

915, 11/13/30

MINUTES
of the
Forty-Second Annual Session
of the
**West Florida Liberty Free-Will
Baptist Association**

Held With
Piney Grove Church

7 Miles South of Chipley, Washington County, Fla.

OCTOBER 30th and 31st, 1930

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BRO. G. W. OWENS Moderator
J. T. BIRGE Clerk and Treasurer

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

T. E. Parrish

J. A. Johnson

W. C. Sheffield

Jessie Gainey

J. T. Birge

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The next Session will convene with Blounts-
town Church on Thursday before the third Sunday
in October. Bro. W. M. Duncan to preach the
Introductory. Poplar Head Church, 6 miles south-
east of Bonifay, gets the next Union meeting on
Saturday before the second Sunday in August. Bro.
A. B. Nelson to preach the Introductory.

PROCEEDINGS

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THURSDAY MORNING SESSION

Prayer by Rev. C. I. Wells.

Introductory sermon by Rev. C. I. Wells. Scripture Lesson, 2nd Chapter Acts.

Dismissed one hour for refreshments.

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THURSDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

House called to order by the Moderator. Scripture lesson, 14 Chapter Psalms.

Prayer by Rev. D. A. Sellers.

Call for letters from various Churches and enrollment of delegates as follows:

From Noma, W. A. Holland, S. T. Matthews, J. W. Barefoot, Sister S. T. Matthews, and Mother Matthews. For Minutes and Associational purposes, \$4.00.

Piney Grove—H. Fussel, G. W. Owens, C. C. Owens, and W. H. Shores. For Minutes and Associational purposes, \$3.00.

St. John—J. E. Sims, J. W. Nelson, A. B. Cook, and Mrs. Rosie Young. For Minutes and Associational purposes, \$2.00.

Cowarts Creek—A. Fowler, D. C. Fowler, M. C. Mixon, R. A. Fowler, and M. H. Henderson. For Minutes and Associational purposes, \$2.50.

New Concord—Willie Clark, Colie Ward, Gertrude Clark, and Camilla Marlow. For Minutes and Associational purposes, \$2.00.

Beulah—W. C. Sheffield, Sister Ellen Brock and Sister Calloway. For Minutes and Associational purposes, \$2.50.

St. Paul—J. C. Clemmons, J. L. Ganey, Sister Nancy Clemons, and Lula Clemmons. For Minutes and Associational purposes, \$1.50.

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Poplar Head—A. L. Bell, A. F. Squares, and L. W. Johnson. For Minutes and Associational purposes, \$2.00.

Pleasant Hill—J. H. Mears and Alvin Burch. For Minutes and Associational purposes, \$1.50.

Liberty—D. J. Cook. For Minutes and Associational purposes, \$2.00.

New Harmony—J. S. Hughes, Simon Burkley and J. D. Hughes. For Minutes and Associational purposes, \$3.00.

Antioch—J. R. D. Register, C. D. Cook, and Sister Till Patterson. For Minutes and Associational purposes, \$1.50

Spring Hill—J. I. Mears, Mrs. J. I. Mears and Levie Davis. For Minutes and Associational purposes, \$.77.

The Association being duly organized went into election of a Moderator and Clerk.

Bro. G. W. Owens was elected Moderator, and J. T. Birge, Clerk and Treasurer. A. B. Nelson was elected Assistant Moderator.

Call for Petitionary Letters.

The Blountstown Association petitioned back to Liberty and was received. The Association gave the right hand of fellowship to their Delegates as follows: T. F. Parrish, Rev. W. M. Duncan, W. J. Storry, Sister, R. J. Pendarvis and Lillie May Yon,

After which Rev. D. A. Sellers made a welcome address which was enjoyed by all.

Rev. F. W. Tomberlin made a few highly pointed remarks.

Bro T. W. Lofton was a welcome visitor from De Funiak Springs.

Call for correspondence from Sister Associations.

From Salem—Lester Cook, J. F. Fillingim, and Rev. J. C. Eldrige,

Union Hill—Rev. J. A. Pettis, Rev. T. E. Ross and Willie Turner.

State Line—Rev. L. C. Mixon.

The various committees were appointed as follows:

Committee on Divine Service—W. L. Calloway, J. I. Mears and W. H. Shores.

Committee on Suggestions—Rev. J. A. Hudson, Rev. A. L. Pate and J. H. Mears.

Finance Committee—Sister Nancy Clemmons, Sister Pendarv s and Bennett Cook.

Memorial Committee--C. I. Wells, J. E. Sims and Chester Cook.

Committee on Resolutions—Rev. A. B. Nelson, Rev. W. M. Duncan and Rev. J. H. Chestnut.

Call for report of Committee on Divine Services. Rev. Robert Hyman to preach at 7 o'clock.

Committee on Sabbath Schools—Sister Rosie Young, J. W. Nelson and Sister Janie Mears.

Temperance Committee—T. E. Parrish, S. T. Matthews and W. L. Brackin.

Nomination Committee—W. C. Sheffield, S. P. Barclay and A. F. Squares.

Committee on State of Ministers and Churches—C. C. Clemmons, David Cook, Levie Johnson, A. L. Bell and J. R. D. Register.

Committee on Education and Literature—Rev. A. B. Nelson, A. L. Pate, W. A. Clark and A. Fowler.

Dismissed until 7 o'clock by W. M. Duncan.

Rev. Robert Hyman preached at 7 o'clock. Text; "Bring the Lost to Christ,"—Mark 2nd chapter.

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FRIDAY MORNING SESSION

Call to order by the Moderator.

Scripture Lesson, Matthew 7th chapter.

Prayer by Moderator.

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Renew the call for Letters and Corresponding Delegates.

From Poley Branch—W. C. White.

From Salem—Bro. Hyman.

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CALL FOR REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Committee on Divine Services reported as follows. Rev. K. V. Shoots to preach at 11 o'clock, Bro D. A. Sellers to close.

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATION

Report as follows: Blountstown gets the next session of the Association. Bro W. M. Duncan to preach the introductory sermon. Poplar Head gets the next Union Meeting. Bro A. B. Nelson to preach the Introductory Sermon.

W. C. SHEFFIELD, Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON TEMPERANCE

Make the following report: We are made to believe that Temperance is one of the greatest thoughts known to mankind. If we disobey the laws of God by getting into an intemperate attitude we bring upon ourselves condemnation, because He said: "Be ye temperate in all things." Therefore we should all join together in urging and helping one another to be more temperate. Because the things that God has given as a blessing to mankind can be used so that it will prove a curse instead of a blessing.

T. E. PARRISH, Chairman.

We enjoyed a good address from Rev. K. V. Shoots on the Zion Bible School. A public contribution was taken for the School and received \$10.00.

COMMITTEE ON SUGGESTION

Report as follows: (1) That the Association have a number of Letter Blanks and send some to each church clerk. (2) That each Preacher and Deacon observe and

keep the laws of this Association. (3) That it shall be an offense for any Preacher, Deacon or Layman to speak evil of anyone.

J. H. MEARS, Chairman,

COMMITTEE ON SUNDAY SCHOOLS

Make the following report: It seems as if our churches are neglecting to a great extent the Sunday Schools. We understand by reading God's word that one of the most important duties of church members is to see that there is a good, live Sunday School in each church, to run summer and winter. We also recommend that each church organize a Young People's League to meet on Sunday night in connection with the Sunday School.

SISTER JANIE MEARS, Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON MEMORIAL

Reported as follows: We find that during this Association year God saw fit to call from us the following members: Sister Perlle Barton of St. Johns, Bro. W. B. Clemmons, Sister Catherine Milton and Sister W. G. Wilcox of St. Paul, Bro. Andy Brock of Beulah, Sister Emily Cook and Bro. D. V. Gauss of Liberty, Sister Willie Clark of New Concord, Rev. J. L. Johnson of M. Glory, Sister Susan Bar and Sister Lizzie Tharp of Piney Grove, two from Cawarts Creek whose names not given, Rev. John T. Koigh, Sister Abbie Butler and Sister Robert Matthis of Blountstown. We very deeply deplore the loss of our dear brothers and sisters whom we loved so well. They have been of great help in the upbuilding of God's kingdom here upon earth, but we trust that our loss is a heavenly gain.

J. E. SIMS, Chairman,

FINANCE COMMITTEE

We your Committee on Finance make the following report: We find in the Treasury for Home Mission \$5.40. Collected for Minutes and Association purposes \$44.60.

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Spring Hill not collected 76 cents, Making a total collected and uncollected \$50.76.

SISTER NANCY CLEMONS, Chairman.

11 o'clock service preached by Rev. K. V. Shoots.
Scripture lesson 23 verses of 3rd chapter of John.

Dismissed one hour for dinner.

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FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

House called to order by Moderator.

The Body went to prayer for Bro. J. T. Kirkland which was led by Bro. Wells.

Executive Committee met with the Salem Executive Committee as it was their request for us to do so and after a few friendly words they said they did not have anything to offer us.

COMMITTEE ON CHURCHES AND MINISTERS

We the Committee on Churches and Ministers failed to get together on a report.

An Executive Committee was appointed as follows: T. E. Parrish, J. A. Johnson, W. C. Sheffield, Jessie Ganey and J. T. Birge.

Moved and carried that each church hold Conference as much as six times a year.

Moved and carried that this Association change its time of meeting from Thursday before the 1st Sunday in November to Thursday before the 3rd Sunday in October.

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND LITERATURE

Make the following report: Whereas God's greatest asset with which to fill his ranks are our boys and girls. Be it resolved that we as Freewill Baptist increase our effort to give them a christian education; that we teach them the evils of the use of alcoholic drink, the tobacco habit, joy riding, dancing, mixed bathing, etc., and bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, in the

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family altar, the church, the Sunday School and young people's League work.

That we use our own literature in Sunday Schools when practible and subscribe for the church paper for additional religious reading.

A. L. PATE, Chairman.

We send T. E. Parrish and G. W. Owens to the General Conference.

Move to pay the clerk \$7.50.

Moved to print 500 minutes and 500 letter heads.

Moved and carried to leave the Decorum of the Association out of the Minutes.

CALLED FOR PREACHERS REPORT

Brethern I submit the following report: I have served three Churches; one in the Liberty Association; one in the Union Hill Association; and one in Salem Association. I have also reinstated one and brought it in the Salem Association.

Christian Home paid	\$17.00
Poplar Head	\$16.00
Damascus	\$75.00
Total.....	\$108.00

I have also married eight couples and have buried a few,

A. L. PATE.

Bretheren I submit the following report: I have served one church, traveled 156 miles and received \$4.71 for my work at New Harmony Church. I have also married one couple and preached 30 sermons

G. W. ENGLISH.

RESOLUTION OF THANKS

We the Delegates and Messengers of the Liberty Association do hereby tender our heart felt thanks to the people around Piney Grove Church for their kind hospital-

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ity shown us during our stay among them. Our greatest thanks go to the good ladies whom the greatest burden fell upon. May God's richest blessings ever rest upon you all.

J. T. BIRGE.

TREASURERS REPORT

Association funds.....	\$50.76
Less amount paid to Clerk.....	7.50
Total	\$43.26

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LIST OF DELEGATES

W. A. Holland, S. T. Matthews, J. W. Barefoot, Sister S. T. Matthews, Mother Matthews, H. Fussel, G. W. Owens C. C. Owens, W. H. Shores, J. E. Sims. J. W. Nelson, A. B. Cook, Sister Rosa Young, A. Fowler, D. C. Fowler, M. C. Dixon, R. A. Fowler, M. H. Henderson, Willie Clark, Callie Ward, Gertrude Clark, Camilla Marlowe, W. C. Sheffield, Sister Ellen Brock, Sister Calloway, J. C. Clemmons, J. L. Ganey, Sister Nancy Clemmons, Lula Clemmons, A. L. Bell A. F. Squires, J. W. Johnson, J. H. Mears, Alvin Burch, D. J. Cook, J. S. Hughes, Simon Barkley, J. D. Hughes, J. R. D. Register, C. D. Cook, Sister Till Patterson, J. I. Mears and wife and Levie Davis.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Introductory Sermon.
2. Call for Corresponding Letters and Enrollment of Delegates.
3. Electing a Moderator and Clerk.
4. Call for Petitionary Letters.
5. Call for Correspondents from Sisterly Association.
6. Appointing of Committees.
7. Appointing of Correspondents.
8. Reading of Corresponding Letters.
9. Hearing Report of Committee.
10. Miscellaneous Business.

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NAMES OF ORDAINED MINISTERS

A. L. PATE.....	Bonifay, Fla.
A. B. NELSON	Bonifay, Fla.
C. I. WELLS	Graceville, Fla.
M. L. HALL	Bonifay, Fla.
J. H. CHESTNUT	Bonifay, Fla.
G. W. ENGLISH.....	Chipley, Fla.
S. E. CARROLL.....	Hartford, Ala.
J. C. CARNLEY.....	Caryville, Fla.
J. M. McDANIEL.....	Vernon, Fla.
W. A. CLARK.....	Black, Ala.
JOE HUDSON.....	Vernon, Fla.
W. M. DUNCAN	Blountstown, Fla.

STATISTICAL TABLE

Churches and Pastors	Clerk	Baptism	Con. of Faith.....	By Letter.....	Restored.....	Dis. by Letter.....	Excluded.....	Died.....	Membership	Days of Meeting
St. Johns, Rufus Hyman ..	J. E. Sims, Bonitay, Fla.....	4	0	4	0	2	4	1	123	3rd Sunday
P'y Grove, J. C. Eldridge	T. D. Owens, Chipley, Fla.....	4	0	1	0	4	0	2	108	3rd Sunday
Noma, T. E. Ross.....	Mrs. Dewey Wells, Noma, Fla.	0	0	1	0	4	1	0	117	1st Sunday
Liberty, A. B. Nelson	J. Foster, Vernon, Fla.....	0	0	3	0	0	2	2	60	3rd Sunday
Cowarts Creek, A. Pettis..	J. C. Fowler, Dothan, Ala.....	2	4	1	0	4	1	2	97	4th Sunday
New Har'y, J. A. Hudson	H. C. Martin, Chipley, Fla.	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	37	1st Sunday
St. Paul, C. I. Wells	J. L. Gainey, Vernon, Fla.....	1	0	2	0	0	0	3	45	1st Sunday
Antioch, R. P. Jones	C. D. Cook, Graceville, Fla.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	37	1st Sunday
P'lar Head, A. L. Pate	A. F. Squires	6	0	4	0	2	6	0	52	
New Concord, J. W. Posey	K. C. Marlow, Black, Ala.....	1	0	0	0	0	3	0	40	2nd Sunday
Pl'nt Hill, A. B. Nelson.....	J. H. Mears, Bonifay, Fla.....	14	2	4	0	0	0	0	38	4th Sunday
Beulah, J. W. Posey.....	W. C. Pettis, Graceville, Fla.....	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	85	4th Sunday
Mt. Glory, J. L. Letter.....	Mrs. J. A. Taylor.....	1	3	0	0	1	0	0	64	2nd Sunday
Blountstown, C. I. Wells..	T. E. Parrish.....	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	95	4th Sunday
Poley Branch, Bro. Bruce	Mattie Edwards	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	44	2nd Sunday
Spring Hill, L. C. Mixon..	J. L. Smith, Bonifay, Fla.	20	1	2	0	13	6	0	78	4th Sunday

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CHURCH DECORUM

1. The church may choose a pastor annually at last conference in Association year, or, if they prefer, may choose a pastor for an indefinite length of time to continue from year to year as long as he may deem it proper to keep up the connection.

2. When it becomes necessary a pastor may be chosen at any other time, but if the choice be made at a special Conference, the time must be appointed at a monthly meeting of the church.

3. The pastor shall be Moderator of church, but when the Moderator, being present, same is absent, or does not sit, a suitable brother shall be appointed in his place.

4. There shall be two or more deacons in the church whose duty it shall be to superintend the collection and distribution of all contributions made for pastor, etc., and to distribute the bread and wine in the administration of the Lord's Supper.

5. The deacons shall also take notice of such members as refuse or neglect to partake of the Lord's Supper, and endeavor to ascertain the cause, that the same may be laid before the church conference if necessary.

6. Some suitable member shall be appointed Clerk and it shall be his duty to do all the recording and other writing pertaining to the business of the church and preserve a file of the minutes of the Association.

7. When a clerk is appointed all the books, minutes, etc., belonging to the clerk shall be immediately turned over to him by his predecessor.

8. When it becomes necessary, a committee of not less than three male members, well acquainted with business, shall be appointed, whose duty it shall be to give advice to brethren who apply to them relative to cases of dealing, etc., with the church.

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9. The church shall hold two day's meeting embracing Saturday and the Lord's Day following, the first of which shall be the regular time for conference.

10. It shall be the duty of every member, male or female to attend each conference, if they can. for on that day the pastor is expected to instruct the church in a special manner by giving plain and pointed lessons on church doctrine, discipline and rules of holy living.

11. Any male member who shall fail to attend three successive conferences, and any member who may be generally remiss in attending meetings of the church according to covenant (Article 10) shall be cited to appear in conference and answer for his conduct, but the church may exempt members from this if necessary.

12. Conference shall be opened as follows: First prayer, unless divine service has just been concluded, and generally then; Second, invite visiting brethren to seats with us; Third, open the doors for reception to members; Fourth, call for absentees; Fifth, for acknowledgements; Sixth, for references or deferred business; Seventh, for matters of dealing which are in order to come before the church; Eighth, for miscellaneous business.

13. Visiting brethren called in as help from other churches shall be allowed to vote.

14. An ordinary member of a Baptist church which does not hold this church in fellowship, may be received into this church without a letter when it is made apparent that his Christian character is unrepachable and that he has applied for a letter and could not obtain it because he wanted to join this or some sister church. All other persons must join by letter or baptism.

15. We receive members by experience or baptism; on confession of faith; by letter or restoration.

16. When the Moderator calls for absentees the Clerk

shall inform the church what male members have been absent from three successive conferences, and the Moderator shall appoint some brother or brethren to cite each of them the next conference.

17. No member shall be expelled unless he has been cited verbally or in writing to attend his trial, provided his residence be known to the church.

18. When a witness, not a member of the church, is introduced he shall not be examined until the question has been put to the church: "Will you hear the testimony of the witness?"

19. The evidence in every case of dealing and acknowledgement shall be printed in the church book.

20. Members dismissed from the church by the letter who become disorderly or continue to hold their letter without good reason shall be cited to conference to answer for their conduct.

21. Expelled members may be restored to fellowship on their petition, if their walk since expulsion has convinced the church that they have sincerely repented of their former evil.

22. A vote shall not be taken on any question without a move and second, and on all important questions the vote shall be taken by rising to the feet.

23. No motion shall be made while a move and second is before the conference.

24. It shall be considered disorderly for a member to absent himself from conference when an important question is to be decided; but a member upon request may be exempted by the church from voting on either side in peculiar cases.

25. No member shall leave the house during conference without a sufficient excuse, nor engage in conversation or whispering, without being subjected to be called to

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order by the Moderator.

26. All discussion in conference must be conducted with calmness and good feeling. Those who speak must rise to their feet and keep to the point in debate.

27. No one shall speak more than three times on the same subject without permission of the Moderator, nor shall the remarks on any one be unreasonably long.

28. When the Moderator speaks he must nominate some brother as Moderator in his stead.

29. No one shall be interrupted while speaking unless it be necessary to call him to order.

30. We believe it to be the duty of the church to communicate, wash the saint's feet as often as the church sees fit, the expenses to be paid by the church.

31. Members not in good standing should not commune, but the administration should not be deferred on account of any ordinary matter of dealing.

32. Public fasting, humiliation and prayer shall be observed on proper occasions.

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ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. We believe there is but one living and true God, whose name is Jehovah, the maker and ruler of the universe.—1st Cor. 8:6; 1st Tim. 2:5-6.

2. We believe that there is one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and by whom salvation is made secure—Heb. 2:9; St. John 3:16; 1st John 2:2.

3. We believe that in the beginning that God made man upright and placed him in a state of glory, without the least mixture of misery from which he voluntarily, by transgression fell, and by that means brought on himself,

a miserable and mortal state, subject to death.—Genesis 2:17; 3:19.

4. We believe that no man shall suffer in hell for the lack of Christ.—Mark 16:15; Luke 24:47; 1st Tim. 2:4.

5. We believe that the holy scriptures are the word of God and they are the only rule of faith and practice.—Acts 17:30; Heb. 3:10; 1st John 5:10.

6. We believe that sinners are drawn to God, the Father, by the Holy Ghost through Jesus Christ, the Son.—2nd Tim. 3:16 17,

7. We believe that good works are the fruits of faith and faith without work is dead.—Luke 14:16; Math. 28:19; Luke 13:3-5; Acts 3:19 38; St. Mark 1:15.

8. We believe that the blessings of Salvation are made free and attainable by all mankind.—Math. 11:27-30; St. John 6:44-65; Psalms 1:1; Titus 2:11-12.

9. We believe that Commemoration and Feet Washings are the ordinances of Christ and immersion only is baptism.—St. John 13: 1; Tim. 5: 6; Psalms 28: 17,

10. We believe that all Christians should unite in performing the sacred ordinances.—Rom. 12:4-5.

11. That the end of the world is approaching when Christ will descend from Heaven and raise the dead from their graves to final retribution; that a solemn separation will then take place, the righteous being adjudged to everlasting happiness and the wicked to endless punishment and this judgment will fix forever the final state of men in heaven or hell, on principles of righteousness.—Rev. 22:12; St. John 14:2-3.