

MINUTES

— of the —

FORTY-NINTH ANNUAL SESSION

— of the —

WEST FLORIDA

LIBERTY FREE WILL BAPTIST

ASSOCIATION

Held With

St. John's Church

Two Miles South of Bonifay, Florida

OCTOBER 15th and 16th, 1937

OFFICERS

BRO. G. W. OWENS Moderator

N. E. CHESTNUT Clerk and Treasurer

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

J. H. Mears, Chairman

T. D. Owens

A. J. Pitts

E. C. Anderson

David Cook

Walter Pettis

Jim Strickland

The next session of the Association will convene with Cowart's Creek Church six miles south-east of Dothan, Alabama, on Friday before the third Sunday in October, 1938, Rev. T. E. Ross to preach the Introductory.

The next Union meeting will convene with Liberty Church west of Vernon, Florida, on Saturday before the second Sunday in August, 1938, Rev. J. H. Chestnut to preach the Introductory.

Proceedings

According to previous appointment, the Forty-Ninth Annual session of the West Florida Liberty Free-Will Baptist Association met with St. John's Church on October 15th and 16th, 1937.

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION

Opening song No. 140 in Gospel Message. Opening prayer by Rev. J. C. Eldridge. Sermon by Rev. J. H. Chestnut. Scriptural lesson 4th Chapter of Paul's Letter to the Ephesians. Song 64 in Hymns of Adoration. Central thought "Duty." Benediction by Rev. Floyd Cherry. Intermission one hour and a half.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

The Association reassembled at 1:30 o'clock. Song 99 in Songs of Praise. Scriptural lesson by Rev. T. E. Ross from the First Psalm. Prayer by Rev. H. J. Smith. In the absence of the Moderator, Bro. G. W. Owens the Assistant Moderator, Bro. T. E. Ross, took charge of the business.

A call was made for letters and delegates from the various churches and received the following:

St. Paul—C. C. Clemmons.

St. John's—E. L. Nelson, Charley Yates, A. B. Cook, Bob Walsingham, J. W. Nelson, Earl Cook, N. E. Chestnut, and Ray Garrett.

New Harmony—J. D. Hughes and G. W. Wright.

Liberty—T. M. Hall, J. Foster.

Spring Hill—Buddy Brackins, Lee Smith, Sister J. I. Mears, J. I. Mears, Sister Stella Smith, Sister Vicie Watkins.

Pleasant Hill—Jerry Gilley, Elbert Harrell.

Piney Grove—R. E. Golden, J. H. Mears, R. F. Williams, Dekle Everett, Ernest Owen, Martie Mears, Sister Daisy Williams.

New Hope—Rev. W. C. Burton.

Poplar Head—A. J. Pitts, Roxie Pitts, Harvey Martin, Louvenia Davis, Jennie Chestnut.

Cowart's Creek—D. T. Hall, A. Fowler, Sister Lizzee, J. C. Fowler, W. G. Silcox.

Bountstown—Rev. W. M. Duncan, F. M. Knight, W. J. Starry, W. M. Cochran.

Beulah—H. L. Elmore, E. A. Hatcher, Arthur Pettis, Sister W. C. Pettis.

The Association entered into a business session. Re-elected

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Bro. G. W. Owens Moderator and N. E. Chestnut Clerk and Treasurer and re-elected T. E. Ross Assistant Moderator and in the absence of the Moderator, Bro. Ross served as Moderator all through the session.

A call was made for Petitionary Letters and received none.

A call was made for correspondence from Sister Conventions and received the following:

Rev. H. J. Smith from the Chattoochee Association of Georgia.

Rev. G. W. English from the Union Hill Association of Alabama.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

Committee on Divine Service—A. B. Cook, J. I. Mears and Walter Pettis.

Committee on Resolutions—C. C. Clemmons, A. J. Pitts and Rev. W. M. Martin.

Committee on Memorials—A. B. Nelson, Sister J. I. Mears and Sister E. C. Watkins.

Committee on Finance—Sister J. I. Mears, Sister Louvenia Davis and Sister Walter Pettis.

Committee on Sabbath School—Robert Williams, Bro. H. J. Smith, Sister Stella Smith, A. J. Pitts and Bro. W. C. Burton.

Committee on Temperance—J. H. Chestnut, H. J. Smith, Lee Smith and Bob Walsingham.

Committee on Education—H. L. Elmore, Earl Cook and T. M. Hall.

Committee on Nominations—Rev. W. M. Duncan, R. E. Golden, E. L. Nelson, and Harvey Martin.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON DIVINE SERVICE

Rev. H. J. Smith to preach at 7:00 P. M. Friday evening. The sermon to be concluded by Rev. W. C. Burton. Bro. T. E. Ross to preach at 11:00 Saturday. Sermon concluded by Rev. J. C. Eldridge. Adjourn until 9:00 o'clock Saturday morning. Closing song "God be With You. Benediction by Rev. D. A. Sellers.

FRIDAY EVENING, 7:30 P. M.

Opening song, "I'd Rather Be An Old-Time Christian." Opening prayer by Rev. W. M. Duncan. Following prayer by Rev. W. M. Martin, after which a testimonial service ensued and closed with th song "Anywhere is Home if Christ My Lord is There." Sermon by Rev. H. J. Smith. Concluded by Rev. W. C. Burton. Scriptural lesson Isaiah 60th Chapter, Verses 1 to 12.

Lesson text "The Light of the World." Closing song "Just a Little While." Benediction by Rev. D. A. Sellars.

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

Association called to order at 9:30 by Rev. T. E. Ross. Devotional service conducted by Rev. W. M. Martin. Scripture lesson Psalm 23. Prayer by Rev. W. M. Martin. Prayer by Rev. D. A. Johnson.

The call was renewed for Corresponding Letters and received New Hope, with its pastor, Rev. W. C. Burton.

The call was made for Petitionary Letters. None received.

Call renewed for correspondence from Sister Associations and received none.

CORRESPONDENTS TO SISTER CONVENTIONS

To Chattahoochee Association—F. M. Knight, J. H. Chestnut, A. J. P'tts and J. H. Mears.

To Union Hill Association—J. W. Nelson, A. B. Cook and T. E. Ross.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON SABBATH SCHOOL

We, your committee on Sunday School report that we find a number of our Churches without Sunday Schools. We also find a number of Sunday Schools using Literature other than Free-Will Baptist Literature. We recommend our pastors see that the Sunday Schools use Free-Will Baptist literature.

We request that the pastors organize Sunday Schools in every Free-Will Baptist Church.

We also recommend that each home provide wholesome literature for their children to read. Robert Williams. Chairman.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON TEMPERANCE

We, your committee on Temperance, recommend that the members of the Free-Will Baptist Church abstain from indulging in any form of intemperance, not only strong drink, but all forms of intemperance, because the bible forbids intemperance in all forms.

J. L. Smith, Chairman.

Bro. Jim Strickland was elected as Executive Committeeman instead of Bro. J. E. Sims. Rev. T. E. Ross was elected as a member of the Ordaining Council instead of Rev. A. L. Pate. Ten minute's intermission.

The Association reassembled by the choir singing "Shouting on the Hills of God." Opening prayer by Rev. W. M. Duncan. Sermon by Rev. T. E. Ross. Concluded by Rev. J. C. El-

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dridge. Scriptural lesson a portion of the 5th Chapter of 2nd Kings, a portion of the 10th Chapter of Mark. A portion of the 13th Chapter of Romans. Closing prayer by Rev. H. J. Smith. Closing song "If I Could Hear My Mother Pray Again." Benediction by Rev. J. C. Eldridge. Noon one hour.

The Association re-assembled at 1:00 o'clock. Opening song 146 in Gospel Message. Scripture lesson by Rev. T. E. Ross from John 14. Opening prayer by Rev. J. C. Carnley.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

This report will be found on the lower part of the front cover outside.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

We, your committee on Education, suggest that each church work to prepare our Ministers with a Zion Bible School education so he may rightly divide the word of God to lost souls. We suggest that each church make special effort to raise money for Zion Bible School.

H. L. Elmore, Chairman.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON MEMORIALS

We, your committee on Memorials, submit the following report: The Lord in His wisdom has seen fit to call away the following members of our church in the Liberty Association—From Spring Hill our beloved brother. Rev. A. L. Pate, who has been one of our most faithful workers. He will be greatly missed from his various places of worship. From St. John's, Sister Martin, wife of Rev. W. M. Martin. She was born November 28, 1885, and departed this life August 12, 1937. A consecrated Christian for 35 years. Her death-bed testimony was wonderful. She was permitted to view her eternal resting place in glory and then revive and tell her experience. From Beulah, Sister Linnie Baxter and Prudie Evans. From Cowart's Creek, Bro. George Vann. From New Hope, Bro. J. E. Herbert. We hope for all these that our loss is Heaven's gain.

A. B. Nelson, Chairman.

IN MEMORY OF A. L. PATE

It grieves our spirit and words are inadequate to express our loss in the death of our beloved Bro. A. L. Pate, who was called from this life on July 8, 1937, to dwell with our Heavenly Father, whom he so dearly loved and served. Bro. Pate was a life-long member of the Free-Will Baptist Church, a charter member of the Spring Hill Church and pastor for several years.

As a member of our church and a Christian leader his go-

ing has left a vacancy which will be hard to fill. Bro. Pate was a good Christian citizen, loyal and sympathetic. He wept with those who wept and always spoke words of consolation to those in trouble and about God's great love. He was always champion of the cause of right and righteousness and commanded the respect and confidence of all who knew him.

J. L. Smith, Janie Mears, Sallie Wilcox, Committee.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS

We, your committee on resolutions, submit the following. We refer the Association to the report of this Committee of the last Association, and that the same be adhered.

Second, we recommend that the Clerk be required to order said blanks for Ministers and that all Ministers be required to bring in their original ordination papers to be copied at the next Association.

Rev. W. M. Martin, Chairman.

REPORT OF THE AUXILIARY WORK OF THE LIBERTY ASSOCIATION

Meeting was held at 10:00 A. M. Saturday. Business session. Sister Daisy Williams, President; Sister Roxie Pitts, Vice-President; Sister Oma Lee Harris, Secretary; Sister Dixie Pipkin, Treasurer. It was moved and carried that each Aid send one delegate to each five members and that each member shall pay 10c a year to the Associational Ladies' Aid, which shall be used as the body sees fit.

St. John's Report—Members on roll 14. Average attendance 8. Number of meetings each month 1. Dues each month 20c. Net gain in membership 4. We observe the Week of Prayer. Money in treasury, \$20.70. Time of meeting Tuesday before third Sunday in each month. We plan to build a 12-foot addition to church. Also a new stage. Sister Texan Yates, President; Sister W. G. Anderson, Secretary.

Poplar Head—Number of members, 14. Time of meeting, Saturday afternoon before the first Sunday. Dues, \$6.75. Amount raised, \$17.60. Building fund, \$15.00. Pastor, \$2.00. Condition of society good. President, Effie Squires; Secretary, Roxie Pitts.

Piney Grove—Number of members, 10. Time of meeting, Thursday before the second Sunday. Repair of Church, \$2.00. Condition of Society, good. Daisy Williams, President; Gladys Owen, Secretary.

Blountstown—Number of members, 12. Time of meeting, each Monday afternoon. Dues, 25c. To pastor, \$5.00. To sick, \$4.40. Condition of Society, good. The Ladies' Aid has kept the

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insurance paid up on the church—\$1.50 a month. Total amount paid, \$16.50. Sister F. M. Knight, President; Sister Jewell Wilks, Secretary.

Moved and seconded that all of the laws of this Association be enforced.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

We, your committee on Finance, submit the following report:

We find in the Treasury	.	.	.	\$.10
For Minutes	.	.	.	19.60
For Misions	.	.	.	2.50
Paid to Clerk	.	.	.	5.00
Total	.	.	.	\$27.20

Sister Janie Mears, Chairman.

REPORT OF REV. A. B. NELSON

Work for Association year of 1937. Name of churches, Pleasant Hill, \$39.90; Lake Bradford, \$51.75; St. Paul, \$22.00; Liberty, \$26.36. Sermons preached, 100. Members received, 8. Offerings and tithe, \$139.01. Minus R. R. fare, \$103.21.

It was moved and carried to have 300 minutes printed.

RESOLUTION OF THANKS

We, the delegates and messengers who comprise the Liberty Free-Will Baptist Association do sincerely thank the good people of St. John's Church and surrounding community for the bountiful spread and goodness to us while with them. We pray that God will continue to bless and keep them.

Moved and carried to adjourn. Closing song, "How Beautiful Heaven Must Be." Benediction by Rev. T. E. Ross.

OUR HONORED DEAD

Rev. A. L. Pate

Prudie Evans

Sister W. M. Martin

Bro. George Vann

Linnie Baxter

Bro. J. E. Herbert

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NAMES OF ORDAINED MINISTERS

A. B. Nelson	W. M. Martin
J. H. Chestnut	W. C. Burton
J. C. Carnley	C. H. Matthews
W. M. Duncan	T. E. Ross

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Introductory Sermon.
2. Call for Corresponding Letters and Enrollment of Delegates.
3. Organization—Election of Moderator and Clerk.
4. Call for Petitionary Letters.
5. Call for Correspondents from Sister Conventions.
6. Appointment of Committees.
7. Appointment of Correspondents.
8. Reading of Corresponding Letters.
9. Hearing Reports of Committees.
10. Miscellaneous Business.

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 as 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.

9. The church shall hold two days 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 have seats with us; Third, open the doors for reception to members; Fourth, call for absentees; Fifth, for acknowledgments; 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 irreproachable 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 acknowledgment 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 cause, nor engage in conversation or whispering, without being subjected to be called to 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 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.

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 mix-

ture 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 that 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 beleve 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 Washing are the ordinances of Christ and immersion only is baptism.—St. John 13:1; Tim. 5:6; Psalms 28: 1-17.

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 equal 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 for ever the final state of man in heaven or hell, on principles of righteousness.—Rev. 22:12; St. John 14:2-3.

DECORUM OF LIBERTY ASSOCIATION

Article 1. This Association shall be composed of delegates from churches in good standing only, and shall be called together by the Moderator of last session if present. If absent, by his assistant, or some one elected by the body.

Article 2. This Association shall be opened and closed with prayer.

Article 3. The Moderator and Clerk of the last session shall officiate until the body is organized and new officers elected by ballot.

Article 4. The Moderator shall call the body to order and see that order is preserved. Submit all actions to the body. He

shall have the same right of speech as any other member, but appoint some other brother as chairman while speaking. He shall not have the right to vote unless it be in case of a tie, then he may cast the deciding vote.

Article 5. The delegates shall be enrolled by the Clerk as they are seated in the body. And the roll shall be called each morning and all not answering to their names marked absent.

Article 6. That no delegate or minister shall be allowed to absent himself from the body during any session without permission from the Moderator.

Article 7. That all ministers belonging to this Association must be present at each session or send in a report to the former Moderator as to the cause of absence or his name will be left off the ministers' list of this session.

Article 8. And that each minister shall make a report of how many churches he is serving, if any, and what each church has paid him for his service.

Article 9. That no minister shall be considered in good standing that officiates in the rites of matrimony where either party has been divorced except it be for fornication.

Article 10. That no church shall be considered in this body that retains a minister or deacon that has more than one living wife or drinks intoxicating beverages.

Article 11. All business shall be brought before the body by move and second and shall be disposed of according to good usage. But no move shall be submitted to the body when there is a move before the house, unless the first one be withdrawn by the person who made such move, and no person shall be allowed to speak more than three (3) times on the same subject, and not more than ten (10) minutes each time without a move and second carried by the body.

Article 12. No person shall be disturbed while speaking so long as he keeps to the point in debate, only by the Moderator, and then only to call him to order. Only one person shall be allowed to speak at a time and he must rise to his feet and address the Moderator, and he must not use abusive language or personal reflection upon any one.

Article 13. This Association shall have a treasurer and executive committee to be elected annually. And no church shall be considered in this body who shall, or have retained a minister that has stepped aside from his obligations in any form (as in

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1st. Tim. 3 Chap.) unless said minister has shown by his actions that he has repented of the former evil.

Article 14. That any minister who will voluntarily step aside immediately turn his credentials over to the executive committee and said executive committee shall visit various churches to see if they are in good standing or not and help them to retain good order.

Article 15. That no church shall retain a minister or deacon who does not rule his own house well.

Article 16. That no church shall be recorded in this body who does not commune and wash feet at least twice (2) a year and who does not have conference at least six (6) times a year and each church shall state in its associational letter as to whether this ordinance has been kept or not. And also state how much it has paid its pastor. All ministers serving churches shall preach at least one sermon a year on doctrine and rules of holy living.

Article 17. Any preacher belonging to this body who sends an appointment or serving churches who fail to meet at the appointed hour shall be due acknowledgements to congregation or church.

Article 18. No preacher shall preach in our churches that cannot bring a clear record from his home church.

Article 19. No preacher shall pastor a church unless he on his first trip produce his credentials.