

Church Covenant
MINUTES *Page 9*

of the
FORTY-SIXTH ANNUAL SESSION
of
FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCHES
of the
WEST FORK ASSOCIATION
held with
NEW SALEM CHURCH
near
Decatur, Texas
September 3rd. to 5th. 1935

OFFICERS

REV. T. H. NEWSOM, MODERATOR
W. D. PHILLIPS, CLERK

The next Annual Session of the Association will be held with the Buffalo Springs Free Will Baptist Church at Buffalo Springs, Texas., which convenes on Tuesday night before the first Sunday in September, 1936.

THE WIER PRESS
P. O. BOX 4398 FORT WORTH, TEXAS

PROCEEDINGS OF

The forty-sixth Annual Session of Free Will Baptist Churches of the West Fork Association met with the New Salem Church at Decatur, Texas., Tuesday night, September 3rd. 1935.

Devotional: Rev. J. A. Brooks.

Moderator Rev. T. H. Newsom read the church covenant and commented on the same.

The meeting adjourned to convene at 9:00 A. M. Wednesday.

WEDNESDAY MORNING

Devotional: Rev. Lee Crosley.

The moderator Rev. T. H. Newsom declared the forty-sixth Annual session of the West Fork Association opened in conference. The minutes of the forty-fifth annual session was read and approved.

Moved that the chair appoint the following committées.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Rev. and Sister C. J. Turrentine and Sister Maud Wier.

TEMPERANCE: Rev. M. L. Sutton, Rev. K. V. Shutes and Bro. H. H. Killough.

HOME and FOREIGN MISSION: Rev. Lee Crosley, Rev. J. C. Hodges and Rev. Frank Bennett.

OBITUARY: Rev. J. A. Brooks, Bro. J. W. Taylor and Bro. T. H. Brown.

MINUTE: Rev. Frank Bennett, Rev. Allie Ferguson and Sister Clara Turrentine.

PROGRAM: Rev. Tiff Covington, Bro. A. J. Measures and Bro. Chas. B. Wier.

BY-LAWS: The following committee was appointed to revise our by-laws and constitution. Rev. M. L. Sutton, Rev. K. V. Shutes and Rev. Tiff Covington.

CREDENTIAL: Rev. J. C. Hodges, Rev. Tiff Covington,

Rev. K. V. Shutes, Rev. Frank Bennett and Rev. M. L. Sutton.

Adjourned for the eleven o'clock sermon.

Sermon; Rev. M. L. Sutton, reading first eleven verses 2nd. Phillippians; Text: 'Let this mind be in you.'

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON

Devotional: Rev. C. J. Turrentine.

Prayer: Rev. J. C. Hodges.

Credential Committee, on report, recommended that Bro. Brasher be ordained.

The various church letters were called for and responded as follows.

NEW SALEM: To the West Fork Association when convened with the New Salem Church, Decatur, Texas., September 3rd to 5th.

Greetings: We send to you our beloved brethren; Bro. J. W. Taylor, Bro. T. H. Brown and Bro. Fred Anderson whom we pray you to seat to aid you in your Godly deliberations. State of religion, good; Sunday school, good; number of members, 41. Received this year, none; dismissed, none. Amount paid pastor, \$101.53. Name and address of pastor for coming year, Rev. Tiff Covington, Buffalo Springs, Texas. W. D. Phillips, Clerk.

NEW HOPE. To the West Fork Association. State of religion fairly good, one revival, Sunday school, good. Delegates, A. J. Measures and wife and Nellie Phillips. Membership, 54; died one. Rev. T. H. Newsom, pastor. Paid pastor, \$60.00. Value of church property \$1,000. R. L. White, Clerk, Route 5, Weatherford, Texas. August 20. 1935.

TRINITY FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH. Fort Worth, Texas. To the West Fork Association of Free Will Baptist Churches when convened with the New Salem Church, Decatur, Texas., Tuesday night September 3rd. 1935. Greetings:

Brethren, we send to you our beloved, Sisters Maud Wier, Lena Mullins and Oma Burton, whom we ask you to seat in your council to aid you in your deliberations for the furtherance of the Gospel.

State of religion, good. Members received this year by baptism, 3, by letter, 21, dismissed 4. Total membership, 86. Condition of prayer meeting, good. Sunday school enrollment, 150. Officers, 2;

Teachers, 10. Paid pastor, \$930.00. Paid evangelist, \$25.00. For building and repairs, \$614.33. For education, \$9.96. Miscellaneous expenditures, \$84.63. Amount enclosed for minutes, \$3.00.

Willing Worker's report: Number enrolled, 14. Visits made, 190. Collections, \$104.01 which was paid to the church treasurer.

Ministers belonging to our church: Rev. W. V. McPhail, Wichita Falls, Texas., and Rev. John H. Lucas, Smithfield, Texas.

Done by order of the Trinity Free Will Baptist Church when in regular conference, Wednesday night, August 7th. 1935. Rev. M. L. Sutton, Pastor. Mr. Chas. B. Wier, Clerk.

FIRST FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH. Fort Worth, Texas. To the West Fork Association of Free Will Baptist Churches when convened with the New Salem Church at Decatur, Texas., September 3rd. to 5th. 1935. We send as delegates our beloved brethren; Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Killough and Louri Lee Moore.

State of religion, good. Present enrollment, 133. Members received this year, 19; baptised, 7. Dropped from roll, 40. Condition of midweek prayer meeting, good. Condition of weekly cottage prayer meeting, good. Sunday school, fair; average attendance, 72. Officers and teachers, 12. Condition of League, good. Ladies' Aid Society doing a splendid work. 24 members. Attendance, good. Visited 202 sick homes, made 470 visits for Sunday school and church. Funds received, \$121.24, paid church, \$58.50. Paid Foreign Mission, \$2.00 and painted our church building. Sister K. V. Shutes, President; Sister Gee Moore, Secretary. Paid pastor, \$674.98. Paid choir director \$131.69. Paid on property and miscellaneous, \$402.59. Amount enclosed for minutes, \$3.00. Ministers belonging to church; Rev. K. V. Shutes, Pastor; Rev. J. C. Hodges; Rev. Allie Ferguson, Rev. Ray Stanford; Rev. M. F. Bennett and Rev. J. Roberts.

Done by order of the First Free Will Baptist Church, in conference August 7th. 1935. Rev. K. V. Shutes, Moderator. D. F. Carter, Clerk

FIRST FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH, Oak Cliff, Dallas, Texas.

Dear brethren, we ask that you seat Bro. and Sister Stanley Brewer as delegates from our church. Bro. L. M. Davis resigned as our pastor Sunday February, 10th. and the church called Bro. Allie Ferguson of Fort Worth, Texas., to fill out the year. Paid out for church rent \$103.00. The Ladies' Aid have made doughnuts and cookies which were sold for church funds. They now have a friendship quilt that sells 10c per name. There has been only two conversions and one addition to the church. Bro. Allie Ferguson conducted our revival, beginning

August 4th. Our dear Bro. John Jenkins departed this life October 11th. 1934 and went on to his reward. Our little church has been faithfully carrying on one year and five months. The Lord has blessed each member of our church and we ask the prayers of all the churches that we may establish a great work here in Dallas. Sister Sybil Dunaway, Clerk,

BUFFALO SPRINGS FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH. To the West Fork Association of Free Will Baptist Churches convening with the New Salem Church. Greetings; State of religion, good. Unity. good. Sunday school, good. We send as delegates. Bro. Ben White, Bro. Ray Adams and Sister Ethel Inman, whom we ask you to seat in your council to aid you in your deliberations for the furtherance of the Gospel. Resident members, 124; non-resident 25; died, one. Ordained ministers belonging to our church are, Rev. J. A. Brooks, Buffalo Springs, Texas and Rev. Clyde Shults, Clovis, New Mexico. We have paid our pastor approximately, \$60.00. We have called Rev. Tiff Covington as pastor for another year. Received 21 new members this year. Done by order of the church when in conference Aug. 24th. 1935. Rev. Tiff Covington, Pastor. Sister Maggie Cox, Clerk.

WEATHERFORD FIRST FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH. To the West Fork Association of Free Will Baptists, convening with New Salem Church, Greeting: We send as delegates, Sister A. W. Brasher and Sister Eddie Brown. State of religion, fair; unity, fair. Condition of Sunday school, fair; 30 enrolled. We recommend Rev. A. W. Brasher for examination for ordination. Number of members added by baptism, 5; by letter, 9. Membership, 65; one dismissed by letter, Sister Eddie Brown, alternate delegate.

FIELD CITY FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH. Dallas, Texas. To the West Fork Association of Free Will Baptist when convened with New Salem Church at Decatur, Texas., September 3rd. 1935. We send as delegates, our beloved brethren: Bro. Chas. Crosley and Bro. Walter Cotten. whom we pray you will receive to sit with you and aid you in your Godly deliberations. State of religion, good. Members received this year, 4; dismissed, 5; died, 2. Total membership, 54. Condition of prayer meeting, good; Sunday school, good. Average number of pupils, 40. Number of officers, 3; teachers, 5. Pastor's name and address, Elder Lee Crosley, Route 5. Box 80-B, Dallas, Texas. Names and addresses of ministers; Elder W. G. Beaty and Elder W. V. Kennedy, both of Dallas. Deacons Ed. Attwood, Dal-

las; and Lee W. Pruitt, Letot, Texas. Done by order of the church assembled in conference, September 1st. 1935. Moderator, Elder Lee Crosley. Oliver Hilliard, Clerk.

First Free Will Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Texas	\$4.00
Trinity Free Will Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Texas	\$3.00
New Hope Free Will Baptist Church Weatherford, Texas	\$3.00
New Salem Free Will Baptist Church, Decatur, Texas	\$3.00
Buffalo Springs Free Will Baptist Church, Buffalo Springs, Texas	\$3.00
Unity Free Will Baptist Church, Azle, Texas	\$3.00
Oak Cliff Free Will Baptist Church, Dallas Texas	None
First Free Will Baptist Church, Field City, Dallas, Texas	None
First Free Will Baptist Church, Weatherford, Texas	None

Collection was taken to buy a Journal that the Clerk may keep a record of the Association.

Brother Brasher was ordained: Ordaining council being, Rev. M. L. Sutton, Rev. J. C. Hodges and Rev. Tiff Covington.

Moved that the forty-seventh Annual Session of the West Fork Association shall convene on Tuesday night before the first Sunday in September, 1936 with Buffalo Springs Church, Buffalo Springs, Texas., and this date be printed on the front cover of the minutes.

Adjourned to meet again at 7:30 P. M.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT

Devotional: Bro. H. H. Killough.

Sermon: Rev. J. C. Hodges, subject; 'Has Man a Soul.'

THURSDAY MORNING

Devotional: Sister Maud Wier.

Conference called to order. Minutes of Wednesday meeting was read and approved.

Report of following committees read and approved.

Sunday School Committee; Rev. C. J. Turrentine, Chairman.

Temperance Committee; Rev. K. V. Shutes, Chairman.

By-law and Constitution Committee: Rev. K. V. Shutes, Chairman.

Obituary Committee; Rev. J. A. Brooks, Chairman. (see report)

Report of Ladies' Aid Work in this Association by Sister Howard Morris was read. Sister Hodges was elected President of this work in this Association. (see report)

Moved that the chair appoint delegates to the State Convention. The delegates were: Brothers, Brewer, H. H. Killough, Chas. B. Wier. W. D. Phillips, J. T. Reeder, A. J. Measures, Jim Collins and T. H. Newsom, and Sisters Jewel Brandon, Crosley and Florene Withers.

It was recommended that each church send at least \$2.00 with it's delegate to the State Convention.

Moved to adjourn until 1:30 P. M.

Sermon: Rev. K. V. Shutes; Text, 'I am not ashamed of the Gospel, for it is the Power of God unto Salvation, to every one that believeth.'

THURSDAY AFTERNOON

Officers were elected for the next Association as follows:

Rev. Tiff Covington, Moderator. Rev. J. C. Hodges, Vice-Moderator. W. D. Phillips, Association Clerk. Mrs. W. D. Phillips, Treasurer.

Rev. Allie Ferguson was elected to preach the introductory sermon.

Moved and carried that the program committee be appointed at the setting of each session.

It was voted to ask the State Convention to meet within the bounds of the West Fork Association.

Moved and carried that the visiting brothers and sisters thank the New Salem community for their hospitality that was shown them during the Association.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Sunday School Supplies and Literature. We your committee on Sun-

day School Supplies and Literature, beg leave to report as follows: First; we urge every church to use the bible only in their Sunday School, but when literature may be used we urge them to use Free Will Baptist Literature. Second; That every church adopt the six point record system in their Sunday school and League. Third; We also recommend that you support and subscribe for Free Will Baptist Gem of Purdy, Missouri as this paper takes care of our reports for publication, that all our churches will know our progress.

Six point record system material may be had from Rev. C. J. Turrentine of Fort Worth, Texas. Committee: Rev. C. J. Turrentine, Sister Clara Turrentine and Bro. Chas. B. Wier.

Temperance Committee. We your, committee on temperance, offer the following report; First, Realizing that there is much intemperance in the land today that we recognize the fact and deplore the conditions. Second; That we, as christians stand firm against every form of worldliness and teach others the evils thereof. Third; That we urge our ministers to be an example to the flock, that they live grave and sober lives in speech and actions. Fourth; That we use our vote and influence whenever opportunity is afforded against the liquor traffic, horse racing and every form of gambling and against all politicians who favor this traffic in any form. Fifth; That we preach and teach the evils of the dance, horse racing, gambling, drinking, mixed bathing, and abbreviated costumes of the bathers, athletes and all forms of worldly conformity. Sixth; That we teach our people, both young and old, to be clean in body mind and soul. Committee; Rev. K. V. Shutes, Rev. M. L. Sutton and Bro. H. H. Killough.

Obituary Committee. We your committee on obituary, report the following: Bro. Augsberger, member of the First Church of Fort Worth, died. May we as brethren and sisters of this Association extend our heart felt sympathies to all bereaved ones. Committee: Rev. J. A. Brooks, Bro. Will Taylor and Bro. Thomas Brown.

Report of Aid Work. 38 garments to needy; 31 sick visits; 9 trays and other refreshments; 9 visits to shut-ins, read bible and prayers; 1 hospital visit; groceries given, \$3.35; missions, \$3.60; 1 letter of cheer to prisoner in death cell awaiting electrocution. Addresses of 48 churches. Have written 94 letters. Have reports from 14 churches with 9 reporting organization. Received \$3.29. We have 63 Free Will Baptist churches in Texas. Have been unable in getting addresses of 15. Mrs Howard Morris.

CONSTITUTION

We, the members of the Free Will Baptist Churches of the West Fork Association, in order to perpetuate a more complete union among us and maintain correspondence among ourselves do ordain this constitution for our better government.

Art. 1. Membership. This Association shall be composed of members chosen by the various churches of our union not exceeding three messengers from each church and upon the production of letters shall be entitled to seat if found orderly. All ordained ministers of said union shall be regular members by virtue of their office.

Art. 2. Name. This body shall be known as the West Fork Association of Free Will Baptists.

Art. 3. Authority. This Association shall have no power to lord it over the Lord's heritage; neither shall it have any ecclesiastic power over the churches, only as an advisory body, but shall have authority to discipline or withdraw from disorderly churches.

Art. 4. New Churches. Newly constituted churches may be admitted to the Association by petitionary letters and delegates. If upon examination they are found orthodox and orderly shall be received into the Association. The moderator extending to them the right hand of fellowship.

Art. 5. Questions. No question from any church shall come under the consideration of the Association unless it has been first discussed in its own church.

Art. 6. Motions. Every motion made and seconded shall come under the consideration of the Association, except it be withdrawn by the member who made it.

Art. 7. Minutes. The Association is to endeavor to furnish the churches with minutes of the Association in proportion to the number of members in each church, the distribution to be at the discretion of the Association.

Art. 8 Clerk. It shall be the duty of the clerk to keep a regular file of the minutes of the Association in a book to be kept by the Association for the purpose.

Art. 9. Signatures. The minutes of the Association shall be read and corrected, if needed, and signed by the moderator and clerk, before the close of the Association.

Art. 10. Amendments. Amendments to this constitution may be made when necessary, by a majority vote of the members present. Rev. K. V. Shutes, Rev. Tiff Covington and Rev. T. H. Newsom.

CHURCH COVENANT

Having given ourselves to God by faith in 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 the 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 the 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 the knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ." We will not forget 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 promote the success of the church and of the Gospel. We will everywhere hold Christian principle 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 Sabbath Schools, and evangelistic efforts for the salvation of souls, and the conversion of the world. And may the God of peace sanctify us wholly, and preserve us blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Letter from _____ Church, to the

(Please state whether Quarterly or yearly meeting, Association, Conference or General Conference)

when convened with _____ Church at

We send as delegates, our beloved brethren:

whom we pray you will receive to sit with you, to aid you in your Godly deliberations.

State of religion _____ Members received this year, by letter _____ by baptism _____; dismissed _____ No. died _____ Total membership _____ Condition of prayer meeting _____ of Sunday school _____ Average number of pupils _____ Number of officers _____ of teachers _____ Paid pastor \$ _____ Paid evangelist \$ _____ Amount for building and repairs \$ _____ for incidentals \$ _____ Value of church property \$ _____ Miscellaneous expenditures \$ _____ Amount enclosed for minutes \$ _____ Pastor's name and address _____

Names and addresses of Ministers and Deacons

Ministers

Deacons

Done by order of the church assembled in conference, this _____ day of _____ 19 _____.

Moderator

Clerk

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