid Pastor	Other Local Expenditures	Paid Missions	Paid Christian Education	Paid Association Dues	Paid For Improvements	Total Paid Out	Value Of Church Property
BEAVERTON	2,315.00	0	0	25.00	30.00	4,882.84	7,252.84	25,000.00
BELK	10,700.00	9,107.00	1,747.00	1,377.00	50.00	6,273.00	29,799.00	200,000.00
DAVIS CHAPEL	850.00	1,533.71	0	158.50	0	0	2,592.21	22,200.00
EASTSIDE	12,000.00	12,004.00	1,001.00	1507.00	50.00	1,100.00	29,265.99	140,000.00
FREE WILL CHAPEL	9,425.00	6,634.17	1,157.25	1201.15	50.00	8,000.00	26,867.95	150,000.00
FRIENDSHIP	0	948.83	0	0	30.00	0	978.83	15,000.00
LIBERTY	13,571.00	9,117.00	3,418.00	536.00	50.00	11,427.00	38,906.00	129,800.00

LOVE JOY	4,031.70	0	226.45	50.00	50.00	8,500.00	13,134.60	71,000.00
MT. HARMONY	12,875.00	7,480.03	668.85	180.00	50.00	10,51.48	31,805.36	25,000.00
MT. PLEASANT	2,710.00	1,393.16	0	0	50.00	0	4,153.16	25,000.00
MT. WILLING	5,400.00	1,137.32	0	305.28	50.00	1,808.37	8,700.97	55,000.00
PINEY GROVE	10,150.00	6,406.00	0	912.00	50.00	14,771.00	32,346.00	80,000.00
SPRINGFIELD	9,200.00	10,549.99	1,553.00	332.13	50.00	88,309.80	89,897.24	163,000.00
SULLIGENT	13,925.00	22,496.58	1,954.25	2,072.25	50.00	0	44,322.56	160,000.00
TAYLOR SPRINGS	5,289.24	3,588.76	0	0	21.00	0	8,899.00	20,000.00
UNION CHAPEL	8,250.00	400.00	0	0	50.00	0	10,620.00	85,000.00
VERNON	13,000.00	19,817.60	5,979.97	2,427.18	50.00	26,773.69	71,845.44	225,000.00

Minutes .....	711.26
Total Expenditures .....	1,081.26
Balance .....	\$ 233.63

### NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF PRESENT MINISTERS

Rev. Roy Barnes, Route 1, Vernon, Alabama 35592  
 Rev. T. C. Barnes, Sulligent, Alabama 35586  
 Rev. Frank Collins, Route 1, Guin, Alabama 35563  
 Rev. M. H. Hollis, P. O. Box 183, Vernon, Alabama 35592  
 Rev. W. D. Glasgow, Route 2, Vernon, Alabama 35592  
 Rev. Delmus Miller, Winfield, Alabama 35594  
 Rev. J. W. Spencer, Route 2, Guin, Alabama 35563  
 Rev. W. H. Clearman, Route 3, Vernon, Alabama 35592  
 Rev. Fred Graham, Route 2, Vernon, Alabama 35592  
 Rev. Edward Puckett, Route 1, Box 45-A, Sulligent, Alabama 35586  
 Rev. Walter D. Jaggers, P.O. Box 381, Belk, Alabama 35545  
 Rev. James C. Newell, Route 1, Box 109, Vernon, Alabama 35592  
 Rev. Herman Yielding, Route 1, Beaverton, Alabama 35544  
 Rev. Thomas M. Scott, P. O. Box 582, Vernon, Alabama 33552  
 Rev. Milton Gann, Route 2, Vernon, Alabama 33592  
 Rev. Dennis Kizzire, P. O. Box 515, Vernon, Alabama 33592  
 Rev. Don Taggart, 108-2nd Ave. S. W., Vernon, Alabama 33592  
 Rev. Norman G. Berryhill, Route 2, Winfield, Alabama 35594  
 Rev. D. Ray Lewis, 931-21st Ave. East, Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35404  
 Rev. Ambers Aldridge, Brilliant, Alabama 35548  
 Rev. Lloyd W. Vail, P. O. Box 535, Vernon, Alabama 35592  
 Rev. Richard Saylor, Route 1, Beaverton, Alabama 35544  
 Rev. Roger Lucas, Vernon, Alabama 35592  
 Rev. Willard Pless, Route 2, Sulligent, Alabama 35586  
 Rev. Dickie Dees, Box 421, Sulligent, Alabama 35586  
 Rev. Michael Rogers, P. O. Box 485, Vernon, Alabama 35592  
 Rev. Dexter Guin, Route 1, Guin, Alabama 35563  
 Rev. Lloyd George, Route 1, Box 246, Caledonia, Mississippi 39740

### List of Deacons

Beaverton - Bobby Dykes  
 Belk - Raphael Yerby, Dalton Gilpin, Grady Newman, Mackey Watkins.  
 Davis Chapel - Not Reported  
 Eastside - J. H. Thompson, Bedford Hester, Adolph South, Richard Dean, and James Cooper.



Free Will Chapel - Charlie Elliott, Sr., Edsel Gideon, L. D. Hall, and Daniel Franks.

Friendship - None

Liberty - Bobby Joe Black, L. R. Dubose, Willie G. Perkins, Roy Guyton, and Wayne Sorrells.

Love Joy - Coy Robertson, Gary Taylor, and Loyd Carter

Mt. Harmony - Olen Wheeler, Odis Robertson, O. B. Graham, Coy Johnson, Erbie Robertson, L. C. Steedley, David Barton, Frankie Beasley, and Farrell Wheeler.

Mt. Pleasant - W. M. Cooper

Mt. Willing - Jeff McDonald, Earl McDonald, Emmett Lee, E. O. Shelnut, Elizie Guin, and Obie Haney.

Piney Grove - Arlander Shelnut, J. M. Chaffin, Tommie Robertson, E. C. Roberts, Elvada Markham, and Ozell Cantrell.

Springfield - Dewey Jordan, J. A. Harper, Haley Wright, Aubrey Hall, Roy Ashby, Jr., Larry Williams, and Tommy Rushing.

Sulligent - Ray Birmingham, Quinton Boyett, Clarence Birmingham, Richard Mansell, Hezzie Harrison, James Price, Charles Crosby, and Earnest Northington.

Taylor Springs - Stanley Cooper

Union Chapel - James E. Maddox, Carlos Bradford, Lamon Duckworth, and Don Freeman.

Vernon - B. E. Turner, P. N. Yerby, Titus Barnes, Eris Wilson, Paul Shelnut, Loyd Turner, Darrell Wheeler, Albert Christian, Ted Collins, and Wayne Steadman.

### **NAMES OF DECEASED MINISTERS**

Rev. J. M. Springfield, Rev. W. B. Taylor, Rev. W. R. Turman, Rev. Tom Butler, Rev. A. J. Robertson, Rev. M. D. McGee, Rev. J. R. Baker, Rev. W. D. Crawley, Rev. A. J. Brown, Rev. S. M. Perkins, Rev. T. G. Harrison, Rev. D. G. W. Hollis, Rev. J. W. Porter, Rev. T. M. Lollar, Rev. C. A. Chaffin, Rev. J. A. Isbell, Rev. G. B. Taylor, Rev. A. White, Rev. E. A. Palmer, Rev. M. E. Carpenter, Rev. T. J. Adair, Rev. J. Barnes, Rev. K. V. Shutes, Rev. B. J. Tittle, Rev. M. L. Hollis, Rev. E. W. Graves, Rev. S. F. Lee.

### **NAMES OF DECEASED DEACONS**

L. A. Crowder, S. Y. Shelnut, J. H. Cole, Lee Mixon, J. S. Crossley, J. D. Shelnut, Earnest Roberts, D. L. Markham, Joe L. McNeese, Johnny Williams, Johnny Collins, Dewitt Williams, J. G. Adair, Cullen Collins, John D. Moore, Jr., R. D. Franks, Hoyt Chaffin, Dempsey Langley, S. L. Cash, C. V. Hollis, M. E. Hollis, Raymond Gray,

Arnold Hester, H. E. McDonald, Henry Harrison, Henry Perkins, Roy Gilreath, and Jack McDonald.

## CONSTITUTION

1. This association shall be known as the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association of Alabama being composed of ministers, deacons and delegates from the different churches forming the same. All having full power to vote on all questions which come from before the association. Each church being entitled to three delegates for the first 50 members and one additional delegate for each 25 members of fraction thereof, in addition to ministers and deacons.

2. This body shall be considered an advisory council having no authority over the internal affairs of the church unless they depart from the Treaties of Faith and Practice of Free Will Baptist. In this event it will be investigated by the Credential Committee and their findings will be reported to the association for their action. This association shall have authority over all ministers in the matter of doctrine, character, etc. In case any minister in this association depart from and teach doctrine not in keeping with the Treaties of Faith and Practice of Free Will Baptist the same shall be dealt with by the association as it may deem proper according to the teaching of the Bible.

3. When a church desires one of its members should be licensed or ordained to preach the Gospel, it will be the responsibility of the local church to license the member and later request the association to ordain the member. The examination for license should refer to piety, doctrine, and convictions respecting the work of the ministry and reputation for character and ability of the candidate. The examination or ordination should include all that is required for license and also the application for ministers approved by the National Association of Free Will Baptist. No preacher shall be accepted or ordained in this association as a preacher who has more than one living wife, or who's wife has more than one living husband. No preacher shall be accepted or ordained in this association as a preacher who uses tobacco in any form.

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 moderator, assistant moderator and clerk-treasurer, who shall be chosen at each session by majority vote of the delegates present. The officers shall be chosen at the close of each session to take office at the close of that session with the outgoing clerk being responsible for the printing and distribution of the minutes. The clerk shall have the authority to secure any necessary assistance he needs, at his own expense.

6. The association shall meet annually on Saturday before the third Sunday in October each year and shall not adjourn finally until all business matters be transacted.

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

8. We agree as churches of this association to use our best influence to promote the interest of all moral and benevolent institutions such as Temperance cause, Sunday School, Missionary Work, etc.

9.(a.) 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 serve in that capacity.

9.(b.) No member of this association shall be eligible to serve as moderator of the association until he has been a member of the association for at least two (2) years.

10. Any member of this association who shall be guilty of circulating reports of any nature of aiding in circulating any report that is untrue on a brother minister, that is circulated to injure his moral reputation and religious influence, the same shall be dealt with by the 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 the association as it may deem proper, according to the teaching 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 delegate failing or refusing to do so is and shall be considered to be a party to the enforcement of the same.

12. The moderator shall receive \$50.00, the assistant moderator \$25.00, and the clerk \$75.00 for their services.

13. The clerk shall superintend the printing of the minutes after each session of the association and shall have them out to the churches within 90 days after the associational meeting.

14. The moderator shall appoint a Credential Committee, consisting of five (5) persons with the senior member in point of service being replaced each year. It shall be the responsibility of this committee to examine all members who become a part of this body either by ordination or by letter. Any item of business pertaining to ministers or the conduct of ministers must originate with this committee. This committee shall consist of three (3) ministers and two (2) laymen.

15 (a). The association shall have a General Board, which shall consist of the moderator, assistant moderator, and clerk along with one person from each church. Each person from the local church shall serve two years, with one-half being elected each year as specified in the printed minutes. When this association is not in session this board shall have power to act as a body, but such action must be reported to the association.

15 (b). The association shall have an Executive Committee, consisting of the moderator, assistant moderator, clerk, and four (4) members from the General Board.

### BY-LAWS

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

2. The moderator shall appoint a Committee on Committees, whose duty is to appoint various committees at each session. Each committee is to consist of from 3 to 5 members.

3. The moderator calls for the report of the Digest Committee and a roll call of the delegates. After a reading of the report, the delegates are enrolled by the clerk, at the discretion of the body.

4. The Credential Committee shall recommend the issuance, or rejection of a card of good standing for a ministers. The final decision to be made by the body. It shall be the responsibility of this committee to examine all ministers who become a part of this body, either by ordination or by letter. The Credential Committee, in special called sessions, shall have the authority to grant letters to ministers leaving our association, provided they are members of a church in our association.

reporting their action to the annual association meeting.

5. 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 shall appoint someone to the chair while he is speaking.

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

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

8. No person shall be allowed to speak more than twice on the same subject without the permission of the moderator nor more than five minutes.

9. No person shall laugh or talk during discussion.

10. No delegate shall absent himself from the association without the permission of the moderator.

11.[a] All ordination of ministers shall be done at the association while in regular annual session, by the Ordaining Council.

11.[b] The General Board of the association shall have authority to authorize the Credential Committee to ordain ministers, between sessions of the association, who have been licensed by a local church and who has been accepted as pastor in a Free Will Baptist Church before his one year of license has expired.

12. No person shall be ordained by this association as a preacher unless he has been licensed by his local church for at least one year, or recommended for ordination by the Credential Committee.

13. The Vernon Free Will Baptist Associational year shall begin on the first day of September and end on the last day of August each year and hold the annual meeting on Saturday before the third Sunday in October of each year.

14. The Executive Committee shall secure a speaker for the 11:00 o'clock message and plan the program for each annual session of the association.

15. The Youth Camp Committee shall meet within 60 days after the associational meeting to select a Camp Director and a Treasurer of the Youth Camp and make plans for the summer camp. All pastors of the Vernon Association shall be on the Youth Camp Committee and will make up the committee.

### ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. **The Bible.** The Scripture of the Old and New Testament 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 the Creator, Preservor, and Righteous Governor of the universe and in the Scripture 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 God 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 present Savior and Lord.

4. **The Holy Spirit.** The Scriptures assign to the Holy Spirit all the attributes of God.

5. **The Government of God.** God exercises a wise and benevolent providence over all beings and all things by maintaining the constitution and laws of nature. He also performs special acts, not otherwise provided, for all the highest welfare of men.

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 Works of Christ.** The Son of God by His incarnation, life sufferings, death and resurrection effected all a 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 unreserved commital of one's self to Christ as Saviour and Lord with 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



domination of sin, and becomes a child of God. 3. Continuance in 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 all men become His elect.

10. **Freedom of 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 of the water of life freely.

12. **Preseverance.** All believers in Christ, who through grace persevere in holiness to the end of life, having 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 is an ordinance teaching humility of universal obligation, and is to be ministered to all true believers.

14. **Tithing.** God commanded tithes and offerings in the Old Testament; Jesus Christ endorsed it in the Gospel (Matt. 23:23), and the Apostle Paul said, "Upon the first day of the week let everyone of you lay by him in store as God has prospered him." (I Cor. 16:2).

15. **The Lord's Day.** The devine 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.

16. **Resurrection, Judgement, 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 eternal punishment, but righteous into eternal life."

## **BY-LAWS FOR THE BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

1. It is the duty of this board to promote the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association Youth Rally, and other related projects.



2. This board shall, along with the duly elected officers and the host pastor, plan the programs of the rallies each month.
3. The Board of Christian Education shall work with all churches in getting them involved in the Youth Rally work and other related projects.
4. The board shall act in advisory capacity to the elected officers of the Youth Rally.
5. The board shall consist of three (3) members, with the senior member in point of service being replaced each year.
6. The board shall be responsible each year for planning the District T-N-T Rally in May.

#### **ORDER OF BUSINESS FOR VERNON ASSOCIATION**

1. New Moderator takes over
2. Devotion
3. Call for Digest Committee report and roll call of delegates.
4. Seating of Delegates.
5. Call for petitionary letters
6. Appointment of Committee on Committees
7. Invite visiting brethren to seat with us.
8. Committees as follows: Credential, Digest, Appreciation, Sunday School and C.T.S., Finance, Deceased Members, Temperance, Board of Christian Education, Executive.
9. Call for General Board report.
10. Call for committee reports. (See committees)
11. Final report of General Board.
12. Delegates to State Association.
13. Corresponding delegates to other associations.

#### **ORDER OF BUSINESS FOR CHURCH CONFERENCE**

1. Call to order.
2. Call for peace and fellowship.
3. Opportunity for membership.
4. Invite visiting brothers and sisters to seat.
5. Reading of previous minutes.
6. Unfinished business.
7. Appointment of committees.

8. Acknowledgements.
9. Committee reports.
10. New business.
11. Adjournment.

## **HISTORICAL COMMITTEE REPORT**

We, the Historical Committee would like to share the following information with you on the history of the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association.

The Vernon Free Will Baptist Association was organized in 1880.

According to reports from some of the oldest members living who attended the 1951 session of the Vernon Association held at the Mt. Willing Church, the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association was organized at Mt. Willing in 1880. (Note: No record to prove this).

According to the book, *Free Will Baptist Cyclopedia Historical and Biographical* by Rev. G. A. Burgess, A. M. and Rev. J. T. Ward, A. M. (1889), the Vernon Association, situated north of the Mt. Moriah Association, was thus formed in 1880.

There does not seem to be any record of the association from 1880 until 1888.

The Vernon Association increased so rapidly in 1887 that the Jasper Association was organized from the Northeastern portion of its churches.

In 1888, the association consisted of twenty (20) churches: Vernon, Center Point, Springfield, Union Chapel, Liberty, Pilgram Rest, Piney Grove, New Hope, New Center Point, Barnsville, New Free Water, Macedonia, Fairview, Grove Hill, Shady Grove, and Pleasant Grove.

The pastors were Rev. T. W. Springfield, T. C. Reese, D. G. W. Hollis, J. A. Brown, J. W. Wesley, J. W. Taylor, J. R. Holladay, G. C. Elliott, L. L. Nichols, R. C. Flipo. The total membership in 1888 was 682.

In 1892, the minute fund sent to the association was \$15.45.

The first minister's and deacon's meeting of the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association was held at Union Chapel Church in July, 1905.

In 1908, a committee recommended the necessity of our body becoming a member of the State Convention provided the same does not conflict with our Articles of Faith in the church right of self-government. The recommendation was rejected by a vote of the whole body.

In 1911, the Committee on Documents and Order of Business recommended a division of the association on the grounds of the extensive territory which it covered. They recommended that the dividing line be

drawn so that the North side would be composed of the following named churches: Union Chapel, Mt. Willing, Fairview, Piney Grove, Pearce's Chapel, Beaverton, Corinth, Military Grove, Siloam, and Liberty, and the same to be known as the Beaverton Free Will Baptist Association.

In 1921, the moderators appointed one delegate from each church from each side of the association to meet for the purpose of reuniting these divided bodies back together again. The committees met during the 1921 session of the Vernon Association held at Springfield Church on October 1st through the 3rd, 1921. The committee of both sides agreed to rescind the Act of the Divide of 1911 and come together as one body.

In 1920, the Committee on Moral Reforms made the following report:

Seemingly the minds of the young are inclined to seek after worldly amusements, which are inclined to injure their morals.

We recommend that the church take a closer oversight over them, and that they condemn every thing that has the least influence towards corrupting their minds or stagnating the brain so it would render them unfit for usefulness as Christians.

We should condemn such worldly amusements as dancing, gambling in any form either by chance, matching, or raffling, marble playing on Sunday, or hanging around railroad stations where business does not call one.

Our modern Foreign Mission Program had its beginning in Vernon, Alabama in 1930. According to the July 1980 issue of *Contact*, Rev. I. J. Blackwelder ignited the modern foreign missions movement among Free Will Baptists. He saw missions as the premium area of his broader ministry. "The most important part of my denominational

work was with foreign missions. We received the first offering for foreign missions during the 1930 session of the Old Central Conference at Vernon, Alabama. They named me foreign mission director and handed me the offering of \$28.00"

In 1957, the association meeting changed from a three day session to a two day session and in 1966, we changed from a two day session to a one day session.

According to all the record that we have, the Vernon Association has always met the third week-end in October each year.

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>MEETING PLACE</b>	<b>MODERATOR</b>	<b>CLERK</b>
1897	Fairview	Rev. T. W. Springfield	Rev. D. G. W. Hollis
1898	New Pleasant Ridge	Rev. J. A. Brown	
1899	Union Chapel	Rev. D. G. W. Hollis	Rev. J. A. Barker
1900	Mt. Pleasant	Rev. G. B. Taylor	Rev. D. G. W. Hollis
1901	New Pleasant	Rev. J. A. Brown	J. E. Chaffin
1902	Mt. Willing	Rev. D. G. W. Hollis	J. E. Chaffin
1903	Mt. Harmony		
1904	Pearce's Chapel	Rev. W. R. Cowley	J. E. Chaffin
1905	Springfield	Rev. D. G. W. Hollis	J. E. Chaffin
1906	Union Chapel	Rev. M. D. McGee	J. E. Chaffin
1907	Friendship	Rev. J. W. Isbell	Rev. J. W. Porter
1908	Beaverton	Rev. D. G. W. Hollis	J. E. Chaffin
1909	Liberty	Rev. M. D. McGee	J. E. Chaffin
1910	Mt. Willing	Rev. J. W. Porter	J. E. Chaffin
1911	Pearce's Chapel		
1912	Piney Grove	Rev. C. A. Chaffin	
1913	Union Chapel	Rev. C. A. Chaffin	L. B. Lollar
1914	Beaverton	Rev. E. A. Palmer	L. B. Lollar
1915	Siloam	Rev. C. A. Chaffin	L. B. Palmer
1916	Fairview	Rev. W. R. Cowley	L. B. Lollar
1917	Mt. Willing		
1918	Pearce's Chapel	Rev. A. L. Warren	J. E. Chaffin
1919	Union Chapel	Rev. A. L. Warren	J. E. Chaffin
1920	Mt. Willing	Rev. S. F. Lee	J. W. Chaffin
1921	Beaverton	Rev. C. A. Chaffin	J. W. Chaffin
1922	Union Chapel	Rev. M. L. Hollis	J. W. Chaffin
1923	Mt. Pleasant	Rev. C. A. Chaffin	J. E. Chaffin
1924	Mt. Willing	Rev. M. L. Hollis	A. J. Sanders
1925	Mt. Harmony	Rev. T. J. Adair	J. E. Chaffin
1926	Pearce's Chapel	Rev. M. R. Allen	Rev. M. L. Hollis
1927	Liberty	Rev. J. W. Porter	Rev. M. L. Hollis
1928	Piney Grove	Rev. S. F. Lee	J. E. Chaffin
1931	Friendship	Rev. S. F. Lee	J. E. Chaffin
1932	Union Chapel	Rev. J. M. Hass	R. M. Graves
1933	Mt. Pleasant		
1935	Pearce's Chapel	Rev. S. F. Lee	L. E. Duncan
1936	Mt. Willing	S. F. Lee	L. E. Duncan
1937	Union Chapel	Rev. Joe S. Frederick	J. M. Graham
1938	Mt. Harmony	Rev. C. A. Chaffin	R. T. Mixon
1939	Liberty	Rev. Joe S. Frederick	R. T. Mixon



YEAR	MEETING PLACE	MODERATOR	CLERK
1940	Piney Grove	Rev. S. A. Chaffin	H. S. Chaffin
1941	Springfield	Rev. E. W. Graves	D. G. Jordan
1942	Belk	Rev. J. S. Frederick	D. G. Jordan
1943	Mt. Willing	Rev. E. W. Graves	D. G. Jordan
1945	Mt. Harmony	Rev. M. E. Carpenter	D. G. Jordan
1946	Vernon	Rev. M. E. Carpenter	D. G. Jordan
1948	Piney Grove	Rev. J. T. Quick	R. H. Yerby, Sr.
1949	Union Chapel	Rev. A. L. Warren	Rev. E. W. Graves
1950	Springfield	Rev. A. L. Warren	Rev. E. W. Graves
1951	Fairview	Rev. T. J. Adair	Rev. E. W. Graves
1952	Mt. Willing	Rev. E. W. Graves	Rev. S. F. Lee
1953	Belk	Rev. Gurley Roberts	D. G. Jordan
1954	Mt. Harmony	Rev. E. W. Graves	D. G. Jordan
1955	Liberty	Rev. E. W. Graves	D. G. Jordan
1956	Fayette	Rev. R. P. Ritch	R. H. Yerby, Sr.
1957	Vernon	Rev. R. P. Ritch	R. H. Yerby, Sr.
1958	Union Chapel	Rev. J. B. Ledlow	R. H. Yerby, Sr.
1959	Piney Grove	Rev. J. B. Ledlow	R. H. Yerby, Sr.
1960	Mt. Willing	Rev. R. P. Ritch	R. T. Mixon
1961	Springfield	Rev. A. L. Warren	R. T. Mixon
1962	Fayette	Rev. K. V. Shutes	R. T. Mixon
1963	Beaverton	Rev. S. F. Lee	R. T. Mixon
1964	Liberty	Rev. W. D. Glasgow	R. T. Mixon
1965	Mt. Harmony	Rev. W. D. Glasgow	R. T. Mixon
1966	Vernon	Rev. M. H. Hollis	R. T. Mixon
1967	Piney Grove	Rev. M. H. Hollis	R. T. Mixon
1968	Eastside	Rev. Dewey Thomas	Derrell Wheeler
1969	Friendship	Rev. Dewey Thomas	Derrell Wheeler
1970	Vernon	Rev. Roy Barnes	Derrell Wheeler
1971	Mt. Willing	Rev. M. H. Hollis	Derrell Wheeler
1972	Vernon	Rev. M. H. Hollis	Raphael Yerby
1973	Belk	Rev. Billy Sharpston	Raphael Yerby
1974	Beaverton	Rev. Billy Sharpston	Raphael Yerby
1975	Liberty	Rev. Billy R. Smith	Raphael Yerby
1976	Free Will Chapel	Rev. L. B. Nix	Raphael Yerby
1977	Piney Grove	Rev. M. H. Hollis	Raphael Yerby
1978	Sulligent	Rev. M. H. Hollis	Raphael Yerby
1979	Mt. Willing	Rev. Edward Puckett	Raphael Yerby
1980	Union Chapel	Rev. Edward Puckett	Raphael Yerby

## **CHURCH HISTORY**

**Beaverton Free Will Baptist Church** was organized in the middle 1950's by Rev. Byrd Alexander. The church was a one room building at its present location. Rev. Byrd Alexander was the first pastor.

**Belk Free Will Baptist Church** was organized in 1894 and was named the Free Will Baptist Church of Christ at Antioch. The first building was built in 1894. The first pastor was Rev. J. D. Byres. In 1923-24 the church was moved to its present location and a new building built. In 1934 the building was bricked and remodeled and the name was changed to Belk Free Will Baptist Church. In 1937 the church joined the Vernon Association.

**Eastside Free Will Baptist church**, Tuscaloosa, Alabama, was organized June 3, 1964 with 32 members. Rev. Dewey Thomas was the first pastor. The land was purchased in 1965 and the first building was built in 1967. The church joined the Vernon Association in 1964.

**Liberty Free Will Baptist Church** was organized as a combination school an church in 1881. The first name was Poplar Springs. The first building was destroyed. In 1906, a new building was built and the name was changed to Liberty. Rev. M. L. Hollis preached his first sermon in the first building that was called Liberty. Rev. M. C. McGee was the first pastor. In 1920, another new building was constructed.

In 1934, a more modern building was constructed at the present location. Then in 1964, the present building was built with additions of fellowship hall and educational rooms built in 1976. Since the first log building until the present one, there has been a total of seven buildings.

**Free Will Chapel Free Will Baptist Church** was organized July 12, 1944 and was first named New Union Chapel. On July 27, 1945, the name was changed to Free Will Chapel. The first pastor was Rev. C. R. Puckett. The first members who were also the first deacons of the church, were Bro. Roy H. Barnes, Sr. and R. D. Franks. The first building was built in 1945. The new church building was built in 1965 and a new auditorium was built in 1974. The church joined the Vernon Association in 1975.

**Mt. Harmony Free Will Baptist Church** was organized in 1897. The first name was Mt. Harmony Christian Free Will Baptist Church of Christ. The first pastor was Elder John Robertson. Mt. Harmony joined the Vernon Association in 1892. The first building was erected in 1879 and in 1899 this building was remodeled. In 1933, this building was completely destroyed. The next year 1934, a brick church was completed. In 1972, this building was remodeled and educational rooms added. In 1975, a combination educational and fellowship hall was built.

**Mt. Willing Free Will Baptist Church** was organized about 1872. The first building was a log building on the hill above where the present one is located. The church which now stands was built in 1891. The land was given to the church by a negro couple in 1891. The first known pastor of Mt. Willing was Rev. W. B. Taylor. Mt. Willing was a charter member of the Vernon Association and according to reports the association was organized at Mt. Willing.

**Piney Grove Free Will Baptist Church** was organized in 1880. They have had seven different buildings in three locations within a one-half mile radius. The first pastor at the present location was Rev. C. A. Chaffin. The first building at the present location was erected in 1898. Piney Grove was a member of the Vernon Association in 1888 in the first listing of churches that we have record of and was probably a member before then. The church has always been called Piney Grove.

**Springfield Free Will Baptist Church** was organized in 1860. Rev. Thomas Walker Springfield was the founder and first pastor. The church was first named The Furnace Church. The first building was a log building and was also used as a school. The log building was replaced by a frame building in 1897. In 1950, this building was torn down and replaced with the present brick building. In 1979, a new auditorium was built, still using the old building for Sunday School rooms. Springfield was also among one of the first churches to join the Vernon Association.

**Union Chapel Free Will Baptist Church** was organized August 22, 1874. Rev. T. W. Springfield was the first pastor. Church services were first held in the school building and later a church building was erected. In 1944, the present building was built. Union Chapel was listed as a member of the Vernon Association in our first listing in 1888.

**Vernon Free Will Baptist Church** was organized in 1916. There are reports that there may have been a Free Will Baptist Church in Vernon as early as 1900, but no record to support this. The first pastor was Rev. Woods Springfield. The church agreed to pay the pastor \$10.00 per trip. Services were each third Sunday. The first building was erected at the present location in 1940. The new auditorium was built in 1974. The Vernon Church asked for a letter of dismissal from the Vernon Association in 1932 and in 1933 joined the New Progressive Association. A few years later, they came back and joined the Vernon Association.

**Sulligent Free Will Baptist Church** was organized in 1953 by Bro. Malone Cobb at Sulligent City Hall with eight members. Land for the church was bought in 1955 and the church was built. Bro. Roy Barnes was the first pastor. Today the church is a very modern building with a large auditorium and then Sunday School rooms. The church has a total membership of 219.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rev. M. H. Hollis, chairman  
Rev. Roy Barnes  
Bro. Raphael Yerby



