

# 1963 MINUTES

OF THE QUARTERLY MEETINGS  
AND THE SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

## West Florida Liberty Free Will Baptist Association

HELD WITH

**Chipley Free Will Baptist Church**  
OF CHIPLEY, FLORIDA

OCTOBER 18 AND 19, 1963

### OFFICERS AND BOARDS

Rev. Freeman L. Edwards ..... Moderator  
Rev. John M. Rich ..... Vice Moderator  
Thomas E. Porter ..... Clerk-Treasurer

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Moderator, Clerk, Willie Simmons 65, Lonnie Squires 65,  
Cauley Owens 64, Ross Pippin 64, Aron Burch 64

### MISSION BOARD

Rev. Freeman Edwards 64, Rev. Ernest Owen 65,  
Troy Lee Walsingham 66.

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## QUARTERLY MEETINGS

January 18, 1964 ..... Panama City  
April 18, 1964 ..... Pleasant Hill  
July 18, 1964 ..... Liberty

## MINISTERS' AND DEACONS' CONFERENCE

November 17, 1963 ..... St. John  
May 17, 1964 ..... Bonifay  
August 16, 1964 ..... Niceville

## SUNDAY SCHOOL CONVENTION

April 25, 1964 ..... Poplar Head

## LEAGUE CONVENTION

March 28, 1964 ..... Abigail

## WOMAN'S AUXILIARY CONVENTION

May 2, 1964 ..... Chipley

## MASTER'S MEN CONVENTION

November 8, 1963 ..... Panama City  
May 3, 1964 ..... Bonifay

## LIBERTY MISSIONS CONFERENCE

To Be Announced

## LIBERTY ASSOCIATION

October 16-17, 1964 ..... Damascus

## YOUTH RALLY

January 25, 1964 ..... Damascus  
April 25, 1964 ..... Liberty  
July 25, 1964 ..... St. John  
October 31, 1964 ..... Poplar Head

# PROCEEDINGS

## FIRST QUARTERLY MEETING

January 19, 1963, Niceville Church

The service opened with congregational singing of "Rescue the Perishing." We were then led in prayer by Bro. Frank Willis. Opening remarks were made by the moderator, Bro. Freeman Edwards.

The credentials committee was appointed as follows: Aron Burch, Lewis Cook, and Ross Pippin. After the appointment of this committee, we sang "Where the Soul Never Dies."

The resignation of Billy Marchant as clerk of the association was brought to the attention of the association. Thomas Porter was chosen by the executive committee to fill this vacancy.

Bro. Troy Lee Walsingham brought the morning devotional from Psalms 126. The welcome was given by Bro. Jack Tubbs. Responding was Mrs. Lola Edwards. The congregation then sang "Power in the Blood."

A partial report was given by the credentials committee. They recognized Frank Willis and Aubrey Brown as visitors from other associations. After singing "The Old Rugged Cross," MSC to accept the partial report of credentials committee.

The following were appointed as members of the digest committee: George Taylor, Lola Edwards, Troy Lee Walsingham. Appointed to the finance committee were: Willy Simmons, Annie Mae Cook, and James Whitehurst.

After a short recess, the meeting reconvened with the singing of "Home of the Soul", and "Beautiful Garden of Prayer". Bro Vickers then led in prayer.

The Morning Message was brought by Bro. Woodrow Messex. He used Hebrew 12 as his text. After singing "Footsteps of Jesus", we were dismissed for lunch with prayer led by Bro. John M. Rich.

"Be a Light for Jesus", was the opening hymn for the afternoon meeting. Bro Earl Cook led in prayer, followed by singing of "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms". A devotional was given by Bro. John Holland. He read from Hebrews 12 and Mark 6.

It was suggested that an offering be taken for the Niceville Church to be used for building bathrooms. MSC that this be done. \$29.56 was received for this purpose.

After singing "A Soul Winner For Jesus", Bro. Carl Owen led in prayer. The Registration gave their report at this time. MSC to accept. The Credentials Committee was given. MSC to accept.

MSC that the Mission Board investigate the possibility of acquiring a full time home missionary for the Liberty District. MSC that all churches send their letters to the clerk at least a week before the quarterly meeting so that he might prepare a full report to be given at the meeting. MSC that the clerk send each church a reminder of this.

The Digest Committee gave their report. MSC to accept. MSC that each church send their money to the clerk with their letters.

It was announced that the Vernon Gym would be available for a District Revival. MSC to adjourn.



## SECOND QUARTERLY MEETING

April 20, 1963, Poplar Head Church

The meeting convened with the singing of "Blessed Assurance", followed with prayer led by Bro. Simmons. We then sang "Standing on the Promises".

Bro. Harold Harrison brought the morning devotion from II Thessalonians.

The welcome was given by Bro. Jack Pitts. The response was given by Mrs. Aron Burch.

The churches which had not sent their letters to the clerk prior to the meeting were asked to give them to him at this time. The moderator then called the roll of delegates.

The committees were then appointed by the moderator, after which we sang "Bringing in the Sheaves". Bro Edwards read a letter from the Mission Board. Churches were asked to allow Eddie and Sandra Payne to visit them during the week of May 6-12. The moderator announced that the Youth Camp would be held during the last week in June. The fee was to be \$10.00 for each child. Mrs. Harrison asked that all Officers of the District Auxiliary meet with her during the noon recess. We were dismissed for recess by prayer led by Joyce Kirkland.

We reconvened after recess with the singing of "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms". Bro. Henry Chestnut led in prayer. The congregation sang "I am thine O Lord". The morning message was brought by Bro. Troy Lee Walsingham. He read from I Corinthians 3:9. After the message we sang "Jesus Keep Me Near The Cross", before being dismissed for lunch with prayer led by Bro. Anderson.

The afternoon session opened with the singing of "Footsteps of Jesus", followed by prayer led by Bro. Frank Willis. The afternoon message was brought by Bro. John M. Rich. His text was Matthew 11:28-30.

The Committee reports were given. MSC that all reports be accepted. The call for business was given. Troy Lee Walsingham inquired as to what was being done with the student loan money. Bro. Harold Harrison explained that this was a fund set up for the purpose of lending money to people in our association who needed it to help them attend the Bible College. Bro. Harold Harrison offered his resignation from the Mission Board, since he planned to leave this association. The moderator expressed regret that Bro. Harrison was leaving. Bro. Lewis Cook and Bro. Ernest Owen were nominated to take his place on the Mission Board. Bro. Owen was elected to this position by unanimous vote.

Bro. Jimmy Finch asked that the loan which was made to the Niceville Church and was due in January, be extended until next January. He expressed a desire to pay the interest now. After a short conference, the Mission Board reported that it would be permissible to extend this loan, but suggested that the church make monthly or quarterly payments in order to avoid having to pay the whole amount at one time. Bro. Finch gave the clerk a check for the interest.

It was suggested that the association pay the \$10.00 fee for some children at the Youth Camp, since some families have several children. The moderator suggested that this be done on a local church level. MSC to adjourn. We were dismissed with prayer by Bro. Lewis Cook.

### **THIRD QUARTERLY MEETING**

**July 20, 1963, Piney Grove**

The meeting opened with the singing of "Serve the Lord With Gladness." Bro. Alvin Howell then led in prayer. The congregation sang "Footsteps of Jesus". The morning devotion was brought by Bro. Freeman Edwards. He read from I Corinthians 6.

The welcome was given by Mrs. Vera Owens. The response was given by Mrs. Etha Mae Owen. The moderator called the roll of delegates. He then appointed the committees. MSC that we seat the delegates. Following prayer by Bro. Mitchell Hansley, we recessed for 15 minutes.

The meeting reconvened following the recess with the singing of "All the way my Saviour Leads Me". The Morning message was brought by Bro. Bill George. He read from Ephesians 2:10 and Phillippians 2:5. After the message, we sang "Have Thine Way Lord". Mrs. Oma Owen led in prayer. We then recessed for lunch.

The afternoon opened with the singing of "Have Thine Own Way Lord". Bro. Clyde Owen led in prayer. Bro. Luther Burns brought the afternoon message, using Ephesians 2:10 for his text.

The Registration and Finance Committees gave their reports. MSC to accept. We started the business since the Digest was not ready to report. Bro. Clyde Owen announced the dates that each church would be responsible for food for the Camp Meeting. Bro. Bill George gave a report on the Children's Home. Bro. Jimmy Finch moved that we receive an offering for the Home. The motion was seconded and carried. The offering amounted to \$53.59. The congregation sang "Amazing Grace". The Digest Committee gave their report. MSC to accept.

After several announcements, we were dismissed with prayer by Bro. Troy Lee Walsingham.

### **ANNUAL ASSOCIATION**

**CHIPLEY CHURCH — October 18-19, 1963**

Service opened with singing of "Send the Light", followed with prayer by Bro. Leon Owens. The congregation then sang "The Light of the World is Jesus".

The morning devotion was brought by Bro. H. D. Shuemake. He read from James 2:27. The welcome was given by Bro. Luther Burns. The response was made by Bro. Jack Pitts. The moderator recognized the visiting ministers. The moderator quickly scanned the program in order to acquaint everyone with the order in which business would be carried on. After the appointment of committees, we adjourned for a short recess.

The service reconvened after the recess with the singing of "Rescue the Perishing". Bro. Coy Watson led in prayer. Bro. Walter Eldridge was introduced as the morning speaker. He read from Acts: 1:8. After the message, we sang one verse of "Holy Spirit Breathe On Me". After prayer led by Bro. Harvey Henderson, we adjourned for lunch.

#### **Friday Afternoon**

The afternoon service opened with the singing of "Jesus Saves". Bro. John M. Rich introduced Bro. Coy Watson as the afternoon speaker. He spoke from the theme verse, Acts 1:8.



The moderator called for reports. All committees were ready with their reports. MSC to accept all reports.

New pastors within the association were recognized as follows: Luther Burns, Chipley Church; H. D. Shuemaker, Poplar Head; Walter Eldridge, St. Johns; Frank Willis, Bonifay; Millard Sasser, Niceville; Woodrow Messex, Panama City.

Bro. Freeman Edwards gave a report concerning the churches who be responsible for food for the State Association. Delegates to the State Association were also elected.

The committee which served on the Children's Home Committee last year at Thanksgiving, was asked to serve again this year. Bro. Bill George also announced that the Children's Home was in need of young milk cows. He asked that our association donate some. Bro. Ernest Owen donated one.

Bro. Edwards suggested that we have a working at the Youth Camp in preparation for the State Association which is to be held there. The date for this working was set for Oct. 24, 1963.

Bro. John M. Rich moved that we adjourn. Bro. Millard dismissed with prayer.

#### Friday Night

The meeting opened with congregational singing and prayer. Bro. Freeman Edwards gave the Mission Board Report. MSC to accept. Bro. Kirby Godwin was introduced as the speaker for the evening. After a short devotion, he gave a report on the work in Alaska. He also showed slides. An offering in the amount of \$21.29 was taken for missions. The meeting was dismissed with prayer.

#### Saturday Morning

Service opened with the singing of "Praise Him, Praise Him". Bro. James Rhodes led in prayer. The moderator made opening comments and introduced Bro. Millard Sasser, who brought the morning devotion. He read from Matthew 28:19. After the devotion, the moderator introduced Bro. I. O. Cook as a visiting minister from the Salem Assoc.

The moderator called for a complete obituary report. It was not ready at this time. Bro. Frank Willis gave the Stewardship report for the Bonifay Church. MSC to accept. The Registration Committee gave their report. MSC to accept. The clerk gave the Treasurer's Report. MSC to accept. The Obituary Committee gave their report. MSC to accept. The moderator announced the working at the Youth Camp next Thursday, the 24th. The meeting then recessed for 15 minutes.

Following the recess, the meeting opened with the singing of "At the Cross". An offering for missions was taken. \$28.28 was received.

The moderator introduced Bro. Goodwin, missionary to Alaska, as the morning speaker. He read from John 13:15. After the message, we sang "More Love to Thee", and were dismissed for lunch.

#### Saturday Afternoon

Service reconvened after lunch with the singing of "Saviour Like a Shepherd Lead Us". Bro. Thomas Porter led in prayer. Mrs. Jo Nell Peterson, President of the District Woman's Auxiliary, introduced Mrs. Frances Owens, who brought the afternoon devotion. She read from Exodus 4.

After the devotion, the moderator asked for all business to be brought before the body. He also reminded us that the Liberty Assoc. was supposed to give the Mission Board report at the State Assoc. MSC that the moderator appoint a committee to aid him and the clerk in preparing this report. Troy Lee Walsingham and Leon Owens were appointed to this committee.

Leon Owens asked that Article 9 of the Associational Decorum be discussed as to possible revision. MSC that the moderator appoint a committee to study a revision of the Associational Decorum. Leon Owens, Luther Burns, and W. E. George were appointed to this committee. A new delegate to the State Assoc. had to be appointed to replace Mrs. Etha Mae Owen, who was already a Church delegate. Carl Owen was appointed.

Nominations were opened for a Missions Board member to replace Leon Owens. Troy Lee Walsingham was elected by acclamation. Nomination was opened for officers of the association. Thomas Porter was elected by acclamation. John M. Rich was elected by acclamation. Bill George and Freeman Edwards were nominated for moderator. Freeman Edwards was elected. Two men were needed on the executive committee. Willie Simmons and Lonnie Squires were elected to fill these vacancies. New preachers admitted to the Presbytry were recognized as follows: Millard Sasser, Woodrow Messex, H. D. Shuemake, and Walter Eldridge. Bro. Bill George announced an associational revival which will be held on the second week in April at the Vernon High School Gym, or in a tent. MSC to adjourn and give a rising vote of thanks to the Chipley Church for their Hospitality. John M. Rich dismissed in prayer.

## **Reports of Committees**

### **STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT**

We your committee on stewardship submit the following report:

A steward is one who handles the affairs of another. In 1 Cor. 16:2, we read that it is required that a man be found faithful. We know if we were paying a steward we would want one who is faithful and one in whom we could put our trust to handle our affairs. Brethern, do we handle God's affairs as he has required us to do?

1 Cor. 16.2 says: "Upon the first day of the week, let everyone of you lay by him in store as God hath prospered him, that there be no gathering when I come." If we would accept God's pay plan into the church, we would have abundantly for all our church needs."

Hebrews 10:25 says: "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." Brethern, if we accept all of God's ways, we will have the windows of heaven opened and a blessing bestowed on us that we will not be able to receive. If we fail God, He will require it at our hands. LETS TRY GOD'S WAY — Bonifay Church.

### **COMMITTEE ON AUXILIARIES**

We your Auxiliary Committee find the following:

The Sunday School had 31 officers, 67 teachers and an offering of \$9,117.01. The Womans Auxiliary had 87 members in only 6 circles. 47 GTA members and 58 YPA members, with a total offering of \$1830.40. The League had 33 groups, 29 officers, 227 average attendance and an offering of \$824.73. Masters Men had 37 members, with a total offering of \$290.40.



This report gives us a picture of the importance to our churches. Each church is urged to use auxiliary work as training for future workers. — St. Johns Church.

### COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

We your committee on education submit the following report:

Realizing that secular education provides for itself, we should strive to educate our churches in the Free Will Baptist Doctrine and Treatise. Some ways we do this are: Full-time Sunday Schools and Leagues, Study Courses, and Support of Our Bible College. By doing this, we could be as Paul in II Tim. 2:15, "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. — Pleasant Hill Church.

### TEMPERANCE COMMITTEE

We your committee recommend the following:

1. That the West Florida Liberty Association of Free Will Baptists go on record publicly as being against any and all use of alcoholic beverages.
2. That the West Florida Liberty Association of Free Will Baptists state its conviction of strong disapproval of the "wet or dry" referendum proposed in Holmes County, which would affect some of our churches.
3. That the West Florida Liberty Association of Free Will Baptists go on record as being opposed to the removal of Bible reading and prayer in the public schools.
4. That the members of this association practice moderation in matters concerning the practical things, as our bodies are the temple of the Holy Ghost.
5. That this association promote and endorse Bible Study, Devotional times and prayerful living among its members, since this is the only deterrent to sinful existence.
6. That this report be published in newspapers of Washington and Holmes County.—Chipley Church.

### REPORT OF REGISTRATION

We your committee on registration, submit the following:

Ministers .....	18
Deacons .....	12
Delegates .....	47
Visitors .....	49

Respectfully submitted,  
Chipley Church

### REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE

Received for Cooperative Program .....	\$147.10
Received for Associational Purposes .....	50.00
Received for Student Loan Fund .....	30.00
Received for Home Missions .....	19.77
Received for Foreign Missions .....	30.76

TOTAL RECEIVED .....\$277.63

Respectfully submitted,  
Niceville Church



## REPORT OF CREDENTIAL COMMITTEE

We, your credentials committee, make the following report:

Ministers .....	10
Churches .....	12
Delegates .....	34
Total Membership .....	771

## OBITUARY COMMITTEE

We, your obituary committee, submit the following report:

We wish to ask everyone to stop at this time to pay our respects to the memory of the following members who have said farewell to this life and have gone to be present with our Lord: Brother Coleman Yates of Pleasant Hill; Brother C. C. Owen of Piney Grove; Sister Elizabeth Golden of Piney Grove; Brother Bill Usery of Chipley; Sister Lucy Usery of Chipley; Brother Ben Day of Chipley; Brother Oscar Cooper of Chipley; Sister Erline Whitehurst of Niceville; Sister Mary Lou Kelly of Damascus; Brother Jessie Harris of Poplar Head; Brother Henry Redmon of St. John; Brother W. S. Slay of St. John; Sister Elizabeth Leavins of St. Johns.

May we bow and pray with a few minutes silent meditation.

Respectfully submitted,  
Piney Grove Church

## RESOLUTION COMMITTEE

We, your resolutions committee submit the following report:

Be it resolved that this association, with each local church of this association and each member of every local church, purpose in our hearts to try and better understand and carry out in our lives the teachings of God's Holy Writ.

Be it resolved that we offer a rising vote of appreciation to the host church for the wonderful way in which they have entertained this, the 1963 session of the association.

Respectfully submitted,  
Liberty Church

## MISSION BOARD REPORT

We are glad to report that we had a good Missions Conference. We had speakers representing four foreign countries to challenge us with information direct from the field. We believe more of our people attended the conference, thereby enabling our churches as a whole to receive the burden of missions.

Even though our offerings and pledges were about the same as the previous year, we believe there was and still is a continued increase in prayer for our missionaries. Our offering was \$337.80 and the total pledges were approximately \$1500.00.

Pray for the Mission Board that they may be led by the Holy Spirit in planning our conference for the coming year, for the honor and glory of God.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rev. Freeman Edwards  
Bro. Ernest Owen  
Rev. Leon Owens

## TREASURER'S REPORT 1963

Balance, October 1, 1962:

General Fund .....	\$ 292.88
Mission Board .....	258.67
Student Loan .....	275.00
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>\$ 826.55</b>

### RECEIPTS:

Cooperative Program .....	1068.24
General Fund .....	452.04
Home Missions .....	705.11
Foreign Missions .....	1268.70
Bible College, General Fund .....	414.11
Bible College, Alumni .....	250.00
Student Loan Fund .....	145.00
Miscellaneous Offering .....	210.09
<b>Total Receipts for 1962-63 .....</b>	<b>4513.29</b>
<b>Total to be accounted for .....</b>	<b>5339.84</b>

### DISBURSEMENTS:

Cooperative Fund .....	961.43
Home Missions .....	705.11
Foreign Missions .....	1268.70
Bible College, Gen. Fund .....	414.11
Bible College, Alumni Fund .....	250.00
Printing Minutes .....	112.50
State Assoc. Fee .....	20.00
Moderator and Clerk Fees .....	50.00
Miscellaneous .....	257.65
National Headquarters Bld. ....	50.00
Loan to Wayne Hartzog .....	200.00
<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS .....</b>	<b>4289.50</b>

BALANCE OCT. 15, 1963:

General Fund .....	464.86
Mission Board Fund .....	365.48
Student Loan Fund .....	220.00
<b>Total Bal. ....</b>	<b>1050.34</b>
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>5339.84</b>

### REPORT OF DIGEST COMMITTEE

Total membership last report .....	728	Total Membership .....	866
Received by Baptism ..	13	Value of Church Property .....	\$205560.00
By letter .....	4	Fee sent for Assoc. purposes .....	70.00
Restored .....	0	Fee sent for other purposes .....	194.89
By profession of faith ..	11	<b>TOTAL SENT WITH</b>	
Members lost .....	47	<b>LETTERS .....</b>	<b>264.89</b>
By Letter .....	18		
Died .....	10		

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

Departments .....	15	Evangelists .....	\$ 913.66
Classes .....	71	Building and repairs ....	\$ 11,029.82
Officers .....	33	Miscellaneous .....	866.01
Teachers .....	15	Foreign Missions .....	\$ 1,158.73
Offerings for year .....	\$ 8897.82	Home Missions .....	\$ 821.26
Amount spent for liter- ature .....	\$ 918.05	Children's Home .....	\$ 404.31
Total Paid Out .....	\$ 1244.97	Bible College .....	\$ 769.11
		Total Paid Out .....	\$ 35,748.41

## LEAGUE

<b>WOMAN'S AUXILIARY</b>		No. Enrolled .....	299
No. Members .....	68	No. Officers .....	34
No. Circles .....	3	No. Groups .....	33
GTA Members .....	26	Average Attendance ....	203
YPA Members .....	36	Total Offerings .....	\$ 539.34
Total Offerings .....	\$ 672.66	Amount spent for liter- ature .....	\$ 326.20
Total Paid Out .....	\$ 641.68	Total Paid Out .....	\$ 358.13
General Offerings .....	\$ 37,518.79		
Building Offerings .....	\$ 9,723.28		

## MASTERS MEN

<b>PAID OUT</b>		No. Members .....	21
Coop. Program .....	\$ 843.21	Members in B. A. ....	\$ 0
Pastors .....	\$ 18,942.30	Total Offerings .....	\$ 84.70
		Total Paid Out .....	\$ 77.25

TOTAL RECEIPTS FOR ALL SOURCES .....

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS .....

## DELEGATES

ABIGAIL—Mrs. D. J. Cook, Mrs. Bessie Taylor.  
 BONIFAY—Susie Clark, Sandra Bowlin and Linda Doty.  
 CHIPLEY—Etha Mae Owen, Inez Benn, Lola Clark, Lena Richards.  
 DAMASCUS—Jim Pitts, Kyler Cuchens, Eugene Cuchens.  
 LIBERTY—Mittie Gunn, Mrs. Carson McAlwain, Quinton Miller.  
 NICEVILLE—Ocel Finch, Mrs. Millard Sasser.  
 PANAMA CITY—Ruth Sexton, Wanda Williams, J. E. Williams.  
 PINEY GROVE—Carl Owen, Thelma Owen, Wallace Peterson, Clara McAdams.  
 PLEASANT HILL—Jerrine Burch, Lucile Cook, Whit Lawrence.  
 POPLAR HEAD—Effie Squires, Estelle Crawford, A. F. Squires, Harvey Martin.  
 ST. JOHNS—Corene George, Carlton Nelson, Mary Ellen Cook, Cleo Cook.

## REPORT OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE

We your Nominating Committee submit the following report:

### COMMITTEES ASSIGNED TO CHURCHES:

Stewardship ..... Abigail  
 Auxiliaries ..... Piney Grove  
 Education ..... Damascus



Temperance .....	Panama City
Finance .....	Poplar Head
Nominations .....	Chipley
Resolutions .....	Bonifay
Obituaries .....	Liberty

**QUARTERLY MEETINGS:**

January 18, 1964 .....	Panama City
April 18, 1964 .....	Pleasant Hill
July 18, 1964 .....	Liberty

**MINISTERS' AND DEACONS CONFERENCE:**

November 17, 1963 .....	St. John
February 16, 1964 .....	Piney Grove
May 17, 1964 .....	Bonifay
August 16, 1964 .....	Niceville

**SUNDAY SCHOOL CONVENTION:**

April 25, 1964 .....	Poplar Head
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**LEAGUE CONVENTION:**

March 28, 1964 .....	Abigail
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**WOMAN'S AUXILIARY:**

May 2, 1964 .....	Chipley
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**MASTER'S MEN CONVENTION:**

November 8, 1963 .....	Panama City
May 8, 1964 .....	Bonifay

**LIBERTY MISSIONS CONFERENCE:**

To be announced later.

**LIBERTY ASSOCIATION:**

Damascus .....	October 16-17, 1964
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**LIBERTY ASSOCIATION YOUTH RALLIES:**

January 25, 1964 .....	Damascus
April 25, 1964 .....	Liberty
July 25, 1964 .....	St. John
October 31, 1964 .....	Poplar Head

**MISSION BOARD:**

Freeman Edwards, 64, Troy Lee Walsingham 66, Ernest Owen 65.

**OFFICERS OF ASSOCIATION:**

Moderator .....	Freeman Edwards
Vice Moderator .....	John M. Rich
Clerk-Treasurer .....	Thomas E. Porter

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:**

Cauley Owens 64, Ross Pippin 64, Aron Burch 64, Willie Simmons 65, Lonnie Squires 65.

Respectfully submitted,  
Damascus Church, Clerk

# CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I. Name. This Association shall be known as the WEST FLORIDA LIBERTY FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

ARTICLE II. Composition. This Association shall be composed of such regularly organized and well-disciplined Free Will Baptist Churches conveniently located, as may embody themselves under this constitution.

ARTICLE III. Representation. The Conference of this Association shall consist of delegates from the several Churches of which it is composed, each Church being entitled to two (2) delegates for the first twenty-five (25) members or fraction thereof, and one (1) delegate for each subsequent twenty-five (25) members or fraction thereof.

Section 2. All ordained ministers and deacons who are in good standing with the Association shall be standing delegates.

ARTICLE IV. Section 1. Officers, Boards and Committees. The officers of this Association shall be a Clerk-Treasurer, Moderator, Vice Moderator, Board of Trustees, and a Presbytery, which shall be responsible to God and to the Association for ordination of ministers and deacons, and for their doctrine and moral character, who shall be chosen at every session of the Association, with assistants as may be deemed necessary.

Section 2. The Standing Committees of this Association shall be Executive, Finance, Obituary, Temperance, Stewardship, Auxiliaries, Resolutions, and Nominations. Other committees shall be appointed as the need may arise. The Executive Committee shall be composed of seven members of which the Moderator of the Association who shall be Chairman of the Committee, and Clerk shall be standing members. The other five members shall be elected for two year terms as follows: two one year and three the next year.

Section 3. The Board of Missions consisting of three (3) members shall be elected as follows: one member shall be elected each year.

ARTICLE V. Membership. Any well-organized and well-regulated Free Will Baptist Church which conforms to the practices, and adopts the doctrines of the Free Will Baptist denomination, as published in the treatise of their faith, and in the Minutes of the National Association, and is in favor of all the benevolent enterprises of the denomination, may at any time, on application, by vote of this body, become a member thereof.

Section 2. Churches from other Associations wishing to become members of this Association must present a letter of recommendation from the Association of which they were previously a member.

ARTICLE VI. Meetings. The sessions of this Association shall be held on Friday and Saturday before the third Sunday in October at which time it shall be the duty of the churches of which this Association is composed to represent themselves by letter and delegates, and report their standing, prospects, and statistics. At this time the Association shall act upon such questions and topics as may be referred to it by its respective Quarterly Meeting or Churches, and transact such other business not repugnant to this Constitution, nor to the practices of the denomination, as in its judgment may promote the cause of Christ and the interest of the Churches within the limits of this Association.

Section 2. This Association shall sponsor a Quarterly Meeting to be held on Saturday before the first-third Sunday in each Quarter who representation shall be the same as that of the Association.

Section 3. This Association shall sponsor a student loan fund which shall make loans to worthy students within this Association en-



rolled in Free Will Baptist Bible College. This loan fund shall be established by a representation fee of \$5.00 from each church in the Association payable at each quarterly meeting and annual association and supplemented by gifts. Those being eligible: (1) Shall be a member in good standing of a Free Will Baptist Church in this Association. (2) Shall give to the Trustees of this Association a promissory note payable six months after leaving school with 2 per cent interest to begin when note is due. (3) Note to be endorsed by two competent business men.

ARTICLE VII. Finances. The general expense of the Association shall be provided by each Church according to its ability. The moderator and Clerk shall receive twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) each per year, and the remainder of the money shall be used for Minutes, postage and any other expense that may occur.

Section 2. Each Church shall send at least 10% of its income to the Treasurer of the Quarterly Meetings and the Association for the different phases of the denominational work.

ARTICLE VIII. Discipline. This Association shall have power to discipline the Churches of which it is composed, and to exclude them for disorderly walk, if the labor proves unsuccessful, but in no case to reverse their decisions, nor to interfere with any of their internal regulations.

ARTICLE IX. By-Laws. This Association shall have power to adopt any regulation or by-laws, not inconsistent with this Constitution, which may be deemed essential to the further regulations of its sessions.

ARTICLE X. Amendments. This Constitution may be altered or amended by a vote of the Association at any regular session, notice of such intended alteration having been given in writing, and recorded at the next previous session.

## ASSOCIATION DECORUM

1. This Association shall be called to order by the Moderator elected at the last session if present. If absent, by the Vice Moderator, or someone elected by the body.

2. The Moderator shall see that order is preserved and 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.

3. The Vice Moderator shall assume the duties, rights and privileges of the Moderator in his absence.

4. The delegates shall be enrolled by the clerk as they are seated in the body. The roll shall be called each morning, and all not answering to their names marked absent.

5. No delegate or minister shall be allowed to absent himself from the body during any session without permission from the Moderator.

6. All business shall be brought before the body by move and second and shall be disposed of according to ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER. No person shall be allowed to speak more than three times on the same subject, and not more than ten minutes each time without a move and second from the body.

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

8. 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.



9. 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.

10. No minister or deacon shall be considered in good standing with this body that has more than one living wife, drinks intoxicating beverages or fails to pay or make proper satisfaction of his just and honest debts.

11. All ministers serving churches shall preach at least one sermon a year on doctrine and rules of holy living.

12. Any minister belonging to this body who has an appointment or is serving churches who fails to meet the appointed hours, shall be due acknowledgements to the congregation or church.

13. No minister shall preach in our churches that cannot bring a clear record from his home church.

14. Any minister who will voluntarily step aside shall immediately turn his credentials over to the Executive Committee of the Association.

15. No church shall be recognized in this body who does not commune and wash feet at least twice a year and who does not have conference quarterly. The pastor's salary, number of conferences and the number of communion and feet washing services shall be contained in the associational letter.

16. No church shall be considered in this body that holds fellowship with a minister or deacon that does not conform to Article 10 of this Decorum.

## CHURCH DECORUM

1. The church may choose a pastor annually at the last conference in the associational 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 they 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 for the conference must be appointed by the church in conference at least thirty (30) days in advance.

3. When a pastor wishes to resign a church he shall give the church a sixty (60) day notice; or when the church wishes to call a pastor it shall give the present pastor a sixty (60) day notice.

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

5. There shall be two or more deacons in the church whose duty it shall be to superintend the collection and distribution of all contributions, and to assist the pastor in administration of the Lord's Supper and washing the Saints' Feet.

6. 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.

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

8. When a clerk is appointed, all of the books, Minutes, etc., belonging to the clerk shall be delivered to him by his predecessor.

9. Some suitable member shall be elected treasurer whose duty shall be to distribute all funds as directed by the church.

10. It shall be the rule of the church to attend to the administration of the Lord's Supper and washing of the Saints' Feet as often as the church sees fit. Members not in good standing should not commune, but the administration should not be deferred on account of any orderly matter of dealing.

11. 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 for absentees, (5) Call for acknowledgment, (6) for reference of deferred business, (7) for matters of dealing which are in order to come before the church, and (8) for miscellaneous business.

12. 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 rules of holy living.

13. 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 shall be cited to appear in conference and answer for his conduct; but the church may exempt members from this if necessary.

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

14. 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 brethren to cite each of them to the next conference.

16. Visiting brethren called in as help from sister churches shall be allowed to speak and make motions or seconds, but not allowed to vote.

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

18. 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.

19. No member shall leave the house during conferences without a sufficient cause, nor engage in conversation or whispering without being subject to be called to order by the Moderator.

20. 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.

21. 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.

22. When the Moderator speaks he must nominate some brother as Moderator to act in his stead.

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

24. 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.

25. 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.

26. 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?"

27. The evidence in every case of dealing and acknowledgement shall be recorded in the church.

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

29. 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, baptism, statement, or restoration.

## ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. **THE BIBLE.** The Scripture of the Old and New Testaments were given by inspiration of God, and are our infallible rule of faith and practice.

2. **GOD.** There is one living and true God, revealed in nature as the Creator, Preserver, and Righteous Governor of the universe; and in the Scriptures as Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, yet as one God, infinitely wise and good, whom all intelligent creatures are supremely to love, adore, and obey.

3. **CHRIST.** Christ is God manifest in the flesh; in His divine nature truly God, in His human nature truly man. The Mediator between God and man, once crucified, He is now risen and glorified, and is our ever present Saviour and Lord.

4. **THE HOLY SPIRIT.** The Scriptures assign to the Holy Spirit all the attributes of God.

5. **THE GOVERNMENT OF GOD.** God exercises a wise and benevolent providence over all beings and all things by maintaining the constitution and laws of nature. He also performs special acts, not otherwise provided for, as the highest welfare of men requires.

6. **THE SINFULNESS OF MAN.** Man was created innocent, but by disobedience fell into a state of sin and condemnation. His posterity therefore, inherit a fallen nature of such tendencies that all who come to years of accountability sin, and become guilty before God.

7. **THE WORK OF CHRIST.** The Son of God by His incarnation, life, sufferings, death and resurrection effected for all a redemption from sin that is full and free and is the ground of salvation by faith.

8. **THE TERMS OF SALVATION.** The conditions of salvation are: 1. Repentance or sincere sorrow for sin and hearty renunciation of it. 2. Faith or the unreserved committal of one's self to Christ as Saviour and Lord with purpose to love and obey Him in all things. In the exercise of saving faith the soul is renewed by the Holy Spirit, freed from the dominion of sin and becomes a child of God. 3. Continuance in faith and obedience until death.

9. **ELECTION.** God determined from the beginning to save all who should comply with the conditions of salvation. Hence by faith in Christ men become His elect.

10. **FREEDOM OF THE WILL.** The human will is free and self-controlled, having power to yield to the influence of the truth and the Spirit, or to resist them and perish.

11. **SALVATION FREE.** God desires the salvation of all, the Gospel invites all, the Holy Spirit strives with all and whosoever will may come and take of the water of life freely.



12. PERSEVERANCE. All believers in Christ, who through grace persevere in holiness to the end of life, have promise of eternal salvation.

13. GOSPEL ORDINANCES. Baptism, or the immersion of believers in water, and the Lord's Supper, are ordinances to be perpetuated under the Gospel; Feet Washing, an ordinance teaching humility, of universal obligation, and to be ministered to all true believers.

14. TITHING. God commanded tithes and offerings in the old Testament; Jesus Christ endorsed it in the Gospel (Matt. 23:23), and the Apostle Paul said, "Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store as God hath prospered him."—(1 Cor. 16:2).

15. THE CHRISTIAN SABBATH. The divine law requires that one day in seven be set apart from secular employment and amusements, for rest, worship, holy work and activities, and for personal communion with God.

16. RESURRECTION, JUDGMENT, AND FINAL RETRIBUTION. The Scriptures teach the resurrection of all men at the last day. They that have done good will come forth to the resurrection of life, and they that have done evil unto the resurrection of damnation; then the wicked will "go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

**STATISTICAL TABLE**

CHURCHES	PASTOR	CLERK	Rec. by Baptism	Otherwise	Dismissed by Letter	Died	Total Membership	Paid Pastor	Paid Evangelist	Value of Church Property	Cooperative Program	Total Earmarked Money	Meeting Days
Abigail		Mrs. Archie Cook Vernon, Fla.	0	0	0	0	36	367.72			84.53	375.61	
Bonifay	Frank Willis Panama City, Fla.	Etta Clark Bonifay, Fla.	2	3	6	1	78	1330.00		16,200.00		188.18	F. T.
Chipley	Luther Burns Chipley, Fla.	Cluster Russ Chipley, Fla.	0	3	1	4	137	3900.00	100.00	75,000.00		772.42	F. T.
Damascus	Rev. W. E. George Bonifay, Fla.	Eugene Cuchen Freeport, Fla.	7	0	1	1	56	635.00		7,500.00		23.40	1st&3rd Sun.
Liberty	Rev. Leon Owens Vernon, Fla.	J. H. Milton Bonifay, Fla.	0	0	0	0	50	810.88	63.00	3,000.00	158.95	478.43	1st&3rd Sun.
Niceville	Millard Sasser Niceville, Fla.	Mrs. Jack Tubbs Niceville, Fla.	0	5	3	1	28	606.20	82.36	5,000.00	79.67	291.86	F. T.
Panama City	Woodrow Messex Panama City, Fla.	Ruth Sexton Panama City, Fla.	1	5	3	0	115	3,532.50	163.30	32,000.00	25.00	151.88	F. T.
Piney Grove	Rev. Freeman Ed- wards, Chipley, Fla.	Bernard Owens Chipley, Fla.	0	0	1	0	146	3,120.00	200.00	26,000.00	385.51	1,526.80	F. T.
Pleasant Hill	Rev. T. L. Walsing- ham, Chipley, Fla.	Mrs. Lucille Cook Bonifay, Fla.	3	0	2	1	79	1,360.00	130.00	21,860.00		184.28	F. T.
Poplar Head	H. D. Shoemake Chipley, Fla.	A. F. Squires Bonifay, Fla.	0	0	0	0	71	2,080.00	75.00	15,000.00		392.76	F. T.
St. John	Walter Eldridge Cottondale, Fla.	Loran Cook Bonifay, Fla.	0	0	4	1	72	1,200.00	100.00	4,000.00	196.34	277.79	F. T.
TOTALS.....			13	16	21	9	868	18,942.30	913.66	198,360.00	930.00	4,593.48	

# CHURCH COVENANT

Having given ourselves to God, by faith in Jesus Christ, and adopted the Word of God as our rule of faith and practice, we now give ourselves to one another by the will of God in this solemn covenant.

We promise by His Grace to love and obey Him in all things, to avoid all appearance of evil, to abstain from all sinful amusements and unholy conformity to the world, from all sanction of the use and sale of intoxicating beverages, and to provide things honest in the sight of all men.

We agree faithfully to discharge our obligations in reference to study of the Scriptures, secret prayer, family devotions, and social worship, and by self-denial, faith, and good works endeavor to grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

We will not forsake the assembling of ourselves together for church conferences, public worship, and the observance of the ordinances of the Gospel, nor fail to pay according to our ability for the support of the church, of its poor, and all its benevolent work.

We agree to accept Christian admonition and reproof with meekness, and to watch over one another in love, endeavoring to "keep the unity of the Spirit in the bonds of peace," to be careful of one another's happiness and reputation, and seek to strengthen the weak, encourage the afflicted, admonish the erring and as far as we are able, to promote the success of the church and of the Gospel.

We will everywhere hold Christian principles sacred and Christian obligations and enterprises supreme; counting it our chief business in life to extend the influence of Christ in society; constantly praying and toiling that the Kingdom of God may come, and His will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.

To this end we agree to labor for the promotion of educational and denominational enterprises, the support of Missions, the success of Sunday Schools, and evangelistic efforts for the salvation of the World. And may the God of peace sanctify us wholly, and preserve us blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.



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