

MINUTES
OF THE
THIRTY-THIRD ANNUAL SESSION
OF THE
WATER VALLEY FREE WILL
BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

CONVENED WITH
GAULEY CHURCH

On Thursday Night and Friday and Friday
Night, September 10th and 11th, 1931

NEXT SESSION

Will Convene With Stetson Chapel Church, Six Miles North of Sarepta,
In Lafayette County, On Thursday Night Before the Second Sunday
In September, 1932. Bro. Geo. C. Lee To Preach the
Introductory Sermon.

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MINUTES

FIRST DAY—NIGHT SESSION

Preaching by Rev. W. H. Fondren, after which the Delegates were assigned homes, and Association adjourned to meet Friday morning at 9 o'clock.

SECOND DAY—FRIDAY MORNING

Association met by reading and prayer by Rev. Geo. C. Lee, From Heb., 12th Chapter.

Rev. Geo. C. Lee elected Moderator Pro Tem, and Jim Thomas, Clerk Pro Tem.

The following churches represented by Letter and Delegates: Pleasant Grove, Bethlehem, Springdale, Gauley, New Life, Stetson Chapel, and Antioch. A song and hand of fellowship.

The body went into organization, and Rev. W. H. Fondren was elected Moderator; Rev. Geo. C. Lee, Clerk, and Jim Thomas, Treasurer.

The Moderator appointed J. P. Carter, J. R. Davis, and Roy Cantrell as Preaching Committee. Committee retired and made report as follows: That Rev. D. M. Smitherman preach at 11 o'clock Friday, Rev. G. C. Lee 8 o'clock night. Association adjourned to meet at 1 P. M.

Met back for business. Rev. Fondren read Psa., 24th Chapter. Prayer by Bro. Woods.

Committees appointed as follows:

Associational Committee—G. C. Starnes, J. F. Parker, Jess Morphis, Emsey White, Charley Ard, Jim Thomas and Lester Doolin.

Denominational Literature—Rev. D. M. Smitherman, Lon Cobb and Willie Morphis.

Temperance Committee—Mrs. Winnie Fugitt, Mrs. Vester Parker and Mrs. J. P. Carter.

Finance Committee—Rube Davis, Top Starner, Jno. Bennett.

Educational Committee—Rev. G. C. Lee, Rev. D. M. Smitherman, C. F. Savell.

Sabbath School Committee—Luther Morris, Roy Cantrell, E. L. Graham.

Obituary Committee—Mrs. Goldie Moutry, Bill Swan and

Mrs. Vester Parker.

Report of the following committees and committees discharged:

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Denominational Literature Report—We, your committee, feel the need of education and ask that our preachers educate themselves to the Bible; that we should pray for wisdom and knowledge, and that we help each other in the study of the Bible, and that each one put in more time reading religious literature; we should abstain from all worldliness and should give each other all the encouragement we can, and consecrate our lives to Christ and His service. We also recommend that we use Free Will Baptist literature in Sabbath Schools. D. M. Smitherman, Lon Cobb, W. H. Morphis, Committee.

Obituary Committee Report—We, your committee, find that our church mourns the departure of Sister Ollie McCord of Springdale, Sister Bettie White of Antioch, Sister Mary Wages of New Life, Sister Etta Ramsey and Bro. Ed Logan and Bro. Ace Smith of Bethlehem, and Deacon Lee Colman of Pleasant Grove, all of whom died in the Faith of our Lord. Peace to their ashes. Goldie Moutry, Vester Parker, Bill Swan, Committee.

Temperance Committee Report—We, your committee, recommend that our daily life and walk should be more temperate; we should be temperate in all things. We do not endorse strong drink of any kind; for he that knoweth to do good and doeth it not, to him it is sin. We should always be ready and willing to help our neighbor and fellow man to bear their burdens. We should let our light so shine that others may see our good works and glorify our Father which is in Heaven. Mrs. Winnie Fugitt, Mrs. Ida Carter, Mrs. Vester Parker, Committee.

Report of Educational Committee—We your committee, believe in an education and urge our people to seek an education—and the way for us to get an education is the study of God's Word in Sabbath School, in home, good literature. We ask our people to subscribe to our Church papers and keep up with the working of our church. Rev. G. C. Lee, D. M. Smitherman, C. F. Savell, Committee.

Associational Committee Report—We, your committee, rec-

commend that this Association meet on Friday morning hereafter instead of Thursday night. We find that some of our ministers have failed to report. We ask them to please report, and that they have thirty days from this date to report final report. G. C. Starner, J. F. Parker, Jess Morphis, Emsey White, Chas. Ard, Jim Thomas and Doolin Lester, Committee.

Sabbath School Report—We, your committee, do heartily endorse the progress made in our Association in the Sabbath School work since last Association. We find all our churches have a live Sabbath School, except Stetson Chapel. We do recommend that all of the churches maintain Sabbath Schools. Luther Morris, Roy Cantrell, E. L. Graham, Committee.

Finance Report—We find this Association weak and in bad shape financially. We recommend that each church come together before calling pastors and have some understanding as to what financial support the church can give the pastor for his services. We recommend that each church have a free will offering each month and keep some in the treasury of the church for expenses. We find that there has been paid into the Association minute funds, \$30.90. J. V. Bennett, Top Starner, J. R. Davis, Committee.

RESOLUTIONS

Whereas, our Moderator, Eld. J. H. Norwood, had the misfortune of being in a car wreck and was very seriously injured, and not able to attend this session of the Association; and further, that he is very sadly missed in the council and advice; and whereas, his service in the past as our Moderator, and leader in our churches, and this body has been highly regarded, his loyalty and faithfulness to the sacred cause of God and the Free Will Baptist, given in true christian sacrificial style. We therefore, in open session, extend to him—the Rev. J. H. Norwood—our deepest heartfelt sympathy in his hour of misfortune, and pray that the Good Lord may continue to bless him and bring him to his health again; and may he yet be able to be with us often and render more faithfulness in carrying on of God's cause.

The next session of this Association was voted to Stetson Chapel, and will meet on Friday morning at 8 o'clock, before the second Sunday in September, 1932, 6 miles North of Sarpeta, Miss. Rev. Geo. C. Lee will preach the Introductory.

We extend to the good people of Gauley and vicinity our thanks for their hospitality shown us while convened with you, and pray the Lord to bless you all.

REPORT OF MINISTERS

I have preached 8 sermons; worked in Sabbath Schools and prayer meetings; married 4 couples; helped in one meeting, had a good meeting, had 19 to baptize, I baptised 5. I am delighted in my Master's work. My address is Pontotoc, Miss., R. 2.

H. B. ROGERS.

I have preached 81 times; had 17 conversions; received into church, 17; baptised 8; married 7 couples; conducted 6 funerals; received \$152.90; paid out \$53.50; above expense \$99.40; I have traveled 3,241 miles. My address is Calhoun City, Miss.

GEO. C. LEE.

I have preached 12 times; have traveled 134 miles; received some little expense; I have helped in one meeting, there were 6 professions, 6 additions to church. We pray God's blessings on this Association. Address, Toccopola, Miss.

D. M. SMITHERMAN.

I have preached 50 times this year; traveled 580 miles; received 14 into church; baptized 8; married 2 couples; preached one funeral; helped to ordain 3 Deacons. My address, Toccopola, Miss.

W. H. FONDREN.

To the Water Valley Association, Greetings:

I have preached only 4 times since our last Association; preached one funeral. But we are praying that God will provide a way that we may be more active in the future. We desire correspondence through the Association at large. Pray for us. Our address, Toccopola, Miss.

W. H. HOLMAN.

To the Water Valley Association, at Gauley:

Dear Brethren:—I would liked to have been with you in this session, but am not able. I will make you my report. I have preached 9 sermons; one funeral; had 4 conversions; traveled 268 miles. May God bless you all is my prayer. Address, Toccopola.

J. H. NORWOOD.

Rev. George C. Lee, Rev. W. H. Fodren and Rev. D. M. Smitherman, as a council, ordained J. R. Cantrell to Deaconship of Gauley Church.

CHURCH LETTERS

We, the Church of God, denominated Free Will Baptist, worshipping at Springdale, to the Water Valley Association: We send as delegates to represent us in your body, Freddie Potts, Lonnie Cobb, and G. C. Starnes; Alternate, Bro. Will Woods. Our Deacons are M. C. Bowles, Lester Dulin, T. F. McCord and Jodie Walker; Top Starner, Treasurer; C. B. Coleman, Clerk; our pastor, Rev. W. H. Fondren. Time of meeting, first Sunday each month. We have a good prayer meeting and good Sunday School; we have lost one member, Sister Ollie McCord; received into church 8 resident members, 43 non-resident; we send \$4.30 for minute funds. Our address is Denmark, Miss.

We, the Church of God, denominated Free Will Baptist, worshipping at New Life, to the Water Valley Free Will Baptist Association: We send as Delegates, W. J. Corder, W. H. Morphis and Wood Tutor; Alternates, Otis Saxton and Sister Daisy Handcock. Our Deacons are T. L. Handcock, J. H. Morphis and J. M. Corder; Clerk and Treasurer, W. S. Corder; our pastor, Rev. W. H. Fondren. We have lost one of our members, Sister Mary Wages—she died in the Faith. We send \$2.50 for minute funds. Our time of meeting is the fourth Sunday in each month. Address, Pontotoc, Miss., R. F. D. 4

J. H. ROBERTS, C. C.

We, the Church of God, denominated Free Will Baptist, worshipping at Gauley, to the Water Valley Free Will Baptist Association: We send as Delegates, Sisters Winnie Fugitt, Goldie Moutry and Vester Parker. Our Clerk is J. F. Parker; Pastor, Rev. Geo. C. Lee; Deacons, H. S. Parker, Ernest Keenum and Roy Cantrell; and we ask the Association to ordain Bro. R. C. Cantrell as Deacon. We have one ordained preacher, G. C. Lee; added, since last year, 9 by experience, reclaimed 1; we send as minute funds, \$4.50. Our meeting day, fourth Sunday each month. Received into church by statement, two. Address, Calhoun City.

Stetson Chapel Letter—We send as Delegates, D. H. Ferguson, Annie Ferguson and B. C. Inman; Rev. J. M. Haas is our

Pastor; M. G. Akers, Clerk; J. C. Swain, Treasurer; L. M. May and B. O. Tallant, our Deacons. We have 5 additions to church this year by experience. State of religion, good. Our meeting day, third Sunday each month. We have 65 members. We send \$2.50 for minute funds. Address, Toccopola, Miss., R.F.D.

We, the Church of God, known as Free Will Baptist, worshipping at Pleasant Grove, to the Water Valley Free Will Baptist Association, Greeting: We send as Delegates, John Bennett, S. P. Carter and wife; Alternates, Stello Thomas and Irvin Long. Our membership 57, resident 30, non-resident 27; our Deacons are Joe McCoy, Jim Thomas and E. E. Stonaker; Clerk, Jim Thomas; Treasurer, Stello Thomas; Pastor, Rev. Geo. C. Lee; time of meeting, second Sunday; we have a good Sunday School; we send \$3.00 for minutes; our church has lost one of its members, and Deacon, Bro. Lee Colman. Our address is Thaxton, Miss.

We, the Church of God, denominated Free Will Baptist, worshipping at Bethlehem Church, to the Water Valley Free Will Baptist Association: We send to represent us in your body, Bro. Bill Swan, Ernest Graham and Monroe Ramsey; Alternates, Luther Smitherman, Rube and Ross Self; our Deacons, B. E. Sugg, Arthur Graham, Charley Ard, Bill Stubblefield; Clerk, C. J. Ard; Treasurer, Rosie Tallant; our Pastor, Rev. J. M. Haas; we send \$7.20 for minutes; we have 124 members; we have had conference 10 times this year; we have prayer meeting; two ordained preachers, Rev. H. B. Rogers and G. W. Kennedy; our meeting day, third Sunday; we have a good Sabbath School; spiritual interest good; we have had 3 deaths, Bro. Ed Logan, Sister Etta Ramsey and Bro. Ace Smith; they died in the Faith, trusting in God; we have added, this year, 30 members; baptized 19. Our address is Pontotoc, Miss., R.F.D. 2.

We, the Church of God, known as Free Will Baptist, worshipping at Antioch, we send Greetings to Water Valley Association: We send Bud Tutor, J. R. Davis and P. P. Sledge as Delegates; Alternates, Dock Henderson and John White; our Deacons are, J. P. Hamilton, Luther Morris and W. F. Bevills; our Clerk is W. F. Bevills; Treasurer, J. E. White; our Pastor for next year, Rev. W. H. Fondren; we have 4 ordained preachers, Revs. W. H. Holman, J. H. Norwood, W. H. Fondren and D. M. Smitherman; our membership 65, with 17 additions; we have a good Sabbath School; we send \$6.50 for minutes; our meeting day, the second Sunday. Our address, Toccopola, Miss., R.F.D. 2.

CHURCH COVENANT

1st. We believe that the union of Christians in a visible church is sanctioned by the teachings of Christ and the practice of His apostles, and that it is adapted to promote piety and increase Christian influences. We do now heartily enter into covenant before God and with each other.

2nd. We will constantly strive to maintain true piety in our own hearts, keep ourselves in vital communion with God and commend religion to others, not only in words, but by means of a devout spirit and a holy example, always careful of each other's reputation and usefulness.

3rd. We will watch over each other in the spirit of true charity, seeking to bear each other's burdens, assist the needy, strengthen the weak, encourage the despondent, sympathize with the sorrowful, reprove the erring, win back the straying to duty, maintain wholesome discipline and receive Christian admonition in meekness, keep the unity of the spirit in the bonds of peace and cheerfully submit to such regulations as the majority may approve. We will contribute according to our ability for pastoral support, maintain secret and family prayer; and aid by our presence and otherwise, in sustaining public and social worship.

4th. We will give an active and consistent support to the great cause that aims to promote religion. We will refuse all sanctions to those wordly amusements which tend to lessen true piety in ourselves or weaken Christian influence over others, so that religion be not reproached on our account. May He who has promised His help enable us to keep this covenant, and grant us grace to be faithful in all things until He shall gather us to Himself and crown us with final victory. Amen.

GOVERNMENT OF CHURCHES

The local church is an independent body so far as it relates to its own government, the transaction of its own business, the choice of its officers and the discipline of its members.

Persons who give evidence of piety are received to membership by a vote of the church. If objections are made they should be stated to the church; if the objections are judged to be valid, the candidate should not be received to fellowship. The right hand of fellowship is given to all persons received by the church.

Persons expelled from sister churches for any cause, or from any church for immorality, should not be received until first giv-

special acts of Grace, not otherwise provided for, as the highest welfare of man requires.

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 WORK OF CHRIST**—The Son of God, by His incarnation, life, sufferings, death and resurrection, effected for 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 repentance, or sincere sorrow, for sin and hearty renunciation of it. Faith, or the unreserved committal of one's self to Christ as Savior and Lord with purpose and love to obey Him in all things. In the exercise of saving faith the soul is renewed by the Holy Spirit, freed from the dominion of sin, and becomes a child of God, continuing 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 men become His elect.

10. **FREEDOM OF THE WILL**—The human will is free and self-controlled, having power to yield to the influence of the truth and the spirit and live, or to resist them and perish.

11. **SALVATION FREE**—God desires the salvation of all; the Gospel invite all; the Holy Spirit strives with all, and whosoever will, may, "come and take the water of life freely."

12. **GOSPEL ORDINANCE**—Baptism or the immersion of believers in water, and night communion and feet washing are ordinances to be perpetuated under the Gospel of universal obligation, and are to be administered to all true believers.

13. **PERSERVERANCE** — All believers in Christ, who through grace, persevere in holiness to the end of life, have promise of salvation.

14. **THE CHRISTIAN SABBATH**—The divine law requires that one day in seven be set apart from secular employment and amusements, for rest, worship, holy works and activities and for personal communion with God.

15. **RESURRECTION 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; then the wicked will "go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous unto eternal life."

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

AGRICULTURAL ADJUSTMENT ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, D.C.

1933 COTTON ADJUSTMENT PROGRAM

APPLICATION FOR AND PERMIT TO TAKE LAND OUT OF COTTON PRODUCTION

[STAMP HERE]

65-041

398

Miss.

John L. Starnes, Jr.

(Producer's name)

Guthrie, Miss. 2

(Producer's address)

(Before delivering this sheet to a producer the County Agent must stamp thereon in the space above, with the rubber stamp provided for that purpose, the State and county identification code number and the name of the State and the county; and must enter the name and address of the producer and his serial number. Such serial number must be that which has heretofore been used in connection with this producer's offer.)

To the County Agent of the above-named county:

I, a producer of cotton, have heretofore executed an offer to the Secretary of Agriculture wherein and whereby I offer to take out of cotton production, for the year 1933, _____ acres of land now planted to cotton and, if my offer is accepted and thereby becomes a contract between me and the Secretary of Agriculture, to conform to all conditions set forth in that offer and also to all rules and regulations and instructions theretofore or thereafter promulgated by the Secretary of Agriculture or his duly authorized agents.

In that offer, I attempted to describe a specific acreage which has been inspected and approved by _____, a person duly authorized by the County Agent to make such inspection and approval.

I now represent that an emergency exists which makes it necessary that I proceed immediately to take such acreage out of cotton production to the end that said land may at once be available for the planting of soil-improvement or erosion-preventing crops or food or feed crops for home use.

I now make application for permission (prior to the acceptance of my offer) to take such offered acreage out of cotton production by completely destroying in the manner prescribed by the County Agent, all the crop of cotton now growing thereon, this to be done in strict conformity with the provisions of my offer and with such applicable rules, regulations, and instructions as may have been or may hereafter be promulgated by the Secretary of Agriculture, and upon the terms and conditions of a permit to be executed and issued by the County Agent on a form prescribed by the Secretary of Agriculture. In order to obtain this permit in advance of receipt of a formal notice of the acceptance by the Secretary of Agriculture of my offer, I agree as follows:

I agree that the estimated per acre yield of lint cotton stated in my offer may be reduced by the County Agent and the County Committee, such reduction, if any, to be set forth in the permit which may be issued to me pursuant hereto, and that no crop shall be destroyed, pursuant to said permit, except in accordance with such permit.

All irregularities, imperfections, omissions, and inaccuracies which may appear in my offer may be corrected by the Secretary of Agriculture in his notice of acceptance, and, whether so corrected or not, I agree that such offer was intended to be executed in conformity with the applicable rules, regulations, and instructions, and that my offer may be amended or corrected so as to make it so conform. If the Secretary of Agriculture determines that there are any such irregularities, imperfections, omissions, or inaccuracies in my offer, such determination by him and his corrections thereof and his determination of the amount of compensation due (in consideration of my destroying such cotton, pursuant to said permit and my offer, and complying with such conditions, rules, regulations, and instructions) shall be final and conclusive and binding upon me.

Checks drawn to cover the cash benefit payment which may be determined thus to be due may be drawn payable jointly to the order of all persons who have an interest in said crop of cotton unless it shall clearly appear either from my offer or from data hereafter to be supplied by me that any such person or persons shall have waived such right.

I represent that no person or persons are interested in said crop of cotton save those who are designated in my offer.

I represent that I have not harvested during the 1933 cotton season from the acreage to be taken out of production any cotton whatsoever, and agree that I will so destroy the cotton now growing on said acreage as to prevent the harvesting or sale of any such cotton whatsoever.

I agree that I shall be entitled to no compensation until I have furnished satisfactory proof of the performance of the obligations to which I agreed in my offer as modified in accordance with the terms of the formal acceptance thereof and of such permit. Such proof of performance is to be made upon a form entitled "Performance and Certification", prepared by the Secretary of Agriculture. At the time I execute and deliver to the agent of the Secretary of Agriculture my proof of performance, I will supply the written consent of all lien holders and all others interested in said crop, if such consent has not already been given.

This application is executed in triplicate, one original for the producer, one for the files of the County Agent, and one for the files of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration.

Dated this _____ day of _____, 1933.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Y. Stenbridge
Producer.

I, G. H. Bickorstaff, local committeeman, certify that I have read the foregoing application and approve same and recommend that the permission therein asked be granted.

Dated this 31 day of July, 1933.

G. H. Bickorstaff
Member of Local Committee.

PERMIT

I, the undersigned, County Agent of the State and county aforesaid, have considered the foregoing application of John D. Stenbridge

_____ I have examined and checked the offer of this producer, and have, when it appeared necessary, corrected same to conform to applicable rules, regulations, and instructions. I have checked the estimate of yield and I, and the County Committee, have approved the offer except as noted below. I recognize the emergency necessitating immediate action and now, under special authority conferred, hereby grant the permission asked subject to the terms and conditions of the application and also subject to the following requirements:

(a) Where the acreage to be taken out of production is five or more acres, no fractional acres will be considered or paid for.

(b) The yield for this producer is determined to be One Hundred pounds lint cotton per acre.*

(c) The producer shall furnish proof of performance of his obligations (under his application and contract and such rules, regulations, instructions, and the Secretary's formal acceptance) upon the forms prescribed by the Secretary of Agriculture and shall be entitled to no compensation until this is done.

This permit is executed in triplicate, one original for the producer, one for the files of the County Agent, and one for the files of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration.

Dated this 29 day of July, 1933.

W. C. Inger
County Agent.

* This may be less than the yield named in the producer's offer, if the County Agent, with the approval of the County Committee, determines this to be necessary, and in no event can it be higher than the yield already accepted by the County Agent.