

MINUTES

— OF THE —

Sixty-Third Annual Session

— OF THE —

**West Florida Liberty Free Will
Baptist Association**

HELD WITH

Pleasant Hill Church

SIX MILES SOUTH OF BONIFAY, FLORIDA

October 18 and 19, 1951

OFFICERS

REV. JOHN M. RICH Moderator
ARCHIE L. COOK Clerk and Treasurer

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Bill George, — D. J. Cook — A. J. Pitts — Bernard Owens
— Earl Cook —

The next session of the Association will convene with St. John Church on Thursday and Friday, before the 3rd Sunday in October 16, 17, 1952. Location, 2 miles South of Bonifay, Fla. Rev. Chester A. Huckaby to preach the introductory.

The next Union Meeting will convene with Piney Grove Church, South of Chipley, Fla., on Saturday before the 5th Sunday, on Dec. 29, 1951. Rev. A. H. Retherford to preach the introductory.

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE SIXTY-THIRD ANNUAL SESSION OF
THE WEST FLORIDA LIBERTY FREE WILL
BAPTIST ASSOCIATION**

Which Convened with Pleasant Hill Church, Oct. 18-19, 1951

The Association was called to order at 10 a. m. Song service by the congregation. Opening Song, "Are You Washed in The Blood." Opening prayer by Rev. C. W. Jones. Devotional by Rev. C. W. Jones of Phenix City, Ala.

Moved and carried to have no business before the introductory sermon.

Song by congregation. Rev. Rufus Hyman gave the introductory sermon. Text 1st Corinthians 9:27; Subject: "Are You a Castaway?" Welcome address by Rev. R. O. Johnson. Dismissed for noon by Rev. C. A. Huckaby.

The Association reassembled at 1:00. Song by choir.

A call was made for corresponding letters from sister churches, and the following were received and delegates seated:

St. John Church — N. E. Chestnut, Raymond Nelson. Bob Walsingham, and Oma L. Dinkins.

Popular Head — Effie Squires, Myrtle Shores, and Willie Dee Chestnut.

Abigail — Archie Cook, Louise Cook, and Voncille Anderson.

Beulah — W. O. Skinner, Harvey Fowler, and E. A. Hatcher.

Happy Hill — Joe Tutton, Gettis Collins.

Piney Grove — Earnest Owens, Bernard Owens, Cavvie Peel, Robert Owens, Alto Quattlebaum, Thelma Owens, and Bertie Baxter.

Pleasant Hill — Roland Yates, Mrs. Earl Cook, and Beulah Gillis.

Grace — Absent.

Liberty — Absent.

A call for delegates from sister Associations and received and seated the following:

Union Hill Association — J. W. Barefoot, Rev. Rufus Hyman.

Salem Association — Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Broom.

Chattahoochee Association — Rev. C. W. Jones.

Moved and carried that Minutes of the Union Meeting be put in the annual Free Will Baptist Association minutes.

Moved and carried that Rev. C. A. Huckaby be placed on the ordaining council to replace Rev. A. H. Retherford.

Report of Committee on Divine Service

We, your committee on Divine Service, appoint Rev. A. B. Cook to preach at 7:30 p. m., Thursday, and Rev. C. A. Huckaby to preach Friday at 11:00. Song by congregation. The business session of the Association adjourned until 9:30 Friday morning.

The congregation re-assembled at 7:30 Thursday. Opening song by congregation. Opening prayer by Bro. C. C. Harrell, followed by song. Sermon by Rev. J. W. Barefoot. Subject: "Brotherly Love." Song by congregation. Dismissed by Bro. C. C. Harrell.

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION

Opening song by congregation. Opening prayer by Sister Flether Bolden. Song by congregation. Devotional by Rev. I. O. Cook. Renewed

call for letters and received none. A call for Petitionary letters and received none.

Song by congregation. Sermon by Rev. C. A. Huckaby. Scripture lesson 24th Chapter of Joshua. "Choose this day whom you shall serve." Welcome address by Rev. R. O. Johnson. Dismissed for noon by Rev. W. H. Ryland.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

The Association re-assembled at 1:00 p. m. Song by congregation.

Report of Committee on Nominations

That St. John's church get the next Association, which will convene on October 16, 17, 1952.

Popular Head Church get the next ministers and deacons meeting, which will convene on August 31, 1952, with Rev. A. B. Cook to preach the introductory.

Piney Grove Church gets the first Union Meeting, which will convene on Saturday, the 29th of December, 1951.

Abigail Church to get the second Union Meeting, which will convene on Saturday, the 29th of March, 1952.

Pleasant Hill Church to get the third Union Meeting, which will convene on Saturday, June 28, 1952.

Happy Hill Church to get the fourth Union Meeting, which will convene on Saturday, August 30, 1952; and Beulah to get the Sunday School Convention, and it will convene on Sunday, June 29, 1952.

PINEY GROVE CHURCH

Report of Committee on Resolutions

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

Item 1.—We ask that our ministers adhere to our church doctrines and that we allow no foreign doctrines or practices to be brought into our churches or ministers who are guilty of bringing other church doctrines be dealt with.

Item 2.—We ask that the Home Mission Board act only when all board members are present and that the treasurer be bonded.

Item 3.—Due to quite a bit of confusion and disturbance in our churches, that no minister make it a regular practice to preach or hold revivals, in other denominations, other than holding funerals, and likewise, other denominations do the same by us.

Item 4.—We also recommend that our churches conduct two revivals each year, one in the Spring and one in the Summer.

PINEY GROVE CHURCH

Moved and carried that the Women's Auxiliary Minutes be put in the annual Association Minutes.

Report of Committee on Temperance

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

We must study temperance from all angles. We must practice temperance in words, appetite, passion and temper. If we practice them, we can build up our standard of temperance so as to be good examples and followers of the Lord. 1st Timothy, 3rd Chapter, verses 2 and 3. A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behavior, given to hospitality, apt to teach. Proverbs 20th Chapter, verse 1. Wine is a mocker, strong drink, is raging and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.

POPLAR HEAD CHURCH

Report of Committee on Education

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

Item 1.—Inasmuch as it takes an education to best qualify the individual for the duties of life, both spiritual and temporal, we recommend that every reasonable effort be made to educate the children.

Item 2.—We recommend that good religious literature be kept where young people can get it, as they are sure to read something.

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

Report of Committee on Finance

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

For Minutes	\$ 51.95
Home Missions	10.00
Education	8.45
Amount in Treasury	15.00
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Total	\$ 85.40

ABIGAIL CHURCH

Report of Committee on Stewardship

We, your Committee on Stewardship, submit the following:

A Steward is one that handles another's affairs. We read in 1st Corinthians 4:2. "Moreover it is required in Stewards, that a man be found faithful." We know that if we were paying a steward we would want one that would be faithful and one that we could put our trust in to handle our affairs. God expects that same thing of us. Brother, do we handle our affairs in the way that God is pleased with; are we faithful to give our time and talents for the service of God? Let's be faithful to go to church and other services of the Lord, even when it takes sacrifice to do so. Are we robbing God of our tithes and offerings? If so we are not a good Steward. Until our people fall on the plan that God has laid down in His word to support and carry on His work, we can't be called a good Steward. That plan is with tithes and offerings.

**EARNEST OWENS
RAYMOND NELSON
LUCILLE COOK**
Stewardship Committee

Report of Rev. A. B. Cook

I have pastored two churches in 1951. I have traveled approximately 2,968 miles. Total money received \$268.11. Received two members, three testified of being saved. I have visited 10 churches and two associations.

REV. A. B. COOK

Report of Rev. R. O. Johnson

I have pastored two churches this year. Received \$169.23. Have conducted three revivals; have baptised three, one by letter, one by confession of faith. May God's richest blessings rest with Happy Hill and Pleasant Hill churches.

REV. R. O. JOHNSON

Report of Rev. John M. Rich

I have pastored three churches. Received for my services \$1,560.00. Conducted three revivals. Received 20 members.

REV. JOHN M. RICH

Report of the Auxiliary

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

We find that there are many of the churches in the Association that have not all of the Auxiliaries of our church. Namely, F. W. B. League, Sunday School, and Women's Auxiliary. We urge each church to organize these auxiliaries.

PINEY GROVE CHURCH

Report of Rev. C. A. Huckaby

I have served two churches this year, Piney Grove and the First Free Will Baptist Church of Malone, Fla. I have conducted 12 revivals and have received 53 members into the Free Will Baptist Church. I have received for my work \$2,665.02. May God's richest blessings rest upon everyone.

REV. C. A. HUCKABY

Report of Rev. Rufus Hyman

I have served two half-time churches, St. John's, of Bonifay, and Lovewood of Cottondale, Fla., and have preached 150 sermons (or more). I have organized a Free Will Baptist Church at Cottondale which is a very promising work with 14 charter members, and a Sunday School with 30 enrolled. Have held three revivals and have baptised three people. Have received for services \$1,115.33.

REV. RUFUS HYMAN

Report of Committee on Obituaries

As we come to the close of another Associational year, we want to recognize our dead. God, in His infinite love and mercy, saw fit to call from our midst, these, our beloved brethern and sisters:

Abigail — Sister Etta Sapp.

Beulah — Sister Mary Merritt

JOE TUTTON
GETTIS COLLINS

Delegates Assigned to Visit Sister Associations

To Union Hill — Rev. J. M. Rich and Rev. A. B. Cook.

To Salem — Rev. A. H. Retherford, Earnest Owens, Rev. A. B. Cook.

To State Line — Rev. A. B. Cook.

Delegates to the State Association — Bro. Bernard Owens, Bertie Baxter, Effie Squire, Louise Cook and Archie Cook.

Ordained Ministers

A. B. COOK
J. M. RICH
R. O. JOHNSON

A. H. RETHERFORD
J. H. CHESTNUT
C. A. HUCKABY

OUR HONORED DEAD

Sister Etta Sapp

Sister Mary Merritt

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Introductory Sermon.
2. Call for Corresponding letters and enrollment of delegates.
3. Call for Petitionary letters.
4. Call for correspondents of Sister Association.
5. Assignment of committees to churches.
6. Appointment of correspondents.
7. Reading of corresponding letters.
8. Hearing reports on committees.
9. Election of Moderator and Clerk.
10. Miscellaneous business.

Ordaining Council — Rev. C. A. Huckaby, Rev. J. H. Chestnut, and Rev. John M. Rich.

Mission Board — J. E. Simms, Earnest Owens, Early Peel, Rev. J. M. Rich, and Archie Cook.

RESOLUTION OF THANKS

We, the Delegates and Messengers that compose the Liberty Free Will Baptist Association, do sincerely thank Pleasant Hill Church and surrounding community, for their goodness and hospitality shown us while in their midst; also for the bountiful spread and refreshments served at noon. Our prayers that God will remember and bless one and all.

LIBERTY ASSOCIATION

COMMITTEES ASSIGNED TO CHURCHES FOR 1952

Poplar Head — Obituaries
Abigail — Resolutions
St. John's — Temperance and Divine Service
Beulah — Finance
Piney Grove — Education and Stewardship
Pleasant Hill — Nominations
Happy Hill — Auxiliary
Liberty — Absent
Grace — Absent

THE LADIES AUXILIARY LIBERTY FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION OF 1951

The ladies of the church met and a move and second was made to organize a District Ladies Auxiliary Convention. Afterwards a move and second was made to adopt the constitution as read:

Next came the election of officers as follows:

President — Oma Owens, Chipley, Fla.

1st Vice-President — Pearl Coley, Vernon, Fla.

2nd Vice-President — Oma Lee Dinkins, Bonifay, Fla.

3rd Vice-President — Effie Squires, Bonifay, Fla., Rt. 1.

4th Vice-President — Corene George, Bonifay, Rt. 1.

5th Vice-President — Roxie Pitts, Bonifay, Rt. 1.

Recording Secretary — Louise Cook, Vernon, Fla.

Field Secretary — Bertie Baxter, Chipley, Fla.

Treasurer — Myrtle Shores, Bonifay, Rt. 1.

Oma Lee Dinkins was elected delegate to the State Association.

The District Association for 1952 will convene on Saturday before the third Sunday in August, at Piney Grove Church, Chipley, Fla.

MINUTES

Union Meeting Held With Beulah Church, Graceville, Fla.,

August 10, 1951

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 o'clock by Moderator pro tem, Rev. Rufus Hyman. After a short devotion, Rev. A. B. Cook brought the Message. Text: St. Luke 13:23-29.

Saturday Afternoon

Devotion by Moderator pro tem, Rev. Rufus Hyman. Text: St. John 15:16-27. Call was made for letters from sister churches and delegates seated as follows:

St. John — Bros. Bill George, N. E. Chestnut.

Poplar Head — Bros. A. J. Pitts, A. F. Squires, Sister Effie Squires.

Piney Grove — Bros. I. T. Baxter, Bernard Owens, Sisters Grace Huckaby and Thelma Owens.

Beulah — Bros. W. O. Skinner, E. A. Hatcher, B. B. Hatcher.

Pleasant Hill — Sister Roland Yates.

Election of Officers

Moderator — Rev. A. H. Retherford.

Clerk — Mrs. Oma Owen

Moderator suggested that the Union Meeting be changed to Saturday before 5th Sunday. Motion made and carried that the Union Meeting meet quarterly, on Saturday before each 5th Sunday.

Talk on Youth camp by two young people who attended the Youth camp in Georgia. Olive Jean Owens and Johnnie Huckaby.

Offering was taken to be applied on our Youth Camp. Amt., \$15.00.

Suggestion was made that each church take an offering during year for the camp, or set aside an amount of church offering for camp.

Motion made to adjourn. Song, "Amazing Grace." Prayer.

CHURCH DECORUM

1. The church may choose a pastor annually at the last conference in Association year, or if they prefer, it 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 given 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 the church, but when the mod-

erator 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 by the church for the pastor, etc., and to distribute the bread and wine in administration of the Lord's Supper.

5. The deacons shall 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 in conference if necessary.

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

7. When a clerk is appointed, all of the books, minutes, etc., belonging to the clerk, shall be immediately delivered 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 holds a two days' meeting embracing Saturday and the Lord's Day following, the first of which shall be the regular time of the conference.

10. It shall be the duty of every church member, male or female, to attend each conference meeting, if they can, for on that day the pastor is expected to instruct the church in a certain manner by giving plain and pointed lessons on doctrine, discipline, and the 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. Conferences shall be opened and conducted as follows: (1) Prayer, unless divine service has just been concluded, and generally then. (2) Invite visiting brethren to seats. (3) Open the door for reception of members. (4) Call of absentees. (4) For acknowledgements. (6) For reference of deferred business. (7) For matters of dealing which are in order to come before the church. (8) For miscellaneous business.

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

14. Any ordinary member of the Baptist Church who does not hold this church in fellowship may be received into the 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 desires to join this or some sister church. All other persons must join by letter or baptism.

15. We receive members by experience of baptism; or 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 to 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 recorded in the church book.

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

22. A vote shall not be taken upon question without a move and a 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 any 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 subject 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 from the moderator, nor shall the remarks of anyone be unreasonably long.

28. When the moderator speaks he must nominate some other brother as moderator to act 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 saints' feet as often as the church sees fit, the expense 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 in one true and living God; the Father, the Son and Holy Ghost. — 1st John 5:7.

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

3. We believe that in the beginning 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 this means brought on himself a miserable and mortal state, subject to death. — Romans 5:15 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. — John 3:16; Romans 1:16; 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. — John 5:10; 2nd Tim. 3:16.

6. We believe that sinners are drawn to God, the Father, by the Holy Ghost. — Rev. 22:17.

7. We believe that good works are the fruits of faith and faith

without work is dead. —Mark 1:15; James 2:17,22.

8. We believe that the blessings of salvation are made free and attainable to all mankind.—Matthew 11:28,29,30; Titus 2:11,12; St. John 12:32.

9. We believe commemoration and feet washing are ordinances of Christ and immersion only is baptism. —St. John 13:1-17; St. John 3:5; 1st Corinthians 11:23-32.

10. We believe that all Christians should unite in performing the sacred ordinances. —St. John 6:53-54; St. John 13:8.

11. We believe 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 judgment will fix forever 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 someone 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 the 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 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 from 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 rise to his feet and address the Moderator, and he must not use abusive language or personal reflection upon anyone.

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., 3rd Chapter) 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 recognized 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 fails 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.

STATISTICAL TABLE

CHURCHES AND PASTORS	CLERKS AND ADDRESSES	Baptism	By Letter	Restored	Confession of faith	Total Received	Dism. by letter	Expelled	Died	Total	Meeting Days
Piney Grove, C. A. Huckaby	Early Peel, Chipley	8	2	1	4	15	2	0	1	177	2nd, 3rd, 4th Sun.
Liberty—(no report)	Inez Cook, Vernon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1st, 3rd Sun.
St. John's—D. W. Pool	Velma Livingston, Bonifay	1	1	0	1	3	0	0	0	87	1st and 3rd Sun.
Beulah—I. O. Cook	Mollie Skinner, Chipley	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	2	41	1st and 3rd Sun.
Happy Hill—R. O. Johnson	Ruby Parrish, Caryville	17	3	0	1	21	0	0	0	21	4th Sun.
Pleasant Hill—R. O. Johnson	Ethel Harrell, Bonifay	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	54	2nd and 4th Sun.
Abigail—D. W. Pool	Voncille Anderson	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	22	2nd and 4th Sun.
Poplar Head—A. H. Retherford	A. F. Squires, Bonifay	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	56	1st and 3rd Sun.
Grace—(no report)	J. A. Stevens, Pensacola	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Full Time