

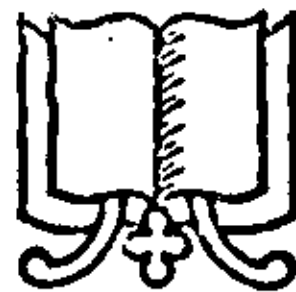
Minutes
of the
Fourth Annual Session
of the
West Coast Association
of
Free Will Baptists



Held With The
BELL GARDENS CHURCH
BELL GARDENS, CALIFORNIA

JUNE 3, 4, 5, 1954

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Fourth Annual Session
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BELL GARDENS, CALIFORNIA
JUNE 3, 4, 5, 1954

OFFICERS

Moderator Rev. Don Bias
11703 E. 216th St., Artesia, Calif., TO 5-2039

Assistant Moderator Rev. Fred Wynn
782 Orange St., Arvin, Calif., SP 4-5909

Clerk Bro. Chester S. Burgess
11755 Garetal St., Norwalk, Calif.

Assistant Clerk Sister Hessie Best

Treasurer Rev. Wiley Gregory
5906 Ludell St., Bell Gardens, Calif., LU 1-3788

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Rev. Marvin Bryant 5 years
11541 Florence, Norwalk, Calif., TO 4-7316

Rev. Don Bias 4 years
11703 E. 216th St., Artesia, Calif., TO 5-2039

Rev. H. E. Dixon 3 years
21818 Devlin St., Artesia, Calif.

Rev. Wiley Gregory 2 years
5906 Ludell, Bell Gardens, Calif., LU 1-3788

Rev. Fred Wynn 1 year
728 Orange St., Arvin, Calif., SP 4-5909

The next annual meeting will be held at 7216 Garfield Avenue, Bell Gardens, California, June 2, 3, 4, 1955.

PROCEEDINGS

Thursday Evening

Singing led by Bro. Troy Seely. Special song by the McGee trio. Devotional service conducted by Bro. Arthur Watkins. Sermon was brought by Rev. Eual Gorman.

Friday Morning

Singing led by Bro. McGee. Scripture Reading by Rev. Fred Wynn, Psalms 21. Prayer led by Rev. Wynn. Welcome by Host Pastor, Rev. Wiley Gregory. Response by Rev. Arthur Billows.

Letters called for and read from the following churches: Bell Gardens, Long Beach, Artesia, Santa Paula, National City, and Arvin. Motion carried to accept the letters as read and seat the delegates. Right hand of fellowship given the delegates.

Petitionary letters read from Oxnard and Huntington Park churches. Motion carried to accept the churches into the West Coast Association. Right hand of fellowship given by the Moderator.

Officers were elected as follows:

Moderator: Rev. Don Bias

Assistant Moderator: Rev. Fred Wynn

Clerk: Bro. Chester S. Burgess

Assistant Clerk: Sister Hessie Best

Treasurer: Rev. Wiley Gregory

Motion carried to retain Bro. J. B. Smith as building fund treasurer. Motion carried, the Moderator and Assistant Moderator appoint all committees.

Committees were appointed as follows:

Pulpit

Rev. Wiley Gregory
Bro. Elijah Wheeler
Bro. Elsie Jones
Bro. Ed. Metcalf
Bro. Andrew Roberts

Resolution

Rev. W. A. Carnett
Rev. Leroy Cupit
Rev. Arthur Billows
Rev. Eual Gorman
Sister Gladys Bush

Finance

Bro. Tom Smith
Bro. J. E. McGee
Bro. Beryl Brakebill

Program

Sister Syble Carpenter
Sister Daisy Stacks
Sister Dorothy Mims
Sister Lillie Metcalf
Sister Alta Watkins

Sunday School

Bro. Arthur Watkins
Bro. Tony Howe
Bro. H. E. Dixon
Bro. Donnie Mims
Sister Katie Henthorne

Obituary

Sister Noreen Roberts
Sister Dixon
Sister Carnett
Sister Linnie McGee
Sister C. C. Mims

Motion to adjourn until afternoon. Dismissed in prayer by Grover Rose.

Eleven o'Clock Service

Memorial Service brought by Rev. Dixon, who used II Cor. 2:1,5 as his lesson — an inspiring message. Right hand of fellowship given to Bro. Dixon.

Dismissal Prayer and Thanks for the noon meal by Rev. Winston Lawless.

Friday Afternoon

Singing led by Bro. Chester Burgess. Scripture Reading, Psalms 107, by Rev. Carnett. Prayer led by Rev. Carnett. Special song, "Beyond the Shadows," by Sister Berry and Sister Groves.

Motion to set the Quarterly Meetings as follows:

First — Sept. 3, 4, 1954, at Artesia, 22110 Pioneer Blvd.

Second — Dec. 3, 4, 1954, at Arvin, corner of Arvena and Orange Sts.

Third — Mar. 4, 5, 1955, at Santa Paula, 903 Ventura St.

Annual — June 2, 3, 4, 1955, at Bell Gardens, 7216 Garfield, corner of Florence.

Bro. Beryl Brakebill elected to bring the Introductory Message at the First Quarterly Meeting. Bro. Francis Boyle alternate. Rev. H. E. Dixon elected to bring the Introductory Message at the Second Quarterly Meeting. Rev. Billy Hood alternate. Rev. W. A. Carnett elected to bring the Introductory Message at the Third Quarterly Meeting. Rev. Wiley Gregory alternate. Rev. Marvin Bryant elected to bring the Introductory Message at the next Annual Meeting. Rev. Bob Maxwell alternate.

Motion to elect delegates to the State Association which convenes at the Calwa Church June 16. Elected were as follows: Sister Daisy Stacks, Sister Katie Henthorne, Bro. Bob McClish, Sister Gladys Bush, Bro. Beryl Brakebill, Sister Hessie Best, and Sister Lillie Metcalf.

Treasury Report read and accepted as read.

Motion the Clerk and Assistant be responsible for printing programs and minutes. Motion carried to elect a Moderator for Friday evening and Saturday morning in the absence

of both the Moderator and Assistant. Rev. Arthur Billows elected by acclamation. Motion carried to adjourn.

Dismissed in prayer by Rev. Wiley Gregory.

Friday Evening

Singing led by Sister Fannie Smithen. Altar of Prayer, with all the ordained at the Altar, led by Rev. Finnie Berry. Special songs: "He Leads by Love," by the Bell Gardens Quartette; "Mansion Over the Hilltop," by Sisters Groves and Berry; "Teach Me, Lord, to Wait," by Sisters Best and Smithen; "I Will Pilot Thee," by Bro. Carnett and daughter; "Way Down Deep in My Soul," by the Long Beach Quartet; "Something Got Hold of Me," by Bro. and Sister Gorman. Piano Solo: "Land Where Living Waters Flow," by Sister Mary Nichols.

Evening Message brought by Rev. Winston Lawless, from Gal. 6:16.

Dismissed in Prayer.

Saturday Morning

Singing led by Sister Wanda Bryant. Scripture Reading, I Peter, 2nd chapter, by Bro. Francis Boyle. A round table discussion of the Free Will Baptist Leagues.

Motion to have the Ordination Service with Rev. Finnie Berry conducting the service. Resolution read that we give the mothers of Bell Gardens a standing vote of thanks and shake hands with them and all the ministers who have preached at this session.

Motion to dismiss all committees. Minutes of this meeting read and approved as read. Motion to close this conference with right hand of fellowship.

Dismissed in Prayer by Bro. Bob McClish.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Resolution

1. Be it resolved that every Pastor of a church study the laws that have been set forth for taking in members to our local churches, such as explaining to those wishing to unite what we believe and what we won't tolerate in our church.

2. Be it resolved that this Association insert in the minutes of each Quarterly Meeting the names and addresses (including street number) of each church and a copy of the minutes be mailed to each minister in the Association.

3. Be it resolved that this Association shall not license nor ordain any Deacon nor Minister who does not believe and practise tithing. Their tithing being a part of the record to be submitted to the Board at the time of presenation for examinaion for credentials.

4. Be it resolved that the address of the church where the meeting takes place be put in the program.

5. Be it resolved that our Articles of Faith be printed in our minutes with the Scriptures added to it.

6. Be it resolved that our Quarterly Conferences convene on Friday evening and run through Saturday.

7. Be it resolved that our Treasurer's Report be printed in full, that is, total receipts and disbursements, as in our 1952 minutes.

8. Be it resolved that every Pastor and Delegate take to his church a report about League work and the necessity of its support financially.

Signed: Committee.

Finance

1. We retain the 40c per member to finance our minute publication.

2. We retain the \$10.00 from each church for feeding the Delegates.

3. We pay our Clerk \$25.00 per year, and Moderator \$10.00 for each Quarterly Conference and Association.

Executive Board

We have examined Bro. William E. Metcalf and found him sound in doctrine and recommend him to be ordained as Deacon.

We report two new churches organized in the past year, at Oxnard and Huntington Park.

Sunday School

We recommend that teachers of churches set aside one night each week to get together and study the lesson together.

Pulpit

Rev. Arthur Billows will preach the afternoon service; Rev. Winston Lawless will preach Friday evening; and Rev. Bob Maxwell the Saturday morning services.

Obituary

We, the Committee, wish to report that the Good Lord in His infinite wisdom has taken from our number our beloved Sisters, Nora Belle Brewer and Nora Spurlock.

Treasury Report

Total receipts, \$490.59; total disbursements, \$301.50.

The Association has a balance of \$636.25. The building fund balance is \$164.93.

STATISTICAL REPORT OF THE WEST COAST ASSOCIATION CHURCHES

| | |
|-----------------------------------|------------|
| Total Membership | 442 |
| Members received this year.... | 213 |
| Members dismissed this year | 47 |
| Members baptized this year | 59 |
| Members died this year | 3 |
| Number of Ministers | 13 |
| Number of Deacons | 23 |
| Paid Pastors | \$9,800.60 |
| Paid Evangelists | \$1,058.25 |
| Paid Missions | \$753.42 |
| Building and Repairs | \$8,084.41 |
| Number of Churches | 8 |
| Number of Leagues | 6 |
| Number of Sunday Schools | 8 |

Church

Address

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Artesia | 22110 Pioneer Blvd., Artesia, Calif. |
| Arvin | 782 Orange St., Arvin, Calif. |
| Bell Gardens | 7216 Garfield Ave., Bell Gardens, Calif. |
| Huntington Park | 5500 block of Pacific, H. P., Calif. |
| National City | 3335 Olive St., National City, Calif. |
| North Long Beach .. | 15547 Paramount Blvd., Paramount, Calif. |
| Oxnard | Highway 101, Oxnard, Calif. |
| Santa Paula | 903 Ventura Ave., Santa Paula, Calif. |

MINISTER'S ROLL

- Rev. Marvin Bryant — 11541 E. Florence Ave., Norwalk,
Calif. TO 4-7316
- Rev. Wiley Gregory — 5906 Ludell, Bell Gardens,
Calif. LU 1-3788
- Rev. Leroy Cupit — 21803 S. Joliet Ave., Artesia, Calif.
- Rev. Billy Hood — 7431 Scout Ave., Bell Gardens, Calif.
- Rev. Bob Maxwell — 903 Ventura Ave., Santa Paula, Calif.
- Rev. H. E. Dixon — 21818 Devlin, Artesia, Calif.
- Rev. Eual Gorman — 21822 Devlin, Artesia, Calif.
- Rev. Don Bias — 11703 E. 216th St., Artesia, Calif., TO 5-2039
- Rev. Arthur Billows — Rt. 2, Box 255, Oxnard, Calif.
- Rev. W. A. Carnett — 808 Greenfield Dr., El Cajon, Calif.
- Rev. Fred Wynn — 782 Orange St., Arvin, Calif. SP 4-5909
- Rev. Jack Craven — 533 S. Derby, Arvin, Calif. SP 4-2197
- Rev. Albert Jacoe — Arvin, Calif.

DEACON'S ROLL

- Bro. Elijah Wheeler — 1801 E. South St., N. Long
Beach, Calif. 205-177
- Bro. Kenneth Carpenter — 14132 Ardis St., Bellflower,
Calif. TO 6-5166
- Bro. Clarence Eagle — 5818 Gotham St., Bell Gardens, Calif.
- Bro. Chester S. Burgess — 11755 Garetal St., Norwalk, Calif. ..
- Bro. Troy Seely — 12175 Alondra St., Norwalk, Calif.
- Bro. Andrew Roberts — Bell Gardens, Calif.
- Bro. Dave McCormack — 6621 Ira Ave., Bell Gardens,
Calif. LO 5-2837
- Bro. Bob Duren — 521 Acacia Rd., Santa Paula, Calif.
- Bro. Pat Henthorne — P. O. Box 332, Santa Paula, Calif.
- Bro. Everett Lewis — Rt. 1, Box 216, Santa Paula, Calif.
- Bro. Estel Newport — Rt. 2, Box 255, Santa Paula, Calif.
- Bro. Leonard King — 335 Acacia Rd., Santa Paula, Calif.
- Bro. Ed Gilliam — 5520 Pacific Blvd., Huntington
Park, Calif.
- Bro. Carl Smithen — 25019 Cypress St., Lonnetta, Calif.
- Bro. Truman Mims — 151 St. Mary's Dr., Oxnard, Calif.
- Bro. Ed Metcalf — National City, Calif.
- Bro. O. H. Ellis — 1715 Sunshine Ave., Bakersfield,
Calif. 5-6736
- Bro. George Davis — 928 Franklin St., Arvin, Calif. .. SP 4-5696
- Bro. W. F. Holiday — Rt. 1, Box 118, Arvin, Calif. SP 4-2024
- Bro. H. H. Bennett — 778 Laurel St., Arvin, Calif.
- Bro. Henry Horton — Rt. 5, Bakersfield, Calif.
- Bro. J. B. Smith — 457 Hood St., Arvin, Calif. SP 4-5468
- Bro. Barney Van Winkle — 1305 Uffert St., Bakers-
field, Calif.

CHURCH COVENANT

Having given ourselves to God by faith in Christ and adopted the Word of God as our rule of faith and practise, we now give ourselves to one another by the will of God in this solemn covenant. We promise by His Grace to love and obey Him in all things, to avoid all appearances of evil, to abstain from all sinful amusements and untoly conformity to the world, from all sanction of the use and sale of intoxicating beverages, and to "provide things honest in the sight of all men."

We agree faithfully to discharge our obligations in reference to the study of the Scripture, secret prayer, family devotion, and social worship, and by self-denial, faith, and good works endeavor to "grow in grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ." We will not forget the assembling of ourselves together for church conferences, public worship and the observance of the ordinances of the Gospel, nor fail to pay according to our ability for the support of the church, of its poor, and all its benevolent work. We agree to accept Christian admonition and reproof with meekness and to watch over one another in love, endeavoring to "keep the unity of the Spirit in the bonds of peace," to be careful of one another's happiness and reputation, and to seek to strengthen the weak, encourage the afflicted, admonish the erring and, as far as we are able, to promote the success of the church and the Gospel. We will everywhere uphold Christian principles sacred and Christian obligations and enterprises supreme, counting it our chief business in life to extend the influence of Christian Society.

To this end we agree to labor for the promotion of educational and denominational enterprises, the support of missions, the success of Sunday School, and evangelistic efforts for the salvation of souls and the conversion of the world.

ARTICLES OF FAITH
of the
FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH
Bell Gardens, California

Article I
THE BIBLE

We believe the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments were given by the inspiration of God, and are our infallible rule of faith and practice.

Matt. 22:29; Mark 15:28; John 2:22; John 5:39; John 7:38; Acts 1:16; Acts 8:35; Acts 18:28; Rom. 15:40; Gal. 1:8; II Tim. 3:16-17; II Peter 1:12, 20, 21.

Article II
GOD

We believe there are three persons in the God head. Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and that all things were created by them.

First John 5:7 Gen. 1st and 2nd Chapters; Exo. 20:9-11; Psa 33:6; Jer. 51:15; John 1:1-3; Acts 14:14-17; I. Cor. 8:5, 6; Eph. 3:8-10; Col. 1:9-17; Rev. 4:9-11.

Article III
MAN

We believe that God created Man innocent, but by disobedience he fell into a state of sin and death. His posterity therefore inherited a fallen nature of such tendencies that all who come to the years of accountability sin and become guilty before God.

Gen. 2:15-17; Gen. 3:14-19; Isa. 53:6; Rom. 3:9-26; Rom. 5:12-15; I Cor. 15:21,22; Gal. 3:22; I John 1:10.

Article IV

CHILDREN SAVED

We believe that children are born in a saved state and we must become like unto them if we enter into the Kingdom of Heaven.

Matt. 18:2,3; Luke 18:16,17.

Article V

GENERAL ATONEMENT

We believe that Christ died for all and whosoever will may be saved.

Matt. 28:19,20; Luke 24:45-47; John 3:16; I Tim. 2:1-6; Titus 2:11; Heb. 2:9; II Peter 3:9; I John 2:1,2; Rev. 22:17.

Article VI

TERMS OF SALVATION

We believe the terms of Salvation are:

1st. Repetance or sincere sorrow for sin and a hearty renunciation of it.

2nd. Faith, or the unreserved committal of one's self to God through faith in Christ with purpose to love and obey him in all things.

Luke 13:3-5; Luke 14:25-27; Luke 24:45-47; John 3:16; Acts 10:43; Acts 15:8,9; Acts 16:31; Rom. 5:1,2; Rom. 10:8-13; Gal. 3:26; Eph. 2:8,9; Heb. 11:6.

Article VII

DIVINE CALL TO THE MINISTRY

We believe that God in His wisdom and goodness displays His power of Grace in a great degree in calling and qualifying His servants by the teaching of the Holy Spirit to go forth and proclaim life and salvation. Yet those who are called are commanded to study to show themselves approved unto God, etc.

John 5:39; John 1:16,17; Acts 3:22; Acts 13:1-4; Acts 18:27,28; Acts 20:28; Acts 22:14,15; Rom. 10:14,15; Gal. 1:11-23; II Tim. 2:15; Titus 1:7-9.

Article VIII

THE CHURCH

We believe that the Church of God, or Christ, is the whole body of Christians throughout the world. Matt. 16:18.

Acts 2:46,47; I Cor. 12:13-20; Eph. 1:22,23; Eph. 4:4-6; Col. 1:18-24; I Tim. 3:14,15; Heb. 3:6.

Article IX

A CHURCH OF GOD

We believe that a Church of God is an organized body of believers in Christ who statedly assemble to worship God and keep the Ordinances of the Gospel according to the Scriptures. Matt. 18:15-17.

Matt. 28:18,20; Acts 8:1; Acts 13:1-3; Acts 14:23; Rom. 16:1-5; I Cor. 11:12; I Cor. 11:23-28; I Cor. 16:19; Col. 4:15,16; Titus 1:5; I Peter 5:13; Rev. 1:11.

Article X

ORDINANCES

We believe that Baptism, Communion and feet washing are Gospel Ordinances and should be observed by the people of God.

Matt. 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:18,20; John 13:4-17; Matt. 28:19,20; Acts 2:41; Acts 8:12; Acts 8:35-38; Acts 9:18; Acts 10:47,48; Acts 16:33; I Cor. 11:23-26; I Tim. 5:9,19.

Article XI

BAPTISM

We believe that immersion is the Scriptural mode of baptism.

Matt. 3:5,6; Matt. 3:13-17; Mark 1:5-11; John 3:22,23; Acts 8:36-39; Rom. 6:3,4.

Article XII

OPEN COMMUNION

We believe that the Lord's people are one in Him, therefore should be one at His table.

John 15:5; John 17:11-21; I Cor. 11:23-29; I Cor. 12:13-21; Gal. 3:26-29.

Article XIII

THE CHRISTIAN SABBATH

We believe that the Divine Law requires that one day in seven be set apart for the worship of God and that no work of worldly nature should be done on that day. Work of piety, mercy and necessity excepted.

Mark 16:1,2; John 20:1,19,26; Acts 13:27; Acts 16:13; Acts 20:7; I Cor. 16:1,2; Rev. 1:10,11.

Article XIV

APOSTASY

We believe that only those Christians who through grace and patience endure unto the end have promise of Eternal Salvation.

Ezek. 18:24-26; Matt. 10:22; Matt. 24:12,13; Matt. 24:48-51; Matt. 25:14-30; Mark 13:13; Luke 12:45,46; John 15:1-6; Rom. 11:21; I Cor. 10:11,12; I Cor. 15:12; I Thes. 3:4,5; Heb. 3:1-6; Heb. 6:4-6; Heb. 10:24-30; II Peter 1:9-11; II Peter 2:12-16; II Peter 2:20-22; Rev. 2:10; Rev. 3:5.

Article XV

RESURRECTION

We believe in the resurrection of all men — they that have doon good unto the resurrection of life, and they that have done evil unto the resurrection of damnation.

John 5:28,29; Acts 4:1,2; Acts 17:18; Acts 23:6; Acts 24:14,15; Acts 26:6-8; I Cor. 15:12,22; I Thes. 4:15-17; Rev. 20:12-15.

Article XVI

GENERAL JUDGMENT

We believe that there will be a general or universal judgment when all nations will be gathered before the Judgment Seat of Christ, to be judged according to their works. The wicked shall go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into life eternal.

Eccl. 11:9; Eccl. 12:14; Matt. 12:36,37; Matt. 13:37-43; Matt. 25:31-46; Mark 9:43-48; John 5:28,29; Acts 10:42; Acts 17:30,31; Rom. 14:10-12; II Cor. 5:10; Heb. 9:27,28; Rev. 20:12-15; Rev. 21:7,8.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Introductory Sermon.
2. House called to order by the Moderator.
3. Letters called for, read, and received.
4. Right hand of fellowship and seating of Delegates.
5. Election of Officers.
6. Appointment of Committees.
7. Unfinished Business.
8. New Business.
9. Report of Committees.
10. Miscellaneous Business.

RULES OF ORDER

1. The Moderator or Assistant Moderator or, in their absence the oldest minister present, shall call the Association to conference.
2. Each session shall be opened and closed by prayer.
3. Five members from two or more churches shall constitute a quorum. A lesser number may adjourn until such time as a quorum is present.
4. Visiting brethren are invited to seat as advisory members.
5. Those who speak shall rise and address the Moderator. Personal reflection shall be avoided in all debates.
6. If any proposition or motion under debate contains two or more points, it shall be divided at the request of any member and a vote taken.
7. Motions made and lost shall not be recorded.
8. No one shall speak more than twice on the same subject without special leave of the Moderator.
9. The Moderator shall not allow discussion when not carried on in a Christian spirit.
10. The ruling of the Moderator may be overruled by a two-thirds majority of the membership voting.
11. No question from any church shall come under the consideration of the Association unless it has first been discussed at its own church.
12. At each Association arrangement shall be made to insure two or more sermons or their equivalent devotional services each day.
13. The West Coast Association shall have no power to fill vacancies in the delegation from any composite body.