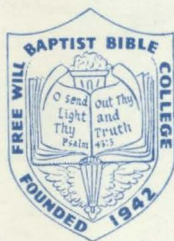


PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
Fifty-eighth Annual Session
OF THE
West Fork Association
OF
Free Will Baptist Churches

Held With the
Gartman's View Free Will Baptist Church
OF
COMANCHE, TEXAS
September 2-4, 1947.

The Association will meet in its next regular yearly session on Tuesday night before the first Sunday in September, 1948 convening with the Trinity Free Will Baptist Church of Fort Worth, Texas. (August 31, 1948,)



FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

Presented by

Rev. John H. West

OFFICERS

MODERATOR: Rev. A. F. Ferguson, Rt. 1, Box 218-A, Weatherford, Texas.

ASSISTANT MODERATOR: Rev. Tiff Covington, Bellevue, Texas.

CLERK: Mrs. A. F. Ferguson, Rt. 1, Box 218-A, Weatherford, Texas.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mrs. M. L. Sutton, Rt. 3, Box 48, Arlington, Texas.

TREASURER: C. B. Wier, P. O. Box 4398, Fort Worth, Texas.

DIRECTORS

FOREIGN MISSIONS: Rev. J. A. Brooks, 2001 Prairie Avenue, Fort Worth, Texas.

HOME MISSIONS: Rev. Tiff Covington, Bellevue, Texas.

YOUNG PEOPLE: Mrs. Lottie Stephens, 1818 Garza, Dallas, Texas.

LADIES WORK: Mrs. Della Parham, 3110 Seevers Avenue Dallas, Texas.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Rev. M. L. Sutton, Route 3, Box 48, Arlington, Texas.

CHILDREN'S HOME: Mrs. Sylvia Burks, P. O. Box 805, Comanche, Texas.

COMMITTEES

CREDENTIAL COMMITTEE: Rev. Tiff Cavington, Bellevue, Texas, Rev. A. F. Ferguson, Weatherford, Texas, Rev. A. J. Fielding, 2206 Vilbig Road, Dallas, Texas.

TEMPRANCE COMMITTEE: Bro. Leroy Conway, Route 1, Chilton, Texas, Bro. W. D. Phillips, Route 1, Decatur, Texas, Bro. Jeff Easley, Route 1, Comanche, Texas.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIFTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL SESSION

PROCEEDINGS

The Fifty Eighth Annual Session of the West Fork Association of Free Will Baptist Churches of Texas convened with the Gartman's View Church, Comanche, Texas, September 2-4, 1947.

TUESDAY NIGHT

The opening service of the Association began with the Associational Clerk calling the Association to order.

Rev. J. A. Brooks, being Senior Minister, became Moderator protem in the absence of the regularly elected moderator.

Rev. A. F. Ferguson led the congregational singing.

Devotion by Rev. J. A. Brooks, reading the 53rd chapter of Isaiah.

The introductory message was delivered by Rev. M. L. Sutton. His subject was, "Let Us Lay Aside Every Weight and the Sin which doeth so Easily Beset Us", and the text was taken from Heb. 12:1, 2.

At the close of the message an invitation was given to those who would endeavor with the help of God to put off the weights that were besetting them. Several responded to this invitation.

Services were dismissed by prayer by Rev. A. J. Fielding.

WEDNESDAY MORNING

Convened with singing:

Prayer: Rev. Tiff Covington.

Devotional by Bro. W. D. Phillips, Scripture, Romans 12.

Prayer: Rev. C. B. Thompson.

Rev. J. A. Brooks was elected moderator pro-tem.

The church letters were called for by the Moderator.

Motion that the church letters be read before the association.

Motion to receive the letters as read, and to seat the delegates.

The delegates were extended the right hand of fellowship.

There were eleven churches represented by letter and delegates.

There was one church by petitionary letter and delegate. They were as follows: Pleasant Mound Church, Buffalo Springs; Trinity Church, Fort Worth; Dott Church, Eddy; New Salem, Decatur; Gartman's View, Comanche; First Church, Dallas; First Church, Fort Worth; First Church, Weatherford; First Church, Waco; South Side Church, Comanche; and Spring Dell Church, Dallas, petitionary letter.

Motion that all visiting ministers be seated in the Association, with all privileges except voting. Rev. C. B. Thompson, and Rev. J. W. Handy were recognized.

Motion that the chair appoint all session committees. The following were appointed:

WEST FORK ASSOCIATION FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCHES

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE: Rev. Tiff Covington, Rev. A. J. Ferguson, and Rev. A. J. Fielding.

RESOLUTION COMMITTEE: Rev. M. L. Sutton, Bro. J. T. Reeder, and Bro. Leroy Conaway.

OBITUARY COMMITTEE: Sister Maude Wier, Sister May Rogers, and Sister W. W. Winters.

DIVINE SERVICE: Bro. Alec. Maricle, Sister Grace Collins, and Bro. J. R. White.

Motion that this Association make a gift of \$100.00 (one hundred dollars) to the Children's Home, Ringling, Oklahoma.

Treasurers report was read and adopted. (See reports.)

Motion that the delegates from each church be instructed to ask their church to send \$15.00 (fifteen dollars) to the Associational treasurer. The money to be used by the Pleasant Mound Church, which is entertaining the State Association, which convenes Tuesday night before the first Sunday in November, 1947.

The Committee on Divine Services reported that Rev. Tiff Covington would bring the message at eleven a. m. and Rev. C. B. Thompson would bring the evening message.

Motion to adjourn business until 1:30 p. m.

Prayer: Rev. A. F. Ferguson.

ELEVEN A. M.

Congregational singing, followed by prayer by Bro. Orn Martin.

Special message in song by Rev. J. W. Handy.

Rev. Tiff Covington preached the sermon at eleven o'clock. His text was Daniel 2:17-22. Subject: "A Deeper Life." An invitation for consecration was extended. There was no response.

Prayer: Bro. Alec. Maricle.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON

The evening service convened with congregational singing.

Prayer by Rev. J. L. Foreman.

Devotional was conducted by Bro. Alec Maricle, reading 1 John 4.

Prayer: Rev. W. V. McPhail. Rev. McPhail was recognized and seated as a visitor.

A special message in song was rendered.

Obituary report was read and adopted. It was followed by prayer for those whose loved one had gone on to their reward and was led by Sister M. L. Sutton.

Motion that each church assume responsibility of recommending their minister's card and that their recommendation be written into their church letter.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIFTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL SESSION

Motion that this body elect officers for the following year. Moderator, Rev. A. F. Ferguson. Rev. Tiff Covington was elected assistant moderator. Mrs. A. F. Ferguson was elected as clerk. Mrs. M. L. Sutton was elected assistant clerk, and Bro. Chas. B. Wier was elected treasurer.

Motion that this association recommend to the state association some one be sent as a delegate to the National Association. Bro. W. D. Phillips was recommended.

Motion that the chair appoint delegates to the State Association. Those appointed were: Bro. Frank Holden, Bro. Raymond Lane, Bro. Ellis Calvary, Sister Julia Jackson, Sister Grace Collins, Bro. Franklin Parham, Sister Julia Bower, Bro. C. B. Wier, Sister Zurl Cox, Bro. A. E. Benson, Bro. Jesse Lamb, Bro. Leroy Conaway.

Motion that each church contribute any amount they desire to help establish Spring Dale Church of Dallas to get established. Not once but often until they get established.

Motion that this association make a gift of \$100.00 (one hundred dollars) to the Spring Dale Church.

Rev. J. L. Foreman was elected to preach the introductory message of the next session.

Motion that the money which was given in behalf of the Centralization of this association be placed in a fund for a youth camp.

Motion that some one be elected to go on the field for the purpose of raising money in behalf of a youth camp. Rev. Tiff Covington was elected.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT

The evening service convened with congregational singing led by Rev. M. L. Sutton.

Prayer: Rev. C. B. Thompson.

A partial report of the resolution committee was read.

Motion to adopt resolution No. 1. (See reports.)

Report of Sunday School Director was read.

Motion to table this motion to be the first item of business Thursday morning.

Rev. C. B. Thompson preached the evening message, reading John 14:1-5. "The Way" was his subject. An invitation was extended and there were three persons responded.

Prayer: Rev. J. A. Brooks.

THURSDAY MORNING

The association convened with singing led by Sister Helen

WEST FORK ASSOCIATION FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCHES

Eagelton.

Prayer: Sister W. W. Winters.

Devotional: Sister W. W. Winters, Psalm 1.

Sunday School report was discussed. The report and recommendations were adopted.

The association voted to accept the invitation from Trinity Church of Fort Worth to convene with them Tuesday night before the first Sunday in September, 1948.

Motion that the Credential Committee be a standing committee for the year.

Report of Director on Home Missions was read.

Motion that the Home Missions report be adopted.

Motion that the Thursday morning business session be adjourned to come together again Thursday afternoon.

Prayer: Rev. J. A. Brooks.

ELEVEN A. M.

The congregation was called together by singing.

Prayer: J. W. Handy.

A special message in song was given.

Rev. W. V. McPhail preached the sermon at eleven o'clock. His text was Proverbs 11:30. Subject, "He that Winneth Souls is Wise." At the close of the message Rev. Covington reported to the assembly, the conversion of a soul. There was an old-time handshake. The Spirit of God came and filled our hearts which caused great rejoicing.

Dismissed for lunch with prayer by Bro. Leroy Conaway.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON

Convened with singing.

Prayer: Brother J. T. Reeder.

Devotional by Rev. J. W. Handy, Psalm 24.

Solo: Rev. Handy, "If We Never Meet Again."

Motion to adopt report of the Woman's Auxilliary and letter from Dallas, the First Church. (See reports.)

Rev. C. B. Thompson, who is the home missionary of Texas and member of the Foreign Mission Board, brought to the minds of the people some great things in regard to missions.

Report of Foreign Mission Director was read and adopted. (See reports.)

Report of Children's Home was adopted.

Final report on resolutions was read and adopted. (See reports.)

Directors for the year were appointed.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIFTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL SESSION

Foreign Missions—Rev. A. J. Brooks.

Home Missions—Rev. Tiff Covington.

Young People—Mrs. Lottie Stephens.

Woman's Auxiliary—Mrs. Della Parham.

Sunday School—Rev. M. L. Sutton.

Children's Home—Mrs. Sylvia Burks.

Temprance Committee—Bro. Leroy Conaway, Bro. W. D. Phillips,
Bro. Jeff Easley.

Minutes were read and corrected.

Motion to adjourn.

Benediction by Rev. M. L. Sutton.

Rev. J. A. Brooks, Moderator

Mrs. A. F. Ferguson, Clerk

CHURCH LETTERS

FIRST FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH, Fort Worth, Texas,
to the West Fork Association when convened with the Gartman's View
Church at Comanche, Texas.

We send as delegates our beloved: Sister Turner and Brother
Killough, whom we pray you will receive to sit with you to aid you
in your Godly deliberations.

State of religion, good. Members received this year, 15, by
letter, 10, by baptism, 5, Dismissed 10. Died 1. Total membership 191.
Condition of prayer meeting good. Condition of Sunday School, fair.
Average attendance, 35. No. of classes 5. No. of Deacons, 5. Amount
of offering, report burned. Paid pastor \$1,820.00. Paid Evangelist
\$247.00. Paid for building and repair, \$348.46. Paid for publication,
\$25.00. To paid for incidentals, \$125.00. Unified program \$310.40.
To association \$50.00. Total income \$3509.55. Total expenditures
\$3,049.85. Balance, \$225.75. Value of church property \$14,000.00.
We enclose \$4.00 for the association.

Deacons belonging to our church, George Dearing, Gee Moors,
Jim Eudy, Floyd Eudy, Bob Massie, Frank Holding, and Ollie Colline.

Pastor's name and address: Rev. J. A. Brooks, 2001 Prairie Ave.,
Fort Worth, Texas.

SOUTH SIDE CHURCH, Comanche, Texas. To the West Fork
Association when convened with the Gartmans View Church, we send
as delegates our beloved: Sisters, Mae Rogers, Audine Hughes, whom
we pray you will receive to sit with you to aid you in your Godly
deliberations.

State of religion, good. Members received this year, 13. Number

WEST FORK ASSOCIATION FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCHES

baptized, 8. Number standing for baptism, 4. Number dismissed, 2. Total membership, 33. Condition of prayer meeting, good. Condition of Sunday School, fair. Number of officers, 3. Number of teachers, 4. Average number of pupils, 38. Amount in Sunday School treasure \$36.47. Paid to pastor, \$300.00. Paid two evangelists, \$155.60. For building and repairs, \$75.65. Publications \$30.00. For minutes, \$2.00. Value of church property is \$2,000.00. Building fund treasure, \$333.00. Paid out, 286.61. Balance on hand, 46.39. The church invites the association to convene with our church next year. Mrs Vera Hughes, Treasurer.

In conference this the 16th day of August, 1947.

Rev. J. A. C. Hughes, Pastor,
Rev. R. H. Rogers, Clerk.

DOTT FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH, Chilton, Texas. We the Church of God, known as Free Will Baptist worshipping at Dott, Texas, met in conference August 24, 1947 and elected delegates to Association. Elected: Bro. Alex Maricle, Bro. Orn Martin, Bro. Leroy Conway. We pray that you will receive them to sit with you to aid you in your Godly deliberations.

Prayer meeting, good. Sunday School, good. Attendance, 65 to 70. Paid pastor, \$225.00. Paid evangelist, \$160.00. Value of church property, \$800.00. Sending \$3.00 minute money.

Rev. J. A. Brooks, former pastor
Mrs. Voy Philips, Clerk.

GARTMAN VIEW CHURCH, to the West Fork Association when convened with the Gartman View Church of Comanche, Texas.

We send as delegates our beloved: Brother Melvin Phillips, Sister Georgia Mae Woolsey, Sister Montie Brinson, Sister Dealva Harbour, alternates, Sister Phillips, Sister Nona McGuire, Sister Mary Lou Hasley, Bro. Otho Isham, whom we pray you will receive to sit with you to aid you in your Godly deliberations.

State of religion, good. Members received this year, 4. By statement, 2. By baptism, 2. Dismissed, 1. Died, 1. Total membership, 164. Condition of Sunday School, good. Average number of pupils, 35. Number of officers, 9. Teachers, 5. Classes, 5. Amount of offering, \$232.544. Paid pastor, \$426.70. Paid evangelist, \$159.76. Paid for building and repairs, \$200.00. For publication, 21.84. Miscellaneous, \$57.35. For missions, \$40.00. To association, \$5.00. Total income, \$1,088.87. Balance on hand, \$178.22. Value of church property, \$5,000.00.

Names of ministers, Rev. J. A. Brooks.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIFTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL SESSION

Names of deacons, Brother W. A. Irby, Brother P. J. Easley, Brother Ted Patton, Brother C. B. McGuire.

\$25.00 was sent to Texas City.

Done by order of the church when in conference the 23rd day of August, 1947.

Rev. J. A. Brooks, Moderator,
Garland Collins, Clerk.

FIRST FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH, Waco, Texas, greetings from the First Church, Waco, Texas to the West Fork Association when convened with Gartmans View Church of Comanche, Texas, we send as delegates our beloved: Sisters Betty Ford, Wynell Hammond, Brother J. R. White, whom we pray you will receive to sit with you to aid you in your Godly deliberations.

Pastor's name and address, Rev. E. O. Walters, 1904 McFeren Avenue, Waco, Texas.

We are sending \$3.00 with our delegates.

Done by order of the church when assembled in conference July 17, 1947.

Rev. E. O. Walters, Moderator,
Louise Maricle, Clerk.

FIRST FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH, Comanche, Texas. To the West Fork Association when convened with the Gartman View Church, Comanche, Texas.

We send as delegates our beloved: Sister Sylvia Burks and Brother Raymond Lane, whom we pray you will receive to sit with you to aid you in your Godly deliberations.

State of religion, good. Members received this year, 4. By baptism, 2. By letter, 2. Dismissed, 2. Total membership, 29. Sunday School, good. Number enrolled, 40. Number of officers, 3. Teachers, 4. Paid pastor, \$200.00. Paid evangelist, 45.00. Association, 3.00. Expenditures, \$136.32. Value of church property, \$2,000.00.

Pastor's name and address, Rev. Marion Gaines, Comanche, Texas

Name of deacons: Hilry Hughes, Jess Williams, and Raymond Lane.

Done by order of the church when assembled in conference August 20, 1947.

Rev. M. R. Gaines, Moderator,
Mrs. Ida Mae Brooks, Clerk.

NEW SALEM FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH, Decatur, Texas, to the West Fork Association when convened with the Gartman

WEST FORK ASSOCIATION FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCHES

View Church near Comanche, Texas.

We send as delegates our beloved: Sister Roma Fitzpatrick, Sister Luther Anderson, Sister Ralph Rhine, whom we pray you to receive to sit with you to aid you in your deliberations.

State of religion, good. Sunday School, good. Number officers, 5. Number classes, 4. Number teachers, 4. Number additions to church, 9. By baptism, 5. By letter, 4. Amount raised through the school, \$746.09. Paid pastor, \$431.37. Paid evangelist, \$71.00. Paid singer, \$17.69. Paid pianoist, \$10.00. Flowers, \$18.00. Other benevolent causes, \$15.00. Other expenses, \$35.00. We send minute money, \$3.00. Building fund on hand, \$115.00.

We are sorry to report the death of Sister Hattie Hobson, who passed away on her 63rd birthday in August.

Our pastor for the next year is Rev. Zurl Cox, Bellevue, Texas.

Rev. Zurl Cox, Pastor
W. D. Phillips, Clerk.

PLEASANT MOUND CHURCH, Buffalo Springs, Texas. To the West Fork Association, when convened with Gartman View Church of Comanche, Texas.

Greetings:— We send as delegates our beloved Sisters Ola Mae Winters, Norma Jane Reeder, and Brother Wilburn Covington, 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, 8. By baptism, 4. By statement, 3. By letter, 1. Dismissed, 4. Total membership, 177. Condition of prayer meeting, good. Condition of Sunday School, growing, average number of pupils, 55. Number of officers, 4. Number of teachers, 5. Amount of offering, \$2585.55. Paid pastor, \$600.00, paid evangelist \$159.02, paid out for building and repair, \$1230.09, supplies, \$15.36, Foreign missions, \$10.00 Association, \$10.00, unified program, \$80.00, miscellaneous, \$350.75. Total expenses, \$2455.22, and cash on hand is the total of \$130.33. Value of church property, \$4,000.00. Enclosed is \$5.00 for minutes.

Pastor's name and address: Rev. Tiff Covington, Rt. 2, Bellevue, Texas.

Names of ministers belonging to our church: Rev. Tiff Covington, Rev. W. W. Winters, Names of deacons in our church: Brothers J. T. Reeder, J. M. Inman, Ben White, and J. W. Broom.

Done by order of church when in conference August 23, 1947.

Rev. Tiff Covington, Pastor
Mrs. Ola Moore, Clerck.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIFTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL SESSION

FIRST FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH, Weatherforh, Texas, To the West Fork Association, when convened with Gartman's View Church, Comanche, Texas.

We send as delegates our beloved: Sisters Elizabeth Brandon, Glenna Ferguson, and Julia Jackson, whom we pray you will receive to aid you in your Godly deliberations.

State of religion, good. Members received this year, 3; by baptism, 2; by letter, 1; and one member died. Total membership, 58. Condition of Sunday School, fair. Average number of pupils, 23; number of officers, 2; teachers, 4; classes, 5. Amount of offerings in Sunday School till April, \$182.75. Paid pastor, \$1080.00. Paid evangelist, \$104.00. For miscellaneous, \$42.29. Paid building and repair, \$1,345.45. Paid out to the association, \$5.00. Total expenditures, \$2,584.24. Total income \$1491.80, and indebtedness on building under construction, \$350.00. Cash on hand, \$126.45 (all funds). Value of church property, \$4,500.00.

Name of pastor and address: Rev. A. F. Ferguson, Box 218-A, Weatherford, Texas.

Names of ministers of our church: Rev. A. F. Ferguson, Rev. Mrs. Jessie Ferguson, Rev. J. H. Measures, Sister Verda Walker, Rev. J. L. Brandon.

Names of deacons of our church: Bro. H. L. Harley, and Bro. J. L. Brandon.

Done by order of the church assembled in conference this 20th day of August, 1947:

J. L. Brandon, Moderator, Pro-tem,

Mrs. J. L. Brandon, Clerk, Pro-tem.

FIRST FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH, Dallas Texas, to the yearly conference when convened with the Gartman's View Church, Comanche, Texas.

We send as delegates our beloved: J. L. Foreman, and A. J. Fielding, whom we pray you will receive to sit with you to aid you in your Godly deliberations.

State of religion, good. Members received this year, 12. By baptism, 8. Number dismissed, 14. Members died, 1. Total membership 83. Active, 38. Condition of Sunday School, good. Average number of pupils, 50. Number of officers, 2. Teachers, 5. Paid pastor, \$1,292.50. Paid evangelist, \$100.00. Paid for building and repairs, \$1609.11. Miscellaneous expenditures, \$175.00. To the association, \$5.00. Value of church property, \$7,500.00.

Names and addresses of ministers belonging to our church: A. J. Fielding, 2206 Vilhig Road, Dallas, Texas; L. J. Foreman, 2109

WEST FORK ASSOCIATION FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCHES

Gould Street, Dallas, Texas; F. E. Walling, Jr., 4049 Buena Vista, Dallas, Texas.

Done by order of the First Free Will Baptist Church of Dallas, Texas, assembled in conference this 6th day of August, 1947.

Our church is now without a pastor, since Rev. R. E. Conner resigned. We request the prayers of our fellow Christians to help sustain us until we receive a pastor for our church.

Rev. R. E. Conner, Moderator,
Mrs. Bonnie Walling, Clerk.

TRINITY FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH, the Church of God known as the Trinity Free will Baptist Church worshipping at 2320 Azle Avenue, Fort Worth, Texas, to the West Fork Association of Free Will Baptist Churches when convened with the Gartman's View Free Will Baptist Church of Comanche, Texas, September 2, 1947.

GREETINGS: Brethren, we send to you as delegates from our church our beloved: Mrs. M. L. Sutton, Mrs. E. E. Eagleton, Sr., Mrs. E. E. Eagleton, Jr., and Miss Hellen Eagleton, whom we pray you to receive to sit with you, and to aid you in your Godly deliberations.

The following is a report of the work of our church for the fiscal year of September 1946 to September 1947.

State of religion, good. Members received this year, 16, by baptism, 5, by letter, 11. Number dismissed, 4. Number died, 4. Total membership, 156. Condition of prayer meeting, good.

FINANCIAL: Received from Sunday School \$5,607.36. From morning offerings, \$306.84, and from evening offering, \$671.21. From Special offerings, \$350.40. Paid pastor \$2,750.00. Paid evangelist, \$252.39. Building and repair, \$493.77. Publication, \$233.16. Sunday School and church supplies, \$309.07. For foreign missions, none. For home missions, none. Paid to the unified program fund as set up by the West Fork Quarterly Meeting, \$103.15. To the West Fork Association, \$5.00. Paid for miscellaneous expenses, \$1,911.30. Amount brought forward from last year, \$5,721.81. Total offerings this year, \$6,935.81. Total expenditures, \$6,057.84. Balance on hand, \$6,599.78.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Condition of school, good. Number of pupils last year 128. New pupils this year, 85. Present enrollment, 188. Number of classes, 12. Number of teachers, 13. Number of officers, 3. Total offerings, \$5,607.36. Total expenditures, \$89.09. Balance transferred to general church treasurer, \$5,518.27.

Our church property is valued at \$10,000.00.

Pastor's name and address: Rev. M. L. Sutton, Rt. 3, Box 48,

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIFTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL SESSION

Arlington, Texas.

Ministers' names and addresses: Rev. H. C. St. John, Rev. Gene Chance, Rev. Ed Brown, Rev. John Lucas.

Deacons belonging to our church: J. W. Kirk, George Bassham, Jack Lucas, Wilford Harrison, E. E. Eagleton, Sr. and J. P. Lowery.

Done by order of the Trinity Free Will Baptist Church when in regular conference this 6th day of August, 1947.

Rev. M. L. Sutton, Moderator,
Mrs. Moselle Franks, Clerk.

Telegraph received September 3, 1947, reads as follows:
"CHURCH VOTED IN CONFERENCE TO INVITE WEST FORK
ASSOCIATION TO TRINITY CHURCH IN 1948.

JACK LUCAS."

PETITIONARY LETTER OF THE SPRING DELL FREE WILL
BAPTIST CHURCH of Dallas Texas.

To the West Fork Association of the Free Will Baptist, when convened with the Gartman's View church at Comanche, Texas.

We send as delegates our beloved Brother and Sister Howell Stephens, whom we pray you to receive to sit with you in your Godly deliberations.

State of religion, good. Members received this year, 13. Total membership, 13. Baptized, 2. Number of officers, 3. Number of teachers in Sunday School, 4. Total offerings \$450.66. Total expenses, \$308.00. Balance in treasure, \$142.66. Amount inclosed for minutes, \$3.00.

Our church is known as the Spring Dell Free Will Baptist Church of Dallas, organized July 1, 1947. Since we are a new organization, we petition the West Fork Association to receive us into the body.

Done by order of the church assembled in conference August 7, 1947.

Rev. T. W. Nelson, Moderator,
Mrs. C. M. Maxwell, Clerk.

REPORTS

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF SUNDAY SCHOOL

This is the report of the director of Sunday School to the West Fork Association.

Brethren, another year of advancement in the greatest of all our church auxiliaries, the Sunday School. This advance is very outstanding in nearly every part of our national work. I am very happy to be able to report that the West Fork Association of the state of Texas is contributing to this great advancement in our church.

WEST FORK ASSOCIATION FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCHES

There are, I think, several reasons for this, two or three of the most outstanding which I take the liberty to mention here:

1. Our people are realizing as never before the importance of the Sunday School. For so long the Sunday School has been thought of as just a society which the church permitted for the benefit of the women and children of the community. But in late years we have witnessed the marvelous power of God working through the Sunday Schools of other denominations and bringing the lost to the Lord. This has caused us to re-value the Sunday School.

2. We have felt the need for the Sunday School more keenly. We have heared children in the doctrines and practices of our own beloved church only to see so many of them taken from us by other denominations because they found better advantages there than ours? What advantages? Is their doctrine better than ours? Are their practices more biblical than ours? Is the fellowship to be found at other churches sweeter than ours? No. All our young people will tell us that in all these things we far excell others. But their chances to put into practice the things they learned are much better than they find at home.

3. These things have brought to us an awakening to our Sunday School needs. We are now realizing that before we can have an effective Sunday School, we must have competent teachers and officers, adequate buildings and equipment and our schools correctly organized. This will cost us work and money. In most cases it will call for more work than we may realize at present, and probably cost us what we may consider a large sum of money, but let us compare the loss of our people with these costs and I am confident they will seem trivial.

In view of these things then, I beg leave to make the following recommendations:

1. That we strive harder to provide bettes housing and equipment for our Sunday Schools.

2. Institute study courses in our schools for teachers and officers and prospective teachers and officers with the ultimate aim of using only those who so prepair themselves for these important places.

3. That we work toward establishing and owning a camp ground for Sunday School and young people's rallies and for use as a training center for our teachers and officers.

Submitted in Jesus' name
M. L. Sutton, Director.

WEST FORK ASSOCIATION TREASURER'S REPORT

Bank balance, as of April 29, 1946	\$ 324.41
Associational Fees, collected at Waco, 1946	154.17

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIFTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL SESSION

Total amount in bank, statement September, 1946 ----- 478.58
Disbursements: State Association ----- \$ 20.00
October 28, 1946 -----
Sloan's Printery, 1,000 minutes ----- 66.00
January 8, 1947 ----- 86.00
Total balance in bank as of this report ----- \$ 392.58
Chas. B. Wier,
West Fork Association Treasurer
P. O. Box 4398, Fort Worth 6, Texas

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF HOME MISSIONS

Beloved: In the closing year we made progress in Home Mission work. God has given one more church in Dallas. Revivals have been conducted where we have not established churches. Beloved, as an association, may we remember, that every church in the work and every Sunday School and every prayer meeting and every effort in the churches are the result of home mission work.

We recommend a greater effort in home mission work.

Rev. Tiff Covington,

Director of Home Missions.

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF FOREIGN MISSIONS

As your director of Foreign Missions, I have not reached out beyond my own church, but I have tried to preach and encourage foreign mission work. Great progress has been made in the last twelve months toward the extension of the work.

God has prepared the way and opened the great doors of opportunity for the advancement of His work in foreign lands.

Systematic giving is now the adopted plan in our association through the quarterly meeting.

Recommendation: I recommend that we, as ministers and delegates from this association prevail and encourage our people at home to give to the greatest work under Heaven, that of carrying the Gospel, and keep the burdens and visions of our hearts.

Humbly submitted for Christ,

Rev. A. F. Ferguson.

REPORT OF OBITUARY COMMITTEE

We, your committee on obituary, make the following report in our loss of beloved membership, by whose lives we have been greatly blessed.

Trinity Free Will Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Texas; Brother

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Joe McRimmons, Sister Suly Kirk.

First Free Will Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Texas; Sister Faye Killough.

New Salem Church, Decatur, Texas; Sister Hattie Hobson.

First Free Will Baptist Church, Weatherford, Texas; Brother Winton Harley.

We recommend that the congregation stand in silent prayer in memory of our deceased co-workers.

Sister Maude Wier,

Sister Ola Mae Winters

Sister Mae Rogers.

REPORT OF RESOLUTION COMMITTEE

We, your committee on resolutions, make the following report:

Resolution number 1. Be it resolved that this association, church, and community extend a vote of thanks to the good people who furnished the fans for the building during this session.

Resolution number 2. Be it resolved that this association go on record as indorsing the Free Will Baptist paper published at Ayden, North Carolina and the Free Will Baptist Gem published at Monette, Missouri, and that we urge our people to subscribe to them that we may keep informed of all our activities.

Resolution number 3. Resolved that this association give the church of Comanche, Texas, and community a rising vote of thanks for the royal way they have entertained us.

Rev. M. L. Sutton,

Bro. J. T. Reeder.

Bro. B. L. Conaway.

REPORT OF WOMEN'S AUXILIARY

The yearly report of the Ladies' Auxiliary of the First Free Will Baptist Church of Dallas, Texas.

Number of members, 10. New members, 6. Amount in treasure \$42.00. The auxiliary bought equipment to fix a kitchen in the church.

We meet the first Saturday of every month for business and the third and fifth Saturdays for visiting in the neighborhood to get new members.

A committee was appointed to visit the sick and elderly members who are not able to attend.

The auxiliary gave a fruit shower Christmas to all members who were unable to come. We, also, were in charge of the quarterly meeting which met December 27, 28, 1946.

Motion for secret pals to send cards to on their birthdays and

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when sick. We voted to buy lumber to build tables and chairs for a nursery. We also made a motion to send \$25.00 to the Children's Home. We bought \$10.00 of religious books for children. We are sending one year's subscription of the Readers Digest to Mrs. Barnard, the foreign missionary in India.

Sister Lorene Shester, Sec.

IS IT COMPLETE?

Please see that your associational letter is complete, so that the clerk may be able to tabulate all the facts of your church in the next associational minutes.

This is very important for the sake of your records. Remember, this is final after it is tabulated in our annual minutes.

CONSTITUTION

From long experience, we, the members of the Church of God (denominated Free Will Baptist), being regularly baptized upon a profession of our faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, and being convinced of the necessity of a combination of churches to perpetrate a union among us, and to preserve and maintain correspondence with each other, do therefore ordain this constitution for our better government

Art. 1. MEMBERSHIP. This association shall be composed of members chosen by the different churches of our union, not exceeding three messengers from each church, and upon producing letters, they shall be entitled to seats. All ordained ministers of said union shall be regular members, when present, by virtue of their office.

Art. 2. NAME. The members thus chosen and convened in the West Fork Association of the Church of God (denominated Free Will Baptist), being composed of sundry churches located in northern Texas. The association having no power to lord it over God's heritage, nor have and ecclesiastical power over the churches, reserving the right to withdraw from any church becoming disorderly.

Art. 3. LETTERS. Letters from the different churches representing are to express their number in fellowship, including the names and addresses of ordained and licensed ministers, the number received by experience, by letter of recommendation, or restored; the number dismissed or excluded, and those who have died since the last Association. The churches in sending in their letters may send obituaries of any who have died during the year, that we may keep a memorial of our dead.

Art. 4. OFFICERS. The Association shall have a Moderator, a Clerk and a Treasurer, who shall be elected at each annual session by the suffrage of the members present.

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Art. 5. **NEW CHURCHES.** Newly constituted churches may be admitted into the Association, which are to petition by letter and delegates, and if upon examination, they are found to be orthodox and orderly, they may be received into the Association, the Moderator giving the right hand of fellowship.

Art. 6. **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. 7. **MOTIONS.** Every motion made and seconded shall come under the consideration of the Association, except it be withdrawn by the members who made it.

Art. 8. **MINUTES.** The Association shall endeavor to furnish the churches with minutes of the Association in preportion to the number of members in each church, the distribution to be at the discretion of the Association.

Art. 9. **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. 10. **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. 11. **AMMENDMENTS.** Ammendments to this constitution may be made, when necessary, by a majority vote of the members present, notice having been given in writing, and recorded at the last previous session.

FREE WILL BAPTIST ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. **THE BIBLE.** The Scriptures 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 Creator, Preserver, and Righteous Governor of the universe; and in the Scriptures as Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, yet as one God, infinite 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 everpresent Savior and Lord.

4. **THE HOLY SPIRIT.** The Scriptures assign to the Holy Spirit all the attributes of God. He is the Reprover, Comforter, Guide and Sanctifier of men.

5. **THE GOVERNMENT OF GOD.** God exercises a wise and

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benevolent providence over all beings and all things by maintaining the constitution and laws of nature. He also performs special acts of grace, not otherwise provided for, as the highest welfare of man requires.

6. **THE SINFULNESS OF MAN.** Man was created innocent, but by disobedience fell into a state of sin and condemnation. His posterity, therefore, inherited 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 the hearty renunciation of it. 2. Faith, or the unreserved committal of one's self to Christ as Savior 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 WILL.** The human will is free and self controlled, having power to yield to the influence of the truth and the Spirit and live, or to resist them and perish.

10. **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.

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

12. **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 administered to all true believers.

13. **THE CHRISTIAN SABBATH.** The divine law requires that one day in seven be set apart from secular employments, for rest, worship, holy works and activities, and for personal communion with God.

14. **WAR.** War destroys the lives of the innocent, and is contrary to the New Testament, therefore, we are opposed to war.

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15. **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."

16. **TITHING.** God commanded tithes and offerings in the Old Testament; Jesus Christ indorsed 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.)

RULES OF ORDER

1. At every sitting of this Association, business shall be opened and concluded by prayer by the Moderator.

2. Ministers present are invited to seats, allowed to take part in debates on all subjects, and to vote.

3. Those who speak shall arise and address the Moderator. Personal reflections shall be avoided in all debates.

4. No motion shall be discussed without a second.

5. When a motion has been made and seconded, and a member opposes its discussion, the Moderator shall put the question, "Shall it be discussed?" If negative, the question shall be dismissed.

6. If any proposition or motion under debate contains two or more points, it shall be divided at the request of any member, and the vote taken separately.

7. Motions made and lost shall not be recorded.

8. No one shall speak more than twice on the same subject without special leave of the Moderator.

9. All questions shall be decided by a majority vote of all members present.

10. No member shall absent himself without special leave of the Moderator.

11. Minutes shall be leisurely read and corrected before the close of the Association, if necessary.

12. At all future sessions of the Association, arrangements shall be made to insure two sermons, or other devotional exercises equivalent thereto, during each day of the session, and the chair shall announce just before adjournment, who shall fill the stand at the next meeting.

13. These Rules of Order shall be distinctly read from the chair immediately after the organization of the Association.

14. Alterations may be made in these rules at any regular session of the Association.

