

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

CONVENED WITH
BETHLEHEM CHURCH
Friday and Saturday, Sept. 7-8, 1934

Next Session

Will Convene With Springdale Church, 4 Miles West of
Toccopola, Miss., on Friday and Saturday Before
the Second Sunday in September, 1935.

Rev. Geo. C. Lee Will Preach the Introductory Sermon.

MINUTES

FIRST DAY—MORNING SESSION

This, the Thirty-sixth Annual Session of the Water Valley Free Will Baptist Association, of Mississippi, met with Bethlehem Church, on Friday and Saturday, the 7th and 8th days of September, 1934.

The opening lesson was read from the 8th chapter of Romans, by Eld. J. H. Norwood, and prayer, by Eld. H. B. Rogers. The Moderator called for letters from the churches, and the following were handed in and the Clerk read them: Bethlehem, Antioch, Stetson Chapel, Springdale, New Life, Pleasant Grove and Gauley.

After reading the church letters and seating delegations, the following officers were elected for this year: Eld. W. H. Fondren, Moderator; Rev. Geo. C. Lee, Clerk; W. F. Bevills, Treasurer; Eld. J. H. Norwood, Assistant Moderator.

The Association met in the altar and had the hand of fellowship, after seating Rev. J. M. Haas from the Vernon Association, Rev. R. V. Guyton from the Pregressive Association, of Alabama, and Rev. Morgan from the Pontotoc Baptist Association.

The Moderator appointed the following committees:

Associational—Bro. Doolin, L. M. Morris, Jim Corder, E. H. Keenum, Coot Daniels, Charley Ard, and Jim Thomas.

Obituary—Millie Tutor, Sister Thomas, Earine Flanagan.

Sabbath School—Rev. D. M. Smitherman, Moody Nelson, Rev. H. B. Rogers.

Educational—Rev. J. H. Norwood, Rev. E. M. Lewis, Rev. G. W. Kennedy.

Finance—W. F. Bevills, Homer Bevills, Henry Graham.

Denominational Literature—Jodie Walker, Wilburn Warran, M. G. Akers.

Temperance—Rev. J. M. Haas, Rev. R. V. Guyton, Rev. G. C. Lee.

Preaching—Emsey White, Rice Hill, Chester Swain.

Adjourned for noon and preaching by Rev. J. M. Haas; subject: "What Is the Need of the Church."

FIRST DAY—AFTERNOON SESSION

Met by singing. Rev. H. B. Rogers read from 5th chapter of Romans. Prayer by Rev. J. H. Norwood.

The following reports were read and adopted:

We, your committee, report as follows: It is wise to stop amid the toils of life and think of our dead. For we all know that life is uncertain and death is sure. We feel that the Lord has greatly blessed us during the past year—finding two of our churches have lost members. It pleased our Lord to take Bro. Will Woods and Sister Dove

Reid, of Springdale Church, and Sister Estelle Cantrell, of Gauley. We realize that they will be sadly missed by those who knew them—but our loss is Heaven's gain. They died in the Faith of the Lord.

Milie Tutor, Earline Flanagan, Annie Mae Thomas, Committee.

We, your committee, find only two Sunday Schools in our Association—Antioch and New Life. We endorse Sunday Schools and urge our people to be more interested in Sabbath School work, and educate the children to the Bible and bring up the child in the way they should go—and when old they would not depart from it.

D. M. Smitherman, Moody Nelson, H. B. Rogers,
and Nola Sledge, Committee.

We, your Educational Committee, make the following report: We believe the greatest education a minister can obtain is by the study of the Scripture—God's Word—as is taught in the New Testament Scriptures, and that it's one of the greatest qualifications for preparation to preach, and urge our lay-membership to read the Bible and take Free Will Baptist papers, and qualify themselves to know God's will so they may do His will.

J. H. Norwood, G. W. Kennedy, E. A. Lewis, Committee.

We, your committee, make our report: We find many of our people do not read our church papers and the religious literature endorsed by our denomination as they should. We also feel that we should read the Bible more and follow it's teachings.

M. G. Akers, J. O. Walker, Wilburn Warren, Committee.

We, your Committee on Temperance, beg leave to submit the following report: First, Be ye temperate in all things, and especially strong drinks; that our preachers and laity assist our peace officers in enforcing temperance laws; to abstain from sanction and sale of intoxicating beverages, as we find no drunkard hath eternal life, abiding in Him.

J. M. Haas, R. V. Guyton, G. C. Lee, Committee.

We, your committee, report as follows: That Rev. J. M. Haas preach at the 11 o'clock service, Rev. R. V. Guyton Friday night, and Rev. D. M. Smitherman Saturday at 11 o'clock.

J. E. White, R. W. Hill, J. C. Swain, J. R. Davis, Committee.

ASSOCIATIONAL SECRETARY REPORT

Money received from each church as follows:

Antioch	\$ 5.50
Bethlehem	6.00
Stetson Chapel	3.40
New Life	4.50
Springdale	4.55
Gauley Mount	4.10
Pleasant Grove	2.50

TOTAL.....\$30.55

W. F. BEVILLS, Secretary.

We your Associational Committee, recommend that Brother E. A.

Lewis be ordained as a Minister of the Gospel in this Free Will Baptist Association. We also ask that each Article of Faith have a Bible reference in our next minutes. We agreed to refer the W. H. Holman matter back to Antioch Church. Final report of Committee.

Jim Thomas, C. J. Ard, Jim Corder, M. L. Morris,
E. L. Doolin, C. Daniels, E. H. Keenum, Committee.

PREACHERS' REPORT

I have preached 26 times, travelled 234 miles, received \$23.50, held one meeting, had 3 profession of Faith, 6 additions to church, baptized 1, helped in two meetings, married three couples, conducted four funerals. Address: Toccopola, Miss.

D. M. SMITHERMAN.

I have preached 13 times, married two couples, held three funerals, assisted in one meeting. My address is Denmark, Miss.

W. H. FONDREN.

I have not worked much, on account of my health. I preached four times and was in one meeting. My address is Pontotoc, R. 2.

H. B. ROGERS.

I have preached five sermons, assisted in two meetings, had 21 conversions, 15 additions to the church, traveled 60 miles. My health has been poor and I could do no more. Address: Toccopola, Miss.

J. H. NORWOOD.

I have preached 32 times, helped in three meetings. My address is New Albany, Miss., R. 1.

G. W. KENNEDY.

I have preached 49 times, travelled 2,334 miles, conducted 11 funerals, married 2 couples, had 11 professions of Faith in Christ, received 13 into the church, assisted in several meetings. My address is Calhoun City, Miss.

GEO. C. LEE.

I have preached 21 times, helped in one meeting—Bro. A. J. Lambert did the preaching—the Lord wonderfully blessed with 13 professions; baptized 4, by R. V. Guyton. Address: Denmark, Miss.

E. A. LEWIS.

I am not a member of your body, but as I have had pastoral care of four of your churches this year, I hereby hand you my report. I have preached 125 sermons, established and organized several F.W.B. Leagues, held several meetings, received into fellowship 48, baptized 27, organized one Sabbath School, held five funerals. I am hoping the Lord will use me in a greater way next year. We had Rev. A. J. Lambert, of Cordoro, Ala., in our meeting at Antioch, and Rev. Geo. C. Lee, of Calhoun City, helped us at Bethlehem.

Yours in love,

R. V. GUYTON,

Toccopola, Miss., R. 2.

Association adjourned for preaching at night, by Rev. R. V. Guyton, who preached a very able sermon on Communion and Feet Washing, after which there was a large number took the Lord's Supper and washed feet.

SECOND DAY—MORNING SESSION

The Association met by singing. Prayer by Rev. R. V. Guyton. Rev. W. H. Fondren read 13th chapter Romans. Prayer by Rev. J. M. Haas.

Rev. Geo. C. Lee was given authority to place scriptural reference to each Article of Faith. The Moderator read the Articles of Faith and Constitution of the Association.

The next session of this Association was voted to Springdale Church, on Friday and Saturday before the second Sunday in September, 1934, 4 miles West of Toccopola, Miss. It was voted that Rev. Geo. C. Lee preach introductory sermon.

Rev. Geo. C. Lee and Rev. D. M. Smitherman were appointed as corresponding delegates to the Vernon, Ala., Association, which convenes Saturday before the third Sunday in October, 1934.

The church was given authority to write card of thanks to Bethlehem church and community—and we hereby give unto Bethlehem church and people our heartfelt thanks for the very gracious way they have taken care of this session of the Association, and the many courtesies shown us while in your midst. May the good Lord bless you all.

Adjourned for preaching at 11 o'clock, by Rev. D. M. Smitherman from subject "Satan's Cords."

SECOND DAY—AFTERNOON SESSION

Met by singing. Reading by Rev. Lewis. Prayer by Rev. Guyton.

Rev. E. A. Lewis was ordained to the ministry, by the following counsel: Eld. J. H. Norwood taking the lead, W. H. Fondren, R. V. Guyton, D. M. Smitherman, H. B. Rogers and G. W. Kennedy, by prayer and laying on of hands.

A resolution, to this effect, was introduced near the close of this session of the Association, and was adopted: That we request each member of each church to pay into the church treasury, male member, \$1.00, and female member, 50 cents, to be known as a building fund, for the good of the cause; and that it is to be divided into three parts: two-thirds remain in church treasury, one-third for church expenses, one-third for evangelistic work and one-third be sent to the Association each year for an associational fund to be used at the discretion of the Association as it sees best to use in the promoting of the cause of the F.W.B.

Corresponding Delegates appointed to visit the Progressive Association, at Vernon, Ala., were: Rev. Geo. C. Lee and W. F. Bevills.

CHURCH LETTERS

We, the Church of God, denominated Free Will Baptist, worshipping at Pleasant Grove, to the Water Valley Free Will Baptist Association, greetings: We send as delegates, Irvin Long, W. L. Warren, and Annie Mae Thomas. Our Deacons are Jim Thomas and E. E. Stalnaker. We have called Rev. J. M. Haas as pastor for another year.

We send as minute funds, \$2.50. Our Clerk the past year was J. V. Bennett, and Jim Thomas was elected for another year. Address: Thaxton, Miss.

We, the Church of God, worshiping at Bethlehem, send our greetings to the Water Valley Free Will Baptist Association. We welcome the coming of this session of your deliberations. Our delegates are, A. A. Montgomery, Henry Graham, and Sister Rosie Tallant. Our Deacons are, B. E. Sugg, A. W. Graham, S. W. Tucker, Bill Stubblefield and C. J. Ard. Our Treasurer is Rosie Tallant; Clerk, C. J. Ard; pastor for coming year, Rev. Geo. C. Lee; time of meeting, third Sunday in each month. We have had communion and feet washing. We have two ordained preachers, H. B. Rogers and G. W. Kennedy. Added to church, by letter, 2, by experience, 3. We send as minute funds, \$6.00. Our pastor the past year, R. V. Guyton. Address: Pontotoc, Miss.

We, the Church of God, denominated Free Will Baptist, worshiping at Springdale Church, send as delegates to represent us in your body, Moody Nelson, Homer Bevills and Lonnie Potts; alternates, Lottie Starnes and Esther Pearl Cobb. Rev. R. V. Guyton is our pastor for 1934-35. T. F. McCord is our Clerk; Tap Starnes, Treasurer; M. C. Bowles, T. F. McCord, Lester Doolin and Jodie Walker are our Deacons. We send as minute money, \$4.55. We have lost two of our members by death—Bro. Will Woods and Sister Dove Reid. Received 6 members into church. We have 60 resident members, 30 non-resident members. Our time of meeting is first Sunday in each month. Our address is Denmark, Miss.

We, the Church of God, denominated Free Will Baptist, worshiping at Stetson Chapel, send as delegates to represent us in your body, Coot Daniels, Jno. Bramlett and W. H. Britt. Our Deacons are L. M. May, D. H. Ferguson, J. W. Inmon and Wayne Bland; Treasurer, J. C. Swain; Pastor, Rev. Dave Smitherman; meeting day, second Sunday in each month. We have 70 members—6 additions this year. We send \$3.40 for minutes. Our Clerk is M. G. Akers. Address: Toccopola, Miss.

We, the Church of God, known by name Free Will Baptist, worshiping at Antioch, to the Water Valley Free Will Baptist Association: We send as delegates, J. R. Davis, J. E. White, Sister Mila Tutor and Sister Nola Sledge is our Sabbath School representative. Our Deacons are, J. P. Hamilton, M. L. Morris and W. F. Bevills; Treasurer, Quay Tutor; Clerk, W. F. Bevills; Pastor, Rev. R. V. Guyton. We had 13 additions to the church; excluded 5; state of religion, good. We have two ordained preachers—J. H. Norwood and D. M. Smitherman. Our membership is 74. We have had regular conferences with average attendance of 31. We have a weekly League. Our time of meeting is third Sunday. We send \$5.50 for minute funds. Our address is Toccopola, Miss.

We, the Church of God, denominated Free Will Baptist, worshiping at Gauley, to the Water Valley Association: We send as delegates, Doyle Parker and Estelle Lee. Our Deacons are, J. R. Cantrell, H. S. Parker, W. A. Calder and E. H. Keenum; Pastor, Rev. Geo. C. Lee; Clerk, Jno. Calder; Treasurer, Jno. Calder; time of meeting, 4th Sunday in each month. We have good interest in church; added to

church since last Association, 6; 2 by experience and 2 by statement; 2 reclaimed. We have had communion and feet washing. We send \$4.10 as minute funds. We have lost one of our beloved members—Sister Estelle Cantrell—who died in the Faith. Our address is Calhoun City, Miss.

We, the Church of God, denominated Free Will Baptist, worshipping at New Life, to the Water Valley Free Will Baptist Association: We met in conference at the close of our meeting. We send as delegates, Word Tutor, Oliver Wages and Sister Earline Flanagan. J. H. Roberts is our Clerk and Treasurer; Deacons, T. L. Handcock, J. M. Corder, and Jess Morphis. Our pastor is R. V. Guyton. We send as minute funds, \$4.50. Added to our church this year, 18 members; 4 by letter, 2 reclaimed, 12 by experience. We have a Sabbath School and League. Our time of meeting is fourth Sunday in each month. Address: Pontotoc, Miss., R. 4.

Rev. J. H. Norwood, Rev. D. M. Smitherman and Rev. Geo. C. Lee attended the Vernon, Ala., Association of Free Will Baptist, at Fair View Church, and had an enjoyable visit.

REV. W. H. FONDREN, Moderator.

REV. GEO. C. LEE, Clerk.

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.

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.—I Cor. 1-21; Matt. 28:19-20; Rom. 1-16.

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.—Isa. 40-28; I Cor. 8-6.

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.—Heb. 2-9; I Jno. 3-16; I Tim. 2:5-6.

4. **THE HOLY SPIRIT**—The Scriptures assign to the Holy Spirit all the attributes of God. He is the Reprover, Comforter, Guide and Sanctifier of men.—I Jno. 16:7-8; Acts 2-4; Eph. 2-1; Eph. 4:4-6.

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.—Judge 1-3; I Tim. 2:1-8; I Tim. 4-16; Gal. 1-8.

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.—Gen. 2-17; Gen. 3-19.

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.—Acts 3-19; Matt. 28:19-20; Eph. 2:5-10; Luke 14:16-20.

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.—Luke 13-3; Acts 17-30; Rom. 10-10.

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.—Matt. 28-20; I Cor. 1-21; Matt. 25:31-46.

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.—Tit. 2 ch.; Rev. 2:10-15.

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.”—Cal. 1 ch. 13 to 14; Rev. 22-17.

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.—Acts 8 ch.; 1st Tim. 5-10; Luke 22-49-20; St. John 13 ch.

13. PERSEVERANCE—All believers in Christ, who through grace, persevere in holiness to the end of life, have promise of a Crown of Life.—Rom. 6 ch. 18 to 22; Rom. 5 to 21.

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.—Duet. 5:12-14; Heb. 4-4.

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 go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous unto eternal life.”—St. Jno. 5:28-29; II Cor. 5-10; I Cor. 15:4-53.