

**ONE HUNDRED AND THIRD
SESSION**

of the

**Vernon Free Will
Baptist Association**

held with

**First Free Will Baptist Church
of Sulligent**

1983 Minutes

OFFICERS FOR 1983
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRD SESSION

MODERATOR..... REV. THOMAS M. SCOTT
ASSISTANT MODERATOR..... REV. EDWARD PUCKETT
CLERK..... BRO. RAPHAEL YERBY

The next session of the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association will be held with Free Will Chapel Free Will Baptist Church on Saturday, March 17, 1984. The annual session of the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association will be held with Liberty Free Will Baptist Church beginning at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 20, 1984.

OFFICERS FOR 1984

MODERATOR..... REV. THOMAS M. SCOTT
P. O. Box 582, Vernon, Alabama 35592
Telephone.....695-9730

ASSISTANT MODERATOR..... REV. EDWARD PUCKETT
Route 1, Box 45-A, Sulligent, Alabama 35586
Telephone.....698-8177

CLERK..... BRO. RAPHAEL YERBY
Route 3, Box 6, Fayette, Alabama 35555
Telephone.....932-4595

VERNON FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION PROCEEDINGS

The one hundred and third session of the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association was held with the First Free Will Baptist Church of Sulligent on October 15, 1983. Rev. Thomas M. Scott served as moderator, Rev. Edward Puckett served as assistant moderator, and Bro. Raphael Yerby served as clerk.

The meeting opened with a song, "Living By Faith," directed by Bro. James Dunbar. The opening prayer was by Rev. Jim Tolbert.

We had another song, "Some Day," directed by Bro. James Dunbar.

We were welcomed to Sulligent Free Will Baptist Church by the host pastor, Rev. Edward Puckett. The response was given by Bro. Pascal Yerby of the Vernon Free Will Baptist Church.

The morning devotion was brought by Rev. Dexter Guin of the Piney Grove Free Will Baptist Church, using Jonah 1:2 as his scripture. His subject was "Why Go To Nineveh." Prayer was by the speaker.

The one hundred and third session of the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association was called to order by Bro. Raphael Yerby, clerk of the association.

The moderator gave a special welcome to everyone to this session of the association. He used Psalm 133:1-3 and Jeremiah 31:3 as his scripture in his opening message to the association. His subject was "Unity."

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 and to proceed with the business of the association.

We had a report of the Digest Committee by Bro. Zadus Turner, Jr., chairman of the committee. 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.

The moderator recognized visiting brethren and invited them to seat with us during this session of the association. Those present were Dr. Stanley Outlaw and Rev. Gurley Roberts and three brethren from the Mt. Moriah Association.

Next we had a report of the Committee on Committees by Rev. Dennis Kizzire, chairman, and the various committees were appointed. 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 1984 associational year. (See list.)

We had a song, "When The Roll Is Called Up Yonder," directed by Bro. James Dunbar. The moderator dismissed the various committees to make their reports to the association.

We had a report of the Board of Christian Education by Rev. Willard Pless. We had a motion, second and vote carried to receive the report as information.

Next we had a partial report of the General Board by Bro. Raphael Yerby, clerk. We had a motion, second and vote carried to vote on the report item by item. Item number one was tabled until the afternoon session since it would change the Constitution. Item number two was amended and after much discussion, we had a motion, second and vote to table the item until the afternoon session.

The moderator appointed Rev. Harold A. Pitts to serve a five year term on the Credential Committee.

Next the moderator appointed the Executive Committee for the 1984 associational year. (See list.)

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

After recess we had a song "He Keeps Me Singing," directed by Bro. James Dunbar. Prayer was by Bro. Lennie Ray Dubose.

We had another song, "Sunshine In The Soul," directed by Bro. James Dunbar.

We received a special offering to help pay the expense of our guest speaker. The offeratory prayer was by Rev. Thomas M. Scott, moderator of the association.

Next we had a partial report of the Credential Committee by Rev. Dennis Kizzire, chairman. We had a motion, second and vote carried to table the report until the afternoon session due to change in the Constitution.

Just before the 11:00 a.m. message we had a special in song by Bro. James Dunbar of the Sulligent Free Will Baptist Church.

The Key Note Message was brought at 11:00 a.m. by our guest speaker, Dr. Stanley Outlaw of the Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville, Tennessee. His scripture was Hebrews 10:19-31. His subject was "Christ Is Superior." Prayer was by the speaker.

After a very inspiring message we had a song of invitation directed by Bro. James Dunbar.

We were dismissed for the noon hour. The dismissal prayer and the blessing of the food was by Rev. M. H. Hollis.

AFTERNOON SESSION

After a bountiful and delicious lunch that everyone enjoyed and the noon hour of fellowship, we convened at 1:00 p.m. to finish the business of our association. We had a song, "Love Lifted Me," directed by Bro. James Dunbar. Prayer was by Bro. Tim Hollis.

The afternoon devotion was brought by Bro. Mitchel Lucas of the Mt. Harmony Free Will Baptist Church, using Matthew 14:22-31 as his scripture text. His subject was "What Happens When We Take Our Eyes Off Jesus." Prayer was by the speaker.

The moderator called for a final report of the Credential Committee. The report was given by Rev. Dennis Kizzire, chairman. We had a motion, second and vote carried to take the report item by item for a vote. Each item of the report was adopted by the body.

Next, we had a report of the Finance Committee. The report was given by Bro. Steve Butler, chairman. We had a motion, second and vote carried to receive the report and discharge the committee.

The Sunday School and C.T.S. Committee report was given by Sister Joyce Hardy, chairperson. We had motion, second and vote carried to received the report and discharge the committee.

The moderator called for a report of the Deceased Members Committee. The report was given by Sister Deborah McKay. We had a motion, second and vote carried to received the report and discharge the committee and have a moment of silent prayer in memory of these loved ones. After a moment of silent prayer, Rev. Thomas M. Scott led in prayer in memory of these loved ones.

We had a report of the Temperance Committee. An interesting report was given by Bro. Mike McDaniel, using James 1:3-4 as his scripture. We had a motion, second and vote carried to receive the report as information and discharge the committee.

We had an interesting report of the Vernon District Woman's Auxiliary by Sister Pat Pless, District President. We had a motion, second and vote carried to receive the report as information.

The moderator called for a report of the Appreciation Committee. The report was given by Bro. Bill Lewis, chairman. We had a motion, second and vote carried to receive the report and give the Sulligent Free Will Baptist Church a rising vote of appreciation for their fine hospitality.

We had a final report of the General Board by Bro. Raphael Yerby, clerk of the association. We had a motion, second and vote to take the items of business off the table, for a vote, that was tabled in the morning session. Item number one was adopted by the body. Item number two was amended from the floor. After much discussion, the amendment was defeated by the body. The original item number two was then voted on and adopted by the body.

The moderator called for the election of one member to serve a five (5) year term on the Board of Christian Education. Rev. Billy Wilson was elected to serve on this board.

Next, we elected one member to serve out the two (2) year unexpired term of Rev. Mike Foster on the Board of Christian Education. Rev. Willard Pless was elected to serve this term.

The moderator called for the election of one member to serve a three (3) year term on the Youth Camp Board of Directors. Rev. M. H. Hollis was elected to serve on this board.

Delegates to the Alabama State Association were appointed next. Those appointed are:

Sister Pat Pless	Bro. Robert Carter
Sister Sandra Carter	Sister Ambers Aldridge
Bro. James Dunbar	Sister Jackie Atkinson
Sister Dorothy Hollis	Sister Thomas Scott
Bro. Clyde Motes	Sister Elwanda Oaks
Sister Eldridge Motes	

Corresponding delegates to other associations were appointed next.

State Line Association	Jasper Association
Rev. Delmus Miller	Rev. Dennis Kizzire
Rev. Jerry Smith	Rev. Benjimin Duncan
Rev. Edward Puckett	

A place was chosen for the next two (2) meetings of the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association. Free Will Chapel Church and Springfield Church both requested the March meeting. The body voted to hold the March, 1984 meeting at Free Will Chapel Free Will Baptist Church. This meeting will be held on March 17, 1984.

Liberty Free Will Baptist Church requested to host the annual session of the association in 1984. The body voted to hold this meeting at Liberty Free Will Baptist Church. The meeting will be on Saturday, October 20, 1984.

The moderator called for the election of officers for the next associational year. First was the nomination for moderator of the association for the next year. Rev. Thomas Scott, Rev. M. H. Hollis, and Rev. Don Taggart were nominated. Rev. Thomas Scott was elected to serve as moderator.

Next, nomination was opened for assistant moderator. Rev. Don Taggart and Rev. Edward Puckett were nominated. Rev. Edward Puckett was elected to serve as assistant moderator.

Nomination was opened for clerk of the association. Bro. Raphael Yerby was the only nominee and was elected by acclamation to serve as clerk.

We had 135 people that signed the register for the association meeting and several others that did not get their names on the register.

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. Tommy Dubose.

Meeting adjourned.

CHURCHES AND DELEGATES AS LISTED

BEAVERTON - Sister Mary Weeks and Sister Emma Harris.

BELK - Sisters Dee Williams, Glenda Wilson, Ora Mae Overton, Sue Yerby, Bros. Laren Williams and Lamar Overton.

- COOPER - Bros. Tim Grady, Oscar Jeffreys, Sisters Ruby Finch, Lena Rye and Velma Jeffreys.
- DAVIS CHAPEL - Sisters Jessmer Nelson, Betty Gray, Lorene Pike and Dorothy Lee Pennington.
- DEPRIEST CHAPEL - Sisters Sheila Wise, Polly Easter and Patricia Turman.
- EASTSIDE - Sisters Edna Thompson, Ethel McJenkins and Bro. Roland Dean.
- FREE WILL CHAPEL - Bro. Roy Crossley, Murray Jackson, Sisters Mary Crossley and Dessie Jackson.
- FRIENDSHIP - Sister Lura Moore.
- LIBERTY - Bros. Lloyd Dubose, Roy Perkins, Steve Butler, Bill Lanier, Sisters Lois Dubose, Elsie Black, Ida Bell Perkins, Sula Gann, and Eula Mae Dubose.
- LOVE JOY - Sisters Shirley Berryhill, Edna Markham, Bros. Michael Berryhill and Robert Taylor.
- MT. HARMONY - Sisters Theresa Taggart, Margaret Corbett, Frances Beasley, Bros. Leonard Corbett, Mitchell Lucas, and Phillip Wheeler.
- MT. PLEASANT - Sisters Mary Merchant and Pearlie Allen.
- MT. WILLING - Bros. Lucion G. Flynn, Sonny Cambell, Roger Rye, Sisters Audra Flynn, Debora Cambell, and Dorothy Rye.
- PINEY GROVE - Sisters Jackie Atkinson, Gera Mae Bobo, Carole Barnes, Pat Pless, and Bro. Clyde Weeks.
- SPRINGFIELD - Sisters Ora Jordan, Dean Rushing, Dorothy Hollis, Margie Hall, Bros. Tim Hollis and Mark Ashby.
- SULLIGENT - Bros. Robert Carter, James Dunbar, Sisters Sandra Carter, Patsy Merchant Kittie Taylor, Debra McKay, Libby Harrison, and Bro. Sammy Merchant.
- TAYLOR SPRINGS - Sisters Earline Sorrells, Christy Cooper and Bro. J. C. Young.
- TUSCALOOSA - Bros. Bill Lewis, Denny Atchison, Daryl Guy, and sister Anita Guy.
- UNION CHAPEL - Sisters Joyce Hardy, Lois Simmons, Rena Hardy, Lucille Bradford, Bros. Jessie Yerby and Bill Freeman.
- VERNON - Sisters Mildred Gilmore, Avis Hall, Beatrice Christian, Lavore Nesbitt, Braxine Spann, Louise Shelnut, Martha Turner, Elwanda Oaks, Bros. Mike McDaniel, Zadus Turner, Jr., Clyde Motes, J. L. Lucas and Ronnie Scott.

GENERAL BOARD

BEAVERTON - None Listed
BELK - Bro. Laren Williams
DAVIS CHAPEL - None Listed.
DEPRIEST CHAPEL - None Listed
EASTSIDE - Bro. George Mc Jenkins
FREE WILL CHAPEL - Bro. Dean McSpadeen
FRIENDSHIP - None Listed.
LIBERTY - Bro. Bobby Joe Black
LOVE JOY - Bro. Lloyd Carter
MT. HARMONY - Bro. Leonard Corbett
MT. PLEASANT - Bro. Gary Springfield
MT. WILLING - Bro. Lucion Flynn
PINEY GROVE - Bro. Tommy Robertson
SPRINGFIELD - Bro. Gene Pennington
SULLIGENT - Bro. Quinton Boyett
TAYLOR SPRINGS - None Listed
TUSCALOOSA - Bro Denny Ray Johnson
UNION CHAPEL - Bro. Jessie Yerby
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.

Beaverton	Eastside
Belk	Free Will Chapel
Cooper	Friendship
Davis Chapel	Liberty
Depriest Chapel	Love Joy

COMMITTEE AND MEMBERS FOR 1983

CREDENTIAL COMMITTEE

Rev. Milton Gann - 1984
Rev. Tom Scott - 1985
Rev. Bobby Joe Black - 1986
Bro. Pascal Yerby - 1987
Rev. Harold A. Pitts - 1988

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

Sister Joyce Hardy
Sister Emma Harris
Sister Ruby Finch
Sister Shirley Berryhill

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Bro. Steve Butler
Sister Dean Rushing
Sister Sue Yerby
Sister Patricia Turman

**DECEASED MEMBERS
COMMITTEE**

Bro. Leonard Corbett
Bro. Roy Crossley
Sister Debra McKay
Bro. Lucion Flynn
Sister Lura Moore

**BOARD OF CHRISTIAN
EDUCATION**

Bro. James Dunbar, 1984
Rev. Willard Pless - 1985
Rev. Dennis Kizzire - 1986
Rev. Don Taggart - 1987
Rev. Billy Wilson - 1988

YOUTH CAMP COMMITTEE

All Pastors of the Vernon
Association

**COMMITTEE ON
COMMITTEES, 1984**

Rev. Billy Wilson
Rev. Jim Tolbert
Rev. Jerry Smith

DIGEST COMMITTEE 1984

Bro. Robert Carter
Bro. Tim Garben
Bro. J. L. Lucas
Sister Kitty Taylor
Sister Glenda Wilson

APPRECIATION COMMITTEE

Bro. Bill Lewis
Sister Jackie Atkinson
Sister Dorothy Hollis
Sister Renae Hardy
Sister Sula Gann

TEMPERANCE COMMITTEE

Bro. Mitchell Lucas
Bro. Clyde Weeks
Bro. James Dunbar
Bro. Mike McDaniel

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Rev. Thomas M. Scott
Rev. Edward Puckett
Bro. Raphael Yerby
Bro. Quinton Boyett
Bro. Dean McSpadden
Bro. Gene Pennington
Bro. George McJenkins

**YOUTH CAMP BOARD
OF DIRECTORS**

Rev. Dennis Kizzire - 1984
Rev. Willard Pless - 1985
Rev. M. H. Hollis - 1986

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND C.T.S. COMMITTEE REPORT

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

Our Sunday School enrollment is 1,428, with an average attendance of 1,151. We show an increase of 35 members in enrollment and an increase of 45 members in average attendance.

Our C.T.S. enrollment is 775, with an average attendance of 596. Our C.T.S. enrollment is up by 231 and the average attendance increase is 158 members. Eight churches in our association do not have a C.T.S. program. This is an increase of three (3) churches not having C.T.S. programs from last year.

Respectfully submitted,
Sister Joyce Hardy - Chairperson

GENERAL BOARD REPORT

We, the General Board, having met on September 17, 1983, make the following report and recommendations to the association:

- I. We recommend that our association meet semi-annually, with the meetings being on Saturday before the third Sunday in March and Saturday before the third Sunday in October each year. The meeting in March will be a fellowship meeting with a time set aside to handle any necessary business and the October meeting being our annual business meeting of the association. M.S.C.
- II. After hearing a report from the Board of Christian Education, we recommend that all our churches send a monthly offering to the Board of Christian Education for the youth camp expense and other Board of Christian Education expenses. The offerings will be sent to Rev. Dennis Kizzire, Treasurer, Route 1, Detroit, Alabama 35552

This item No. 2 was amended from the floor to read "the offerings be sent to the clerk of the association and disbursed by the clerk to the various needs of the Board of Christian Education." After much discussion the amendment to item No. 2 was defeated by the body. The original item No. 2 was then voted on and adopted by the body.

Action taken by the General Board during the year.

- III. The General Board met on March 15, 1983. We received a petitionary letter from the First Free Will Baptist Church of Tuscaloosa requesting membership in the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association. We had a motion, second and the Board voted to receive the First Free Will Baptist Church of Tuscaloosa into the fellowship of the Free Will Baptist Association.

Rev. Harold A. Pitts, pastor of the First Free Will Baptist Church of Tuscaloosa and some of the brethren of the church were present for this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Thomas Scott - Chairman

ITEM OF BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

At this time we had a motion from the floor by Rev. Don Taggart, and a second that the Committee on Committees make their report and appoint the various committees at the March meeting of the association, so the committees can get together and make their reports before the annual business meeting of the association in October. The motion was adopted by the body.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

We, the Finance Committee, make the following report: A total of \$1,329.70 was sent in as association dues. There was a remaining balance of \$117.95 from the 1982 association year. Our estimated expenses for 1983 are \$1,081.50, which leaves a balance of \$248.20.

Respectfully submitted,
Bro. Steve Butler - Chairman

TEMPERANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

We, the Temperance Committee, make the following report:

How will the world view us if we are quick to lose our temper and self control? Being Christians, we are expected not to be as Matthew 5:22 says. Christ expects us to be in control of ourselves at all times, and if we have to be angry, we need to be angry at sin. We must at all times not forget our testimony.

Patience is one area that will help us in our self control. James 1:3-4 tells us to be patient and wait upon the Lord in everything. Waiting on the Lord will bring us patience.

Respectfully submitted,
Mitchell Lucas - Chairman

CREDENTIAL COMMITTEE REPORT

The Credential Committee of the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association makes the following report: We report on action taken by the committee during the past year.

- I. By request we granted Rev. Michael Foster a letter of good standing, submitted to Guyanhola - Loarin quarterly meeting of Free Will Baptists in Ohio.
- II. Examined Rev. Harold A. Pitts and accepted him into the fellowship of the Vernon Association, having a letter of good standing from the Progressive Association of Free Will Baptists.
- III. Granted a letter of recommendation for Rev. James A. Hudson to join the Northeast Mississippi Association of Free Will Baptists.

- IV. Received Rev. Jim Tolbert, pastor of Eastside Free Will Baptist Church of Tuscaloosa into the Vernon Association of Free Will Baptists upon examination and receipt of a letter of recommendation from the Liberty Association of Free Will Baptists in the State of Michigan.
- V. Received Rev. Jerry Smith, pastor of Free Will Chapel Free Will Baptist Church into the Vernon Association of Free Will Baptists from his former association, being Northeast Mississippi Association of Free Will Baptists.
- VI. By request, we granted Rev. Michael Rogers a letter of good standing and recommendation to join the Mount Moriah Association of Free Will Baptists.

We further recommend:

- I. That Rev. Harvey Luke, who is elected pastor of the Union Chapel Free Will Baptist Church, be added to the roll of ministers and request that the associational clerk request a letter of recommendation from his former association, which is the Mount Moriah Free Will Baptist Association. M.S.C.
- II. We recommend that the clerk take a roll call of the ministers of the association and a card of good standing only be given to the ministers present in accordance with article No. 4 of our By-Laws. M.S.C.
- III. We move to amend the By-Laws of the Vernon Association of Free Will Baptists as follows:
 - A. A church having a candidate which it feels qualifies for ordination as a preacher by the Vernon Association of Free Will Baptists should submit in writing the following information:
 - 1. The name of the candidate
 - 2. The address of the candidate
 - 3. The telephone number of the candidate
 - 4. The present employment of the candidate
 - 5. The length of membership at the church
 - 6. The offices held in the church
 - 7. The marital status of the candidate
 - 8. The date of licensing by the church
 - 9. The places of ministry by the candidate for the past twelve months

This information should be submitted at least one (1) month in advance of the meeting of the Vernon Association of Free Will Baptists.

The recommendation must be the result of a regular conference of the church of which the candidate is a member.

- B. Any ordained preacher that desires to become a member of the association must submit a letter of recommendation from the church of which he is a member along with a letter of recommendation from the association from which he is coming. This is to be done at least one (1) month in advance of a regular meeting of the association. This information is to be submitted in writing to the moderator of the association or to the chairman of the Credential Committee.

Respectfully submitted
Rev. Dennis Kizzire - Chairman

APPRECIATION COMMITTEE REPORT

We, the Appreciation Committee, make the following report:

We wish to thank the Sulligent Free Will Baptist Church for their warm hospitality in allowing us to convene with them for this session. We also thank them for the delicious noon meal prepared for our delight. We praise the Lord for the sweet spirit felt among the brethren and the togetherness which the delegates have demonstrated.

Respectfully submitted
Bill Lewis - Chairman

COMMITTEE REPORT ON DECEASED MEMBERS

Psalms 116:15, Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.

We the Committee on Deceased Members make the following report:

BEAVERTON - None

BELK - Bro. Henry Roberts

COOPER - Bro. Cal Frederick, Bro. Benton Warren

DAVIS CHAPEL - Sister Lucy Gray, Sister Lilus Pendley

DEPRIEST CHAPEL - None

EASTSIDE - None

FREE WILL CHAPEL - Bro. Joe Baker, Sister Onnie Bell Crossley,
Bro. Charlie Elliott, Sister Lona Flynn, Sister Eva Gunter

FRIENDSHIP - None

LIBERTY - Bro. John Stewart

LOVE JOY - None

MT. HARMONY - Bro. Landus Graham

MT. PLEASANT - None

MT. WILLING - Bro. Joel Chaffin, Bro. Jim Collins, Bro. Andrew
Darty, Bro. Emmitt Shelnut, Bro. Shafter Warren

PINEY GROVE - Bro Fefus Kirk

SPRINGFIELD - Bro. Junie Harper, Sister Amanda Jordan

SULLIGENT - None

TAYLOR SPRINGS - None

TUSCALOOSA - Bro. Eazra Martin

UNION CHAPEL - None

VERNON - Sister Lucy Gann, Bro. Jay Y. Turner, Bro. Lloyd Turner

From a tombstone:

Remember me as you pass by;

As you are now, So once was I;

As I am now, So you shall be;

Prepare to meet God, and follow me.

We recommend that we stand and have a moment of silent prayer in memory of these loved ones.

Respectfully submitted,

Bro. Leonard Corbett - Chairman

VERNON DISTRICT WOMAN'S AUXILIARY REPORT

First Corinthians 3:9a, For we are labourers together with God.

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour. Yes, the Vernon Association does have a District Auxiliary and we would like to encourage all of the churches that have auxiliaries to join us. We have eleven (11) churches, 140 ladies are members, out of twenty (20) with auxiliaries. But, only four (4) auxiliaries, 45 ladies, belong to the District -- Eastside, Free Will Chapel, Piney Grove, and Vernon. Pastors, I am asking you to encourage your ladies to join our District.

The purpose and aim of our auxiliary is to promote missions in our churches.

Our annual meeting is the 4th Saturday in March. Next year, the date will be March 24, 1984, Vernon Free Will Baptist Church. In September of each year we have a Fall Fellowship. In 1984 it will be a Prayer Retreat at the youth camp. The date will be announced later. In January of 1984 we will have something new. We will have a Missionary Banquet during our annual Missionary Conference. Probably the third Saturday night in January will be the date. We will let you know more on this later.

Some of the things we do during the year are:

mission offerings

provision closet gifts (this is used for our missionaries)

study courses

Again, let me encourage you to become a member of District Auxiliary.

If you have any questions or if I can be of any help, please feel free to call me.

Pray for our District Auxiliary and officers that we may always do the Lord's will.

Respectfully submitted,

Sister Pat Pless, President

VERNON FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

CHURCH	PASTOR	PASTOR'S TELEPHONE	CLERK	Members Receive	Members Decease	Total Members	Number In Sunday School	Number in C.T.S.	Number In Ladies Auxiliary	Ordained Ministers
BEAVERTON	Rev. Dale Ford P. O. Box 757 Sulligent, Ala. 35586	698-9620	Bettie S. Conner Route 2 Winfield, Ala. 35594	7	0	43	43	0	0	1
BELK	Rev. Billy Wilson P. O. Box 31 Belk, Ala. 35545	932-3144	Rosa L. Atkins P. O. Box 45 Belk, Ala. 35545	3	1	145	98	60	22	1
COOPER	Rev. Dennis Kizzire Route 1 Detroit, Ala. 35552	921-2440	Mrs. Lena Mae Rye Route 1 Detroit, Ala. 35552	23	2	245	110	85	30	1
DAVIS CHAPEL	Rev. Charles Self Route 2, Box 154 Berry, Ala. 35546		Mrs. Louise Cannon Route 1, Box 300 Berry, Ala. 35546	0	2	95	16	0	0	1
DEPRIEST CHAPEL	Rev. Howard Simmons Route 1 Detroit, Ala. 35552	921-3461	James K. Easter Route 1, Box 93A Caledonia, Miss 39740	2	0	71	-	-	-	1
EASTSIDE	Rev. Jimmie L. Tolbert 1 Glen Iris East Tuscaloosa, Ala. 35405	556-8231	Betsy Phillips 515 - 24th Ave. East Tuscaloosa, Ala. 35404	10	0	174	88	63	12	1
FREE WILL CHAPEL	Rev. Jerry Smith Route 2, Box 54 Sulligent, Ala. 35586	695-6119	Dorothy Gideon P. O. Box 101 Vernon, Ala. 35592	6	5	139	96	50	14	1
FRIENDSHIP	Rev. James C. Newell Route 1, Box 109 Vernon, Ala. 35592	695-6101	Mrs. Lura Moore Route 2, Box 481 Millport, Ala. 35576	0	0	48	5	0	0	1
LIBERTY	Rev. Milton Gann Route 2 Vernon, Ala. 35592	695-9400	Steve Butler Route 2, Box 74P-1 Fayette, Ala. 35555	18	1	240	90	70	13	3

LOVE JOY	Rev. Gary Berryhill Route 1 Guin, Ala. 35563	468-3803	Ellie Ruth Mixon Route 1 Beaverton, Ala. 35544	10	0	69	68	0	9	2
MT. HARMONY	Rev. Donald Taggart Route 1, Box 158 Vernon, Ala. 35592	695-7546	Erbie Robertson Route 3, Box 295 Vernon, Ala. 35592	11	1	120	62	43	0	1
MT. PLEASANT	Rev. Lloyd Vail P. O. Box 535 Vernon, Ala. 35592	695-9583	Pearlie Allen Route 2, Box 331 Sulligent, Ala. 35586	5	0	86	50	0	0	1
MT. WILLING	Rev. Benjiman Duncan Route 3, Box 194 Hamilton, Ala. 35570	921-4325	Audra M. Flynn Route 1, Box 66 Guin, Ala. 355663	5	5	158	50	0	0	2
PINEY GROVE	Rev. Willard Pless Route 1 Vernon, Ala. 35592	695-9826	Jackie Atkinson P. O. Box 690 Guin, Ala. 35563	14	1	135	49	36	10	3
SPRINGFIELD	Rev. M. H. Hollis P. O. Box 183 Vernon, Ala. 35592	695-7736	Roy Ashby Route 1, Box 221 Vernon, Ala. 35592	8	2	270	100	70	10	2
SULLIGENT	Rev. Edward Puckett Route 1, Box 45A Sulligent, Ala. 35586	698-8177	Vivian Kilgore Route 3, Box 369 Sulligent, Ala. 35586	20	0	253	239	115	0	1
TAYLOR SPRINGS	Rev. C. C. Berryhill Greenwood Springs, Miss. 38848	256-8225	Charlene Cooper Route 1 Beaverton, Ala. 35544	4	0	54	50	0	0	0
TUSCALOOSA	Rev. Harold A. Pitts 2600 - 15th Ave. Northport, Ala. 35476	339-7517	Edward L. McCool 25 Coventry Tuscaloosa, Ala. 35404	10	1	112	88	47	12	1
UNION CHAPEL	Rev. Harvey Luke Route 2 Vernon, Ala. 35592		James E. Maddox Route 2 Vernon, Ala. 35592	0	0	87	50	0	0	1
VERNON	Rev. Thomas M. Scott P. O. Box 582 Vernon, Ala. 35592	695-9730	Elwanda Oaks P. O. Box 351 Vernon, Ala. 35592	24	3	279	162	100	18	2

CHURCH

CHURCH	Paid Pastor	Other Local Expenditures	Paid Missions	Paid Christian Education	Paid Assoc. Dues	Paid For Improvements	Total Paid Out	Value Of Church Property
BEAVERTON	3,500.00	7,000.00	-	35.00	30.00	2,000.00	12,565.00	50,000.00
BELK	12,025.00	12,340.00	3,145.00	-	75.00	9,163.00	38,710.00	210,000.00
COOPER	None Reported				75.00			
DAVIS CHAPEL	1,981.85	1,856.77	-	-	60.00	-	4,937.71	70,000.00
DEPRIEST CHAPEL	3,380.00	-	-	-	75.00	-	4,552.76	-
EASTSIDE	7,270.00	20,845.00	1,245.00	440.00	60.00	-	3,9620.00	150,000.00
FREE WILL CHAPEL	14,226.71	13,145.31	982.94	-	50.00	-	33,234.78	150,000.00
FRIENDSHIP	-	779.71			30.00		809.71	20,000.00
LIBERTY	12,320.00	11,943.00	2,472.00	1,037.00	75.00	22,248.00	58,785.00	250,000.00

LOVE JOY	5,456.98	3,824.78	575.00	569.34	75.00	2,990.51	14,710.95	80,000.00
MT. HARMONY	14,675.00	9,225.39	1,433.75	-	75.00	-	26,953.71	85,000.00
MT. PLEASANT	3,120.00	-	-	-	50.00	-	4,475.00	50,000.00
MT. WILLING	5,400.00	2,544.86	-	-	75.00	1,168.78	9,288.64	60,000.00
PINEY GROVE	None Reported				50.00			
SPRINGFIELD	14,336.05	12,555.26	746.43	58.48	50.00	3,608.76	47,385.89	172,000.00
SULLIGENT	17,050.00	25,272.98	3,188.40	1,361.63	75.00	17,000.00	79,934.65	160,000.00
TAYLOR SPRINGS	1,795.23	1,510.00	-	-	21.75	1,640.00	4,966.98	55,000.00
TUSCALOOSA	None Reported				75.00			75,000.00
UNION CHAPEL	6,700.00	3,300.00	-	-	60.00	-	13,935.00	42,500.00
VERNON	15,300.00	23,456.72	6,360.63	1,407.33	75.00	-	73,764.25	259,000.00

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee met on September 17, 1983 to plan the program and secure a speaker for the 103rd session of the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association. The committee voted to ask Bro. Dexter Guin to have the morning devotion and ask Bro. Mitchell Lucas to have the afternoon devotion.

We had a motion, second and the committee voted to invite Dr. Stanley Outlaw to be our guest speaker for the 11:00 a.m. worship hour. The committee also voted to receive an offering at the association meeting and pay our speaker \$200.00 for his expenses.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Thomas Scott - Chairman

REPORT OF DIGEST COMMITTEE**STATISTICS:**

Number of Ordained Ministers	32
Number of Licensed Ministers	15
Number of Deacons	89
Number Students at F.W.B. Bible College	2
Number Students at other colleges	37

PASTORS:

Full Time Outside Employment	7
Part Time Outside Employment	5

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP:

Total Membership	2,898
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MEMBERS RECEIVED:

By Baptism	78
By Letter	99
Total Members Received	177

MEMBERS LOST:

By Letter and Death	167
Lost to Non-Free Will Baptist Churches	27

SUNDAY SCHOOL ENROLLMENT:

Number Enrolled	1,428
Average Attendance	1,151

C.T.S. ENROLLMENT:

Number Enrolled	775
Average Attendance	596
Churches Without C.T.S.	8

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERVICES:

Average Attendance	448
Churches Without Wednesday Night Services	5

MASTERS MEN ENROLLMENT:

Number Enrolled	40
Average Attendance	28

WOMEN'S AUXILIARY ENROLLMENT:

Number Enrolled	140
Average Attendance	123
Churches Without Women's Auxiliary	9

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL:

Enrollment	759
Average Attendance	676
Churches Without Vacation Bible School	10

EVANGELISTIC OUTREACH:

Revivals	11
Visitation Programs	10
Other Outreach Programs	1

FINANCIAL

INCOME:

Reported Tithes and Offerings	\$421,384.00
Other Income (Borrowed, Gifts, etc.)	49,998.00
Total Income	496,382.00
(Seven Churches not Included)	

EXPENSES:

Spent For Local Causes:

Literature, Utilities, Property Maintenance	\$156,390.00
Remodeling, New Construction	59,917.00
Other Expenses	-0-
Paid on Debt	42,220.00
Pastor's Salary	138,518.00
Church Staff	26,995.00
Total Spent for Local Causes	425,628.00

Spent For Outside Causes:

Home Missions	\$ 11,866.35
Foreign Missions	8,282.80
District & State Ministries	8,920.02
Retirement and Insurance Board	992.01
Laymen's Board	-0-
Executive Officers	-0-
Free Will Baptist Bible College	4,308.54
Other Expenses	-0-
Total Spent For Outside Causes	34,369.72
Total Expenditures	\$459,997.72

Respectfully submitted,
Zadus Turner, Jr. - Chairman

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION REPORT

The Christian Education Board met several times during the year to plan the youth rallies. The board also met with Bro. Kizzire, by request, to help plan the Junior Youth Camp.

The board had its last meeting on September 6, 1983 at 7:00 p.m. The board took a look at all the year's activities. The board would like to make the following recommendations:

- I. The youth camps went into the red again this year. We need to work out a plan so our churches can share in these kinds of burdens. The Christian Education Board has no way of raising any funds other than what it receives in offerings and the Final Fling in May. We have two churches that are sending money on a regular basis to help on these expenses. If it had not been for these two churches, we would be broke. The board cries for help. M.S.C.
- II. The youth rallies have been a discouragement and a big disappointment this last year. Our churches have lost their zeal in attending these meetings. The board would like to recommend that this coming year that we have the following meetings:

November, 1983..... Retreat at Youth Camp
February, 1984..... Valentine Banquet
March, 1984..... Crusade or Bible Conference
Aprin, 1984..... Competition
M.S.C.
- III. The former youth camp directors, along with the Christian Education Board, would like to recommend that the preachers meet sixty (60) days before the youth camps start to select the camp directors instead of doing it with the rush attitude at the close of the association meeting. M.S.C.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Willard Pless - Chairman

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FINANCIAL REPORT
1982-83

INCOME:

C. E. Board Money Transferred.....	\$ 78.98
Youth Retreat Receipts.....	258.36
Film Rental to Sulligent Church.....	31.23
Youth Rally Offerings.....	109.52
Valentine Banquet Receipts.....	565.00
Competition Entry Fee.....	682.23
Carnival (Final Fling) Receipts.....	258.00

Youth Camp Fee Receipts.....	2,930.00
Concession Sales.....	732.06
Food Sales.....	146.80
Transfer of Area Wide Crusade Funds.....	212.85
Contribution by Church - Sulligent First.....	487.94
- Mt. Harmony	75.00
- Cooper.....	10.12
- Mt. Willing.....	100.00
Total Receipts	\$6,678.09

EXPENDITURES:

November Youth Retreat.....	\$ 435.30
Valentine Banquet.....	481.92
Check Book.....	18.69
Miscellaneous.....	18.73
Youth Rally Expenses.....	10.20
Refund of Competition Fee to Springfield.....	10.00
Jr. - Sr. Banquet Expenses (Mailing).....	15.00
Competition (State Fees, Judges, Awards, Etc.).....	691.22
Carnival Day (Final Fling) Expenses.....	211.49
Youth Camps: Groceries & Supplies.....	2,405.50
Canteen Expenses.....	724.73
Mailings	24.11
Evaneglists	400.00
Camper & Staff Insurance	238.00
Printing of Applications.....	95.13
Rent on Camp	400.00
Total Expenses	\$6,165.02
Beginning Balance.....	\$ 47.00
Receipts.....	6,678.09
Total to Account For.....	\$6,725.18
Less Expenditures	6,165.02
Balance.....	\$ 560.16
Less Bank Book Adjustment (Debit).....	1.63
Bank Balance 10-14-83.....	\$ 558.53
Total Youth Camp Expenses.....	\$4,282.47

Junior Camp	38 girls
	22 boys
Total	60 campers
Teen Camp	31 girls
	23 boys
Total	54 campers

Total attendance both camps - 114 campers
Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Dennis Kizzire - Treasurer

VERNON FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
FINANCIAL REPORT

Balance From 1982.....	\$ 117.95
Minute Funds Received.....	1,211.75
Offering at Association Meeting.....	171.35
Total To Account For.....	\$1,501.05

EXPENDITURES:

Moderator.....	\$ 50.00
Assistant Moderator.....	25.00
Clerk.....	75.00
State Association Dues.....	400.00
Postage & Supplies.....	50.00
Minutes.....	481.51
Dr. Stanley Outlaw.....	200.00
Total Expenditures.....	\$1,281.50

Balance.....	\$ 219.55
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Respectfully submitted,
Raphael Yerby - Treasurer

NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF PRESENT MINISTERS

- 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, P. O. Box 435, Vernon, Alabama 35592
- Rev. Edward Puckett, Route 1, Box 45A, Sulligent, Alabama 35586

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, Route 1, Detroit, Alabama 35552
 Rev. Don Taggart, Route 1, Box 158, Vernon, Alabama 33592
 Rev. Norman G. Berryhill, Route 1, Guin Alabama 35563
 Rev. Ambers Aldridge, Brilliant, Alabama 35548
 Rev. Lloyd W. Vail, P. O. Box 535, Vernon, Alabama 35592
 Rev. Willard Pless, Route 1, Vernon, Alabama 35592
 Rev. Dexter Guin, Route 1, Guin, Alabama 35563
 Rev. Lloyd George, Route 1, Box 246, Caledonia, Mississippi 39740
 Rev. Tommy Dubose, Route 6, Fayette, Alabama 35555
 Rev. Dale Ford, P. O. Box 757, Sulligent, Alabama 35586
 Rev. Billy Wilson, P. O. Box 31, Belk, Alabama 35545
 Rev. Benjiman Duncan, Route 3, Box 194, Hamilton, Alabama 35570
 Rev. Howard Simmons, Route 1, Detroit, Alabama 35552
 Rev. Harold A. Pitts, 2600 - 15th Ave., Northport, Alabama 35476
 Rev. Jimmy L. Tolbert, #1, Glen Iris, Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35405
 Rev. Jerry Smith, Route 2, Box 54, Sulligent, Alabama 35586
 Rev. Harvey Luke, Route 2, Vernon, Alabama 35592

List of Deacons

BEAVERTON - Bros. Bobby Dykes and Russel Cole
 BELK - Bros. Grady Newman, Raphael Yerby, Dalton Gilpin and Mackey Watkins
 COOPER - Bros. Burley Finch, Gordie Rye, James Jeffreys, Tony Clark and Hershel Rye
 DAVIS CHAPEL - Bro. Johnny Pike
 DEPRIEST CHAPEL - Bros. Kelly Easter, S. D. Jones, Joe Mack Easter, J. C. Cantrell, and Gene Wise
 EASTSIDE - Bros. J. H. Thompson, George McJenkins, Bedford Hester, and Adolph South
 FREE WILL CHAPEL - Bros. Edsel Gideon, L. D. Hall, Daniel Franks and Tommy Otts
 FRIENDSHIP - None
 LIBERTY - Bros. Bobby Joe Black, Linnie R. Dubose, Willie G. Perkins, Jack Boman, Wayne Sorrells, Roy Guyton and R. T. Mixon
 LOVE JOY - Bros. Coy Robertson, Gary Taylor, Loyd Carter and Clayton Barnes
 MT. HARMONY - Bros. Olen Wheeler, Odis Robertson, Oveat Graham, Coy Johnson, Erbie Robertson, L. C. Steedley, David Barton and Frankie Beasley

MT. PLEASANT - Bro. Robert Cooper

MT. WILLING - Bros. Earl McDonald, Jeff McDonald, Elzie Guin, Arlie Roberts, Emmitt Lee, Obie Haney

PINEY GROVE - Bros. Carlos Roberts, J. M. Chaffin, Tommie Robertson, and Danny Atkinson

SPRINGFIELD - Bros. Dewey Jordan, Paul Jordan, Haley Wright, Aubrey Hall, Roy Ashby, Jr., Larry Williams, Tommie Rushing

SULLIGENT - Bros. Ray Birmingham, John Q. Boyett, Richard Mansell, James Price, Charles Crosby, Earnest Northington

TAYLOR SPRINGS - Bro. Stanley Cooper

TUSCALOOSA - Bros. Edward L. McCool, Jessie Overton, Wester Fulgham, Jr., Donald Tilley, Denny Ray Johnson, Revis Guy and Arthur Johnson

UNION CHAPEL - Bros. James E. Maddox, Lamon Duckworth and Don Freeman

VERNON - Bros. Pascal Yerby, B. E. Turner, Eris Wilson, Albert Christian, Ted Collins, Paul Shelnut, Darrell Wheeler, Titus Barnes 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, Rev. Harvey Clearman, Rev. Roy H. Barnes.

NAMES OF DECEASED DEACONS

L. A. Crowder, S. Y. Shelton, J. H. Cole, Lee Mixon, J. S. Crossley, J. D. Shelnut, Earnest Robertson, D. L. Markham, Joe L. McNease, Johnny Williams, Johnny Collins, Dewitt Williams, J. G. Adair, Cullen Collins, John D. Moore, Sr., R. D. Franks, Hoytt 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, Jack McDonald, Belton Nelson, Clarence Birmingham, Carlos Bradford, Charlie Elliott, Emmitt Shelnut, Junie Harper, and Lloyd Turner.

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 before the association. Each church being entitled to three delegates for the first 50 members and one additional delegate for each 25 members or 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 Baptists. 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 teachings 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 whose 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.

3. (A) When a church recommends a candidate for ordination as a preacher by the Vernon Association of Free Will Baptists, they will submit the following information in writing to the Credential Committee, at least one (1) month in advance of the annual association meeting: the name of the candidate, address of the candidate, telephone number of the candidate, present employment, length of membership at the church, offices held in the church, marital status of the candidate, places of ministry by the candidate for the past twelve months.

This recommendation must be the result of a regular conference of the church of which the candidate is a member.

3. (B) Any ordained preacher that desires to become a member of this association must submit a letter of recommendation from the church of which he is a member, along with a letter of recommendation from the association from which he is coming. This is to be done at least one (1) month in advance of a regular meeting of the association. This information is to be submitted in writing to the moderator of the association or to the chairman of the Credential Committee.

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 the annual session by majority vote of the delegates present. The officers shall be chosen at the close of each annual 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 semi-annually, with meetings being on Saturday before the third Sunday in March and Saturday before the third Sunday in October each year. The meeting in March will be a worship and fellowship meeting with a time set aside to handle any necessary business and the October meeting being our annual business meeting of the association 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 associaiton 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 or 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 annual 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. If a minister misses one association meeting, unless providentially hindered, he will not be given a card of good standing. 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 a special called session, shall have the authority to grant letters to ministers leaving our association, provided they are a member 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 have 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 sixty (60) days before the youth camp starts to select a camp director and a treasurer of the youth camp and make plans for the summer camps. 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 officerrrs 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 five (5) 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.