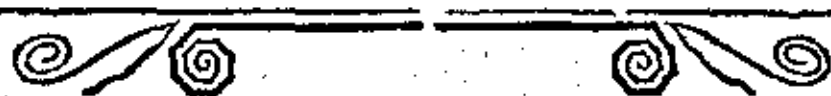


MINUTES  
OF THE  
Thirty-fifth Annual Session  
OF THE  
WATER VALLEY FREE WILL  
BAPTIST ASSOCIATION



CONVENED WITH  
ANTIOCH CHURCH

On Friday and Saturday  
The 8th and 9th of September, 1933.



NEXT SESSION  
Will Convene With Bethlehem Church  
Eight Miles Northwest of Pontotoc  
on Friday and Saturday Before  
the Second Sunday in  
September, 1934  
Rev. Geo. C. Lee Will Preach the  
Introductory Sermon

## MINUTES

### FIRST-DAY—MORNING SESSION

This the Thirty-fifth Annual Session of the Water Valley Free Will Baptist Association of Mississippi, met with Antioch church two miles south of Toccopola on Friday morning the 8th day of September, 1933, and continued thru Saturday the 9th day of September.

The opening lesson was read by Rev. W. H. Fondren, John 14th chapter, and prayer was offered by Rev. Geo. C. Lee.

The Moderator, Elder J. H. Norwood, took the floor and made a talk for the good of the Association.

Church letters were called for, and the following churches were represented by delegates: Antioch, Gauley, New Life, Springdale, Bethlehem, Stetson Chapel and Pleasant Grove.

The letters were read and delegates seated. Hand of fellowship was given in love.

The Association went into the election of officers, the following being elected: Elder J. H. Norwood M. D. Geo. C. Lee, Clerk, and W. F. Bevill, Treasurer.

The Moderator appointed the committees as follows:

#### Associational Committee

Jess Morphis, Chas Ard, Jim Thomas, Top Starnes, Martin May, E. H. Keenum, and J. P. Hamilton.

#### Preaching Committee

J. R. Davis, Lonnie Cobb and E. E. Stanaker

#### Obituary Committee

Emsey White, Homer Bevell, M. G. Akers and Ed Roberts

#### Sunday School Committee

Millie Tutor, Lottie Starnes and Sallie May

#### Education

Rev. D. M. Smitherman, C. F. Sewell, H. B. Rogers and E. A. Lewis.

### Finance

Ada Saxon, Perry Sledge, B. E. Suggs, and Dock Starnes  
Denominational Literature

Rev. Geo. C. Lee, Rev. W. H. Fondren. and Rev. W. H. Holman.

### Temperance

Effie May, Ozzie Montgomery, Johnie Tyler and Ed Morpnis.

Adjourned for dinner.

Preaching by Elder J. H. Norwood.

### FIRST-DAY—EVENING SESSION

Reading by Rev. W. H. Holman, Matthew 20th chapter, and prayer.

Moved and seconded to seat Rev. J. M. Hoar from Vernon Association as corresponding messenger. Hand of fellowship given him.

### Committee Reports

Preaching— We ask that Rev. J M Hoar preach Friday evening at 8 o'clock and that Rev. Geo. C. Lee preach Saturday at 11 o'clock and Rev. W. H. Fondren Saturday eve at 8 o'clock.

E.E. Stanaker, L. F. Cobb J.R. Davis

### Temperance:

We your committee, recommend that we be temperate in all things. We do not endorse strong drink of any kind. We should always be ready and willing to help our friend and neighbor in time of need.

Effie May, Ozzie Montgomery, Johnie Tyler

### Education:

We your committee, beg to report that we believe in education. We feel that often our cause is crippled by our people attempting to defend the cause without a knowledge of it.

### Principles and Doctrine:

Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ to Timothy. We believe we should study the scripture to show ourselves ap-

proved unto God; rightly dividing the word as Paul has said, with all good literature as the Bible and religious literature such as the Free Will Baptist put out, that we might educate our children in our literature "He that lacketh wisdom let him ask of God, who giveth liberally"

D. M. Smither man, E. A. Lewis, H. B. Rogers, C. F. Sewell.

#### Sabbath School:

We your committee find three Sabbath Schools, in our Churches- Bethlehem, Springdale and Antioch. Gauley, New Life, Pleasant Grove and Stetson Chapel have no school. We recommend each Church send a Sabbath School delegate to the Association.

Millie Tutor, Sallie May, Lottie Starnes—Committee.

#### OBITUARY

We, your committee, beg to report as follows: It is fit that we stop amid the turmoil of life and give thought to our dead, for the living know that they must die. We sorrow, but not as those who have no hope.

Whereas it has pleased the Lord to take from our midst our beloved Brothers G. W. Garrett, J. H. Gilmer of Antioch church, and Brother Joe McCoy of Pleasant Grove church. They will be sadly missed by those who knew them, Therefore, Be it Resolved that we humbly bow in submission to Him who doeth all things well and for His glory.

But like the fragrance of the rose that remains after the flower is gone, so shall the memory of these loved ones continue on and on. We know that the Lord doeth all things well and that our loss is Heaven's gain.

Emzie White, M. G. Akers, Homer Bevill,

Committee.

#### Finance

We, your committee, report as follows: We find in the hands of the Treasurer at Antioch \$5.00 for minutes, in the hands of Stetson Chapel \$3.00, New Life \$3.30, Gauley \$3.80, Bethlehem \$3.10, Springdale \$3.75, Pleasant

Grove \$1.50. We ask that each church see to the support of their minister better in future.

B. E. Suggs, J. D. Starnes P. P. Sledge,  
Committee.

### Denominational Literature

We, your committee, make our report. We find that many of our people do not read our church papers and the religious literature indorsed by our denomination as they should. We urge the need and importance of correcting this error by taking advantage of our opportunities and post ourselves well for the future fight in the cause of our church and the Lord's work.

Rev. Geo. C. Lee, Rev. W. H. Fondren, Rev.  
W. H. Holman, Committee.

### Resolutions

Resolve that this Association requests each church of this Association to make a special report as to each of their ministers of the Gospel as to their work, attendance of its meetings, its ordinances and general work of the ministry, as to report of their work and conduct. This report to be made each year.

### Associational Committee

We recommend that each church represent from their Sunday School to this Association by delegate. We also recommend that Brother Lewis remain as Layman in the church for the next year. We heartily indorse our Articles of Faith.

J. H. Morphis, Top Starnes, C. J. Ard, L. M. May,  
J. P. Hamilton, Jim Thomas, E. H. Keenum,  
Committee.

Delegates were assigned homes, and adjournment was taken 'till Saturday morning at 8:30 o'clock.

Rev. J. M. Hoar preached at 8 o'clock, P M, on the Lord's Supper and Feet Washing, after which there were some forty or more took the Lord's Supper and washed feet, amid much rejoicing.



## SECOND-DAY MORNING—SESSION

Reading by Rev. Lewis from 8th chapter of Romans  
Prayer by Rev. Hoar.

The next session of the Association was voted to Bethlehem church, 8 miles northwest of Pontotoc, on Friday before the Second Sunday in September, 1934.

Rev. Geo. C. Lee, by vote of the body, will preach the Introductory Sermon at next Association.

### Preachers' Reports

C F Sewell- Traveled about 400 miles. Preached 37 sermons, Protracted two meetings; re-organized 2 churches 29 added to the churches.

D M Smitherman- I have preached 40 times, have traveled 657 miles, received \$17.42 as expenses; have held one meeting; had 4 conversions; 3 additions to church; Baptised 2; helped in 2 meetings, 15 conversions, 16 added to church; married 2 couples; conducted one funeral; My address is Toccopola, Miss.

Rev. W H Fondren- I have preached 23 sermons; Received 14 into the church; Baptised 14; married 2 couples preached 6 funerals; traveled 125 miles. My address is Denmark, Miss.

J H Norwood- I have preached 6 times; married one couple; traveled about 40 miles. My health has been so bad for the past year, I have not done much preaching. May God bless this Association is my prayer. My address is Toccopola, Miss.

H B Rogers- I have preached 5 sermons; married 3 couples; helped in 2 meetings; have worked all the year in Sunday School; have held one funeral, assisted in one other. My work has been a pleasure to me. May God bless this body. My address is Pontotoc, 2, Miss.

W H Holman- To the Water Valley Association: I only preached seven sermons; married two couples. My address is Toccopola, Miss.

Geo. C. Lee- I have preached 52 sermons; Traveled

1532 miles; had good revivals at each place where I have assisted; Baptised 8; had several converts and many reclaimed; married 5 couples; held 4 funerals. My address is Calhoun City, Miss.

The Association ordained Bro. Bud Tutor and Rufus Davis to Deaconship of Antioch Church, by following Council, Elds. J.H. Norwood, J.M. Hoar, W. H. Fondren, D. M. Smitherman, H. B. Rogers and Geo. C. Lee.

Adjourned for preaching by Rev. Geo. C. Lee. Subject — "Blessed Are the Meek for They Shall Inherit the Earth" After preaching dinner was spread

#### SECOND DAY—EVENING SESSION

Reading by Rev. H. B. Rogers from Psa. 23 ch. Prayer by Rev. Haas.

Final reports of associational committee and some minor correction in the articles of the Faith. The Clerk was empowered to write essay to Antioch Church and Community.

A Move was made and sustained to give Eld. Norwood the hand of Love and Condolence for his faithfulness to the Water Valley Free Will Baptist Association and the cause of Christ

Resolved that we extend to Antioch Church and Community our sincere thanks and the gratitude of our hearts for their kindness and hospitality to us while here in their midst. May God ever bless you all.

Thus closed another very loving session of the Water Valley Free Will Baptist Association. The Association was closed by singing "God Be With You 'Till We Meet Again" after Rev W. H. Fondren had preached for us at 3 o'clock.

Rev. J.H. Norwood, M.D., Rev. Geo. C. Lee, Clerk

Church Letters:

#### SPRINGDALE

We the Church of God, Denominated Free Will Baptist worshipping at Springdale to the Association meeting.

We send as Delegates to represent us in your body, Lonnie Cobb, Sister Ina Dulin and Sister Lottie Starnes. Alternates: Homer Bevil and Dock Starnes. Our Deacons are

Lester Dulin, T.F. McCord, Jodie Walker, M.C. Boles

Top Starnes, Tres., T.F. McCord, Clerk

We have a good Sabbath School and Prayer Meeting. We have lost three members by Letter. Received into Church 15 We send \$3.60 as Minute funds.

Clerk, C.B. Coleman, Denmark, Miss.

#### GAULEY

To the Water Valley Free Will Baptist Association, Greetings. We send as Delegates to represent us in your body Lloyd Berry, Lora Pearl Lee and Johnie Tyler. We have revised our Church Roll. Our membership on the New Roll is 24 female and 14 male members. We have several more names on the old Roll yet to be transferred to the New Book or Roll. We had a good Revival. Our Deacons are H.S. Parker, W.A. Calder, Ray Cantrell, E. H. Keenum. Our Pastor, Rev. Geo. C. Lee; clerk, Johnie Calder; old clerk, J.F. Parker

We have had communion and feet washing. We send \$3.80 for Minutes. Our time of meeting second Sunday each month. We have had several reclaimed, one excluded. Spiritual interest good. We have one ordained minister, Rev. Geo. C. Lee, Calhoun City.

#### NFW LIFE

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 Hubert Roberts, Lonnie Morphis, Ed Roberts, alteruates, Otis Saxson, Willie Morphis. Our deacons are T. L. Handcock, Jess Morphis. Our Clerk is Sister Edna Handcock. Our Treasurer is J. H. Morphis. Our pastor is Rev. R. V. Guyton; time of meeting Fourth Sunday each month. Received into church by experience 6. Lettered out one We send \$3.30 for minutes.

#### ANTIOCH

We welcome the Water Valley Association to convene with us at Antioch.

Our delegates to represent us in this meeting are Brothers J. R. Davis, Emzie White, Sister Millie Tutor, al-



ternate P. P. Sledge and Cora Smitherman.

Rev. R. V. Guyton is our pastor. W. F. Bevill is our Clerk; Quay Tutor, Treasurer. Our Deacons are J. P. Hamilton, W. F. Bevill. The church asks that Bro. Bud Tutor and Bro. Rufus Davis be ordained as deacons of Antioch church at this session of the Association. We have had ten additions to our church this year, excluded one; two died-Brothers G. W. Garrett and G. H. Gilmer. They died in the hope of a Living Faith.

State of religion, good. We have 3 ordained preachers Revs. D M Smitherman, J H Norwood and W H Holman. Licensed- C F Sewell. Our membership is 70. We have had regular Conference, average at each conference 38 members. We have a Sunday School. Have a weekly League. We send \$5.00 minute and clerk fee.

Our address is Toccopola, Miss.

#### Stetsou Chapel

We the church of God, denominated Free Will Baptist worshipping at Stetson Chapel, to the Water Valley Free Will Baptist Association, Greeting: We send as delegates to represent us in your body: John Bramlitt, Ludie Bramlitt, Sallie May; alternates: Henry May and Boyd Talant.

Our Deacons are B O Tallant, L M May, D H Ferguson, J W Inmon, Wayne Bland; Treasurer J C Swaim Pastor Rev. D M Smitherman; time of meeting Second Sunday in each month. We have 65 members: 3 additions this year; lost one member to Baptist. We send \$3.00 for minutes. Our Clerk is M G Akers, Toccopola.

#### Pleasant Grove

We the church of God, denominated Free Will Baptist, worshipping at Pleasant Grove, to the Water Valley Free Will Baptist Association: We send as delegates Erwin Long and wife, W L Warren, alternates Stella Thomas and Estell Cox. Our deacons are Jim Thomas and E E Stanaker; Clerk, John Bennett.

We have lost one member, Brother Joe McCoy, who died in the faith. Our time of meeting is the third Sunday in each month. We send \$1.50 for minutes. Our address is Thaxton. Miss.

#### Bethlehem

We the church of God, denominated Free Will Baptist, worshipping at Bethlehem, to the Water Valley Free Will Baptist Association, Greetings: We send as delegates to represent us in your body A A Montgomery, Effie May, Ozzie Montgomery, alternates Abb Graham, Dora Suggs Ella Forman. Our deacons are B E Suggs, A W Graham, S W Tucker, Bill Stubblefield, and C J Ard. Our Treasurer Rosie Tallant. Clerk, C J Ard, pastor, R V Guyton. Time of meeting-third Sunday each month. We have a prayer meeting and Sunday School. We had communion and feet washing one time since last Association. We have one ordained minister-Rev. H. B. Rogers. Added to church 4, 2 by letter and 2 by experience. We send as minute funds \$3.00. Our former pastor was Rev. J M Hoar. Our address is Springville. Miss.

#### CONSTITUTION OF THE WATER VALLEY FREE-WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

1. This Association shall be known as the Water Valley Free-Will Baptist Association of Mississippi, and shall be composed of delegates from different churches forming the same, each church being entitled to three delegates and their ministers, clerks, deacons and treasurer.

2. Each church in this Association shall be an advisory body and shall control its own internal affairs.

3. This body shall be an advisory council but having no authority over the churches.

4. The officers of this Association shall be a Moderator Clerk and Treasurer, who shall be chosen at each session by a majority of votes.

5. This Association shall meet annually on Friday at 8 o'clock, A M, before the second Sunday in September of

each year, and hold together until Saturday night and have communion and feet washing on Friday night of each session.

6. Churches wishing to become members of this Association must adopt the articles of faith and this constitution, and conform to its usage.

7. We agree, as churches of this Free-Will Baptist Association, to use our best influence to promote the cause of Christ.

8. The minutes of this Association shall be the order of the business.

9. The Moderator of this Association at each annual session shall read the articles of faith in the minutes to the Association when convened.

10. The treasurer of this Association is to collect from the delegates of each church at the annual session and report to this body the first day of its meeting, ten cents per capita membership fee for each church.

11. Each member of this Association, at each session must remain until the Association adjourns.

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## ARTICLES OF FAITH OF THE WATER VALLEY FREE-WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

1. **THE BIBLE**—The Scripture of the Old and New Testaments were given by the inspiration of God, and the Scripture of the New Testament is our infallible rule of faith and practice.

2. **GOD**—There is one true and living God, revealed in nature as the Creator, Preserver and Righteous Governor of the universe, and in the Scriptures as the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and 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 ever present Saviour and Lord.

4. **THE HOLY SPIRIT**—The Scriptures assign to the Holy Spirit all the attributes of God. He is the Re-prover, Comforter, Guide and Sanctifier of men.

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 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 Saviour 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 invites all; the Holy Spirit strives with all, and whosoever will, may "come and take the water of life freely."

12. **DIVINE 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. PERSEVERANCE—All believers in Christ, who through grace, persevere in holiness to the end of life, have promise of a Crown of Life.

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, and they that have done ill, unto the resurrection of judgment; then the wicked will "will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous unto eternal life."