

MINUTES

— OF THE —

Fifty-Fifth Annual Session

— OF THE —

West Florida Liberty Free Will Baptist Association

— HELD WITH —

BLOUNTSTOWN CHURCH

Blountstown, Florida

October 14 and 15, 1943



OFFICERS

BRO. ERNEST OWEN Moderator
N. E. CHESNUT Clerk and Treasurer

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

ERNEST OWEN, Chairman

W. R. PIPKIN

EARLIE PEEL

J. FOSTER

E. L. BRANCH



The next session of the Association will convene with Piney Grove Church, seven miles south of Chipley, Florida, on Thursday before the Third Sunday in October, 1944.

Rev. J. H. Chesnut to preach the Introductory

The next Union Meeting will convene with Liberty Church, four miles west of Vernon, Florida, on Saturday before the Second Sunday in August, 1944.

Rev. John M. Rich to preach the Introductory

Proceedings

Proceedings of the Fifty-Fifth Annual Session of the Liberty Free Will Baptist Association

According to previous appointment, the Fifty-Fifth Annual Session of the West Florida Liberty Free Will Baptist Association met with Blountstown Church, October 14-15, 1943.

THURSDAY MORNING SESSION

Opening song by choir. Opening prayer by Rev. G. L. Shuites. Concluded by A. J. Pitts. A short talk by Rev. John M. Rich. Sermon by Rev. S. T. Shuites, scripture lesson from St. John, text, "Behold the Man." Closing song by choir and closing prayer by the Moderator Bro. Ernest Owen. Noon one and a half hours.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Song by choir, "I'll be a Friend to Jesus." Opening prayer by A. B. Cook. Devotional service by the Moderator, scriptural lesson, a portion of Matthew 13.

A call was made for Corresponding Letters from the Sister Churches and received the following letters and seated the delegates as follows:

Pleasant Hill — J. W. Yates, Ethel Harrell, Charley Mears.

Piney Grove — Redmon Riley, Earlie Peel, S. L. Adams, Bill Duncan, Daniel Owens, Emma Owens, Jesse Owens.

St. Paul — James Clemmons.

New Harmony — J H Barkley.

Blountstown — W. M. Cochran, E. L. Branch, Audrey Johnson, and Betty Hand.

Poplar Head — Connie Pettis and wife; Roxie Pitts, Alma Mears, and George Ussery.

Liberty — J. Foster, Dee Dykes, Tinney May Cook.

St. Johns — Loren Cook, Earl Cook, W. R. Pipkin, A. W. Bowlin, A. B. Cook, Lucile Cook, Ola May Wayne.

Cowart's Creek — Cary Vann, Lizzie Fowler, A. Fowler, H. D. Lashley, Sister Lashley and Sister Vann.

Beulah — E. A. Hatcher, Ernest Hatcher, H. L. Elmore.

A call was made for Petitionary Letters and received Abigail Church with D. J. Cook and Lela McFarland.

A call was made for Correspondence from Sister Associations and received the following:

From Salem Association, Chester Cook, J. C. Watson.

From Midway Georgia Association, Rev. S. T. Shuites.

Moved and carried that Rev. S. T. Shuites be Assistant Moderator.

Report of Committee on Divine Service.

Rev. John M. Rich to preach at 7:30 Thursday P. M.

Moved and carried that the Association adjourn until 9:30 Friday A. M. Song by choir and benediction by Rev. W. M. Duncan.

THURSDAY EVENING 7:30 O'CLOCK

Opening song "How Beautiful Heaven Must Be." Song and prayer service led by Charley Mears, followed by a short talk by Rev. S. T. Shuites. Two songs by a quartette composed of Chester Cook and children, assisted by Ernest Owen. Sermon by Rev. John M. Rich, scripture lesson, Matthew 18:9. Opening prayer by Earlie Peel, concluded by Chester Cook. Closing prayer by Rev. John M. Rich, benediction by Henry Mears.

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION

Opening song by choir. Opening prayer by Rev. J. H. Chestnut.

Call renewed for Corresponding Letters and received none.

Call renewed for Petitionary Letters and received none.

Call renewed for Corresponding Delegates from Sister Associations and received Rev. M. M. McKee, of Soper, Oklahoma.

Appointment of Delegates to Sister Associations:

To Stateline Association — David Cook and Jack Pitts.

To Midway Association — Rev. John M. Rich and Rev. G. L. Shuites.

To Salem Association — Ernest Owen, Earlie Peel, G. W. Ussery and S. L. Adams.

To National Association — Rev. John M. Rich and A. B. Cook.

Report of Committee on Divine Service, Rev. M. M. McKee to preach at eleven o'clock Friday A. M.

Report of Committee on Education

We, your Committee on Education, make the following report: We ought to make every effort possible to get and give our people, old and young, an Education. Education will free our people from religious intolerance, strife prejudice and superstition. Therefore we ought to support our educational facilities of our Church, such as Sunday Schools, religious papers and Bible Schools, both local and national. We are thankful for our Bible School in Nashville, Tenn., therefore we suggest

that there be funds made up from each church and sent to the local Association to go to the support of our Bible School. Also that a board be appointed to look after this business.

Respectfully submitted,
PINEY GROVE CHURCH AND PASTOR.

The appointment of the above mentioned board is as follows: T. D. Owens, David Cook, A. B. Cook, Jack Pitts, Ethel Harrell, Lottie Smith, A Fowler, James Clemmons, Simon Barkley, J. Foster, E. L. Branch.

Moved and carried to seat Bro. T. D. Owens and wife and Jessie Owens as delegates from Piney Grove Church.

Report of Committee on Missions

We, your Committee on Missions, submit this report: That all of our people put more money, prayers and service into our churches in getting the gospel to the lost world.

Respectfully submitted,
COWART'S CREEK CHURCH AND PASTOR.

Report of Ladies' Aid of Blountstown

Proceedings of the Ladies' Aid of the Blountstown Free Will Baptist church up to Sept. 1st, 1943: Donations made to worthy causes, help on Church buildings, \$402.15; other donations, \$37.50; total, \$439.65.

BLOUNTSTOWN CHURCH.

Report of the Committee on Sabbath School

We submit the following report: We notice from the reports of the various churches that the interest in the Sunday School work is not so good. So let's see what Sunday School is. It is the teaching force of the Church, so then what you want your Church to be, teach it in your Sunday School. The Juvenile Judges of the Country say they are not bothered with Sunday School boys. We suggest that the parents carry their children to Sunday School.

LIBERTY CHURCH.

Song by choir, followed by a short intermission.

FRIDAY MORNING, 11:00 O'CLOCK

Opening prayer by Rev. John M. Rich. Sermon by Rev. M. M. McKee. Sermon preached from scriptural diagram which proved to be very instructive and inspiring. Adjourned for noon one and a half hours.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Opening song by choir. Opening prayer by Earnest Owen. Appointment of Committee on Nominations: Earlie Peel, W. R. Pipkin, James Clemmons. The Report of the Committee on Nominations will be found on the lower portion of the outside front cover.

Report of Committee on Obituaries

We, your Committee on Obituaries, submit the following report:

St. Johns Church — During this year our Church has lost three members: Sister Margaret Anderson, Sister Laura Ellis and Bro. Clifford Wayne.

Sister Anderson and Sister Ellis were blessed with long lives in which each successfully reared several children to manhood and womanhood. Some of their time was in widowhood, especially Sister Laura Ellis. They tried to do their part in our Church for several years.

Bro. Clifford Wayne was a young aviation instructor in the service of his country. He was soon to go across to the front when he lost his life while attempting to land his plane. He left a young wife to mourn her loss.

We sincerely hope that all three of the beloved deceased ones, whom we miss here, have gone to be with the Lord, where sickness, trouble, war and death cannot come. — Written by Rev. A. B. Nelson.

Piney Grove Church — Bro. L. D. Duncan was born Jan. 31, 1880, died Oct. 5, 1943. He was married to Miss Lavenia McFatter, Jan. 1908. He united with Piney Grove Church about 20 years ago. To this union was born two girls and one boy. Bro. Duncan will be greatly missed in the Church and community but we bow in humble submission to our Heavenly Father, who doeth all things well, and say, thy will be done, and not ours.

Bro. G. D. Roberts was born Dec. 5, 1879 and died Sept. 16, 1943. He united with the Piney Grove Church in the year 1902 and lived faithful to the Church. He was united in 1904 to Miss Jemima McFatter and to this union was born five boys, of whom two are in the service. Bro. Roberts will be greatly missed in the Church and in his community, but we bow our heads in humble submission to our Heavenly Father's Will, for we know that He doeth all things well. — Written by G. W. Owens.

Beulah Church — Bro. R. A. Elmore.

Respectfully submitted,
BEULAH CHURCH.

Report of Committee on Temperance

Your Committee reports as follows: We suggest a few points for your prayerful consideration:

1. That we study temperance not from one angle, but all.
2. That we practice temperance in words, natural appetites and passions. Also, our temper.

Then if we practice these we can build up our standard of temperance so as to be examples.

Submitted by
POPLAR HEAD CHURCH.

Report of Committee on Resolutions

We, your Committee on Resolutions, make the following report:

Considering the condition of our aged ministers, we suggest that there be a Superannuation Board appointed at this session to look after this situation and that each local church send in as much finance as possible to be used by the Board for this cause.

Be it further resolved, that any Church which allows eternal security to be preached in it will be out of order with the Association.

Also by request, we suggest that the Associational body have a chance to vote as to whether we keep the present set-up of appointing committees.

Resolved, that each pastor, when necessary, advise his Church as to proper number of delegates sent to each session of our Association and Union Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

ST. JOHNS CHURCH.

Superannuation Board — David Cook, Earlie Peel, A. F. Squires, E. L. Branch, Allan Bowlin.

Moved and carried to have oral Mission report, which was given by Rev. A. B. Nelson.

Report of Committee on Finance

We, your Committee on Finance, submit the following report: We find in the treasury, \$7.13; sent in for minutes, \$41.15; for Home Missions, \$49.08; for education, \$33.28.

Respectfully submitted,

PLEASANT HILL CHURCH.

Churches and Committees as Assigned for 1944

Beulah — Divine Service.

St. Johns — Education.

St. Paul — Temperance.

Pleasant Hill — Finance.

Piney Grove — Resolutions.

Poplar Head — Nominations.

Spring Hill — Obituaries.

Abagail — Missions.

Blountstown — Sabbath School.

Moved and carried to print 300 minutes.

Moved and carried to pay the clerk \$15.00 for his services.

Moved and carried to offer resolution of thanks to Blountstown Church for caring for the Association.

Moved and carried to elect a Moderator. Rev. J. H. Chestnut was

elected Moderator; Bro. G. W. Owens, assistant Moderator; Bro. Loren Cook, Clerk and Treasurer.

Moved and carried to appoint a committee to confer with Bro. Johnson concerning his method of preaching. Also a committee on State of Preachers and Churches.

Committee — Rev. John M. Rich, Rev. A. B. Nelson, Rev. T. E. Ross.

Moved and carried to appoint a new Executive Committee.

Executive Committee — Earnest Owen, chairman; W. R. Pipkin, J. Foster, E. L. Branch, Earlie Peel.

Moved and carried to adjourn. Song by choir and benediction by Rev. J. H. Chesnut.

Liberty Association's Ordaining Board

Rev. T. E. Ross Rev. A. B. Nelson Rev. J. H. Chesnut

NAMES OF ORDAINED MINISTERS

Floyd Cherry	J. C. Carnley	A. B. Nelson
John M. Rich	J. H. Chesnut	W. M. Duncan
C. H. Matthews	G. L. Shuites	T. E. Ross

Resolution of Thanks

We the delegates and messengers which compose the Liberty Free Will Baptist Association do sincerely thank the good people of Blountstown Church and surrounding community for the bountiful spread and also for the goodness and hospitality shown us during our sojourn among them. We pray God's richest blessings upon them.

OUR HONORED DEAD

L. D. Duncan

Sister Margarette Anderson

G. D. Roberts

Sister Laura Ellis

R. A. Elmore

Clifford Mayne

ORDER OF BUSINESS

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

STATISTICAL TABLE

CHURCHES AND PASTOR	CLERKS AND ADDRESSES										Meeting Days
		Baptism	By Letter	Restored	Con. of Faith	Total Received	Dis. by Letter	Expelled	Died	Total Members	
Piney Grove—John M. Rich.....	Earlie Peel, Chipley, Fla.	21	0	0	3	24	4	0	2	158	2nd Sunday
St. Paul—Daniel Walters	J. L. Gainey, Vernon, Fla.	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	15	3rd Sun. night
Liberty—Daniel Walters.....	J. Foster, Vernon, Fla.	2	0	1	4	7	0	0	0	36	4th Sunday
Beulah—	B. H. Champion, Graceville, Fla...	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	63	3rd Sunday
Pleasant Hill—J. H. Chestnut.....	Ethel Harrell, Bonifay, Fla.	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	46	4th Sunday
Cowart's Creek.....	J. C. Fowler, Dothan, Ala.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	144	1st Sunday
St. Johns—John M. Rich.....	W. R. Pipkin, Bonifay, Fla.	2	2	1	1	6	0	2	3	130	3rd Sunday
Blountstown—S. T. Shuites.....	W. B. Phillips, Blountstown, Fla.	2	2	0	1	5	0	0	0	59	3rd Sunday
Abigail—Daniel Walters.....	W. T. Morris, Vernon, Fla.	0	3	0	1	4	0	0	0	11	2nd Sunday
Poplar Head—J. C. Watson.....	A. F. Squires, Bonifay, Fla.	1	3	0	0	4	1	0	1	65	2nd Sunday
New Harmony—Daniel Walters....	Mary White, Chipley, Fla.	16	1	0	0	17	0	1	0	42	1st Sunday

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 meetings 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 and 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 in 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 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; Eight, 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; 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 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 cause, nor engage in conversation or whispering, without being subjected to be called to order by the Moderator.

26. All discussions 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.

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 is excepted from the graces of God made possible through Christ; but that all may believe unto salvation, or disbelieve unto eternal perdition.—Jno. 3:16; Romans 1:16; Luke 24-27; 1st Timothy 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 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. 28-29; Luke 13:3-5; Acts 3:18-38; 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 or-

dinances of Christ and immersion only is baptism.—St. John 31:1; 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 adjusted to everlasting happiness and the wicked to endless punishment and this judgement will fix forever the final state of man in heaven or hell, on principles of righteousness.—Rev. 22:12; St. John 14:2-3.

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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 are 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 delegates or minister shall be allowed to absent himself from the body during any session without permission from the Moderator.

Article 7. 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 services.

Article 8. 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 9. 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 10. 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 11. 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 arise to his feet and address the Moderator, and he must not use abusive language or personal reflection upon any one.

Article 12. 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 1st Tim. 3 Chap.) unless said minister has shown by his action that he has repented of the former evil.

Article 13. That any minister who will voluntarily step aside shall 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 14. That no church shall retain a minister or deacon who does not rule his own house well.

Article 15. 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 quarterly 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 16. 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 17. No preacher shall preach in our churches that cannot bring a clear record from his home church.

Article 18. No preacher shall pastor a church unless he on his first trip produces his credentials.