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Minutes

of the

West Fork District Association of Free Will Baptists

Convened at the First Free Will Baptist Church of Duncanville, Texas
Saturday, August 6, 2005

Executive Board Meeting

The Executive Board of the West Fork District Association of Free Will Baptists met on Friday evening, August 5, 2005, at the First Free Will Baptist Church in Duncanville, Texas, for a special session to address the issue of funding in the West Fork and to formulate, if possible, a plan of outside giving to recommend to the churches of the association. Members present for the meeting were: Jack T. Bankhead, Clarence J. Hearron, Cindy Grimes, Thurmon Murphy, Clyde Gillentine and Carmen Harris. Ray Rhodes sat in as a guest. After a lengthy discussion of the subject of our churches outside giving practices, the board decided that no new comprehensive plan would be recommended to the association, but that an informational session about outside giving would be conducted at the November quarterly meeting in Fort Worth.

Discussion then turned to a request from the state office that West Fork churches pay a second one hundred dollars in fees to the state association for the state convention which convened in June of 2005. Clerk Carmen Harris moved that we recommend to the body that West Fork churches which have not yet done so go ahead and pay the additional one hundred dollars. The motion carried.

Discussion then turned to the subject of West Fork churches which do not pay their delegate fees to the association. The clerk moved that we recommend to the body that West Fork churches which do not pay their full fees not be listed as member churches in the annual district letter to the state association and that the West Fork Association not pay their dues for them. This would ultimately mean that churches which do not pay their dues would not be listed in the Free Will Baptist Annual Directory, which the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) uses to determine whether Free Will Baptist churches are tax exempt. The motion carried.

Due to the fact that the Texas State Association had again raised the amount of dues district associations must pay annually to the state association, a motion was made that we recommend to the body that ARTICLE V of the West Fork Constitution be amended by substituting the figure \$85.00 for \$60.00 and that the words "and national" be added. ARTICLE V would then read: "Each church or mission shall send \$85.00 to each session. Ten dollars (\$10.00) of each fee shall go to the host church for the entertainment of the association, fifty dollars (\$50.00) shall go to the state for state and national dues and the remainder shall go to the district office." The motion carried. The board then dismissed for the evening.

The Executive Board met again on Saturday morning, August 6, 2005. Preliminary plans were made for the 2006 West Fork Annual Meeting. Clerk Carmen Harris moved that we again have a western theme and that we have a chuck wagon. The motion carried.

The board asked Moderator Thurmon Murphy to publish a 2006 calendar featuring pictures of the West Fork Youth Camp and suggested that the calendars be sold to raise funds for the camp's capital improvements project - a new dormitory.

Quarterly Meeting

The quarterly meeting of the West Fork District Association of Free Will Baptist Churches convened on Saturday morning, August 6, 2005, at the First Free Will Baptist Church of Duncanville, Texas. Retired West Fork pastor Clarence J. Hearron conducted a workshop at 9:00 a.m. on the subject: "The Governmental View of the Atonement." Written copies of his notes were given to those attending the workshop.

The business session began at 10:00 a.m. Peggy Neely (pianist) and Sandy Anderson (organist) provided musical accompaniment as John Walling led the congregation in singing "Sweet By and By" and "This World Is Not My Home." Lynn Beck, pastor of the Pleasant Mound Free Will Baptist Church at Buffalo Springs, led the opening prayer. Moderator Thurmon Murphy called the session to order. Host pastor Frank Gregory welcomed the delegation to the Duncanville church. Thurmon Murphy gave a few moderator's remarks.

Ed Pedigo gave a preliminary report of the Credentials Committee, stating that eleven churches reported by letter, \$660.00 were sent in delegate fees and that nine delegates were listed on the church letters. Churches which represented by letter were: Calvary Free Will Baptist Church, Fort Worth; First Free Will Baptist Church, Bowie; Collin Creek Free Will Baptist Church, Plano; Connally Free Will Baptist Church, Waco; Faith Free Will Baptist Church, Wichita Falls; Hope Chapel, Wichita Falls; First Free Will Baptist Church, Weatherford; Pleasant Mound Free Will Baptist Church, Buffalo Springs; New Salem Free Will Baptist Church, Decatur and First Free Will Baptist Church, Duncanville. Delegates listed were: Jim and Judie Richards, Cindy Grimes, Shari Jones, Larry and Vivian Kendall, Penny Anderson, Peggy Anderson and Paulette Davis. Brother Pedigo moved that the delegates be seated. The motion was seconded and carried.

Carmen Harris gave the district clerk's report, including the quarterly financial report. She moved that the report be accepted. The motion was seconded and carried.

Robert Posner gave a report on the work of the State Mission Board, which was accepted as information.

Cindy Grimes gave the report of the Board of Christian Education:

"To everything there is a season, A time for every purpose under heaven:

A time to be born

A time to plant

A time to weep, and a time to laugh

A time to mourn, and a time to dance

A time to embrace, and a time to love"

Ecclesiastes 3

Youth Camp 2005 was everything Solomon wrote about. Our season was summer, the hottest in Texas! Our purpose under heaven was to minister to our children and to plant the seed of salvation. It was a time to be born for five Junior campers and two teens; they were actually born again into God's family! We wept and laughed, we mourned, sang and danced. We showed our love and support with an embrace.

Lynn Beck led our Junior Camp with a great week of exciting lessons. We were never sure what he would do next! Campers learned to put Jesus first in their lives, how to be a friend, not to look on the outward appearance and that heaven is our ultimate treasure.

Junior Camp teachers were Jennifer Dunn, Dee Merritt, Diana Streller and Debbie Beck. Teen Camp teachers were Cory and Brandy Thompson, Matthew Gillentine and Cindy Grimes. Lessons were on "Finding Valuable Treasures," and they were written by Thurmon Murphy. Campers were given treasure maps to locate buried coins. They also found gemstones, fool's gold and jasper in a sluice built by Ray Rhodes and Thurmon Murphy. Teens were given maps and instructions for finding a buried treasure chest on the last day. Inside the treasure chest were 238 fifty cent pieces. The team finding the treasure chest

was allowed to decide where the money would be used. The Junior High group, which found the treasure, decided to donate the money to the Woodson family from Collin Creek. Zac Woodson was a Junior camper who lost his grandfather during Teen Camp week.

Mark Stanczyk, Teen Camp evangelist, led the teens to find out, "What Is the Truth?" Society has fed us many lies but by searching God's Word, teens were led to the truth. Jennifer Stanczyk daily provided each "truth" with a Power Point. She also put all the teens in the movies by video taping the activities during the week. Tina Austin, Beth Posner, Amber Merritt, Michelle Fink and Guillermo Carrillo did a great job leading the teen music.

Each year campers nominate and vote for the campers they feel had the best Christian attitude and influence in the camp. Teen campers chose Michelle Fink as the Camp Queen, Guillermo Carrillo and Sirak Azfan as the Camp Kings. Junior campers chose Jessica Clark as Camp Princess and Isaac Boyd as Camp Prince. These young people will be attending camp 2006 at no charge!

There were many others that made the two weeks of camp possible. Many people stepped up to the plate to help out where their help was needed and greatly appreciated. First, a special thanks to all of the workers who spent many long hours, many Mondays and used their own money to make repairs, remodel the bathroom and sitting area in the girls' dormitory and make sure everything was in working order before the campers arrived. The workers included: Jim and Judie Richards, Charlene and Ed Pedigo, Ray and Edwina Rhodes, Carmen Harris, Jack Bankhead and Thurmon Murphy.

Second, the group that also made camp possible were the CIT's (Counselors in Training). These young people camp to Junior Camp to work in the classes, the dining hall, with the singing, cleaning, running the snack shack and being a special friend to our young campers. The awesome young ladies were Michelle Fink, Amber Merritt, Anna Posner, Shalee Rater and Samantha Williams. Matt Gillentine and Heather Reynolds were also a big help at both camps. These young people are our future church and camp leaders.

Third, a group that makes our camp like coming home is our kitchen staff. The campers love to come to the kitchen for food, water and some motherly advice when needed. Marsha Lightsey led the kitchen helpers: Judie Richards, Charlene Pedigo, Barbara Lowe (Aunt Bea) and Carmen Harris. They had a big job to do but always had a smile on their faces, a spoon in their hand or a wash cloth ready to clean up! Speaking of home, the ladies of Pleasant Mound provided exceptional homemade sweets for both camps. Each day was like getting a care package from home. Thanks, moms!

A special thanks to Leonard Myrick and Cory Thompson for being dorm counselors in the boys' dorm. Both of these men were first time campers at the West Fork Youth Camp this year. They really stepped up to the plate for us by staying with the boys in the dorm, making sure they cleaned up and kept things neat. Ken Austin also helped us out with the teen boys.

Finally, I would like to thank the couples who gave up a night to come to camp and hold a "Discussing the Issue" time with our teen boys and girls. These couples taught lessons on "How to Stay a Christian in High School." Each couple was a positive influence to the teens. The couples were: Matt Gillentine and Lisa Knight, Richard and Kareen Rust, Frank and Becky Gregory and Lynn and Debbie Beck.

There is always a job to do at camp, something for everyone. Come be a part of this exciting mission field. These are our children, our future. Let's help to train them in the right way that they should go so that when they are old they will not depart from it.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cindy Grimes, Chair
West Fork Board of Christian Education

Carmen Harris gave the financial report of the Board of Christian Education. Benny Anderson asked about the progress of grant requests for the new building at the youth camp and was informed that a preliminary request had been made to the Priddy Foundation in Wichita Falls for \$850,000.00. A motion was made to receive the report of the Board of Christian Education. The motion was seconded and carried.

Debbie Beck gave the report of the West Fork Women Active for Christ. She indicated that the women had voted to separate their meetings from the West Fork quarterly meetings in hopes of spurring more interest among women of the West Fork. She announced that future meetings would be in January, April, July and September. She stated that West Fork pastors' wives would be invited to be a part of the West Fork Women Active for Christ (WFWAC) Executive Board and announced that the district project would be to raise money to purchase groceries for the Harvest House, a Free Will Baptist child care ministry in Duffield, Virginia. She announced that the annual fall retreat would be held at the West Fork Youth Camp on September 23rd and 24th and that the state WAC retreat would be held on October 13, 14 & 15th. She offered to go talk to any local church's Women Active for Christ group to help with interest in that ministry. Her report was received as information.

Ed Pedigo gave the final report of the Credentials Committee. There were two items. First, the committee recommended that the West Fork District Association grant Matthew Gillentine a license to preach the gospel for one year. There was a motion to that effect. The motion was seconded and carried. Second, the committee recommended that Ray Rhodes be referred back to the Calvary Free Will Baptist Church for ordination to the gospel ministry. There was a motion to that effect. The motion was seconded and carried.

Clerk Carmen Harris gave the report of the Executive Board. There were three items:

1. We recommend that the churches which have not paid the second one hundred dollars (\$100.00), in dues for the past state meeting go ahead and pay the one hundred dollars through the district clerk. Motion, second and carried.
2. We recommend that West Fork churches which do not pay their full fees not be listed on the West Fork report to the state association and that the West Fork not pay their fees for them. Motion, second and carried.
3. We recommend that ARTICLE V of the West Fork Constitution be amended by changing \$60.00 to \$85.00 and that the words "and national" be added. ARTICLE V: Finance would then read:

Each church or mission shall send \$85.00 to each session. Ten dollars (\$10.00) of each fee shall go to the host church for the entertainment of the association, fifty dollars (\$50.00) shall go to the state for state and national dues and the remainder shall go to the district office.

A motion was made to lay this item on the table until the November quarterly meeting. The motion was second and carried.

There was a motion to adjourn the business session, which was seconded and carried.

Morning Worship Service

Assistant Moderator Clyde Gillentine presided over the morning worship service. John Walling led the congregational singing, accompanied by instrumentalists Peggy Neely and Sandy Anderson. The congregational songs were: "Yes, Lord, Yes" and "In My Heart There Rings a Melody." Sandy Anderson sang "I'll Cry Holy, Holy." John Walling sang "He's All I Need." Mark Stanczyk, pastor of the Friendship Free Will Baptist Church in Fort Worth, preached a sermon entitled "Perseverance Through Work," using Hebrews 10:19-25 as his text.

After final announcements, the closing prayer was led by Clyde Gillentine, asking the blessing on the food, as well. Lunch was served in the church's family life center at noon.

Respectfully submitted,
Carmen Harris, Clerk

Minutes
of the
West Fork District Association of Free Will Baptists

Convened at Friendship Free Will Baptist Church
Haltom City, Texas

Saturday, November 5, 2005

Business Session

The quarterly meeting of the West Fork District Association of Free Will Baptist Churches convened on Saturday morning, November 5, 2005, at the Friendship Free Will Baptist Church in Haltom City, Texas. Lesa Davis led the congregation in singing "Family of God," as Wanda Bankhead accompanied on the piano. Richard Rust, pastor of the Faith Free Will Baptist Church in Wichita Falls, led the opening prayer. The meeting was called to order by moderator Thurmon Murphy. Mark Stanczyk, pastor of the Friendship Church, welcomed everyone to the church for the quarterly meeting.

Ed Pedigo gave the Credentials Committee report, indicating that the following churches had sent letters: Calvary Free Will Baptist Church, Fort Worth, no delegates; Collin Creek Free Will Baptist Church, Plano, no delegates; Connally Free Will Baptist Church, Waco, no delegates; First Free Will Baptist Church, Duncanville, with one delegate, Cindy Grimes; Easley's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church, Comanche, no delegates; First Free Will Baptist Church, Bowie, no delegates; First Free Will Baptist Church, Weatherford, no delegates; Hope Chapel, Wichita Falls, no delegates; Friendship Free Will Baptist Church, Haltom City, three delegates, Russell Jolly, Jim Richards and Judie Richards; New Salem Free Will Baptist Church, Decatur, with three delegates, Peggy Anderson, Paulette Davis and Sue Owens. Twelve of fourteen churches reported by letter and delegate fees totaling \$720.00. Brother Pedigo moved that the report be accepted and the delegates seated. The motion was seconded and carried.

In lieu of a workshop Moderator Thurmon Murphy gave a multimedia presentation entitled "A Review of West Fork Giving Options." He indicated that West Fork churches may give through the Cooperative Program or through designated giving. He explained where every penny of a church's money goes when they give through the Cooperative Program. He explained that "The Together Way Plan" equally recognizes a church's giving, whether it is through the Cooperative Program or through designated giving. He explained that The TEAM Plan is a plan of missions support which is above and beyond a church's regular outside giving. He also indicated the some churches opt to give nothing to ministries outside their own local church. He stated some of the principles of giving given by Paul in 1 Corinthians chapters eight and nine, emphasizing that those who give sparingly will reap sparingly and those who give generously will reap generously. He observed that West Fork churches are not as numerous or strong as they once were and gave a challenge that our churches seriously consider supporting those ministries which need help.

Clerk Carmen Harris gave the West Fork quarterly financial report, noting some corrections to the last report. She moved that the report be accepted. The motion was seconded and carried.

Lynn Beck, pastor of the Pleasant Mound Free Will Baptist Church at Buffalo Springs, gave the report of the Board of Christian Education in the absence of Cindy Grimes. He reported on the progress of the applications for grants. Carmen Harris gave the financial report for the Board of Christian Education and moved that the report be accepted. The motion was seconded and carried. The following written report was distributed:

Report of the
Board of Christian Education
November 5, 2005

"We are simply God's servants....Each one of us does the work which the Lord gave him to do. I planted the seed, Apollos watered the plant, but it was God who made the plant grow" (1 Corinthians 3:5, 6, TEV).

"It is God himself who made us what we are and has given us new lives from Christ Jesus, and long ages ago he planned that we should spend these lives in helping others" (Ephesians 2:10, LB).

"I glorified you on earth by completing down to the last detail what you assigned to me to do" (John 17:4, Msg).

You were put on earth to make a contribution. God has gifted you in some way. What do you enjoy doing? Do you love beautiful sunsets, shooting stars, cool southern breezes, communing with God? Has God given you a love for children or teens? Are you a gifted teacher, singer, preacher, storyteller, counselor, painter or good at crafts? Do you long to find your purpose in life? Have I got a job for you!

Plans are already in motion for a fantastic youth camp next year! We need your help! Don't be shy! Moses was not a speaker but he was willing and God used him in a mighty way. He can use you, too! Youth camp will be June 11-16, 2006.

Decide now to do your part and make a difference in life.

"What has been done on the grants for the new dorm?" you may be asking. On October 10th, Carmen Harris, Thurmon Murphy, Louise Maxwell and I met with the representatives of the Priddy Foundation located in Wichita Falls, who had come to camp for their onsite inspection prior to approving this year's grants. We met in the camp lodge and presented an explanation of our camp and our vision for the future.

We gave them a tour of our facilities, answered questions and supplied information about our purpose and the camp's potential to reach the community and minister to the West Fork and beyond with the new building. We felt encouraged by the kindness and the positive remarks. The Priddy Foundation will announce their decision about giving us a grant early in December. Please keep this as an item of prayer.

A special thanks goes to Louise Maxwell for being our financial advisor. She has done a wonderful job getting everything ready for our grant applications. Debbie Beck has been working to make the initial contacts with other foundations, as Pastor Lynn Beck will report today. We appreciate Louise's expertise and commitment to helping the grant application process. Thank you, Louise, for all you are doing and your willingness to help!

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy Grimes, Chairperson
Board of Christian Education

Debbie Beck gave the West Fork Women Active for Christ report. She announced that twenty-three ladies registered for the annual fall retreat on October 23rd, and that \$236.00 was raised for The TEAM Plan from the silent auction. In addition, \$170.00 was raised to buy groceries for the Harvest Home in Virginia for twenty-seven children. She announced that the next WFWAC meeting would be at the Friendship Free

Will Baptist Church in Haltom City on January 14, 2006. She announced that there would be a speaker, lunch and a business meeting. Debbie announced that all pastors' wives were invited to attend and to serve on the WFWAC Executive Board. She encouraged all pastors to get excited about the West Fork Women Active for Christ. Her report was received as information.

Clerk Carmen Harris moved that the proposed constitutional amendment be taken off the table. The motion was seconded and carried. She read the proposed amendment: "ARTICLE V: Each church or mission shall send \$85.00 to each session. Ten dollars (\$10.00) of each fee shall go to the host church for the entertainment of the association, fifty dollars (\$50.00) shall go to the state for state and national dues and the remainder shall go to the district office." She then moved that the proposed amendment be adopted. The motion was seconded. There were several questions from the floor. One, Robert Posner asked about a letter from the state association to West Fork churches requesting the one hundred dollars fee with letter and names of delegates for the past state meeting which was held in June. He was informed that the executive board was recommending that churches go ahead and pay the fee. Two, Richard Rust asked that if a church is behind a quarter for state dues, who will pay for that quarter? He was informed that the West Fork had been paying for churches who were tardy with their dues. Three, Ed Pedigo asked about churches who do not pay their quarterly dues to the West Fork, which includes their dues to the state and national, what happens? He was informed that in the future the West Fork will not pay a church's dues for them and will not list them on the district letter to the state as member churches. The motion to adopt the proposed amendment carried.

The West Fork Executive Board presented the following proposed By-Laws to be added to the West Fork Constitution:

1. Applicants for ordination to the gospel ministry must be examined by the Credentials Committee at least a week prior to any district meeting of the West Fork and must have filed out the written questionnaire for ordination provided by the West Fork.
2. The West Fork Executive Board must recommend all special gifts distributed from the West Fork District Association general fund. Anyone may suggest such distributions to the Executive Board for their consideration.
3. Divorce and remarriage will not automatically disqualify an applicant for ordination or disqualify a minister from pastoring in the West Fork District Association.
4. It is the policy of the West Fork District Association and its member churches not to hire homosexuals.
5. The West Fork District Association will not list on its letter to the state association member churches which have not paid their dues in full.

Clarence J. Hearron moved that the proposed By-Laws be adopted and there was a second. Brother Hearron then moved that they be laid on the table until the February quarterly meeting. The motion was seconded and carried.

Robert Posner, pastor of the Collin Creek Free Will Baptist Church in Plano, and chairman of the State Mission Board, gave a report on state missions. He announced that the board had been making strenuous efforts to recruit qualified and passionate men to come to Texas and plant new churches. He indicated that both the state and national associations were having difficulty finding church planters. His report was received as information.

Clarence Hearron moved that the business session adjourn. The motion was seconded and carried.

Morning Worship Service

Assistant moderator Clyde Gillentine presided over the morning worship service. Lesa Davis led the congregational singing, accompanied by Wanda Bankhead at the piano. The congregation sang "Heavenly Sunlight," "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms," and "I Will Serve Thee." Jennifer Stanczyk, pastor's wife at Friendship, sang "It Is Well with My Soul." Corey Thompson (son of Bob Thompson and grandson of Bailey Thompson) preached a sermon entitled, "Be Ready for the Second Coming of Jesus." He used Romans 13:11-14 as his text.

It was announced that the next quarterly meeting would be at Hope Chapel in Wichita Falls, February 4, 2006.

At the conclusion of the morning message Mark Stanczyk led in the closing prayer and asked the blessing on the food. A wonderful meal was then served in the church's fellowship hall.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carmen A. Harris, Clerk
West Fork District Association

Executive Board Meeting

November 5, 2005

Friendship Free Will Baptist Church
Haltom City, Texas

The Executive Board of the West Fork District Association of Free Will Baptists met on Saturday morning, November 5, 2005, at 8:00 a.m. at the Friendship Free Will Baptist Church, Haltom City, Texas. Members present for the meeting were: Clarence Hearron, Jim Stell, Thurmon Murphy, Jack Bankhead, Clyde Gillentine and Carmen Harris. Moderator Thurmon Murphy opened the meeting with prayer and Scripture reading.

There was a motion and second to invite Keith Burden, Executive Secretary of the National Association of Free Will Baptists, to speak at the annual meeting of the West Fork on May 5 and 6. The motion was seconded and carried.

Five proposed By-Laws were presented to be added to the West Fork Constitution (See the above minutes, page 3). A motion was made and seconded to present the proposed By-Laws to the association for adoption. The motion carried.

There was a motion made and seconded that the Executive Board adjourn. The motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carmen A. Harris, Clerk
West Fork District Association

Minutes

of the

West Fork District Association of Free Will Baptists

Convened at Hope Chapel
Wichita Falls, Texas

Saturday, February 4, 2006

Executive Board Meeting

The Executive Board of the West Fork District Association of Free Will Baptists met on Saturday morning, February 4, 2006, at 8:00 a.m., in the conference room at Hope Chapel of Wichita Falls, Texas. Members present for the meeting were: Cindy Grimes, Clarence Hearron, Jim Stell, Thurmon Murphy, Jack Bankhead, Clyde Gillentine and Carmen Harris. Moderator Thurmon Murphy opened the meeting by reading Acts 1:3: *"After his suffering, he showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God."* He followed with a few words about whether or not Christians live by blind faith or by a faith based on evidence. He illustrated why our faith is a faith based on evidence and then led in prayer.

Clerk Carmen Harris gave the quarterly financial report for the West Fork District Association.

The moderator announced that Robert Posner had agreed to conduct a workshop at the November, 2006, quarterly meeting on the subject: "Four Views on Salvation in a Pluralistic Society."

The clerk announced that our next meetings for 2006 would be: the annual meeting at the West Fork Youth Camp, May 5th & 6th; First Free Will Baptist Church, Weatherford, August 5th; Pleasant Mound Free Will Baptist Church, Buffalo Springs, November 4th.

The moderator asked the board to appoint the nominating committee to make nominations for 2006-2007 West Fork officers and who would report to the annual meeting in May. The board appointed: Clarence Hearron, chairman, Robert Posner and Ed Pedigo, with Jim Stell serving as an alternate

Plans for the annual meeting were discussed, indicating that plans were coming along nicely, which included: Keith Burden, Executive Secretary of the National Association as speaker, Dr. Thomas Marberry representing Mexico, a chuck wagon lunch on Saturday and everyone dressing in cowboy/cowgirl style -- and the honoring of Jack Bankhead.

Clarence Hearron reported the the revision of the ordination questionnaire was almost ready.

Prayer was asked for Debbie Beck (heart) and Jack Bankhead (surgery). The Executive Board meeting was closed in prayer, led by Jack Bankhead.

The Quarterly Meeting

The quarterly meeting of the West Fork District Association of Free Will Baptists convened on Saturday morning, February 4, 2006, at Hope Chapel in Wichita Falls, Texas. Doughnuts, rolls, coffee, blueberry muffins, water and juice were provided in the fellowship hall, starting at 7:30 a.m. The Executive Board met in the conference room and the Credentials Committee met in the church office at 8:00 a.m.

Workshop

A workshop entitled "The Penal Satisfaction View of the Atonement" was conducted by Thurmon Murphy, who provided notes of the workshop material to all delegates. He also gave a free copy of the book *Four Views on Eternal Security* (Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 2002) to all preachers present. The book was autographed by the editor, J. Matthew Pinson, President of Free Will Baptist Bible College, Nashville, Tennessee, and by Dr. Stephen M. Ashby, author of the chapter "A Reformed Arminian View" and professor at Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College, Moore, Oklahoma.

Business Session

The business session was opened by Jennifer Dunn leading the delegation in singing "He Set Me Free," with Wanda Bankhead playing the piano. Moderator Thurmon Murphy called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to Hope Chapel. He then gave moderator's remarks, reading Proverbs 26:4, 5 - "Do not answer a fool according to his folly, or you will be like him yourself. Answer a fool according to his folly, or he will be wise in his own eyes." He pointed out that sometimes biblical principles have been stated in two contrasting statements, both of which are true. He emphasized that there are times when we should listen to other people and times when we shouldn't, especially the nay sayers. One must weigh the merits and demerits of a given situation and decide the wisest course of action.

The Credentials Committee report was given by Ed Pedigo. He read the names of churches representing by letter and asked that members of those churches stand as their church's name was read. Churches representing by letter and members/delegates present were: Calvary Free Will Baptist Church, Fort Worth; City View, Fort Worth; Faith Free Will Baptist Church, Wichita Falls; First Free Will Baptist Church, Duncanville; Hope Chapel, Wichita Falls; Friendship Free Will Baptist Church, Fort Worth; New Salem Free Will Baptist Church, Decatur; and Pleasant Mound Free Will Baptist Church, Buffalo Springs. Churches representing by letter, with no one present, were: Connally Free Will Baptist Church, Waco; First Free Will Baptist Church, Bowie; Easley's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church, Comanche; Collin Creek Free Will Baptist Church, Plano; and First Free Will Baptist Church, Weatherford, a total of thirteen churches representing by letter. Delegate fees were \$1,105.00. Brother Pedigo moved that the delegates be seated. The motion was seconded and carried.

Clerk Carmen Harris gave the Financial Report of the West Fork District Association. She moved that the report be received. The motion was seconded and carried.

Cindy Grimes gave the report of the West Fork Board of Christian Education. She listed a number of fund raisers coming up to raise funding for the West Fork Youth Camp Capital Improvements account: a garage sale on March 17th & 18th in Bowie, the selling of

Pizza Hut pizza cards and Thurmon Murphy's walk from Waco to Wichita Falls, called "The Return." She announced that there would be only one week of youth camp in 2006, June 11-16, and that the camp fees would be ninety dollars (\$90.00), but only seventy-five dollars (\$75.00) for campers who pre-register by June 1. She also announced:

- 1). That registration would be Sunday, June 11th, from 2:00 until 5:00 p.m.
- 2). Dinner would be served at 5:00 p.m.
- 3). Evening services would be at 7:00 p.m.
- 4). Lynn Beck would be camp evangelist
- 5). There was a need for teachers, dorm counselors, two recreational directors, one for each age group - teens and juniors
- 6). Jack Bankhead would again serve as camp cook, with assistance from several West Fork women helping in the kitchen
- 7). The annual Work Day would be April 28th and 29th

The financial report of the Board of Christian Education was given. Cindy moved that the report be received. The motion was seconded and carried.

In the absence of Debbie Beck, who was ill, Bettie McGee gave the West Fork Women Active for Christ Report. She reported that the January West Fork Women Active for Christ meeting was held at the Friendship Free Will Baptist Church in Haltom City, on January 14th. Lynn Beck was the speaker, who spoke on the subject: "Women Active for Christ from a Pastor's Perspective." Bettie announced that the spring retreat would be at the West Fork Youth Camp, April 7th and 8th and that the July 8th WFWAC would be at Hope Chapel, featuring a speaker from Collin Creek. The WFWAC fall retreat: September 8th and 9th, featuring Kelly Reed as the speaker. Bettie announced that the district project was to raise money for the Provision Closet in Nashville, and that monies for the project should be turned in by April 1, 2006. Quarter cards were provided in which the women were encouraged to collect quarters for the project. The report was received as information.

Bill Van Winkle, pastor of the Fellowship Free Will Baptist Church in Bryan, Texas, and member of the Free Will Baptist International Missions Board, made a presentation regarding the World Missions Offering. He made available coin banks, with the theme: "Change the World -- Start a Free Will Baptist Church." He also reported on Free Will Baptist mission works in numerous countries and challenged Texas to have twenty-five new churches supporting world missions. The report was received as information.

A motion was made to remove from the table the proposed By-Laws which had been tabled at the previous quarterly meeting. The motion to adopt the By-Laws carried. They are:

1. Applicants for ordination to the gospel ministry must be examined by the Credentials Committee at least a week prior to any district meeting of the West Fork and must have filled out the written questionnaire for ordination provided by the West Fork.
2. The West Fork Executive Board must recommend all special gifts distributed from the West Fork District Association general fund. Anyone may suggest such distributions to the Executive Board for their consideration.
3. Divorce and remarriage will not automatically disqualify an applicant for ordination or disqualify a minister from pastoring in the West Fork District Association.

4. It is the policy of the West Fork District Association and its member churches not to hire homosexuals.
5. The West Fork District Association will not list on its letter to the state association member churches which have not paid their dues in full.

Cindy Grimes spoke of the need for a building committee, consisting of several members of the Board of Christian Education, along with several other people with some expertise in building, to help plan the new building at the youth camp and to give advice on important issues regarding the new building. She encouraged each West Fork church to appoint one member to the committee.

The Executive Board advised that each West Fork church send sixty dollars (\$60.00) per year to help host the Free Will Baptist national convention which will convene in Fort Worth, Texas, in 2010.

There was a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded and carried.

Morning Worship Service

Assistant Moderator, Clyde Gillentine, presided over the morning worship service. Jennifer Dunn led the congregation in singing "Heaven Came Down" and "There's a New Name Written Down in Glory." Wanda Bankhead played the piano. The offering for the West Fork Camp Club was received. A quintet composed of Richard Rust, Jennifer Dunn, Jack Bankhead, Clarence Hearn and Ken Pearson sang "Living By Faith." Jennifer Dunn sang a solo: "Paid In Full by the Blood of the Lamb."

The morning message was delivered by Louis Nettleton, pastor of City View Fellowship in Fort Worth. Speaking from Mark 5:36, he emphasized Trust, Faith and Believing.

Clyde Gillentine closed the worship service with announcements and prayer. Lunch was served by Hope Chapel in the fellowship hall.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carmen Harris, Clerk
West Fork District Association

The Penal Satisfaction View of the Atonement

by

Thurmon Murphy

A Workshop

Presented at the quarterly meeting of the
West Fork District Association of Free Will Baptists

Saturday, February 4, 2006

Introduction

There are two views of the atonement commonly held among Free Will Baptists, the governmental view and the penal satisfaction view. Being a Free Will Baptist does not require you to believe one view over the other, as both views are held by significant segments of the denomination. Many of our people, including numerous pastors, do not understand either view or know which view they hold.

So why bother with two workshops on these two views of the atonement, this one and the one in August of 2005 on the governmental view? It is fairly simple --- what one believes about the atonement determines what one believes about such matters as what happens when a Christian sins, whether he loses his salvation when he commits incidental sins. It affects the degree of assurance of salvation he has, or the security a Christian enjoys in his salvation. The fact that two contrasting views of the atonement are widely held by Free Will Baptists is the underlying reason for our long-standing denominational disagreement over the security of the believer. Both groups believe that apostasy is possible, that one can lose his salvation, but they strongly disagree on how, why and when one does so.

Millard J. Erickson defines *atonement* as the life and death of Jesus Christ as the means of bringing man into a right relationship with God. According to Erickson atonement involves sacrifice, propitiation, substitution and reconciliation.¹ Wayne Grudem gives a similar definition: "The atonement is the work Christ did in his life and death to earn our salvation."²

Defining the Two Views

In order for us to properly understand the penal satisfaction view of the atonement, which I hold, and which I believe the Bible teaches, it is helpful, and perhaps even necessary, to define both views and contrast them. First, we will look at the governmental view. There will perhaps be some disagreement with my definition of the governmental view as presented here. The reason for this is that, as with most views, there are some variations within the view; not everyone defines it exactly the same. Misunderstandings are sometimes caused by the fact that proponents of the two views sometimes use the same words to mean different things.

The governmental view of the atonement was first introduced by Hugo Grotius (1583-1645), a Dutchman trained as an attorney. Prominent theologians who have held this view since Grotius include Charles G. Finney, James H. Fairchild, John Miley and H. Orton Wiley. For a thorough explanation of the governmental view see *Lectures on Systematic Theology*, by Charles G. Finney.³ Finney (1792-1875) had an influence on Free Will Baptists though his friendship with David Marks, a pioneer Free

¹ Millard J. Erickson, *Christian Theology*, second edition, Baker Books, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 2002, pages 829, 830.

² Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology*, published jointly by Inter-Varsity Press, Leicester, Great Britain and Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 1994, page 568.

³ Charles G. Finney, *Lectures in Systematic Theology*, originally published in London in 1846, republished by William Tegg, London, 2002, Volume I, pages 432-454.

Will Baptist preacher, while he, Finney, was president of Oberlin College in Oberlin, Ohio.⁴ Both Grotius and Finney were lawyers by training, rather than clergymen, and brought to their study of the atonement considerations that would be important to a jurist. The governmental view of the atonement is developed by drawing analogies between the way a governor of a state works in granting a pardon and the way God works to pardon sinners. Those who hold to the penal satisfaction view point out that, though there are points of similarity, there are also many differences; God is not a human governor and He does not govern in exactly the same way a human governor does. The name of the governmental view of the atonement suggests its meaning: Jesus died to maintain God's moral government in the world. In the governmental view of atonement, public justice, not retributive justice, is satisfied. Finney said, "...to satisfy retributive justice is impossible."⁵ It is not the holy nature of God that is satisfied, but the public good, as explained by Finney. To state it succinctly, the governmental view of the atonement holds that:

- Although God has the right to punish sin, it was not necessary or mandatory that He do so.
- Christ's atonement did not satisfy any internal principle in the divine nature, such as God's justice or holiness.
- Christ's death was not the necessary means of human redemption, other means would have worked just as well.
- Christ's righteousness and His death are not imputed to the believer; Jesus' perfect life and substitutionary, vicarious death are not credited to us.
- Jesus' death was an exhibition of God's displeasure with sin; His death was not substitutionary in the sense that He was being punished for our sins.
- Jesus' death is an example of what sin deserves; the sufferings and death of Christ were to teach us that sin deserves to be punished.
- The atonement, the death of Christ, maintains God's moral government, while allowing Him to pardon sinners.⁶

Finney explains how, according to the governmental view of the atonement, Christ's death maintained God's moral government and the public good. In essence he argues that for God to pardon sinners without making some display of His displeasure of sin would only encourage sinners to sin more. Let me try to illustrate his position with an example from modern life. Numerous baseball players have been found to be taking performance enhancing drugs, such as steroids, which is against the rules of major league baseball. For the baseball commissioner to show no displeasure with this illegal practice would only encourage the continuance of the practice and the spread of the practice. Therefore, he has to make a significant display of baseball's displeasure of the practice in order to, hopefully, stop the practice.

Millard J. Erickson has a good evaluation of the governmental view of the atonement.⁷ I want to quote his evaluation of the scriptural support for the governmental view. He said:

One thing that strikes us as we examine the governmental theory is its lack of explicit scriptural basis. We search in vain in Grotius's work for specific biblical texts setting forth his major point. Rather, we see the lawyer's mind at work, focusing on general principles of Scripture and drawing certain inferences from them. The one verse that is cited

⁴ Finney, by the way, was the inventor of the altar call, the public invitation, at the conclusion of a sermon. He also raised a lot of eyebrows by asking women to pray in public. He also wrote his sermons out word for word *after* he preached them, not before, as was the common practice in his day.

⁵ Finney, page 447.

⁶ Adapted from "A Reformed Arminian View" by Stephen Ashby in *Four Views on Eternal Security*, edited by J. Matthew Pinson, Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 2002, pages 151, 152.

⁷ Erickson, page 788-792.

as a direct support of the theory that the death of Christ was demanded by God's concern to preserve his moral government and law as he forgives sin is Isaiah 42:21: "It pleased the LORD for the sake of his righteousness to make his law great and glorious." Other Scriptures are cited as evidence of the background elements of the governmental theory of the atonement. In this respect John Miley's exposition of the atonement is quite revealing. He lists texts that speak of divine wrath, divine righteousness, and atonement through suffering, but he does not mention texts that deal with the idea of atonement in itself or more correctly, which define atonement. The verses he cites describe various aspects (e.g., the suffering of Christ), but do not get into the essential character of the atonement or the way it works. Thus, whereas other theories take an explicit biblical statement concerning the nature of the atonement and emphasize it more than others, the governmental theory works inferentially from some of the general teachings and principles of Scripture⁸

The penal satisfaction view of the atonement is an entirely different understanding of atonement, though it holds to many of the concepts of the governmental view. The name of the view suggests its meaning. *Penal* refers to the belief that Jesus, on the cross, was being punished for the sins of mankind. *Satisfaction* refers to the belief that the very nature of God, particularly His holiness and justice, demanded that sin be punished and that the death of Christ in our place satisfied the divine nature. The penal satisfaction view of the atonement makes the following assertions:

- Punishment of sin was not optional with God. Something in the divine nature, particularly His holiness and justice, **required** that sin be punished; the penalty for sin could not be set aside or diminished.
- **Absolute righteousness** is required for right standing with God and for entrance into heaven.
- Jesus' death was **substitutionary**, vicarious; He was punished for our sin.
- Upon the condition of our faith in Christ, **His righteousness is credited to our account**; this, satisfying God's holiness, brings us into right relationship with Him and permits our entrance into heaven.
- Upon the condition of our faith in Christ, **His death is credited to our account**; this, satisfying God's justice, prevents us from going to hell.
- Jesus' perfect life and substitutionary death, imputed to us (placed on our account, credited to us), on the condition of our faith in Christ, is the basis of our salvation.

Scriptural Teaching

At this point I will attempt to show that the Bible teaches what we now call the penal satisfaction view of the atonement. We will focus on the major aspects of the view.

- Punishment of sin was not optional with God. His holiness and justice *required* that sin be punished. The penalty for sin could not be set aside or diminished. Atonement for sin is made necessary by the following facts: God is our sovereign lawgiver and judge, He is holy and just and man is sinful. The following verses are among the many which establish this position:

On God's sovereignty: "But Abram said, 'O Sovereign LORD...'(Genesis 15:2). "Will not the Judge [Ruler] of all the earth do right?" (Genesis 18:25). Cf. 2 Timothy 4:8; Hebrews 12:23. Note: a quick count indicates that the phrase "Sovereign LORD" occurs approximately 300 times in the Bible. Bracket mine.

On God's holiness: "I am the LORD your God; consecrate yourselves and be holy, because I am holy" (Leviticus 11:44). Cf. Leviticus 19:1; 20:7; Psalm 99:9; Isaiah 57:15; 1 Peter 1:15,

⁸ Erickson, pages 809, 810.

16. God's holiness, one of the main themes of the Old Testament, is His primary, supreme or controlling attribute.

On God's justice: God's attribute of justice is referenced many times in Scripture, such as in 2 Chronicles 12:6; Nehemiah 9:33; Psalm 89:14; Revelation 16:5. Notice in particular "Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne..." (Psalm 89:14); "For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by raising him from the dead (Acts 17:31)" and "God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus" (Romans 3:25, 26).

On the sinfulness of man: There are two reasons human beings are sinners:

☛ Whether one holds to the natural headship view of the fall or the federal headship view of Adam's sin, one pretty much ends up at the same place: Adam sinned and we all became sinners as a result. This is established in the fifth chapter of the Book of Romans. For now we will look at one verse.

"Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned" (Romans 5:12).

Also addressing this issue is 1 Corinthians 15:22: "For as in Adam all die...."

☛ The second reason all human beings are sinners is that each and every one of us has committed sins ourselves, as addressed in Romans:

■ Chapter one - The Gentiles are sinners.

■ Chapter two - The Jews are sinners because they do the same things the Gentiles do.

■ Chapters two and three: Conclusion - All are sinners.

"What shall we conclude then? Are we any better? Not at all! We have already made the charge that Jews and Gentiles alike are all under sin. As it is written: 'There is no one righteous, not even one...' (2:9, 10) and 3:23: "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

Professor F. Leroy Forlines speaks on the necessity for sin to be punished:

The Holy law of God pronounces a penalty upon the person who violates that law. It is the work of divine justice to execute the penalty of the law and thus protect the holiness of God. The justice of God will not tolerate any attempt to set aside or diminish the penalty of the broken law of God. There can be no forgiveness of sin without a satisfaction of the justice of God in the payment of the penalty.

Romans 3:26⁹ declares that the design of propitiation was to make it possible for God to maintain His justice, while at the same time justifying the sinner who comes to God believing in Jesus. The implication is that for God to justify sinners without atonement would compromise the justice of God. This cannot be. It is clear in this passage Paul is telling us that justice required atonement before there could be forgiveness.

A proper view of both the necessity and the nature of atonement arises out of the

⁹ "God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus" (Romans 3:25, 26).

absolute necessity for God to punish sin. This necessity comes from His holiness.¹⁰

- Absolute righteousness is required for right standing with God and for entrance into heaven.

Paul makes the case for this point in the Book of Romans. He presents this truth in chapters two and three in the following manner, as outlined by Forlines:

- ☞ We must have absolute righteousness (2:6-13).
- ☞ We do not have absolute righteousness (3:10).
- ☞ We cannot produce absolute righteousness (3:20).
- ☞ The only hope of justification for either Jew or Gentile is to have absolute righteousness provided for us.¹¹

Jesus is the only person who ever lived a perfectly sinless life, the only one who ever had absolute righteousness. This truth of Jesus' sinlessness is presented numerous times in the Bible, including John 8:46; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 4:15; and 1 Peter 3:18.

Paul makes it a point to let us know that righteousness has been provided for us. It is not our righteousness, it is the righteousness of Christ. In Romans 1:17 he says, "For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last." Then in Romans 3:21 he says, "But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and Prophets testify. This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe."

This righteousness has been imputed to us who believe in Christ, that is, Christ's righteousness has been credited to us or placed on our account. It is in chapter four of Romans that Paul presses home this point. The following verses will highlight his position:

"What does the Scripture say? 'Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness'" (V. 3)

"David says the same thing when he speaks of the blessedness of the man to whom God credits righteousness apart from works" (V. 6).

"We have been saying that Abraham's faith was credited to him as righteousness" (V. 9b).

"This is why 'it was credited to him as righteousness.' The words 'it was credited to him' were written not for him alone, but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness -- for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead" (VV. 22-24).

In chapter five Paul again speaks of Christ's righteousness being imputed to us. After having stated in verse 12 that we are all sinners because of the sin of one man, Adam, he goes on to argue that, likewise, by the obedience or righteousness of one man, Jesus, we can all be made righteous. Here are the highlights of his argument:

"The judgment followed one sin [Adam's] and brought condemnation, but the gift [of righteousness] followed many trespasses and brought justification" (V. 16).

¹⁰ F. Leroy Forlines, *The Quest for Truth*, Randall House Publications, Nashville, Tennessee, 2001, page 185.

¹¹ *Quest for Truth*, page 187

"For if, by the trespass of the one man [Adam], death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ" (V. 17).

"Consequently, just as the result of one trespass [Adam's] was condemnation for all men, so also the result of one act of righteousness [Christ's whole life viewed as one unit] was justification that brings life for all men" (V. 18).

"For just as through the disobedience of the one man [Adam] the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man [Jesus' perfectly sinless life] the many were made righteous" (V. 19). Brackets mine.

○ Jesus died as a sacrifice, the death of an innocent being in place of the guilty. Some governmentalist deny that Jesus died as a sacrifice, while others use the term and strenuously defend it. The concept is crucial to the penal satisfaction view.

"God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus" (Romans 3:25, 26).

"But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God. Since that time he waits for his enemies to be made his footstool, because by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy" (Hebrews 10:12-14).

"He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world" (1 John 2:2).

"This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins" (1 John 4:10).

See also: 1 Corinthians 5:7; Ephesians 5:1, 2; Hebrews 9:26; 10:10.

● Jesus' death was substitutionary, vicarious; He was punished for our sins.

This is a major difference between the governmental view and the penal satisfaction view. Jesus was our substitute. When He died on the cross He was being punished for our sins. The following passages of Scripture would seem to establish this point conclusively.

"Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. But *he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities*; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and *the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all*" (Isaiah 53:4-6).

"...For he was cut off from the land of the living; *for the transgression of my people he was stricken*" (Isaiah 53:8).

"He was delivered over to death *for our sins* and was raised to life for our justification" (Romans 4:25).

"God made him who had no sin *to be sin*¹² for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God" (2 Corinthians 5:21).

"Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law *by becoming a curse for us*, for it is written: 'Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree'" (Galatians 3:13).

¹² Some ancient manuscripts read "*be a sin offering*" rather than "*be sin for us*." Many theologians consider this verse to be a better, more concise statement of the gospel than John 3:16.

"He himself *bore our sins* in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed" (1 Peter 2:24).

"*For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous*, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit" (1 Peter 3:18).

The words "for sins" [*peri hamartion*] in the clause "*Christ died for sins*" in the above verse means "Concerning sins (not his, but ours)" according to A. T. Robertson.¹³ Bengel defines it as "For sins -- As though he himself had committed them."¹⁴ "The word "for" in verses such as Matthew 20:28 is especially important: "Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom *for many*." The word *for* has many definitions.¹⁵ One of the Greek words translated *for* means "on account of" (Romans 8:3; Galatians 1:4; 1 Peter 3:18). In other places, the Greek word used means "on behalf of," or "for the benefit of" (2 Corinthians 5:14, 20, 21; 1 Timothy 2:5, 6). The strongest word translated *for* means "as a substitute for," "instead of" or "in place of" (Matthew 20:28; Mark 10:45). This meaning is well illustrated in verses which are not dealing with salvation, such as "If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he *for* a fish give him a serpent?" (Luke 11:11, KJV). We can well say that when Jesus died for us He died on our account, on our behalf, for our benefit, as a substitute for us, in our place, in our stead.

○ Upon the condition of our faith in Christ, His righteousness is credited to our account; this, satisfying God's holiness, brings us into right relationship with Him and permits our entrance into heaven. Here is another major difference between the two views of atonement. The governmental view denies that Jesus' perfect life, His righteousness, is imputed to us, placed on our account, credited to us. Just as Jesus' death is substituted for our death, just as He paid the penalty for our sin, so His righteousness is credited to us, His obedience is substituted for our obedience. Time does not allow us here to address the question of whether some of the following verses are saying that faith is credited to us as righteousness. Suffice it to be said that the following verses teach that the righteousness of Christ is imputed to us, credited to us, on the condition of our faith in Him.

"But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe" (Romans 3:21, 22).

"What does the Scripture say? 'Abraham believed God, and it was credited¹⁶ to him as righteousness'" (Romans 4:3).

"Now when a man works, his wages are not credited to him as a gift, but as an obligation. However, to the man who does not work but trusts God who justifies the wicked, his faith is credited as righteousness. David says the same thing when he speaks of the blessedness of the man to whom God credits¹⁷ righteousness apart from works" (Romans 4:4-6).

"Is this blessedness only for the circumcised, or also for the uncircumcised? We have been saying that Abraham's faith was credited to him as righteousness. Under what circumstance was it credited? Was it after he was circumcised, or before? It was not after, but before! And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised. So then, he is the father of all who believe but have not been circumcised, in order that *righteousness might be credited to them*" (Romans 4:9-11).

¹³ A. T. Robertson, *Word Pictures in the New Testament*, Broadman Press, Nashville, Tennessee, 1933, Volume VI, page 115.

¹⁴ John Albert Bengel, *New Testament Word Studies*, Kregel Publications, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 1971, Volume 2, page 745.

¹⁵ Martyn Lloyd-Jones, *Great Doctrines of the Bible*, Crossway Books, Wheaton, Illinois, 2003, pages 323, 324.

¹⁶ The word *credited* is "counted" in the King James Version, also in verse 5.

¹⁷ The word *credits* is "imputeth" in the KJV. Verse 8 uses "impute" and verse 11 uses "imputed" in the KJV.

“For just as through the disobedience of the one man [Adam] the many were made sinners, so also *through the obedience of the one man* [Christ] the many will be made righteous” (Romans 5:19). Brackets mine.

“God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God” (2 Corinthians 5:21).

“What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ -- the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith” (Philippians 3:8, 9).

- Upon the condition of our faith in Christ, His death is credited to our account; this, satisfying God’s justice, prevents us from going to hell.

This point may not need much discussion, because it is so well accepted. This teaching is wrapped up in the words propitiation,¹⁸ substitution, redemption and sacrifice. Also, there are the numerous references by Paul to our being united with Christ’s death, such as Romans 5:6-11; 6:1-8; 7:4; Galatians 2:20, etc., as part of the basis of our salvation. It is our union with Christ, our being “in him,” identified with Him, that makes possible His life and death becoming ours.

Conclusion

1. It is hoped that this workshop will familiarize you with the basic concepts of the penal satisfaction view of the atonement.
2. There just isn’t time here to address objections to the view. If you would like to examine some of those objections, and answers to them, you should consult *The Quest for Truth*.¹⁹ Briefly, however, let me state some of the major objections which Forlines lists and answers. His explanations are excellent.
 - ✍ Penal satisfaction is not necessary.
 - ✍ Penal satisfaction through a substitute is not possible.
 - ✍ The Penal satisfaction view leads to a view of universal salvation or a limited atonement.
 - ✍ A double payment for sins is paid by sinners who go to hell (Christ already having paid the penalty once).
 - ✍ The logical result of the penal satisfaction view is antinomianism; we are given a license to sin.
 - ✍ The penal satisfaction view leads to the conclusion: “once saved, always saved.”
3. A complete study of this subject involves not only an analysis of the doctrine of atonement, it, of necessity, also involves a thorough analysis of the doctrines of justification and sanctification. They all work together and, like love and marriage, “you can’t have one without the other.”

¹⁸ The word is often translated *reconciliation* in the NIV. It refers to appeasing God’s wrath and bringing us into favor with Him.

¹⁹ Forlines, pages 204-208

MINUTES
of the 117th Annual Session
of the
West Fork District Association of Free Will Baptists

Meeting at the
West Fork Youth Camp
9310 FM 1288 South
Bellevue, Texas 76228

May 5 & 6, 2006

Friday Evening, May 5, 2006

Dinner, prepared by Jack T. Bankhead and Gene Todd, was served in the camp dining hall at 7:00 p.m. The evening worship service began at 8:00 p.m. in Trinity Chapel, with moderator Thurmon Murphy, presiding. Richard Rust, pastor of the Faith Free Will Baptist Church in Wichita Falls, led the congregational in singing "O Come, All You Faithful" and "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms." Several people, in keeping with a western theme, were dressed in western style. J. E. Jean, pastor of the Connally Free Will Baptist Church in Waco, led the opening prayer. Jerry McArthur, pastor of the First United Free Will Baptist Church in Hobbs, New Mexico, sang a special.

The moderator introduced Keith Burden, Executive Secretary of the National Association of Free Will Baptists, to bring the evening message. Brother Burden read Isaiah 55:6-11 as his text. He spoke about the Issue of Man's Will, the Issue of Man's Wickedness and the Issue of God's Ways. He stated four principles: Pursuing God is not a natural human tendency, Pursuing God is not a hopeless task, Pursuing God requires wholehearted tenacity and Pursuing God will result in heavenly treasures.

The moderator made several announcements relative to the next day's business. He appointed a Credentials Committee, consisting of Richard Rust, chairman, J. E. Jean and Ray Rhodes to serve in the absence of the regular committee, none of whom were present for the meeting because of illnesses and a wedding. The service was closed in prayer.

Refreshments were served in the camp dining hall for those who wished to linger and fellowship.

Saturday Morning, May 6, 2006

Saturday morning's activities began with a breakfast served in the dining room of Covington Hall for those who had spent the night at the camp, and for a few who had come in early. The Executive Board had their meeting at 8:00 a.m. in the lodge of Covington Hall, and the Credentials Committee met in the camp office.

The business portion of the 117th annual session of the West Fork District Association of Free Will Baptists began at 9:00 a.m. in Trinity Chapel of the West Fork Youth Camp. Richard Rust led the congregation in singing "Showers of Blessings," with Wanda Bankhead playing the piano. Moderator Thurmon Murphy called the meeting to order and Marcus Nettleton, pastor of the Easley's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church in Comanche, led the opening prayer. Richard Rust

gave the report of the Credentials Committee. He reported that ten churches had reported by letter and delegate fees, listing nineteen delegates. He moved that the report be received and the delegates seated. The motion was seconded and carried.

The moderator gave his moderator's remarks from Titus 1:5 and 3:12. He pointed out that Paul had left Titus in Crete to do a job until his replacement came and that there will need to be a replacement for each of us when our jobs are done.

Assistant clerk Jack T. Bankhead, in the absence of clerk Carmen Harris, gave the financial report of the West Fork District Association.

**Quarterly Financial Report
February 1 - April 30, 2006**

Balance on February 1, 2006: **\$ 4,668.15**

Liberty FWB		
Cornerstone		
City View	Dues	85.00
New Salem	Dues	85.00
Bowie First FWB	Dues	85.00
Friendship FWB	Dues	85.00
Faith FWB	Incl. Dues	302.00
Weatherford First	Incl. Dues	331.48
Collin Creek	Incl. Dues	347.24
Hope Chapel	Incl. Dues	451.00
Calvary	Incl. Dues	470.00
Connally	Incl. Dues	715.00
Easley's Chapel	Incl. Dues	793.00
Pleasant Mound	Incl. Dues	1,523.12
Duncanville First	Incl. Dues	3,867.25

Total Income from Churches: **\$ 9,140.09**

Total Funds Available: **\$13,08.24**

Less Disbursements:

Hope Chapel	120.00
West Fork Youth Camp	2,193.14
TSA Dues (National & State)	2,600.00
Texas State Association	4,918.33
Carmen Harris, Clerking	100.00
Checks	7.99
Total Disbursements:	\$9,939.46

Balance Per Checkbook & Bank **\$3,868.78**
30-Apr-06

Respectfully Submitted by:
Carmen Harris, West Fork District Clerk
940-928-7055

**Annual Financial Report
2005 - 2006**

Balance on May 1, 2005 **\$ 4,194.02**

Liberty FWB		
Cornerstone	Dues	60.00
City View	Dues	85.00
New Salem	Incl. Dues	1,149.44
Bowie First FWB	Incl. Dues	405.00
Friendship FWB	Incl. Dues	1,943.99
Faith FWB	Incl. Dues	2,723.50
Weatherford First	Incl. Dues	1,846.31
Collin Creek	Incl. Dues	1,113.88
Hope Chapel	Incl. Dues	2,211.00
Calvary	Incl. Dues	1,410.00
Connally	Incl. Dues	2,798.00
Easley's Chapel	Incl. Dues	913.00
Pleasant Mound FWB	Incl. Dues	5,923.06
Duncanville First	Incl. Dues	31,756.22

Total Income from Churches: **\$54,338.40**

Total Funds Available **\$58,532.42**

Less Disbursements:

Churches Hosting Meetings	350.00
West Fork Camp Club - Designated	1,013.78
Board of Christian Education	8,815.39
TSA, Dues (National & State, 2 years)	4,100.00
Texas State Association	38,448.07
Carmen Harris, salary	400.00
Beacon & Misc. Supplies	453.62
Annual Speaker	750.00
Annual Food & Supplies	282.79
Checks and Bank Charges	49.99
Total Disbursements	\$54,663.64

Balance Per Checkbook & Bank: **\$3,868.78**
30-Apr-06

**Total 2005 - 2006 Giving by West Fork Churches
to and Through the West Fork District Association**

Calvary Free Will Baptist Church, Fort Worth	\$ 1,410.00
City View Fellowship, Fort Worth	85.00
Collin Creek Free Will Baptist Church, Plano	1,113.88
Connally Free Will Baptist Church, Waco	2,798.00
Cornerstone Free Will Baptist Church, Denison	60.00
Easley's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church, Comanche	913.00

Faith Free Will Baptist Church, Wichita Falls	2,723.50
First Free Will Baptist Church, Bowie	405.00
First Free Will Baptist Church, Duncanville	31,756.22
First Free Will Baptist Church, Weatherford	1,846.31
Friendship Free Will Baptist Church, Haltom City	1,943.99
Hope Chapel, Wichita Falls	2,211.00
Liberty Free Will Baptist Church, Comanche	00.00
New Salem Free Will Baptist Church, Decatur	1,149.44
Pleasant Mound Free Will Baptist Church, Buffalo Springs	5,923.06
Total	\$54,338.40

Respectfully Submitted by:
Carmen Harris, West Fork District Clerk
940-928-7055

Jack Bankhead moved that the report be received. The motion was seconded and carried.

Clarence J. Hearron gave the following Nominating Committee report:

Moderator, replacing Thurmon Murphy	Clyde Gillentine
Assistant Moderator, replacing Clyde Gillentine	Lynn Beck
Clerk, replacing Carmen Harris	Carmen Harris
Assistant Clerk, replacing Jack T. Bankhead	Charlene Pedigo
Parliamentarian, replacing Clarence J. Hearron	Jack T. Bankhead
Member-at-large, replacing Jim Stell	Jim Stell
Board of Christian Education, term expiring in 2011	Debbie Beck
State General Board Member-at-large	Richard Rust
Resolutions Committee	Ray Rhodes J. E. Jean Robert Posner
Credentials Committee	Bennie Anderson Clarence J. Hearron Ed Pedigo

Brother Hearron moved that the report be received and acted upon at the proper time. The motion was seconded and carried.

The report of the Board of Christian Education consisted of the following written report by chair Cindy Grimes, who was absent:

This year the West Fork Youth Camp has been very blessed. We began June of '05 with two great weeks of camp. The junior campers were awed by Brother Lynn Beck. Mark Stanczyk inspired and challenged our teens. The girls really enjoyed their fancy new dressing area. The Camp Club volunteers gave us something of which to be proud.

In October we had our first grant meeting with The Priddy Foundation from Wichita Falls. We presented the need of the camp for a new boys' dorm. The committee

from the foundation left us feeling hopeful that our dream was possible. By December we received word that we would not receive the grant. We were discouraged but not defeated. We were given some new ideas and our plans took a new direction.

2006 began with optimism for the West Fork Youth Camp. Our budget was growing and we had great hopes for a new year. In March we held a garage sale for the camp's Capital Improvements Account. The wonderful congregation of the First Free Will Baptist Church in Bowie opened their doors and hearts to us for the sale. Despite the bad weather (it rained most of the time), we were able to clear over \$1,000.00. The Pleasant Mound congregation was the backbone of our success. They supplied our concessions, including Bar-B-Que sandwiches, chips, drinks, donuts, coffee and desserts. We had many faithful people who volunteered their time, money and belongings to the garage sale. Their support was a gift from God. "For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you" (Luke 6:38).

April was looking great with almost \$8,000.00 in our checking account and over \$1,000.00 from the garage sale. Then came the news that we were going to need a new well. The total for the well was \$8,004.25. Job said it best when he said, "The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord" (Job 1:21b). We were praising God that we had that much money to even consider digging a new well.

We paid \$5,000.00 on the well but still owe \$2,529.25 after another gift of \$475.00 was received. We have enough money to start camp and with our extra money we should be able to pay the rest of our debt. God has been so good. We will once again open camp in June with the new well and great tasting water!

We are still in need of one junior class teacher, male counselors, recreation coordinator, a female class teacher, kitchen helpers, dorm supervisors and campers of all ages! Camp will begin Sunday, June 11th and end at noon on Friday, June 16, 2006. Registration will be from 3:00 to 5:00, Sunday afternoon. Dinner will be served at 5:30. The first service will begin at 7:00 p.m. Sunday night. The cost this year is \$90.00. If the campers register by June 3, the cost will be \$75.00. With two or more campers in the same family the cost is \$65.00 when they pre-register. Registrations should be mailed to Debbie Beck, 357 Rock Church Road, Bellevue, Texas, 76228.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cindy Grimes

Debbie Beck presented the following letter on behalf of the Board of Christian Education:

May 6, 2006

Dear Pastors, Churches & Members,

The time for Youth Camp is fast approaching. We are having only one week of camp this year. Both Junior and Teen camps will be combined into one week, the week of June 11-16.

The C. E. Board has no choice but to raise the rates for camp, which they have done. The rate for each camper is \$90.00. However, if the registration and money is sent to me by June 1, the rate is only \$75.00. Our hope is that the reduced rate for early registration will prompt most, if not all, to take advantage of the savings. This will allow us to have a good idea of the number of campers to expect as we purchase the needed supplies for camp.

As for supplies, we would like to do as we did last year. Instead of publishing a list of needed supplies for people to buy and donate, we are asking that each church send at least \$40.00 before June 1st so that we can go ahead and make the necessary purchases of the supplies. Just make the check out to "West Fork Youth Camp" and send it to: Debbie Beck, 357 Rock Church Road, Bellevue, Texas 76228.

Thank you in advance for your continued support of our Youth Camp. The support you give helps us to minister to the needs of our young people. Your donations will help us to bridge the gap in the board's finances and allow us to operate effectively.

May God bless you all.

In Christ,

Debbie Beck
Christian Education Board Treasurer.

The following financial report was submitted by Debbie Beck:

**Board of Christian Education
FINANCIAL REPORT
February 1 - April 30, 2006**

	Beginning Balance, \$ 9820.32
Income: Coop - \$2,193.14; Scrapbookers - \$100.00; Garage Sale - \$1,116.00	
Capital Campaign - \$650.00; WF Association - \$681.59; Misc. - \$434.	
Income	<u>5174.73</u>
Working Balance	\$14,995.05

EXPENSES:

JAC Electric	\$1120.91
(\$390.88; \$401.11; \$328.92)	
IESI Trash Service (\$59.51; \$62.19; \$62.10)	183.89
AT&T (\$16.39; \$16.39; \$16.51)	49.29
Office Supplies	41.50
Garage Sale Expenses (food, etc.)	216.98
Capital Campaign Fund	1439.01
Mower Fund transferred to savings	1000.00
Garage Sale Ad	40.00
Muenster Farm Mutual Insurance	1109.42
Performance Service Plan (refrigerator)	164.71
Sam's Club Renewal	70.00
Non-Profit Management Center (grant classes)	300.00
Prater's Water Well Service	5000.00
Art's Exterminators	160.00
Total Expenses	\$10,895.72

Beginning Balance	\$ 9,820.32
Income	5,174.73
Total	\$14,995.05
Less Expenses	<u>-10,895.72</u>
Ending Balance*	\$ 4,099.33

*Includes \$100 designated for well payment.

Board of Christian Education
Proposed Budget
Fiscal Year: May 1, 2006 through April 30, 2007

Proposed Income:	
Camp Fees and Concessions	\$ 4,000.00
West Fork Association and Church Gifts	8,000.00
Individual Gifts	3,000.00
Camp Rentals (groups & reunions)	400.00
Miscellaneous	<u>300.00</u>
Total Estimated Income	\$15,700.00
Proposed Disbursements:	
Electricity	\$ 4,600.00
Trash Service	1,000.00
Telephone	200.00
Property & Liability Insurance	2,200.00
Administrative Supplies	200.00
Camp Supplies (cleaning, etc.)	300.00
Repairs	3,000.00
Exterminating Service	650.00
Youth Camp	3,000.00
Mowing Expense	250.00
Miscellaneous	<u>300.00</u>
Total Estimated Expenditures	\$15,700.00

Jim Richards gave an oral report on the youth camp. A motion to receive the report of the Board of Christian Education and adopt the proposed budget was made and seconded. It passed.

Clarence Hearron moved that the Board of Christian Education be given the authority to replace any board member who misses two consecutive board meetings without being providentially hindered and that the board inform the association of the action at the next quarterly meeting. The motion was seconded and carried.

Thurmon Murphy gave an oral report on the year's work of the West Fork Camp Club and then presented the following financial report, which was received as information:

FINANCIAL REPORT
West Fork Camp Club

May 1, 2005 through April 30, 2006

Beginning Balance		\$100.00
Income for fiscal year 2005-2006:		
Quarterly Meeting Offerings	\$ 746.20	
Sponsorships and Other Gifts	1,193.58	
Total Income	\$1,939.78	\$1,939.78
Total to Account for		\$2,039.78

Expenses:

June 16, 2005	Lowe's, lumber, drywall screws	110.64
June 4, 2005	Longhorn Trailer, trailer repair	40.63
July 8, 2005	Lowe's, 2X4X8's	118.36
Sept. 25, 05	Lowe's, tools, lumber screws	81.72
Feb. 17, 06	Lowe's, cabinet top	150.11
Feb. 26, 06	Lowe's, florescent bulbs	21.09
Feb. 28, 06	Ray Rhodes, cabinets	325.00
March 4, 06	Lowe's, ballasts & other electrical	127.57
March 15, 06	Lowe's, nuts, bolts, drill bits, silicone	66.80
March 16, 06	Jerry's Tire, used tire and flat fixed	24.73
March 17, 06	Lone Star Trading	60.00
March 17, 06	Walmart	19.08
	Bank Service Fees	86.00

Total Expenditures \$1,231.73

Balance in the check book, May 1, 2006 \$ 808.05

Respectfully Submitted
Thurmon Murphy

Debbie Beck gave a report on the West Fork Women Active for Christ. Her report was received as information.

Dr. Thomas Marberry gave a report on the Free Will Baptist work in Mexico, where we have forty-eight churches and sixteen missions, the Seminary of the Cross in Mexico and the upcoming meeting of the Texas State Association of Free Will Baptists, scheduled to meet in Weslaco, Texas, in June. He announced that the state meeting would involve several groups going into Mexico for various activities. He informed us that Mexico was the largest Spanish speaking country in the world, with approximately 106 million people and that the population doubles every thirty-two years. He said that 31% of the population of Mexico was under age 15. Mexico is over two and a half times the size of Texas, with a land area of 761,605 square miles. The Mexican constitution guarantees religious freedom. 89% of the people of Mexico are officially Roman Catholic but Protestantism is growing. His report was received as information.

Marcus Brewer, State Office Coordinator, gave a brief report on the work of the Texas State Association and the upcoming state meeting. His report was received as information.

The report of the West Fork Executive Board was presented by assistant moderator Clyde Gillentine. The report consisted of five recommendations.

Item Number 1: Proposed Budget for the West Fork District Association (Adopted)

**West Fork District Association Budget
Fiscal Year, May 1, 2006 through April 30, 2007**

	2005-2006	2006-2007
Proposed Income:		
Delegate Fees	\$3,600.00	\$4,420.00
Direct Giving from Churches	3,000.00	<u>4,980.00</u>
Total Proposed Income	\$6,600.00	\$9,400.00
Proposed Expenditures:		
Annual & Quarterly Meeting Expenses	\$1,000.00	\$1,500.00
Printing and Postage	1,000.00	1,000.00
State and National Dues	1,500.00	2,600.00
Honoraria	750.00	800.00
Office Supplies/Beacon/Minutes	1,950.00	1,000.00
Miscellaneous/Contingency Expenses	00.00	2,000.00
Clerk's Salary	400.00	<u>500.00</u>
Total Proposed Expenditures	\$6,600.00	\$9,400.00

Item Number 2: Cooperative Giving Allocations (Adopted)

Board of Christian Education.....	40%
State Cooperative Program.....	40%
State Home Missions.....	10%
West Fork District Office.....	5%
Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College.....	5%

Item Number 3: The Executive Board recommended that money from the West Fork General Fund, not to exceed \$2,000.00, be given to the Board of Christian Education to help pay for the new well and that the morning offering be used for that purpose. (Adopted)

Item Number 4: The Executive Board recommended that the New Salem Free Will Baptist Church in Decatur be inserted into the rotation to host the quarterly meetings, beginning with the August, 2006, quarterly meeting. (Adopted)

Item Number 5: The Executive Board recommended that work on the questionnaires for deacons, those requesting licensing and/or ordination to the gospel ministry and ministers coming into the association continue. (Adopted)

Thurmon Murphy reported on the progress of his walk from Waco to Wichita Falls to raise funding for a new boys' dormitory at the youth camp. He reported that he was walking on some Mondays and had so far walked from the Connally Free Will Baptist Church in Waco to the south side of Fort Worth. The report was received as information.

The following officers were elected by acclamation:

Moderator	Clyde Gillentine
Assistant Moderator	Lynn Beck
Clerk,	Carmen Harris
Assistant Clerk	Charlene Pedigo
Parliamentarian	Jack T. Bankhead
Member-at-large,	Jim Stell
Board of Christian Education, term expiring in 2011	Debbie Beck
State General Board Member-at-large	Richard Rust
Resolutions Committee	Ray Rhodes J. E. Jean Robert Posner
Credentials Committee	Bennie Anderson Clarence J. Hearron Ed Pedigo

A motion was made to give moderator Thurmon Murphy a rising vote of thanks for his work as moderator of the West Fork District Association. The motion was seconded and carried. A motion was made to adjourn the business session. The motion was seconded and carried. In keeping with its practice of honoring one of the older, long time West Fork pastors, the West Fork District Association honored Pastor Jack Trent Bankhead. Pastor Bankhead and his wife Wanda were called to the front where they were seated, facing the congregation. Moderator Thurmon Murphy spoke of their long ministry in the West Fork, mostly at the Friendship Free Will Baptist Church in Fort Worth, and of Jack's long and faithful involvement with the West Fork Youth Camp. A brief biography of Pastor Bankhead, written by Thurmon Murphy, was given to each delegate, along with extra copies for people who were unable to attend. The congregation stood in applause to show their love and appreciation for the Bankheads.

There was a brief recess prior to the morning worship service.

Morning Worship Service

The morning worship service began at 11:00 a.m. in Trinity Chapel, with Clyde Gillentine presiding. Richard Rust led the congregation in singing "Sunlight." The offering, designated for the Board of Christian Education, was received. It amounted to \$687.00. Darlene Jolly, daughter of Jack and Wanda Bankhead, sang "It Is Well with My Soul." Jack and Wanda Bankhead, along with Billy Bunch, three members of The Gospelairens, sang "Wade Out In the Water." Nancy Copeland, youngest of the Bankhead daughters, sang "He the Pearly Gates Will Open." Keith Burden read 1 Peter 2:19-25 and preached on "Persevering Through Suffering." He closed in prayer. New moderator Clyde Gillentine then asked Brother Burden to speak briefly about the Free Will Baptist national convention, to be held in Birmingham, Alabama, in July. Brother Burden gave a quick overview and encouraged people to attend and/or pray for the convention. The closing prayer and blessing on the food was spoken by Bennie Anderson, deacon in the First Free Will Baptist Church of Duncanville. Lunch was served in the dining hall.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jack Bankhead, assistant clerk

**Executive Board Meeting
May 6, 2006**

The Executive Board of the West Fork District Association of Free Will Baptists met on Saturday morning, May 6, 2006, in the lodge of Covington Hall at the West Fork Youth Camp. Members present for the meeting were: Thurmon Murphy, Jack Bankhead, Clarence Hearron, Clyde Gillentine and Jim Stell. Assistant clerk Jack Bankhead took the minutes in the absence of clerk Carmen Harris. Cindy Grimes was not present because of family responsibilities.

Moderator Thurmon Murphy read a passage of Scripture and then led in prayer. The West Fork financial report was presented in writing in the absence of clerk Carmen Harris, who was away attending a graduation. The board voted to recommend the proposed budget to the association for adoption. See the minutes of the business meeting.

The board voted to recommend that the present allocations for the Cooperative Plan of support be retained for the following year. See the minutes of the business meeting.

The board voted to recommend that up to \$2,000.00 be given from the general fund to the Board of Christian Education to help pay for the new well which had just been dug.

The board voted to recommend that the New Salem Free Will Baptist Church in Decatur be inserted into the rotation of churches hosting quarterly meetings, beginning with the August meeting. See the rotation of churches.

The board voted to recommend that work on the questionnaire for deacons and ministers continue.

The board voted to give speaker Keith Burden an honorarium of \$750.00.

The board voted to invite James Forlines, Director of the Free Will Baptist International Missions Department, to speak at the 2007 West Fork annual meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jack Bankhead, assistant clerk

Rotation of Churches Hosting Quarterly Meetings
Adopted May 1, 2004, New Salem added on May 6, 2006

Faith Free Will Baptist Church
Wichita Falls

First Free Will Baptist Church
Duncanville, Texas

Friendship Free Will Baptist Church
Fort Worth, Texas

Hope Chapel
Wichita Falls

New Salem Free Will Baptist Church
Decatur

First Free Will Baptist Church
Weatherford

Pleasant Mound Free Will Baptist Church
Buffalo Springs

Collin Creek Free Will Baptist Church
Plano

Easley's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church
Comanche

West Fork Churches and Pastors

Calvary Free Will Baptist Church
4509 Rockwood
Fort Worth, Texas 76114-3841
Edwina's Cell: (817) 919-5131

Collin Creek Free Will Baptist Church
1905 East Parker Road
Plano, Texas 75074
(972) 4424-1905
Web Page: www.collincreek.org
e-mail: planopastor@juno.com
Fax: (972) 423-9622

City View Fellowship
3920 Burkett
Fort Worth, Texas 76126

Connally Free Will Baptist Church
2200 Air Base Road
Waco, Texas 76705

Easley's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church
11601 Highway 16
Comanche, Texas 76224
(325) 356-3392

Faith Free Will Baptist Church
1202 36th Street
Wichita Falls, Texas 76302
(940) 767-33265
Richard's Cell: (940) 733-8733
Fax: (940) 766-0729

First Free Will Baptist Church
505 Strong Street
Bowie, Texas 76230
(940) 872-4536
e-mail: makala76230@yahoo.com

First Free Will Baptist Church
1415 West Wheatland Road
Duncanville, Texas 76116
(972) 780-1608

Ray Rhodes (Edwina)
121 N. Buffalo Grove Road
Fort Worth, Texas 76108
Ray's Cell: (817) 875-2790

Robert Posner (Judy)
1600 Timber Brook
Wylie, Texas 75098
(972) 575-8796
e-mail: planopastor@juno.com
Cell: (972) 897-4397
Judy's: (972) 814-0411

Louis Nettleton (Freda)
3920 Burkett
Fort Worth, Texas 76126
e-mail: revnetone@hotmail.com
Work: (817) 341-8885

J. E. Jean (Ginger)
306 N. Baese Road
West, Texas 76691-2200
(254) 822-1310
Cell: (254) 717-7622

Marcus Nettleton (Sarah)
11601 Highway 16
Comanche, Texas 76224
(325) 356-3392
Cell: (254) 842-8426

Richard Rust (Kareen)
1441 Alpine
Wichita Falls, Texas 76302
(940) 766-0154
Kareen's Cell: (940) 733-8723
e-mail: FreeWill20@juno.com

Larry Cox (Jacque)
605 Orchard
Bowie, Texas 76230
(940) 872-4775
Cell: (940) 531-0109
Jackie's: (940) 531-0005

Richard C. Terry (Thelma)
715 Meadowbrooke Circle
Duncanville, Texas 75137
(972) 572-4054

First Free Will Baptist Church
109 North Line Street
Weatherford, Texas 76086
(817) 599-9620

Friendship Free Will Baptist Church
4200 McKibben
Haltom City, Texas 76117
(817) 831-7970
Fax: (817) 831-7970
e-mail: ffwbch@mail.com

Hope Chapel
3615 Arthur Street
Wichita Falls, Texas 76308
(940) 692-2048
e-mail: wfpastor@sbcglobal.net

Liberty Free Will Baptist Church
504 East College (*no mail here*)
Comanche, Texas 76442

New Salem Free Will Baptist Church
4450 S. County Road 51 (*no mail here*)
Decatur, Texas 76234
(940) 627-5413
Mail to: Carla Womack
4590 County Road 3170
Decatur, Texas 76234
e-mail: carwom@earthlink.net

Pleasant Mound Free Will Baptist Church
357 Rock Church Road
Bellevue, Texas 76228
(940) 476-2242

No Pastor

Tom Quinones (Michele)
4524 Newman Drive
Haltom City, Texas 76117
(817) 834-1779
Office: (817) 834-5879

Thurmon Murphy (Karen)
5037 Lindale Drive
Wichita Falls, Texas 76310
(940) 691-0318
Cell: (940) 867-9723
Karen's Cell: (940) 867-9725

Larry Smith
1220 CR 305
Comanche, Texas 76442
(325) 356-2087

Jack T. Bankhead (Wanda)
2812 Roosevelt
Fort Worth, Texas 76106
(817) 624-7084
Cell: (817) 456-0658
e-mail: sis.mama@juno.com

Lynn Beck (Debbie)
357 Rock Church Road
Bellevue, Texas 76228
(940) 476-2242
e-mail: deblyn1@netzero.net

Officers and Board Members
2006-2007

General Officers (Executive Board)

Moderator	Clyde Gillentine (Marie) 1330 Rutherford Mesquite, Texas 75149 (972) 288-5672 e-mail: jtbhg@att.net
Assistant Moderator	Lynn Beck (Debbie) 357 Rock Church Road Bellevue, Texas 76228 (940) 476-2242 e-mail: deblyn1@netzero.net
Clerk	Carmen A. Harris 9310 FM 1288 South Bellevue, Texas 76228 (940) 928-7055 Cell: (940) 613-4652 e-mail: westfork@wf.net
Assistant Clerk	Charlene Pedigo (Ed) 3109 Hale Fort Worth, Texas 76106 (817) 624-2946 e-mail: charlepedi@cs.com
Parliamentarian	Jack T. Bankhead (Wanda) 2812 Roosevelt Fort Worth, Texas 76106 (817) 624-7084 Cell: 817) 456-0658 e-mail: sis.mama@juno.com
Member-at-Large	Jim Stell 630 Jim Stell Road Bellevue, Texas 76228 (940) 476-2252 Cell: (940) 631-1861 e-mail: jstell@comcell.net
Chairman of the BCE	Jim Richards (Judie) P. O. Box 704 Boyd, Texas 76023 (940) 433-5879 Cell: (817) 690-8744 e-mail: jimandjudie@hotmail.com

Officers and Board Members, Continued

State General Board Member-at-Large Richard Rust

Board of Christian Education

Roscoe Dunn (2007)	Resigned
Ken Austin (2008)	2701 White Oak Plano, Texas 75074 (972) 422-1333 Cell: 897-4476
Jim Richards (2009)	P. O. Box 704 Boyd, Texas 76023 (940) 433-5879 Cell: (817) 690-8744 e-mail: jimandjudie@hotmail.com
Cindy Grimes (2010)	308 Spring Hollow Cedar Hill, Texas 76104 (972) 29108693 Cell: (214) 725-7178 e-mail: cgrimes308@aol.com
Debbie Beck (2011)	357 Rock Church Road Bellevue, Texas 76228 (940) 47602242 e-mail: deblyn1@netzero.net
Louise Maxwell Financial Advisor	696 Liberty Road Bellevue, Texas 76228 (940) 928-2241 Cell: (940) 224-1180 e-mail: louisedmax@aol.com

Resolutions Committee	Ray Rhodes J. E. Jean Robert Posner
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Credentials Committee	Bennie Anderson 1001 S. W. 2nd Street Grand Prairie, Texas 75051 Clarence Hearron 1722 Sparta Drive Duncanville, Texas 75137 Ed Pedigo 3109 Hale Fort Worth, Texas 76106
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Constitution
of the
West Fork District Association
of Free Will Baptists
Revised February 4, 2006

PREAMBLE

We the members of the churches of God, known as Free Will Baptists, being regularly baptized upon profession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and from long experience, being convinced of the expediency of an association of churches to better perpetuate our union and to preserve and maintain correspondence with others, do therefore ordain this constitution for our better government.

MISSION STATEMENT: The West Fork District Association exists to provide encouragement and mutual assistance to the churches and their members and to, through cooperative efforts, accomplish together what churches cannot accomplish alone.

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of this association shall be the West Fork District Association of Free Will Baptists.

ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: This organization shall be composed of the various churches and recognized missions which shall have entered into, and which shall hereafter enter into the agreements set forth in this constitution, as represented by their delegates duly elected or appointed by said churches or missions, together with all regularly ordained ministers and active ordained deacons and their wives all of whom are members in good standing of the churches and recognized missions of this association; and the members of the boards and standing committees of this association. The ministers and deacons shall be recommended by their churches or missions.

Section 2: Each church or recognized mission shall be entitled to five (5) delegates.

Section 3: Each delegation shall be qualified upon presenting to the association, through the credentials committee, an authorized letter signed by the pastor (or moderator) and church clerk, together with the stipulated associational fees. Failure to present the proper credentials shall disqualify the delegation.

Section 4: Upon the adoption of the credentials committee's report, the delegations shall be seated, unless decided otherwise.

Section 5: New churches and recognized missions wishing to become members of this association shall present such petitionary letters as shall be accepted.

Section 6: Each church and recognized mission shall have the right to withdraw membership from this association but shall not have the right to re-enter the association without examination, nor shall it be considered dismissed from the association until it has notified the association of its intent to

withdraw and proper action has been taken by the association.

Section 7: This association shall have the right to discipline any church, recognized mission, or minister holding membership in it for unsound doctrine or disorderly conduct, and may, when reasoning and persuasion fail, withdraw the hand of fellowship and revoke the minister's credentials; but in no case shall it have the right to reverse the decision of any local church.

Section 8: No question of dispute from any church or recognized mission shall be considered in the association unless it has first been thoroughly considered by the Executive Board of the association. Such questions must be submitted in writing and signed by the proper individuals.

ARTICLE III: OFFICERS

Section 1: The officers of this association shall consist of a moderator, an assistant moderator, clerk, assistant clerk and a parliamentarian.

Section 2: It shall be the duty of the moderator to call the association to order and to preside over all sessions of the association. In the absence of the moderator the assistant moderator shall preside, or in his absence the senior minister in years of service shall preside until the election of a moderator *pro tempore*.

Section 3: It shall be the duty of the assistant moderator to assist the moderator in maintaining order and to preside over the association in the absence of the moderator or at his request. He shall serve any unexpired term of the moderator.

Section 4: It shall be the duty of the clerk to make and keep accurate records of all sessions of the association; to have copies of the minutes printed and distributed to the churches and missions comprising this association; to make and keep accurate records of all meetings of the Executive Board and to enter the same in the minutes of the next session of the association. It shall be the duty of the clerk to receive funds paid or donated to the association and make duly authorized disbursements; to make and keep accurate records of all funds received and disbursed; and to report the same to the annual session.

Section 5: The assistant clerk shall assist the clerk in every capacity when called upon to do so by the clerk or moderator.

Section 6: It shall be the duty of the parliamentarian to familiarize himself with the parliamentary law recognized by the association and be ready to dispose of any point of order that may be referred to him.

Section 7: The officers of this association shall be elected by vote of the body at the annual session and shall assume office at the close of the session at which they were elected.

ARTICLE IV: MEETINGS

Section 1: The meetings of the association shall be as follows: The first Saturday of May, which shall be the annual session, and the first Saturday of August, November and February of each year.

Section 2: The times and places of called or special meetings shall be determined by the majority of the Executive Board or the association while it is in session.

ARTICLE V: FINANCE

Each church or mission shall send eighty-five dollars (\$85.00) to each session. Ten dollars (\$10.00) of each fee shall go to the host church for the entertainment of the association, fifty dollars (\$50.00) shall go to the state association for state and national dues and the remainder shall go to the district office.

ARTICLE VI: COMMITTEES AND BOARDS

Section 1: The committees of the annual session shall be the obituary committee and the nominating committee, both appointed by the moderator. Other committees may be added by a majority vote at any session.

Section 2: The standing committees, consisting of three members each, shall be the credentials committee; the resolutions committee; and the program committee consisting of the moderator, assistant moderator and the pastor of the host church.

At the annual session the obituary committee shall give a report of the deceased of the association.

At the annual session the nominating committee, which shall be appointed three months previously, shall present nominations for the standing committees, the officers and the board members to be elected.

When a church requests that any of its members be examined for license or ordination to the ministry or as a deacon, the credentials committee shall determine their qualifications and make recommendations to the association.

The resolutions committee shall receive and present worthwhile resolutions to the association as needed.

The program committee shall be responsible for planning the program of each session.

Section 3: The boards of the association shall be the Executive Board and the Board of Christian Education. The Executive Board consists of the general officers of the association and the chairman of the Board of Christian Education.

Section 4: Members of the Executive Board shall be elected annually. Members of the Board of Christian Education, consisting of five (5) members, shall serve five (5) year terms, on a rotating basis, with one term expiring each year.

Section 5: It shall be the duty of the Executive Board to act in behalf of the association in matters that cannot be held over until the next regular session, and to recommend the allocation of the undesignated portion of The Together Way Plan of support.

Section 6: The Board of Christian Education shall be charged with the responsibility of the ministry, building, maintenance and the repair of the associational camp ground. The members of this board and/or their successors duly elected by the association shall be considered as trustees of the camp ground property and shall act under the direction of the association.

ARTICLE VII: PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

Roberts' Rules of Order, Revised shall serve as parliamentary authority for this association unless otherwise ordered by two-thirds majority vote of all members present. The parliamentarian shall be furnished with a copy of this work which shall be held as property of this association.

ARTICLE VIII: AMENDMENTS AND REVISIONS

This constitution may be amended at any regular session by two-thirds majority vote, provided that the proposed amendment or revision has been put in writing and placed on the table at the previous session or mailed to the churches by the Executive Board two weeks prior to the meeting.

By-Laws

1. Applicants for ordination to the gospel ministry must be examined by the Credentials Committee at least a week prior to any district meeting of the West Fork and must have filled out the written questionnaire for ordination provided by the West Fork.
2. The West Fork Executive Board must recommend all special gifts distributed from the West Fork District Association general fund. Anyone may suggest such distributions to the Executive Board for their consideration.
3. Divorce and remarriage will not automatically disqualify an applicant for ordination or disqualify a minister from pastoring in the West Fork District Association.
4. It is the policy of the West Fork District Association and its member churches not to hire homosexuals.
5. The West Fork District Association will not list on its letter to the state association member churches which have not paid their dues in full.

