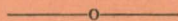


MINUTES
OF THE
Forty-seventh Annual Session
OF THE
West Fork Association
OF
Free Will Baptist Churches
HELD WITH THE
Pleasant Valley Church
AT
Buffalo Springs, Texas
September 1 to 3, 1936



The next session of this association will be held with the Easley's Chapel church near Comanche, Texas, beginning Tuesday night before the first Sunday in September, 1937

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PROCEEDINGS OF

The forty-seventh annual session of the West Fork Association of Free Will Baptist churches which convened with the Pleasant Valley church of Buffalo Springs, Texas, September 1 to 3, 1936.

Tuesday Night

The Association was convened and devotional service was conducted by Rev. Jess Johnson. Introductory sermon preached by Rev. Allie Ferguson. His text was 2 Corinthians 4:1. On motion the session was adjourned until 9:00 o'clock Wednesday morning.

Wednesday Morning

The Association was called to order by the Moderator at 9:00 o'clock. Rev. T. H. Newson conducted the devotional service. Because of his heavy duties as pastor of the entertaining church Rev. Tiff Covington offered his resignation as Moderator of the Association which was reluctantly accepted. Rev. Allie Ferguson, pastor of the First Church of Dallas was elected to the vacant chair.

At this time the clerk read the constitution of the Association and the Association unanimously adopted it as read.

Letters from the following churches were read and their delegates seated. First Church, Fort Worth; Trinity Church, Fort Worth; First Church, Weatherford; New

Salem Church, Decatur; First Church, Dallas; Vandyke Church, Comanche; Pleasant Valley Church, Buffalo Springs.

On motion the Moderator appointed the following committees.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Rev. M. L. Sutton, Mrs. Lillie White and Miss Lura Lee Moore.

TEMPERANCE: Rev. C. J. Turrentine, Rev. T. H. Newsom and Rev. J. C. Hodges.

MISSIONS: Rev. J. A. Brooks, Rev. Tiff Covington and Rev. Clyde Shults.

MINUTES: Mr. Chas. B. Wier, Mr. W. D. Phillips and Mr. John Shults.

PROGRAM: Mrs. M. L. Sutton, Rev. Tiff Covington and Rev. R. B. Easley.

OBITUARY: A. J. Measures, Mrs. Belle Easley and Mrs. Belle Hodges.

On motion the minutes of the Forty-sixth Annual Session of the Association were read. The minutes were approved as read.

Regularly moved and carried that the Association invite the State Convention to meet at the Trinity church in Fort Worth in 1937.

Rev. M. L. Sutton was appointed chairman of the committee on entertainment should the Convention accept the invitation.

Wednesday Afternoon

Moved to adjourn for the eleven o'clock preaching service.

Mrs. Belle Easley of Comanche led the devotional service.

Rev. Clyde Shults of New Mexico brought a wonderful message on, The Atonement. The service was closed with a good old fashion hand sake.

Dinner was served at the church. It was a wonderful spread and everyone enjoyed it very much.

At 2:00 o'clock the Association was called to order by the Moderator. The devotional service was conducted by Mrs. Genie Crowder of the Trinity church, Fort Worth, after which the Moderator called for any business that was ready to come before the body. Resolution No. 1 was read and adopted. (See Resolutions).

The new Treaties of the National Association of Free Will Baptist was read and adopted.

Moved and carried that this Association tithe to the State Convention beginning with this session.

Resolution No. 2 read and adopted. (See Resolutions)

Moved and carried that the visiting ministers be seated as advisory members of this body.

Report of the Ladies Work was heard and enjoyed by all. Mrs. Syble Dunaway of Dallas was elected President of the Ladies Work and Mrs. Oma Burton of the

Trinity Church, Fort Worth. Secretary.

Wednesday afternoon of each session for their work, it being understood that they will convene and function as

only. At this time the Association voted to give the Ladies a separate organization then make their report to the Association to be recorded in the minutes.

Moved to adjourn until 8:00 o'clock P. M.

Wednesday Night

The night services were begun by the choir led by Rev. M. L. Sutton. Miss Lura Lee Moore gave a beautiful chalk talk while a special arranged quartet sang, "When They Ring The Golden Bells." At this time we were favored with some special songs by Rev. Johnson and his two children after which the Brooks sisters rendered a beautiful duet entitled, "Does Jesus Care."

The devotional was conducted by Rev. M. F. Bennett of the First church, Fort Worth, after which Dr. J. K. Warrington of Denton delivered a wonderful message on, "Why Did Christ Suffer?"

At this time Rev. Allie Ferguson asked that the Association relieve him as Moderator since he could not remain at the Association longer. The association granted his request and gave him the authority to appoint a successor to fill out his term. Rev. M. L. Sutton was appointed.

Adjourned until 9:00 o'clock Thursday morning.

Thursday Morning

Dr. H. G. Norris of Bufalo Springs conducted the devotional service at 9:00 o'clock and made a fine talk on, "Seek Ye First The Kingdom of God and His Righteousness," which was greatly enjoyed by all.

After the devotional service business was called for and the following committees made their reports. Committee on Minutes, Committee on Missions, and Committee on Temperance. (See Reports).

Business was dismissed for the 11 o'clock preaching service. Rev. M. L. Sutton of Fort Worth delivered the message on, "War In Heaven," using as his text Revelation 12:1-11. The privilege of church membership was extended and three united with the church. After another good hand shake the session was adjourned until 2:30 p. m.

Another bountiful dinner was served at the church which was greatly enjoyed by all.

Thursday Afternoon

The Moderator conducted the devotional reading the thirteenth chapter of First Corinthians.

Business called for.

Moved and carried that the Moderator appoint delegates to represent this Association in the State Convention. The following were appointed: A. J. Measures, Mrs. A. J. Measures, Mrs. Julia Wright, Jesse McIntire, J. W.

Brown, W. D. Phillips, G. W. Taylor, Chas. B. Wier, Mrs. Maud Wier, H. H. Killough, Miss Lura Lee Moore, Jim Collins, J. C. Veach, J. N. Alderman, Mrs. J. A. Brooks, Mrs. Lizzie Brandon.

Moved that the Clerk write a letter to the State Convention and send it, along with sixteen dollars as our entry fee to the Convention, to A. J. Measures, who is the chairman of the group of delegates.

The following officers were elected for the next session of the Association Rev. Tiff Covington of Buffalo Springs, Moderator; W. D. Philips of Decatur, Clerk; Mrs. W. D. Phillips of Decatur, Treasurer.

Moved that Rev. M. L. Sutton voice the thanks of this Association to the Pleasant Valley church and the community for the royal way in which they entertained the Association during this session. This was done in a spirit of Christian love and fellowship whereupon the pastor, Rev. Tiff Covington, responded in beautiful words which made all of the delegates and visitors feel the welcome of the church.

Thanks were extended to all the visiting ministers and brethren for their co-operation and they were invited to meet in our Association often.

The Association voted to hold its next session at the Easley's Chapel church near Comanche, Texas, beginning on Thursday night before the First Sunday in September 1937.

Rev. Tiff Covington was elected to preach the In-

troductory Sermon at the next session.

Motion to adjourn to meet with Easley's Chapel church Thursday night before the First Sunday in September 1937.

Thus they closed the Forty-seven Annual Session of the West Fork Association of Free Will Baptist Churches (One of the most harmonious and profitable sessions in history) with another good old fashion hand shake and two more additions to the church. Rev. C. J. Turrentine of Fort Worth remained over and preached to a large congregation of anxicus listeners, an when we said goodby we said, "I was glad when they said, Let us go unto the house of the Lord."

Rev. Allie Ferguson, Mod.
Fort Worth, Texas.

W. D. Phillips, Clerk
Rte. 1, Decatur, Texas.

Church Letters

The Church of Gcd, known as the Trinity Free Will Baptist Church of Fort Worth, Texas, worshipping at 2320 Azle Avenue in Fort Worth to the West Fork Association of Free Will Baptist Churches when convened with the Pleasant Valley church of Buffalo Springs, Texas, September 1, 1936; Greetings.

Brethren we send our beloved brother Chas. B. Wier, and sisters Genie Crowder and Edna Howard whom we ask you to seat in your council to aid you in your deliberations for the furtherance of the gospel.

Our state of religion is good. Members received this year 15; by baptism 5. by letter 10; dismissed 4,

died, 1. Total membership 96. Condition of prayer meeting good. Sunday school enrollment 150. Officers 2; Teachers, 9. Paid pastor \$986.00; Paid evangelist \$8.30. For building and repairs \$499.08. For education \$16.22. Miscellaneous expenditures \$346.23. For radio broadcast \$144.00. Total amount paid out \$1,999.83.

WILLING WORKERS REPORT

Average attendance 8. Visits made 780. Collections \$110.57. Paid out \$88.11. Balance in treasurer \$22.46.

MINISTERS BELONGING TO OUR CHURCH

Rev. W. V. McPhail, Rev. C. J. Turrentine, Rev. Jack Campbell, all of Fort Worth, Texas; Rev. John Lucas, Smithfield, Texas.

REMARKS

In our regular conference of May 6, 1936, the church voted to pay a tithe to the Association therefore, we are submitting our check for the amount for \$75.60 which represents 10 per cent of all our offerings from the date of the above mentioned conference.

Done by the order of the Trinity Free Will Baptist church when in called conference Wednesday night August 26, 1936.

M. L. Sutton, Pastor

Chas. B. Wier, Clerk.

The First Free Will Baptist Church of Fort Worth, Texas, to the West Fork Association of Free Will Baptist churches when convened with the Buffalo Springs Free Will Baptist church of Buffalo Springs, Texas,

September 1 to 3, 1936. We send as delegates our beloved brthern, Mr. H. H. Killough, Miss Lura Lee Moore and Mrs. J. H. Cosby.

State of religion good. Present enrollment 136. Members received 10; baptism 8, statement 2, Dropped from roll none. Condition of mid week prayer meeting good. Condition of weekly cottage prayer meeting good. Sunday school fair. Average attendance 68; Officers and teachers 12. Condition of League fairly good. Ladies Aid doing fine work; enrollment 20, funds received \$95.00. Sister K. V. Shutes, president; Sister Gee Moore, Secretary. Paid pastor \$786.50. Paid choir director \$118.57. Paid on property and miscellaneous \$436.77. Amount enclosed for minutes, \$3.00. Paid to evangelists \$112.09. Balance on hand \$6.85.

Ministers belonging to our church; Bro. J. C. Hodges Ray Stanford, M. F. Bennett Done by order of the First Free Will Baptist conference Aug. 5, 1936.

J. C. Hodges, Moderator.

D. F. Carter, Clerk.

The First Free Will Baptist church of Dallas, Texas to the West Fork Association of Free Will Baptist churches when convened with the Pleasant Valley church of Buffalo Springs, Texas, September 1 to 3, 1936; Greetings.

We send as delegates our beloved Brethren Tom Veach, I. N. Alderman and Sister Sybil Dunaway, whom we pray you to receive to sit with you and aid you in your godly deliberations.

State of religion good. Members received this year, by letter 16, by baptism none. Dismissed 2 died 1. Total membership 36. Condition of prayer meeting fair. Of Sunday school good; average number of pupils 30; number of officers 2; number of teachers 3. Paid pastor \$22.00, paid for building and repairs \$152.53, incidentals \$9.60, amount enclosed for minutes \$3.00.

Pastor's name and address, Rev. Alie Ferguson, 1209 Devit St. Fort Worth, Texas.

Names and addresses of ministers and deacons belonging to our church. Rev. Allen Gibson, 2605 Lovefield, Dallas; Dea. I. N. Alderman, 706 N. Lancaster, Dallas; Dea. Tom Veach, 2411 Harrison, Dallas; Dea. Ed Atwood, 2605 Lovefield, Dallas.

Done by the order of the church assembled in conference this 15th day of August, 1936.

A. F. FERGUSON,
Sybill Dunaway, Clerk,
1111 Cascade, Dallas.

The Pleasant Valley Free Will Baptist church of Buffalo Springs, Texas, to the West Fork Association of Free Will Baptist churches when convened with the Pleasant Valley church in Buffalo Springs, Texas, September 1 to 3, 1936; greetings:

We send as delegates our beloved brethren, Jess McAntyre, John Shults and Ben White, whom we pray you will receive to sit with you, to aid you in your godly de-

liberations.

State of religion good. Members received this year, by letter 2 by baptism 1; dismissed none; total membership 150. Condition of prayer meeting good. Our Sunday school is newly organized. Number of officers 2, number of teachers 4. Paid pastor \$50.00; paid evangelist \$15.00; paid for building and repairs \$400.00; value of church property \$1,500.00.

Name and address of Pastor, Rev. Tiff Covington, Buffalo, Springs, Texas.

Ministers and deacons belonging to our church: Rev. Tiff Covington, Buffalo Springs, Texas; Rev. Johnnie Brooks, Weatherford, Texas; Rev. John Shults, Gladiola, N. M. Dea. Bill Reader, Buffalo Springs, Texas; Dea. Jess Broom, R. 2, Bellevue, Texas; Dea. Arch James, R 2. Shannon, Texas.

Done by order of the church assembled in conference this 28th day of July, 1936.

Rev. Tiff Covington, Moderator, Mrs. Maggie Cox, Clerk.

The Easley's Chapel Free Will Baptist church at Van Dyke Texas to the West Fork Association of Free Will Baptist churches when convened with the Pleasant Valley church at Buffalo Springs, Texas, September 1 to 3, 1936; Greetings.

We send as delegates our beloved P. J. Easley, and sisters Belle Easley and Grace Collins whom we pray you

to receive to sit with you and aid you in your godly deliberations.

State of religion good. Members received this year; by statement 2, by bapt'sm 11. Condition of Sunday school good; number of officers 5, number of teachers 4. Paid evangelist \$109.28. Paid for building and repairs \$168.00. For incidentals \$5.00. For miscellaneous expenditures \$96.63. Amounts enclosed for minutes \$2.00. Value of church property \$1,500.00. Total expenditures \$398.91.

Names and addresses of ministers and deacons belonging to our church: Rev. R. B. Easley, Rev. M. R. Gains, Dea. P. J. Easley, Dea J. C. Z. Brinson, Dea. J. W. Collins.

Done by order of the church assembled in conference this 22nd day of August, 1936.

Mrs. Lizzie McAdams, Moderator. J. W. Collins, Clerk.

The First Free Will Baptist church of Weatherford, Texas to the West Fork Association of Free Will Baptist churches when convened with the Pleasant Valley church at Buffalo Springs, Texas September 1 to 3, 1936. Greetings.

We send as delegates our beloved sister J. A. Brooks whom we pray you to receive to sit with you to aid you in your godly deliberations.

State of religion good. Members received this year; by letter 2. Dismissed 4. Total membership 60. Condition

of prayer meeting good. Condition of Sunday school good, average number of pupils 25, number of officers 3, number of teachers 4. Paid pastor \$52.25, paid evangelist \$11.00, paid for building and repairs \$13.50, paid for incidentals \$23.00, paid for miscellaneous expenditures \$2.00. Value of church property \$1,000.00.

Name and address of pastor: Rev. J. A. Brooks, Weatherford, Tex. Names and addresses of ministers and deacons belonging to our church. Rev. J. M. Walker, Mrs. Verda Walker, Rev. J. A. Brooks, Rev. E. H. Brown, Dea. H. L. Harley, Dea. A. J. Brown.

Done by order of the church in conference this 19th day of August, 1936.

Rev. J. M. Walker, Moderator. Mrs. E. H. Brown, Clerk.

The New Salem Free Will Baptist church near Decatur, Texas to the West Fork Association of Free Will Baptist churches when convened with the Pleasant Valley church at Buffalo Springs, Texas September 1 to 3, 1936. Greetings.

We send as delegates our beloved brethren G. W. Taylor, Henry Porter and A. J. Lamar whom we pray that you will receive to sit with you to aid you in your godly deliberations.

State of religion good. Members received this year; by letter 1, by baptism 2. Dismissed none. None died. Total membership 43. Condition of Sunday school good; average number of pupils 35, number of officers 5, number of teachers 2. Paid pastor \$107.82, paid evangelist

\$40.00, paid for incidentals \$20.00 paid for miscellaneous expenditures \$26.00, paid for minutes \$3.00. Value of church property \$1,000.00. Name and address of pastor; Rev. Tiff Covington, Buffalo Springs, Texas.

Names of deacons belonging to our church: W. D. Phillips, J. W. Taylor.

Done by order of the church when assembled in conference this 19th day of August, 1936.

Rev. Tiff Covington, Moderator. W. D. Phillips, Clerk.

August 26, 1936.

To the West Fork Association at Buffalo Springs, Texas.

We the New Hope Free Will Baptist church in Parker County, Texas, make the following report:

State of religion good. State of union in the church good. A good Sabbath school.

Delegates, A. J. Measures, Mrs. A. J. Measures and Jess Phillips. Alternates, R. L. White, Mrs. R. L. White and Mrs. Nellie Phillips.

Resident members 48, dismissed 1, added to the church 3. Paid for pastor's support \$60.00. Paid for missions \$30.00. Value of church property \$1,000.00 Amount inclosed for minutes \$3.00.

The church elected Rev. T. H. Newsom pastor for another year. R. L. White, Clerk. R. L. White, Weatherford, Tex.

Committee Reports

SUNDAY SCHOOL LITERATURE AND SUPPLIES: We your committee on Sunday school literature

and supplies beg leave to report as follows: First: we urge every church to use the Bible only in their Sunday school, but where literature is used we urge them to use Free Will Baptist literature. Second: we urge that every church adopt the six point record system for use in their Sunday schools. Third: we recommend that every church support and subscribe for the Free Will Baptist Gem published at Purdy, Missouri. Since this paper takes care of all our reports for publication it is a great medium through which all our churches may be kept very thoroughly posted on our progress. Supplies for the six point record system may be secured from The Announcer, 2704 Hanna St. Fort Worth, Texas.

Signed: M. L. Sutton, Mrs. Lillie White, Miss Lura Lee Moore.

COMMITTEE ON MISSIONS: We your committee on missions submit the following report.

We find that following organizations have contributed to the work of missions. First Church, Fort Worth \$15.00. W. M. U. First Church, Fort Worth \$10.00. Easley's Chapel W. M. U. \$10.00, Easley's Chapel Church \$25.00, New Hope W. M. U. \$8.00. Trinity Church Fort Worth \$144.00.

We recommend that each pastor urge their churches to do more for missions.

Signed: J.A. Brooks, A. T. Covington, Clyde Shults.

COMMITTEE ON TEMPERANCE: 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 worldiness and teach others the evils thereof. Third: That we urge our ministers to be an example to the flock, that they may live grave and sober lives in speech and actions. Fourth: That we use our vote and influence whenever, and wherever, 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, the abbreviated costumes of the bathers of athletes, and all form of worldly conformity. Sixth: That we teach our people, both old and young, to be clean in body, mind and soul.

Rev. C. J. Turrentine, Rev. T. H. Newsom,

Rev. J. C. Hodges.

COMMITTEE ON MINUTES: We your committee

on minutes report as follows:

Since we have two printers in the West Fork Association, we believe it only fair to both to ask for their sealed bids on 500 copies of the minutes, and to give the contract to the lowest bidder.

Chas. B. Wier, W. D. Phillips, J. P. Shults.

COMMITTEE ON OBITUARY: We your committee on obituary wish to report the following:

Brother J. H. Phillips, member of the Easley's Chapel Church died in 1936. Brother Frank Hughes, member of the New Hope Church, died January 1, 1936. Sister John Jenkins, member of the First Church of

Dallas, died May 11, 1936. Sister Margurete Wilkerson, member of the Trinity Church of Fort Worth, died in the Spring of 1936.

May we as brethren and sisters extend our heart felt sympathies to all the bereaved ones. We recommend that the clerk of this Association write a letter of condolance to each bereaved family and send them to their pastor to be presented to them.

Signed: A. J. Measures, Mrs. Belle Hodges, Mrs. Belle Easley.

Resolutions

RESOLUTION NO 1: Since all Free Will Baptist of the United States have been united as one people in the National Association of Free Will Baptist, and because the Texas State Convention of Free Will Baptist is closer at all times to the Western General Conference of Free Will Baptist than we are to the Eastern General Conference of Free Will Baptist: Be it resolved, that the West Fork Association urge the State Convention to send delegates with a petitionary letter for membership to the Western General Conference of Free Will Baptist which meets with the First Free Will Baptist Church of Tulsa, Oklahoma. Respectfully submitted, M .L. Sutton.

RESOLUTION NO. 2: Be it resolved that this Association urge every minister upon returning to their homes to urge their members to tithe to the local church, and the church in turn tithe to the Association. Let us give God what belongs to Him.

Respectfully submitted, Rev. C. J. Turrentine.

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 all appearance of evil, to abstain from all sinful amusements and unholy conformity to the world, from all sanitation 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.

THE ANNOUNCER

Print Shop

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