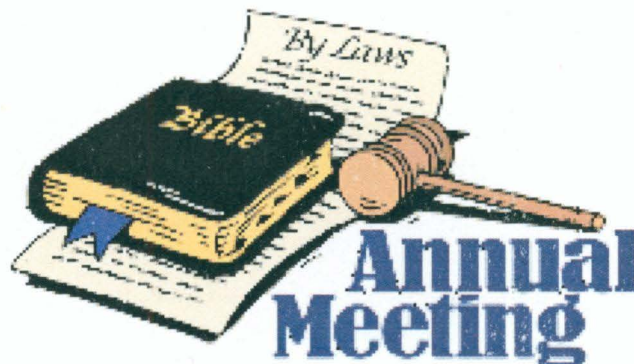


MINUTES
of the
ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH
ANNUAL SESSION
of the
WEST FORK DISTRICT ASSOCIATION
OF
FREE WILL BAPTISTS

Including
Minutes of the August, November & February Quarterly Meetings
Officers, Boards & Committees
Church Directory
Constitution and By-Laws



When Convened
at the
West Fork Youth Camp
Between Vashti and Newport, Texas

Friday and Saturday
May 4 & 5, 2007

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Minutes

of the

West Fork District Association of Free Will Baptists

Convened at the New Salem Free Will Baptist Church
Decatur, Texas
August 5, 2006

Executive Board Meeting

The Executive Board of the West Fork District Association of Free Will Baptists met on Saturday morning, at 8:00 a.m., August 5, 2006, at the New Salem Free Will Baptist Church in Decatur, Texas. Members present for the meeting were: Jack Bankhead, Charlene Pedigo, Carmen Harris, Clyde Gillentine, Lynn Beck, Jim Stell and Jim Richards.

Clyde Gillentine read Scripture from Psalm 121. Carmen Harris gave the financial report. Jack Bankhead made a motion to accept the report as read. The motion was seconded and carried.

James Forlines, Director of International Missions, was set as the speaker for the 2007 West Fork annual meeting. The board adopted a Hawaiian theme for the meeting, focusing on missions, home and abroad.

Richard Terry, new pastor of the First Free Will Baptist Church in Duncanville, Texas, was chosen as the speaker for the workshop on February 3, 2007. The host church for the quarterly meeting in February will be the Collin Creek Free Will Baptist Church in Plano, Texas.

There was a report on the progress of the revision of the questionnaires for licensing and ordaining preachers, deacons and new pastors coming into the association, stating that the revision was not yet completed. The committee working on the revision is Clarence J. Hearron, Thurmon Murphy and Lynn Beck.

Lynn Beck made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Board of Christian Education to elect Louise Maxwell to fill the unexpired term of Roscoe Dunn (2007), who had resigned from the board, and to recommend her election to the body. The motion was seconded and carried.

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

WORKSHOP

A workshop entitled "The Pastor/Church Relationship" was conducted by Lynn Beck. He explained the term 'man of God' according to the Old and New Testaments, and he gave us the definition of a "pastor" according to the *Free Will Baptist Treatise*. Then he described the church according to the *Free Will Baptist Treatise*. The foundation of the church was given according to Matthew 16:13-22, and the pastor/church relationship according to Philippians 2:1-8. The pastor must care about the people, about the purpose and about the promise; the church must care about the pastor, the program and the possibilities. The pastor and church must care together about the mission, message and the Master.

Business Session

The business session was opened by Jack Bankhead on the guitar and Wanda Bankhead at the piano, singing "Happy Birthday" to Darrell Nichols, Thurmon Murphy and Judie Richards. Paulette Davis led the congregation in singing "When the Roll Is Called Up Yonder." New moderator Clyde Gillentine called the business session to order and welcomed everyone to the West Fork district meeting. Host pastor Jack Bankhead welcomed the West Fork delegation to the New Salem church.

Clyde Gillentine gave the moderator's remarks, based on Philippians 2:13, stating that God has a work for us to do through Him. He led the invocation.

Ed Pedigo gave the Credentials Committee report: eleven churches reported by letter, listing eleven delegates, with fees and other contributions totaling \$935.00. Churches represented were: Calvary, Collin Creek, Connally, Duncanville, Easley's Chapel, Faith, Friendship, New Salem, Pleasant Mound, Weatherford and Hope Chapel. The committee made the following recommendations:

- (1) That the churches who had represented by letter and delegate fees, and their delegates, be seated;
- (2) That Richard Terry, new pastor of the First Free Will Baptist Church in Duncanville, who came from the Central District Association in Oklahoma, be received as a minister in the West Fork;
- (3). That Corey Thompson be received as a minister in the West Fork, pending a letter of recommendation from the Central District Association in Oklahoma; and
- (4). That Matthew Gillentine be issued a license to preach the gospel for a second year.

Brother Pedigo also announced that Tom Quinones, former pastor of the New Salem church, had been called as pastor of the Friendship Free Will Baptist Church in Fort Worth. He moved that the report be accepted and the delegates seated. The report was seconded and accepted and the delegates were seated.

Clerk Carmen Harris gave a written quarterly financial report of the West Fork District Association. She moved that the report be accepted. The motion was seconded and carried.

Debbie Beck gave the financial report of the West Fork Board of Christian Education. Jim Richards gave a report on the West Fork Youth Camp and distributed a new schedule of fees for rental of the youth camp. There was a motion to accept the report. The motion was seconded and carried.

Debbie Beck gave the report of the West Fork Women Active for Christ. She reported that the latest meeting had been held at Hope Chapel, with Tina Austin and Anna Posner, who had recently been to Cuba, reporting on the Free Will Baptist work on that island. Mrs. Beck announced that the district project for the WFWAC would be going to the Cuba mission and that all funds should be sent to Betty McGee, treasurer. She also announced that the 2006 fall retreat would be held at the West Fork Youth Camp on Friday and Saturday, September 8th and 9th, that Kelly Reed, pastor's wife of the Conroe mission, would be the speaker and that funds were being raised for the Conroe mission. She appealed for participation of more women in the West Fork Women Active for Christ to help promote the woman's place in God's ministry. Her report was received as information.

Clerk Carmen Harris presented the following announcements from the Executive Board: (1) That the 2007 West Fork annual meeting, held at the youth camp, would have the theme "Missions, Home and Abroad," and that people would be encouraged to dress Hawaiian style, (2) That James Forlines would be the speaker and (3) That the quarterly meeting in November would be at Pleasant Mound. She passed along the recommendation from the Executive Board that the recommendation from the Board of Christian Education that Louise Maxwell be elected to fill the unexpired term of Roscoe Dunn (2007) be accepted. A motion was made to elect Louise Maxwell to fill the unexpired term of Roscoe Dunn on the Board of Christian Education was made, seconded and carried.

Darrell Nichols, former pastor of New Salem and Free Will Baptist missionary to Ivory Coast and then Panama, reported that he would be teaching at Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College during the 2006-2007 school year. He reported on his Free Will Baptist heritage as well as his work in missions.

Lynn Beck moved that the business session adjourn. The motion was seconded and carried. Thurmon Murphy closed the business session in prayer.

Morning Worship Service

Lynn Beck, assistant moderator, presided over the morning worship service. Richard Terry open the service in with prayer. Paulette Davis led the congregation in singing "Mansion Over the Hilltop." Wanda Bankhead played the piano and Jack Bankhead accompanied on the guitar.

When it was time for the offering, Lynn Beck asked what the offering was for, the youth camp? Thurmon Murphy reminded the delegation that the offerings received at the August, November and February quarterly meetings go to the West Fork Camp Club for camp maintenance. Mr. Beck then said, "Then don't give. If you give to the youth camp you will get a financial report." Jack Bankhead spoke up and said, "There is a financial report in those minutes lying right there on the altar." An offering of \$126.10 was received for the Camp Club.

Paulette Davis led the congregation in singing "Because He Lives." Moderator Clyde Gillentine was then introduced to bring the morning message. He spoke on "Lord, Here Am I." He instructed us to "tink" outside the box, do whatever it takes to win the lost to Christ. He emphasized obeying the Great Commission. He closed the service in prayer, asking God's blessing on the food which had been prepared by the New Salem and Friendship churches. Lunch was served in the new Deacon's Memorial Fellowship Hall.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carmen Harris, Clerk

Minutes
of the
West Fork District Association of Free Will Baptists

Convened at Pleasant Mound Free Will Baptist Church
Buffalo Springs, Texas

Saturday, November 4, 2006

Executive Board Meeting

The Executive Board of the West Fork District Association of Free Will Baptists met on Saturday morning, November 4, 2006, at 8:00 a.m., in the fellowship hall at Pleasant Mound Free Will Baptist Church at Buffalo Springs, Texas. Board members present were: Jim Richards, Jack Bankhead, Jim Stell, Lynn Beck, Clyde Gillentine, Charlene Pedigo and Carmen Harris.

Moderator Clyde Gillentine opened the meeting by reading Matthew 20:25. He stated that Jesus led by example and that we are here to serve and not to lord it over others. He led the board in prayer on behalf of the meeting.

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

The moderator stated that we should let the speaker pick his own subject for the annual meeting.

It was noted that the committee members for the re-writing of the questionnaire for licensing and ordination were all in ill health. The moderator said he would check to see if they were able to meet and if they weren't he would perhaps appoint another committee. He pointed out that once the questionnaires were presented to the association they would be tabled for three months before being voted upon.

It was noted that Jeff Cates, missionary to Canyon, Texas, would be preaching in the morning service instead of Richard Rust, who was the scheduled speaker. The clerk announced that the next quarterly meeting would be at the Collin Creek Free Will Baptist Church in Plano, with Richard Terry doing the workshop and that Richard Rust would be bringing the message for that meeting. Jeff Cates was present because he was preaching a revival meeting at the Faith Free Will Baptist Church in Wichita Falls, pastored by Richard Rust. Lynn Beck moved that the association give Jeff Cates account \$300.00. The motion was seconded by Jack Bankhead, and carried.

Lynn Beck closed the board meeting in prayer.

The Quarterly Meeting

The quarterly meeting of the West Fork District Association of Free Will Baptists convened on Saturday morning, November 4, 2006, at the Pleasant Mound Free Will Baptist Church in Buffalo Springs, Texas. Donuts, rolls, coffee, water and juice were provided in the kitchen, beginning at 7:30 a.m., prior to the meetings of the Executive Board and the Credentials Committee.

Workshop

A workshop was conducted by Robert Posner, pastor of the Collin Creek Free Will Baptist Church in Plano, Texas. The workshop was on the subject: "Are You Missions Minded?" He used Scriptures found in Matthew 9:36-38; 28:19, 20; 5:14-16 and Ephesians 4:11, 12. Pastor Posner stated that the mission field was your neighbors and it started in your neighborhood. He passed out a couple of questionnaires to make delegates aware of the need for missions and their effect on the world.

Business Session

The business session was opened by Debbie Beck leading the congregation in singing "When We All Get to Heaven," with Louise Maxwell playing the piano and Carmen Harris playing the organ. Moderator Clyde Gillentine called the meeting to order and host pastor Lynn Beck welcomed everyone to Pleasant Mound. The moderator gave the moderator's remarks from Matthew 9:36-38, stating that there was a need for laborers. He encouraged prayer for laborers. He stated that if you lose one sheep, you lose them all. To win them, you have to lead them. To be a shepherd you have to go get them. He asked for prayer for Thurmon Murphy's mother, who was at the point of death in Tennessee.

The Credentials Committee report was given by Deacon Ed Pedigo. He read the names of churches represented by letter and asked that members of those churches stand as their names were read. Churches represented by letter and members present /delegates were: First Free Will Baptist Church, Bowie, no delegates; 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, no delegates; Easley's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church, Comanche, no delegates; Faith Free Will Baptist Church, Wichita Falls, no delegates; New Salem Free Will Baptist Church, Decatur, listed Peggy Anderson, Penny Anderson, James Richards, Judie Richards, Paulette Davis, Scott Pollard, Angela Pollard and Sue Owens as delegates; Friendship Free Will Baptist Church, Fort Worth, listed Charlie Zepeda, Lynn Zepeda, Russell Jolly, Darlene Jolly and Austin Jolly as delegates; Pleasant Mound Free Will Baptist Church, Buffalo Springs, no delegates; First Free Will Baptist Church, Weatherford, no delegates; Hope Chapel, Wichita Falls, listed Jeff Miller as a delegate. A total of twelve churches were represented, twelve delegates were listed, along with three alternate delegates. Total fees paid were \$1,020.00. Brother Pedigo moved that the report be received and the delegates seated. The motion was seconded and carried.

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

Jim Richards gave the report of the Board of Christian Education. He reported that the dates for camp would be June 10--15, 2007. He announced that Ron Giles would serve as camp evangelist. He asked for the churches' support with prayers, money and laborers. Debbie Beck gave the financial report for the Board of Christian Education.

Debbie Beck, president of the WFWAC then gave the report of the West Fork Women Active for Christ. She reported that Kelly Reed had been the speaker for the fall retreat and that there were not many women present for it. She asked that donations for the Harvest Home be sent to Betty McGee by January 2007. Mrs. Beck announced that the national Women Active for Christ retreat would be in Branson, Missouri, in February of 2007, at Chateau on the Lake. She further announced that the Texas Women Active for Christ retreat would be at Camp Tejas and

should be fun with good speakers and good fellowship. Her report was received as information.

Robert Posner reported on the State Mission Board. He reported on different mission churches and their progress. He introduced Jeff Cates of Canyon, Texas, who was on the road trying to raise support, needing to raise the second half of the support he needed. Missionary Cates announced that the mission church in Canyon would be beginning Wednesday evening services soon. Robert Posner reported that in 1975 Free Will Baptists of Texas had sixty-six churches in operation, but that in 2005 had only forty-eight in operation. The report was received as information.

There was no old or new business. An announcement was made that the next quarterly meeting would be at the Collin Creek Free Will Baptist Church in Plano. Jack Bankhead moved that the business session be adjourned. The motion was seconded and carried.

Morning Worship Service

Assistant Moderator Lynn Beck presided over the morning worship service. Debbie Beck led the congregation in singing "I'll Meet You in the Morning" and "He Set Me Free." Louise Maxwell played the piano and Carmen Harris played the organ. The offering for the West Fork Camp Club was received. The musicians played "Sweet Hour of Prayer" as the offering was received. Debbie Beck and Louise Maxwell sang a special: "Come Morning."

Jeff Cates, church planter in Canyon, Texas, brought the morning message. Speaking from 1 Peter 1:13-16, he emphasized that we should be holy and that we should have convictions that do not change, having a powerful opinion of what's right and what's wrong. He said that being holy involves a commitment.

Jack Bankhead led the benediction, asking God's blessings on the food which was to be served shortly by the Pleasant Mound church.

Minutes
of the
West Fork District Association of Free Will Baptists

Convened with the
Collin Creek Free Will Baptist Church
Plano, Texas

Saturday, February 3, 2007

Executive Board Meeting

The Executive Board of the West Fork District Association of Free Will Baptists met on Saturday morning, February 3, 2007, at 8:00 a.m., at the Collin Creek Free Will Baptist Church at Plano, Texas. Members present for the meeting were: Jack Bankhead, Clyde Gillentine, Charlene Pedigo and Carmen Harris.

Clyde Gillentine opened the meeting by reading Psalm 34, emphasizing that we should exalt God in everything we do. Jack Bankhead prayed for the meeting.

Brother Gillentine announced that the speaker for the annual meeting in May would be Barry Simpson, Director of Development for Free Will Baptist International Missions, substituting for James Forlines, Director of Free Will Baptist International Missions, who would be in Turkey at that time.

Clerk Carmen Harris gave the quarterly financial report of the district association. She moved that the report be accepted. The motion was carried.

The 2007 annual meeting was planned. The board adopted the theme of "Hawaii" and planned to encourage attendees to dress in Hawaiian style. Jack Bankhead and Ray Rhodes were designated to roast a pig for the Friday evening meal and it was decided that delegates who wanted to spend the night at the camp would be allowed to do so, free of charge.

The board appointed the following to serve as the Nominating Committee: Clarence Hearron, chairman, Jim Richards and Richard Rust.

It was noted that the revised questionnaire for the examining of preachers and deacons in the West Fork had been completed and was available for presentation to the association for adoption. Jack Bankhead moved that upon recommendation of the questionnaires for adoption by the association it should be tabled until the annual meeting. His motion carried. The moderator encouraged everyone to circle any problem areas they saw in the questionnaires.

A thank you note was read from Jeff Cates of Canyon, Texas, for the monetary support given to him at the November quarterly meeting.

Clyde Gillentine closed the board meeting in prayer.

Quarterly Meeting

The quarterly meeting of the West Fork District Association of Free Will Baptists convened on Saturday morning, February 3, 2007, at the Collin Creek Free Will Baptist Church in Plano, Texas. Donuts, rolls, coffee, blueberry muffins, water and juice were provided for fellowship at 7:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall.

Workshop

The workshop entitled "Preparing a Lesson" was presented by Richard Terry, pastor of the First Free Will Baptist Church in Duncanville. Notes were provided on that subject, along with notes on the history of the English Bible. Pastor Terry emphasized that Bible teachers should not force the biblical text to say something it does not say.

Business Session

Bobby Farrel, congregational song leader at Collin Creek, led the congregation in singing "This Is the Day," "What a Mighty God We Serve," "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms," and "We Will Glorify the King of Kings." Music and words were provided via CD and overhead projector.

Moderator Clyde Gillentine called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the West Fork district meeting. Louis Nettleton, pastor of the City View Fellowship opened the session in prayer. Host pastor Robert Posner welcomed the delegation to Collin Creek and asked that they pray for the church's prison ministry.

Clyde Gillentine gave the moderator's remarks, stating that we spend way too much time on things that are not important.

Clarence Hearron gave the report of the Credentials Committee, asking each church to stand as their church's name was called. Eleven churches were present and one was represented by the promise of a letter. Churches represented were: First Free Will Baptist Church, Bowie; City View Fellowship, Fort Worth; Collin Creek Free Will Baptist Church, Plano; Connally Free Will Baptist Church, Waco; First Free Will Baptist Church, Duncanville, listing Cindy Grimes and Ray Patterson as delegates; Easley's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church, Comanche; Faith Free Will Baptist Church, Wichita Falls; Friendship Free Will Baptist Church, Fort Worth; New Salem Free Will Baptist Church, Decatur, listing Judie Richards as a delegate; Pleasant Mound Free Will Baptist Church, Buffalo Springs; and the First Free Will Baptist Church, Weatherford. Fees collected totaled \$935.00. Brother Hearron moved that the report be received and the delegates seated. The motion was seconded and carried.

Clerk Carmen Harris gave the quarterly financial report of the West Fork District Association. She moved that the report be accepted as read. The motion was seconded and carried.

Judie Richards gave the quarterly financial report of the Board of Christian Education in the absence of her husband, Jim, who was ill, as was Debbie Beck, treasurer of the board. Camp director Cindy Grimes made announcements relative to the camp literature for 2007. There was a motion to receive the report. The motion was seconded and carried.

Cindy Grimes then announced and gave details on the Women Nationally Active for Christ

retreat to be held February 22-24, 2007, in Branson, Missouri.

Moving into the area of unfinished business, Moderator Clyde Gillentine informed the delegation that James Forlines would not be able to speak at the annual meeting in May but that Barry Simpson, newly hired as the Director of Development of Free Will Baptist International Missions, would speak in his place.

Bill Van Winkle, pastor of the Fellowship Free Will Baptist Church in Bryan, Texas, and member of the Board of International Missions, thanked everyone for their participation in the World Missions Offering. He reported on world missions and emphasized how our various Bible institutes on foreign fields can and do send people to world fields. According to Van Winkle the fastest growing Free Will Baptist mission fields were India and Ivory Coast. His report was received as information.

Moving into the area of new business, Clarence Hearron presented copies of the revised questionnaires for ministers and deacons. He moved that the revised questionnaires be adopted. The motion was seconded. He then moved that the motion be tabled until the annual meeting in May. The motion to table was seconded and carried.

Clarence Hearron, speaking as a member of the Credentials Committee, recommended that Thomas L. Sessums be referred back to his church to be ordained as a minister and that Richard Terry be accepted into the West Fork as a minister. He moved that this be done. The motion was seconded and carried.

Moderator Clyde Gillentine announced that the Executive Board had appointed Clarence Hearron, Chairman, Jim Richards and Richard Rust to serve as the 2007 Nominating Committee.

The Executive Board asked for prayer for Jim Stell, Jim Richards and Debbie Beck. They then announced the Hawaiian theme for the annual meeting in May.

A motion was made to adjourn the business session. The motion was seconded and carried.

Worship Service

Bobby Farrel led the congregation in singing "He Set Me Free" and "Heavenly Sunlight." Music was provided via CD. Brother Farrel then led the invocation. An offering was received for the West Fork Camp Club. Mike Parks and Benny Anderson served as ushers.

Clyde Gillentine introduced Richard Rust, pastor of the Faith Free Will Baptist Church in Wichita Falls, as the speaker for the worship service. Pastor Rust's message was based on Colossians 3:12, 13. He asked, "Can you speak firmly about matters that are important to you without hurting feelings?" He affirmed that the more we please God the more we please others.

Moderator Clyde Gillentine made some announcements relative to the upcoming state meeting in Bryan. He closed the service with prayer.

Lunch was served in the fellowship hall by the Collin Creek Free Will Baptist Church.

Minutes of the West Fork District Meeting are respectfully submitted by,
Carmen Harris, District Clerk

Preparing a Lesson

A Workshop
by Richard Terry

Stage 1--Choose the passage

Units of thought:

Epistles--Paragraphs

Narratives--Several paragraphs

Poetry (Psalms, etc.)--Stanzas or strophes

Proverbs--Since the proverbs appear to be a collection of short, pithy, seemingly unconnected sentences you may want to handle them by topics. They may have to be taken from different chapters and put together in a logical sequence that forms a unit of thought.

Stage 2--Study your passage and gather your notes

Context

Read the book (letter) several times in different translations.

Use Bible helps:

Concordances

Word Studies

Bible Dictionaries & Encyclopedias

Commentaries

Stage 3--Identify and relate the parts of your passage to each other to identify the central idea of the text (CIT)

Identify the subject by asking a series of questions. This poem will help:

I had six faithful friends

They taught me all I knew

Their names were how and What and Why

When and Where and Who.

Identify the Complement--that is the information complements or *completes* the subject and makes it into an idea

Stage 4--Submit your ideas to 3 questions

What does this mean? *Explanation*

Is it true? *Validity*

What difference does it make? *Application*

Stage 5--In light of the audience's knowledge and experience, state your idea in the most exact memorable sentence possible

Stage 6--Determine the purpose of this lesson. What you expect to happen in the hearer.

Stage 7--Make an outline including supporting materials that explain, prove, apply, or amplify.

Stage 8--Prepare the introduction and conclusion of the lesson

Mining for Gold

Read the passage repeatedly. (Out loud) Use more than one translation. Begin making a list of observations.

Literary-historical context. Use the introductory information provided in a commentary. Also Bible handbooks, atlases, and encyclopedias can be helpful.

- Placement and function
- Authorship
- Social setting (economic & political)
- Geographical setting
- Archaeological setting
- Date. If possible.
- Examine the surrounding context

Make a list of key terms (sometimes phrases)
Do a word study

Biblical and theological context.

- Analyze use of the passage elsewhere in Scripture. (Good reference or study Bible)
- Analyze the passage's relationship to the rest of Scripture.
 - How does this passage function?
 - What gaps does it fill in?
 - What are its theological concerns?
 - How is the passage to be harmonized with the greater theological whole?

Application

- List the life issues with the area of faith or action
- Categories of application:
 - Corporate or individual or no differentiation
 - Christian or non-Christian
 - Clergy or lay
 - Parent or child
 - Weak or strong
 - Haughty or humble
 - Male or female

DEALING WITH PROBLEM PASSAGES

1. Remember, they were not written to us.
 - A. This suggests that the original audience was on the same wavelength with the author.
 - B. We must learn to be content with our lack of knowledge. (2 Thes. 2:5f)
 - C. Therefore, don't be dogmatic--what God wants us to know he has communicated to us.
2. Ask what can be said for certain about a text, and what is merely possible but not certain. (1 Cor. 15:29)
3. Even if one cannot have full certainty about some details, very often the point of the whole passage is still within our grasp. (Irrespective of why the Corinthians were baptizing for the dead, we do know why Paul referred to it. It was because their own action was a kind of "proof from experience" that they were not consistent in their rejecting a future bodily resurrection of believers).
4. On such passages one needs to consult a good commentary. (Good commentaries will list and discuss various options).
5. Remember, even scholars do not have all the answers!

CULTURAL RELATIVITY

1. Distinguish between the central core of the message of the Bible from what is peripheral.
 - A. I'm not advocating a "canon within the canon" (i.e., to elevate certain parts of the Bible above others).
 - B. This is to safeguard the gospel from being turned into law. Core issues are: fallenness of man, redemption, Christ's second coming, etc.
2. Distinguish between what the New Testament itself sees as inherently moral and what is not.
 - A. Paul's sin lists never contain cultural items
3. Make a special note of items where the New Testament itself has a uniform and consistent witness and where it reflects differences. Example:
 - A. Consistent--
 1. Love is the Christian's basic ethical response
 2. Nonretaliation
 - B. Differences--
 1. Women's ministries within the church
 2. Retention of wealth
4. Distinguish between principle and specific application (command).
5. Finally, always deal with issues in love, especially if they are not black and white.

The History of the English Bible
by Richard C. Terry

The Latin Bible, known as the Latin Vulgate and made by Jerome between A.D. 383 and 405 was the predominant version used and copied by the British. To this day the most reliable extant manuscript of the Vulgate was made in England and is stored in the Laurentian Library at Florence¹

The genesis of the English Bible might very well be Old English poems which contained allusions to biblical stories. This is especially evident in the works of the Venerable Bede. About A.D. 700 Aldhelm a protégé of Theodore of Tarsus, Archbishop of Canterbury, translated the Psalter into Old English.²

An example of Early Middle English Version is as follows:

Oure Fader that art in heuene, halewed be thi name. Thi kingdom come to us. Thi wyll be don, as in heuene, and in erthe. Oure eche dayes breed yeue us to day. And foryeue us oure dettys, as we foryeue oure dettours. And ne lede us not in temptacyon, but delyuere us of yuel. Amen.

Versions, like the example above, are not to be understood as a translation for ordinary lay people, but for use in limited and special circumstances. The idea of a translation into the vernacular came about with the Wycliffe movement.

Wycliffe's Bible

John Wycliffe (c. 1330-1384), a prominent Oxford theologian espoused the idea of "dominion by grace", which gave rise to the belief that each man was individually responsible to obey God's law (not to be confused with canon law). For Wycliffe, the Bible was "the rule of faith and practice, including ecclesiastical practice"³. Of course if every man was expected to shoulder this responsibility, he must have the Bible in the vernacular in order to know God's law. It is unlikely that Wycliffe was directly involved in the translation that bears his name, the fact that it does is appropriate since he provided the inspiration for the project.

The weakness of the translation lies in the fact that it is based on the Latin Vulgate and followed Latin constructions and word-order even when it conflicted with English grammar.⁴ A later Wycliffe version was more in keeping with English idiom, but still relied on the earlier Latin version. This later version is largely the work of John Purvey, Wycliffe's secretary. His work was done after Wycliffe died in 1384. One must also bear in mind that the work of these men predates the invention of the printing press and their versions were hand copied, creating greater opportunity for human error.

It is interesting to note that controversy surrounding new Bible translations has always been a problem. Lord Chancellor of England, Sir Thomas More published *A Dialogue Concerning Heresies* in 1528, an attack upon the Tyndale English version of the New Testament. He referred to Wycliffe as a great arch-heretic. F. F. Bruce suggests that the Bible presented to Queen Elizabeth I by the citizens of London in 1558 was a copy of the Wycliffite Gospels and is "a fitting climax to the history of the first English Bible"⁵.

Tyndale's Bible

The first English translation of the New Testament to be printed after the invention of the printing press was that of William Tyndale. The 1534 edition still has a profound impact on modern translations. Bruce quotes H. W. Robinson:

Tindale's honesty, sincerity, and scrupulous integrity, his simple directness, his magical simplicity of phrase, his modest music, have given an authority to his wording that has imposed itself on all later versions. With all the tinkering to which the New Testament has been subject, Tindale's version is still the basis in phrasing, rendering, vocabulary, rhythm, and often in music as well.⁶

as the Gutenberg Bible. It is important to note that the first English Bible printed; that honor goes to the Latin translation called the Mazarin Bible or better known first Greek Testament published was the Dutch humanist Desiderius Erasmus in March 1516 followed by a number of subsequent editions one of which served as the basis of Luther's German

¹ Bruce F. F. *The English Bible, A History of Translation from the earliest English Versions to the New English Bible*. (New York: Oxford University Press, 1961), 1.

² Ibid. 5.

³ Ibid. 12, 13.

⁴ Ibid. 15.

⁵ Ibid. 23.

⁶ Ibid. 44.

New Testament and for Tyndale's English New Testament printed in 1525. The Luther version appeared in 1522.⁷ A printer named William Caxton had, however, printed some portions of the biblical text in his translation, into English, of a Latin work called *The Golden Legend*.

It is fitting at this point to pay tribute to the Augustinian monk, Martin Luther, who, while professor of Sacred Theology in the University of Wittenberg expounded Paul's Epistle to the Romans. Out these lectures to his students came his understanding of the doctrine of justification by faith which led to the posting of the Ninety-Five Theses—points intended for academic debate—on the doors of the castle church in Wittenberg. While Luther did not anticipate what this action would result in, an undying debt of gratitude is due him for his courage in the face of subsequent efforts to silence him. This bold move, more than any other, set the stage for the Reformation and is closely associated with the history of Bibles printed in the vernaculars of western Europe, including the English versions.⁸ It is not at all unlikely that what Luther had done in Germany provided the stimulus for Tyndale in the development of his English translation as a means of combating the ignorance of Scripture that plagued both the laity and clergy in England. The similarities between Tyndale's New Testament and Luther's have prompted some to suggest that Tyndale merely translated the German into English. It is important to emphasize that Tyndale's translation is based on Erasmus's third printed edition of the Greek Testament of 1522 rather than Luther's version.

Coverdale's Bible

Although he was not a scholar in the tradition of William Tyndale, Myles Coverdale (1488-1569) devoted most of his life to making the Bible accessible to the English. In 1535 the Bible, which came to be known as the "Coverdale Bible", appeared. Additionally, he edited the Great Bible of 1539 and was involved in the preparation of the Geneva Bible which was published in 1560. He was a graduate of Cambridge, and an Augustinian friar. He left his order as a result of the Reformation. Because of a fluid political environment in England he was forced to spend time in Hamburg where he assisted Tyndale. Only through the influence of the King of Denmark was he able to avoid martyrdom at the hands of Mary Tudor. He was allowed to go into exile for a third time. This time he went to Geneva where he served as an elder in the English church became godfather to the second son of the great Scottish preacher and pastor, John Knox.

Coverdale's edition was the first *complete* printed Bible in English. In the introductory notes, Coverdale readily admits his lack of facility with the original biblical languages and admits to depending on earlier versions in Latin and German and on other translators. While the names of the translators are not given, it can be safely assumed that he is referring to Tyndale, Luther and Jerome and possibly a Dominican scholar, Sanctes Pagninus. Coverdale's Bible expanded the terse chapter-headings of the Vulgate to brief chapter-summaries.⁹ This version was also the first to separate the books of the Apocrypha from the other Old Testament books and print them by themselves as an appendix to the Old Testament; a pattern followed by all English Protestant Bibles ever since, if they include the Apocrypha.

Matthew's Bible

Thomas Matthew is probably the pen-name of the editor John Rogers who was a colleague of Tyndale and was later burned at the stake in 1555. F. F. Bruce suggests that "the most interesting feature of the title page of this volume is not the title itself, but the words at the bottom of the page: 'Set forth with the kinges most gracious lycence'"¹⁰. The procurement of the license was the result of Archbishop Cranmer's political influence. A license was also secured for Coverdale's second 1537 edition. So, in the year after Tyndale's death, two versions of the English were circulating in England with the blessing of the King. To a large extent this edition of the Bible was an integration of the Tyndale and Coverdale Bibles. There is a certain irony to the fact that the first English Bible to be circulated freely with royal approval was that of Tyndale, even though it was not politically expedient to associate his name with it.

The Great Bible

The introduction to this version offers an inflated of its own linguistic scholarship. Note the following excerpt:

The Byble in Englyshe, that is to saye the content of all the holy scripture, both of the olde and newe testament, truly translated after the veryte of the Hebrue and Greke texts, by the dylygent studye of the dyuerse excellent learned men, expert in the foresayede tonges.

The reality is that while men behind the translation may have been accomplished in the use of the biblical languages, they relied heavily on Tyndale's Bible. The so called "divers excellent learned men" were merely the translators, editors and other scholars which Coverdale consulted.

⁷ Ibid. 25.

⁸ Ibid. 27.

⁹ Ibid. 59.

¹⁰ Ibid. 64.

This version owes its name to its large proportions. Not only was it a large volume, Nicolas Shaxton, bishop of Salisbury, required his clergy, early in 1538 to chain it to the desk in every parish throughout the diocese so that literate people could read it and the illiterate on hear, "wholesome doctrine and comfort to their souls".¹¹ Five additional editions of this version were published between July 1540 and December 1541. Because of the preface Cranmer wrote for the second edition in 1540 it was often referred to as the "Cranmer's Bible". The value of this Bible rests on its wide distribution and its official status as the version "appointed to the use of the churches throughout England".

The Geneva Bible

There came to be a great deal of anti-Reformation hostility in England following the accession of Mary in 1553. Coverdale, John Knox and others found Geneva to be a more hospitable environment for there work as translators, especially with the presence of John Calvin and Theodore Beza. This version won immediate acceptance and became the household Bible of the English-speaking Protestants. Since the notes in it were too Reformed to suit the powers that be, it was never appointed to be use in the churches of England. This, notwithstanding, the Geneva Bible was considered an excellent translation even by those who disagreed with the theology of its translators. The Bible came to be referred to as the "Breeches Bible", because Genesis 3:7 stated that Adam and Eve sewed fig leaves together and made themselves "breeches".¹²

This 1560 translation is essentially a collation of various versions, i.e. the Whittingham, Coverdale, Tyndale versions as well as the Beza New Testament and the Great Bible. Its popularity continued well after the appearance of the Authorized Version of 1611. It was the *Soldier's Pocket Bible*, issued in 1643 for the use of Oliver Cromwell's. In Scotland the Geneva Bible was the version approved for use in the churches of Aberdeenshire as late as 1674.

The Bishops Bible

This version which appeared in 1568 took the place of the Great Bible in England where the church had not been as profoundly influenced by the Reformation as in Scotland, and was not as Calvinistic in outlook, an obvious characteristic of the annotations in the Geneva Bible. This Bible prepared under the supervision of the Archbishop of Canterbury was mainly a revision of the Great Bible, but did, to some extent, depend on the Geneva Bible. It was never popular among lay people and was used chiefly by the clergy.

The King James Version

Upon the death of Queen Elizabeth, the crown passed to James I, who had already worn the crown of Scotland for over 37 years as James VI. A conference called by the king for churchmen and theologians at Hampton Court in 1604 yielded little except for a resolution stating:

That a translation be made of the whole Bible, as consonant as can be to the original Hebrew and Greek; and this to be set out and printed, without any marginal notes, and only to be used in all Churches of England in time of divine service.¹³

It was Dr. John Reynolds, president of Corpus Christi College, Oxford who proposed the new translation. The proposal did not meet with unanimous approval. Richard Bancroft, bishop of London complained that "if every man's humour were followed, there would be no end of translating." The king, however, thought it was a good idea given that he considered the Geneva to be the worst English translation he had ever seen. This harsh appraisal of the Geneva version is surprising since the king was something of scholar himself and the version was very popular among scholars. The king's objections were not so much directed at the translation as they were at the annotations.

King James was somewhat hands on, in that he took the lead in organizing the translators into six panels (forty-seven in all), with the work divided among them. The Old Testament was assigned to three panels, the New Testament to two, and the Apocrypha to one. Two panels met at Oxford, two at Cambridge, and two at Westminster. The king may have established the rules which guided the translators or at the very least sanctioned them. The Bishop's Bible served as the basis for the new translators. Marginal notes were used only to explain Hebrew and Greek words and to identify parallel passages. Words supplied by the translators to complete the sense of the text were to be printed in a distinctive type. The existing chapter and verse divisions were to be retained; new headings were to be supplied for the chapters.

The 1611 version is commonly referred to as the Authorized Version, but it was never formally authorized by any official body either church or state. It would have required an Act of Parliament, as in the case of the *Book of Common Prayer* for it to be truly authorized. The special command of the king did, however, carry considerable authority. In the

¹¹ Ibid. 67.

¹² Ibid. 92.

¹³ Ibid. 96.

United States this version is frequently referred to as the "King James Version" (KJV)—a designation which is justified by the role that the king played in the project. Unfortunately, some believe the king translated the Bible, if not fact, authored it.

The KJV has undergone a number of revisions. Three appeared in the first year of publication. The earliest is known as "the great HE edition" and the other two as "the great SHE editions", because the first renders the closing words of Ruth 3:15 "and he went into the city", whereas the others have "and she went into the city" (the Hebrew manuscripts themselves are divided between "he" and "she").

The punctuation of the KJV was designed to guide the public readers of the Bible in church enunciate properly and to place the emphasis in the right places. Paragraph marks (¶) indicated the beginning of each paragraph up to Acts 20:36, but none appear after that point. The reason for this is uncertain.

While the KJV has great merit, it should not be surprising that after nearly 400 years its popularity is rivaled by newer translations. Changes in the usage of the English has made its language remote and at times, archaic. During the past three and a half centuries advancement in the knowledge of the biblical languages has made revision imperative. The attitude of millions of readers of the KJV that it is "The Word of God" in a sense in which no other version is accepted is a tribute to the workmanship of those who gave us the version of 1611.

The Revised Version 1881-1885.

Made by a group of English and American Scholars. The value of this version is its reliance on the most ancient copies of the original texts, many of which were unavailable to the translators of the KJV.

The American Standard Version 1900-1901.

This version incorporates into the text the reading preferred by the American members of the Revision Committee of 1881-1885.

ENGLISH VERSIONS SINCE 1901.

The twentieth century has witnessed a steady stream of versions from a variety of publishers. This is, in large measure, due to the numerous archaeological discoveries in the Holy Land, especially the Dead Sea Scrolls, which contained manuscripts as much as 1000 years older than any previously known.

The Revised Standard Version 1952.

Copyrighted by the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. The RSV Committee is a continuing body which is both ecumenical and international with active Protestant and Catholic members from Great Britain, Canada, and the US. Additional revisions were made in the NT in 1971.

The Amplified Bible 1965.

A modern English version sponsored by the Lockman Foundation. It has bracketed explanatory words and phrases following the places in the text where difficulty arises.

The Jerusalem Bible 1966.

A Roman Catholic work. It is translated from the Hebrew and Greek texts. It also depends on an earlier French version and includes the Apocrypha.

New English Bible 1970.

Produced by a joint committee of Bible scholars from leading denominations in England, Scotland, Wales, and Ireland, assisted by experienced counsel from the University Presses of Oxford and Cambridge, after 22 years of work. It is a true translation. It includes the Apocrypha.

New American Standard Bible 1971.

A revision of the ASV of 1901 which was itself a revision of the ESV of 1881-1885. The Lockman Foundation sponsored a group of scholars who worked for 10 years translating from the best available Hebrew and Greek texts and attempting to render the grammar and terminology of the ASV in Contemporary English.

The Living Bible 1971.

A compilation of Scripture paraphrases by Kenneth N. Taylor. Attempt to express the Old and New Testaments in the simplest modern English.

Today's English Version (Good News Bible) 1976.

Originally published in 1966 entitled "Good News for Modern man" by the American Bible Society in cooperation with the United Bible Societies. The British edition has some differences in vocabulary and form in keeping with British usage.

New International Version 1978.

Under sponsorship of the New York International Bible Society, a committee on Bible translation was formed to oversee a completely new translation from the best Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek texts. The committee enlisted the help of Bible scholars from colleges, universities, and seminaries in the United States, Great Britain, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and from various denominations including Anglican, Assemblies of God, Baptist, Brethren, Christian Reformed, Church of Christ, Lutheran, Mennonite, Methodist, Nazarene, Presbyterian, Wesleyan, and other churches, in order to avoid any sectarian bias. The translation of each book was assigned to a team of scholars and several committees checked and rechecked the translation for accuracy, clarity, and literary style. The translators were united in their commitment to the authority and infallibility of the Bible as God's Word in written form.

New King James Version 1982.

The New Testament of the New King James Version was published in 1979. One hundred and nineteen Bible scholars worked on the project, which was sponsored by the International Trust for Bible Studies and Thomas Nelson Publishers. The scholars sought to preserve and improve the purity of the King James Version of 1611.

New Revised Standard Version 1990

This is the result of 15 years of work contributed by a committee of 30 scholars representing various denominations. The motto of the translators, "as literal as possible, as free as necessary," guided the work. Some editions include also the Apocryphal/Deuterocanonical books accepted by Roman Catholics and Eastern Orthodox Churches. The committee States in the preface:

We have resisted the temptation to introduce terms and phrases that merely reflect current moods, and have tried to put the message of the Scriptures in simple, enduring words and expressions that are worthy to stand in the great tradition of the King James Bible and its predecessors.¹⁴

¹⁴ The information for the versions since 1901 was taken from The Thompson Chain-Reference Study Bible using the New King James Version, 1997

Minutes

of the

Executive Board Meeting

Saturday, May 5, 2007

West Fork Youth Camp

The Executive Board of the West Fork District Association of Free Will Baptists met on Saturday morning, at 8:00 a.m., May 5, 2007, in the lodge of Covington Hall at the West Fork Youth Camp near Vashti, Texas. Members present for the meeting were: Clyde Gillentine, moderator; Lynn Beck, assistant moderator; Carmen Harris, clerk; Jack T. Bankhead, parliamentarian; Jim Stell, member-at-large and Jim Richards, chairman of the Board of Christian Education.

Moderator Clyde Gillentine read Scripture from Psalm 127. He stated that in all our efforts and endeavors, if we do it without God, it's all in vain.

Clerk Carmen Harris gave the financial report and presented the following proposed budget for the 2007-2008 fiscal year:

Proposed Budget for the Executive Board May 2007 through April 2008

PROPOSED INCOME:

Delegate fees	\$4,080.00
Direct Giving from Churches	<u>3,000.00</u>
Total Proposed Income	\$7,080.00

PROPOSED EXPENDITURES:

Annual and Quarterly Meeting Expenses	\$1,000.00
Printing and Postage	500.00
State and National Dues	2,400.00
Honoraria	750.00
Office Supplies/ <i>The Beacon</i> , Minutes	1,000.00
Miscellaneous Expenses	930.00
Clerk's Salary	<u>500.00</u>
Total Proposed Expenditures	\$7,080.00

Clyde Gillentine presented the following Cooperative Giving allocations to be recommended to the association:

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

Carmen moved that the proposed budget and Cooperative Giving allocations be presented to the association for adoption. Her motion was seconded and carried.

Two men were suggested as possible speakers for the 2008 annual meeting: Ron Hunter and Mick Hannah. It was also suggested that Moderator Clyde Gillentine call Randall House Publications and inquire as to whom they may recommend. Lynn Beck moved that Clyde Gillentine call Randall House to seek a speaker for the 2008 annual meeting. The motion was seconded and carried.

The board discussed the honorarium to be given to Barry Simpson and it was determined that most of the time the district gave \$500.00 as an honorarium, with few exceptions. Carmen Harris moved the the West Fork give Barry Simpson an honorarium of \$500.00 for speaking. The motion was seconded and carried.

Parliamentarian Jack T. Bankhead moved that the moderator appoint the people who will conduct workshops during 2007 and 2008. The motion was seconded and carried.

Meeting sites for the next two quarterly meetings were discussed: Easley's Chapel in August and Faith Free Will Baptist Church in November. The board agreed to see if singers from Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College would have charge of the worship service in November, since they would be there anyway.

It was noted that the questionnaire for ministers and deacons would be removed from the table and voted upon in the morning's business session. Moderator Clyde Gillentine indicated that he would allow each speaker on the questionnaire a total of ten minutes.

The moderator informed the board of a financial crisis at Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College in Moore, Oklahoma, noting that the faculty and staff would not be paid in July unless they received help. Lynn Beck moved that \$500.00 be given to Hillsdale out of the West Fork general fund, based on our financial status. The motion was seconded and carried. Lynn also noted that the West Fork Board of Christian Education had hired Ron Giles as the 2007 camp evangelist and, after brochures were all sent out, along with information to the churches, Giles was replaced with someone else by Hillsdale. That left the West Fork Youth Camp in a bind and Beck commented that if Texas were going to support Hillsdale, they needed to support Texas.

Jim Richards gave the report of the Board of Christian Education and informed the Executive Board that they were looking into some umbrella liability insurance to cover both the Board of Christian Education and the West Fork Executive Board. He also informed the board of a letter from Mike Sanders of Teen Challenge requesting either a long term lease, a lease with an option to purchase or an outright purchase of the West Fork Youth Camp. Lynn Beck stated that if the camp was sold the proceeds could be put into the Free Will Baptist Foundation and from the interest on the money the association could send every West Fork camper to a camp of their choice, from now on, without ever touching the principle. There was a motion to receive the report and recommend the proposed budget to the association for adoption. The motion was seconded and carried.

Clerk Carmen Harris moved that the Executive Board recommend to the West Fork District Association that the Board of Christian Education get an appraisal of the value of the camp in response to the letter from Mike Sanders of Teen Challenge and report the appraisal back to the Executive Board before the next quarterly meeting in August. The motion was seconded and carried.

Jim Richards, again speaking regarding the West Fork Youth Camp, informed the board that the Board of Christian Education would be having some rather large expenses, such as the air conditioning in Covington Hall, the walk-in cooler in the kitchen, the reach-in cooler in the kitchen and the roof on the Ping Pong Palace.

The meeting was adjourned due to the fact that the board ran out of time.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carmen Harris, Clerk, West Fork District Association of Free Will Baptists

MINUTES
of the 118th 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 76228-3060

May 4 & 5, 2007

Friday Evening, May 4, 2007

The theme of the 2007 annual session of the West Fork District Association of Free Will Baptists was "Hawaii" and, accordingly, delegates were dressed somewhat in Hawaiian style as they arrived for the 7:00 p.m. dinner in the dining room of Covington Hall. Jack T. Bankhead and Ray Rhodes had prepared a roasted pig, complete with an apple in its mouth, as the main course. Edwina Rhodes, Carmen Harris and Judie Richards had beautifully decorated the tables.

"Mandolin Hymns" was playing softly as delegates assembled in Trinity Chapel for the 8:00 p.m. worship service. Moderator Clyde Gillentine welcomed the delegation and Richard Rust led the congregation in singing "To God Be the Glory." Ken Pearson, a deacon in the Faith Free Will Baptist Church, Wichita Falls, led the invocation. Jackie Jean, accompanied by Carmen Harris at the piano, sang "Holy Spirit, Breath on Me." Richard Rust then led the congregation in singing "Victory in Jesus." Richard then sang a solo entitled "I'll Talk to My Father for You."

Moderator Clyde Gillentine introduced Barry Simpson, Director of Development of Free Will Baptist International Missions, Nashville, Tennessee, who was substituting for the departmental director, James Forlines, who was in Turkey. Simpson, using 1 Corinthians 1:17, 18 as a text, spoke on "The Cross," outlining three points: the cross helps us see - (1) the immensity of God's love, (2) the intensity of His holiness and (3) the utter helplessness and hopelessness of man. He closed the message with prayer. Thurmon Murphy led the benediction.

Saturday Morning, May 5, 2007

"Mandolin Hymns" was again playing as about thirty delegates assembled in Trinity Chapel for the 9:00 a.m. business session. Richard Rust opened the service by leading "The Solid Rock." Tom Quinones, pastor of the Friendship Free Will Baptist Church in Fort Worth, led the invocation. Moderator Clyde Gillentine called the meeting to order to transact any and all business property presented for consideration. Clarence J. Hearron gave the report of the Credentials Committee. He moved that the report be accepted and the delegates seated. The motion was seconded and carried. The moderator read Ephesians 3:14-21 and gave his moderator's remarks.

Carmen Harris gave the clerk's report which consisted of the following five items:

(Item 1)

Quarterly Financial Report
West Fork District Association
February 1 through April 30, 2007

Balance on February 1, 2007 **\$ 4,830.16**

Income:

First Free Will Baptist Church, Duncanville	Dues Only	\$ 5,140.01	
Pleasant Mound Free Will Baptist Church	Including Dues	2,279.90	
City View Fellowship Free Will Baptist	Dues Only	85.00	
First Free Will Baptist Church, Bowie	Dues Only	85.00	
Faith Free Will Baptist Church	Including Dues	1,125.00	
Connally Free Will Baptist Church	Including Dues	1,055.00	
First Free Will Baptist Church, Weatherford	Including Dues	295.97	
New Salem Free Will Baptist Church	Including Dues	306.85	
Calvary Free Will Baptist Church	Including Dues	285.00	
Collin Creek Free Will Baptist Church	Including Dues	146.18	
Friendship Free Will Baptist Church	Including Dues	1,528.80	
Easley's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church	Dues Only	85.00	
Total Income from West Fork Churches		\$12,417.71	<u>\$12,417.71</u>

Total Funds Available **\$17,247.87**

Disbursements:

Collin Creek (hosting the quarterly meeting)	12 churches	\$ 120.00	
Thurmon Murphy	Office	101.64	
West Fork Youth Camp	Designated	2,685.26	
Texas State Association	Designated	8,003.34	
Texas State Association	Dues	2,400.00	
Carmen Harris	Clerk's Salary	125.00	
Total quarterly disbursements		\$13,435.24	<u>\$ 13,435.24</u>

Balance per Checkbook and Bank, April 30, 2007 **\$ 3,812.63**

Respectfully Submitted by
Carmen Harris, West Fork District Clerk
940-9288-7055

(Item 2)

Annual Financial Report
West Fork District Association of Free Will Baptists
May 1, 2006 though April 30, 2007

Balance on May 1, 2006 **\$ 3,868.78**

Income

First Free Will Baptist Church, Duncanville	Including Dues	\$22,337.11
Pleasant Mound Free Will Baptist Church	Including Dues	7,004.08
City View Fellowship Free Will Baptist	Dues Only	85.00

First Free Will Baptist Church, Bowie	Dues Only	255.00	
Faith Free Will Baptist Church	Including Dues	3,795.69	
Connally Free Will Baptist Church	Including Dues	3,877.00	
First Free Will Baptist Church, Weatherford	Including Dues	1,705.17	
New Salem Free Will Baptist Church	Including Dues	1,886.55	
Calvary Free Will Baptist Church	Including Dues	1,155.00	
Collin Creek Free Will Baptist Church	Including Dues	1,028.48	
Friendship Free Will Baptist Church	Including Dues	6,707.94	
Hope Chapel	Including Dues	1,602.00	
Individual Giving	Donation	25.00	
West Fork Youth Camp	Reimbursement	422.26	
Easley's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church	Including Dues	880.00	
Total Income from Churches		\$52,775.83	\$ 52,75.83

Total Funds Available **\$56,644.61**

Disbursements

Honoraria	Keith Burden/JeffCates	\$ 1,050.00	
Food Expenses for Annual Meeting		192.00	
Office Supplies	Printed Checks	38.99	
Prater Well Service	New Water Well	1,942.25	
West Fork Camp Club	Designated	529.89	
Collin Creek	Hosting	360.00	
Thurmon Murphy	Printing & Postage	616.42	
West Fork Youth Camp	Coop/Designated	13,521.24	
Texas State Association	Coop/Designated	31,681.19	
Texas State Association	Dues	2,400.00	
Carmen Harris	Clerk's Salary	500.00	
Total annual disbursements		\$52,831.98	\$52,831.98

Balance Per Checkbook and Bank, April 30, 2007 **\$ 3,812.63**

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

(Item 3)

See the Spreadsheet, Next Page

(Item 4)

The recommended allocations for the Cooperative Giving Program:

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

WEST FORK DISTRICT ASSOCIATION		
May 1 - April 30, 2007	ANNUAL SPREADSHEET FOR 2006 & 2007	

[illegible]

(Item 5)

West Fork Executive Board Proposed Budget
for the 2007-2008 Fiscal Year

PROPOSED INCOME:

Delegate fees	\$4,080.00
Direct Giving from Churches	<u>3,000.00</u>
 Total Proposed Income	 \$7,080.00

PROPOSED EXPENDITURES:

Annual and Quarterly Meeting Expenses	\$1,000.00
Printing and Postage	500.00
State and National Dues	2,400.00
Honoraria	750.00
Office Supplies/ <i>The Beacon</i> , Minutes	1,000.00
Miscellaneous Expenses	930.00
Clerk's Salary	<u>500.00</u>
 Total Proposed Expenditures	 \$7,080.00

Carmen moved that the report be accepted as read and the Cooperative Giving allocations and budget be adopted. The motion was seconded and carried.

Clarence J. Hearron gave the report of the Nominating Committee, as information.

General Officers/Executive Board

Moderator	Clyde Gillentine
Assistant Moderator	Lynn Beck
Clerk	Carmen Harris
Assistant Clerk	Charlene Pedigo
Parliamentarian	Jack T. Bankhead
Member-at-Large	Richard Rust

Board of Christian Education Louise Maxwell (2012)

State General Board Richard Terry

Resolutions Committee Ray Rhodes
Tom Quinones
Robert Posner

Credentials Committee Bennie Anderson
Clarence J. Hearron
Ed Pedigo

The Board of Christian Education report was given by board chairman Jim Richards.

Next Page

CAMP EDUCATION BOARD REPORT

May 5, 2007

We are looking forward to camp again this year. There will be only one camp time this year, from June 10 through June 15. We have many new activities planned for the campers! We plan to have a very exciting and spiritual camp time.

Adam Phillips will be the camp evangelist this year. He is from Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College in Oklahoma. Hillsdale will also provide a team of recreational directors to assist in making this year's camp a successful one. Cindy Grimes will be the camp director again this year. We do have registration forms and camp rules available to take back to your churches. If you have any questions about camp please talk to Cindy Grimes.

We want to thank ALL of those who have worked to improve many things at the camp, including all of those that were here for camp Work Day last week. We would like to give a special thanks to Brother Richard Terry and his group from First Free Will Baptist Church in Duncanville. They came to work in the boys' dorm, donating the materials that were needed for their project. They also donated a large hot water heater and paneling for the bathroom.

We would also like to give a very special thank you to Edwina Rhodes for donating the beautifully hand-crocheted cover for a king-size bed. It is very appropriately named "Joseph's Blanket." There have been raffle tickets sold in the churches and the proceeds will be given to the West Fork Youth Camp. She spent a LOT of time on this wonderful blanket to help raise money for the camp. If you would like to purchase some more tickets before the drawing please feel free to do so.

Brother Thurmon, Brother Jack and Brother Ray worked hard to repair flooring, put in tile and replace the doors in one of the upstairs rooms in Covington Hall. All of their hard work is greatly appreciated. The Board of Christian Education also wants to ask everyone's continual spiritual, financial personal help for operation of the camp.

There was a leak in the propane line that was repaired.

Presented by,

Jim Richards, Camp Education Board Chairman

FOR GENERAL INFORMATION

Below is a list of things that need repair or replacement. If you think you can assist in any way to get these projects completed, please let one of the board members know. Volunteers and donations will be gladly accepted.

The Ping Pong Palace roof is leaking. The roof and decking need to be replaced. Some of the rafters are broken and need to be replaced. A metal roof needs to be put on also.

The roof on the boys' dorm needs to be repaired and a metal roof put on it. The Pedigo Dorm needs to have plumbing problems addressed with new showers and a hot water heater also. The side door needs to be replaced also.

The front door frame needs to be replaced. The decks on Covington Hall need some work. The stairs on the ladies' side need to be weatherized.

There is some electrical work that needs to be done in Covington Hall.

We need volunteers to help with maintenance and repairs at the camp.

Debbie Beck gave the financial report and proposed budget.

Quarterly Financial Report
Board of Christian Education
February 1 through April 30, 2007

Beginning Balance **\$ 9,813.70**

Deposits

Cooperative Program	\$2,556.53	
First Free Will Baptist Church, Weatherford	50.00	
Scrapbook Retreat	101.67	
Single's Club	50.00	
Total Deposits	\$2,758.20	\$ 2,758.20

Total Balance on Hand **\$12,571.90**

Expenditures

JAC Electric	\$1,308.00	
IESI Trash Service	194.55	
Telephone	50.73	
Walmart (Office)	125.38	
Post Office (postage)	52.19	
Muenster Farm Insurance	1,237.43	
Vashti Fire Department (donation)	100.00	
Sam's Club (memberships)	70.00	
Food for Work Day	22.97	
Total Expenditures	\$3,165.25	\$3,165.25

Total Balance on Hand, April 30, 2007 **\$ 9,410.65**

Savings Account

Balance 12/31/06.....	\$ 3,405.18
Deposit.....	1,000.00*
Interest.....	10.60
 Balance 3/31/07.....	 \$4,415.78*

*The board authorized a transfer of \$1,000.00 from checking to savings on January 27, 2007. This transfer was done on January 29, 2007, and will be used for operating expenses as needed. The mower fund contains a total of \$3,415.78.

Annual Financial Report
Board of Christian Education
May 1, 2006 through April 30, 2007

Beginning Balance **\$ 4,099.33**

Income

West Fork District Association	\$15,752.50	
Donations	497.00	
Designated	300.00	
Rentals	803.67	
Youth Camp Receipts & Camp Donations	4,091.25	
Capital Campaign	5,561.18	
Total Income	\$27,005.60	\$27,005.60

Total Balance on Hand

\$31,104.93

Expenditures

JAC Electric	\$4,711.31	
IESI Trash Service	837.99	
Telephone	216.00	
Bowie Butane (propane)	529.20	
Prater Well Service (New Well)	3,004.25	
NPC International (pizza coupons)	400.00	
Camp Expenses (food, supplies, etc.)	1,693.38	
River of Life Church (refund for overpayment on rental)	42.50	
Art's Exterminator	480.00	
Food for Board Meetings and Work Day	133.21	
Insurance (property, liability and camper)	2,508.10	
Free Will Baptist Foundation (Capital Campaign)	5,686.18	
Office Expenses	143.30	
2007 Camp Literature	64.99	
Post Office (postage)	52.19	
Vashti Fire Department (donation)	100.00	
Sam's Club (memberships)	70.00	
Transferred to Savings	1,000.00	
Legend Bank (checks)	21.68	
Total Expenditures	\$21,694.28	\$21,694.28

Balance on Hand, April 30, 2007

\$ 9,410.65

Savings Account

Beginning Balance 6/30/06.....	\$1,033.20
Deposits.....	3,362.00
Interest.....	20.58
 Ending Balance, 3/31/07.....	 \$4,415.78

Capital Campaign Fund
Free Will Baptist Foundation

Beginning Balance, August, 2006	\$ 5,521.18
Deposits (January 223, 2007	165.00
Interest, as of December 31, 2006	95.91
 Balance, as of December 31, 2006	 \$ 5,782.09*

*The Free Will Baptist Foundation pays interest every six months. There should be another interest payment at the end of June, 2007.

Proposed Budget
Board of Christian Education
May 1, 2007 through April 30, 2008

Proposed Income		
Cooperative Program	\$10,000.00	
Youth Camp	3,000.00	
Miscellaneous Gifts	2,200.00	
Camp Rentals	500.00	
Total Proposed Income	\$15,700.00	\$15,700.00

Proposed Expenditures		
JAC Electric	\$ 5,500.00	
IESI Trash Service	900.00	
AT&T	250.00	
Propane	500.00	
Office	300.00	
Pest Control	650.00	
Youth Camp	2,000.00	
Insurance	2,600.00	
Maintenance & Repairs	2,000.00	
Miscellaneous	1,000.00	
Total Proposed Expenditures	\$15,700.00	\$15,700.00

Respectfully Submitted,
Debbie Beck, Treasurer

There was a motion to receive the report of the Board of Christian Education and adopt the budget. The motion was seconded and carried.

Thurmon Murphy gave the annual report of the West Fork Camp Club, volunteers who work to do maintenance and repairs and camp improvements at the camp.

West Fork Camp Club
Financial Report
May 1, 2006, through April 30, 2007

Balance Brought Forward, May 1, 2006	\$808.05
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Income for fiscal year 2006-2007:

Quarterly Meeting Offerings

August 5, 2006	126.10	
November 4, 2006	122.00	
February 3, 2007	192.00	\$ 440.10

West Fork Cooperative Program and Designated Giving

August, 2006	154.50	
February, 2007	375.39	\$ 529.89

Churches Direct

Friendship	48.38	\$ 48.38
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Individuals

Edwina Rhodes (CD purchase)	15.00	
Kelly Murphy	520.00	
Thurmon & Karen Murphy	1,012.00	\$1,547.00

Total Income	\$2,565.37	\$2,565.37
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Total to Account for		\$3,373.42
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Expenditures

Check 1071: Lettering for Covington Hall sign	125.70	
Check 1072: Finish coating for Covington Hall sign	60.00	
Check 1073: Bill Gill, Wiring (parts & labor)	120.00	
Check 1074: Jim Richards: Two water heaters, metal door	822.38	
Check 1075: Lowe's: lumber, foam insulation, utility knife, nails, Clorox Clean-Up, tile & linoleum samples	58.11	
Check 1076: Lowe's: metal door, storm door, dead bolt, shims, window & door silicone, door trim	304.87	
Check 1077: Thurmon Murphy - Reimbursement for three invoices	85.69	
Check 1078: Lowe's: metal door, door trim, handle, saw blades, cement for floor tile	276.46	
Check 1079: Work Day supplies: gas, oil, food, bottled water	68.95	
Bank Service Charges	96.00	
Total Expenditures	\$2,017.46	\$2,017.46
Balance on Hand, April 30, 2007		\$1,355.26

Report of the Activities of the West Fork Camp Club 2006-2007

Work done by the volunteers who are the West Fork Camp Club has been limited during the past fiscal year primarily because of ill health and advancing age. But there have been some important things accomplished.

Jim Richards installed two new water heaters for the girls' bathroom and replaced the door to the water storage building with a new metal door.

Jack Bankhead, Ray Rhodes and I removed a section of carpet inside the door in the north upstairs room in Covington Hall, along with a section of the sub-flooring, which was badly mildewed because of rain and snow which had been blown under the door by the wind. We put down new sub-flooring, added Hardibacker and ceramic tile as a landing area inside the door, then grouted and sealed the grout. We replaced the metal door, which was ruined, and added a well built storm door to prevent a reoccurrence of water damage.

Not necessarily a part of the Camp Club's work, but something which must be mentioned, is the fact that Pastor Richard Terry and the Duncanville church have taken on the project of making much needed improvements in the bathroom in one of the boys' dormitories. Last Monday, April 30, 2007, Pastor Terry, along with Benny Anderson, Ray Patterson and Todd Pasley, made good progress on putting up new walls. They also replaced the old fifty gallon water heater with a new eighty gallon heater.

Special mention should also be made of those who came and worked so hard on Work Day, Saturday, April 28th, to get the camp ready for this year's annual meeting. The volunteers were: Cindy Grimes, Jann Cox, Louise Maxwell, Harry Collins, Tom Quinones and me. They worked especially hard to get Trinity Chapel, Covington Hall and the girls' dorm and bathroom clean and ready for use. Some mowing and weed eating were also done.

The work of the West Fork Camp Club may be severely limited in the future because of at least two considerations. One is the health of the volunteers which has placed definite limits on each of the workers. The second is the price of gasoline which makes weekly round trips to camp too costly for volunteers who pay their own expenses.

We wish to thank everyone who has volunteered to provide maintenance and repairs to the camp

and we want to express our deep appreciation to all those who have provided financial assistance for the purchase of materials used in maintenance, repairs and improvements to the camp. You have made a huge difference for all who have used the camp, especially the campers and camp workers.

Respectfully Submitted,

Thurmon Murphy

There was a motion to receive the Camp Club report as information. The motion was seconded and carried.

Debbie Beck gave a brief report on the West Fork Women Active for Christ. She announced that they would meet at Pleasant Mound Free Will Baptist Church on July 7, 2007, at 10:00 a.m. for a discussion and planning session. Her report was received as information.

Marcus Brewer, Texas State Office Coordinator, gave a report on the Texas State Office, emphasizing the upcoming state meeting in Bryan and the Free Will Baptist national convention in Little Rock, Arkansas. His report was received as information.

Barry Simpson represented Free Will Baptist International Missions. He reported 350% increase in attendance on the various Free Will Baptist missions fields during the past decade. He explained the need for a new method of supporting missions, the need to get away from designated giving. His report was received as information.

Dr. Thomas Marberry reported on the Free Will Baptist work in Mexico, particularly the Seminary of the Cross (*El Seminario Biblico La Cruz*) in Reynosa, Tamaulipas, of which he is president. He made the following observations:

- ① Mexico is the largest Spanish-speaking country in the world with approximately 106 million people. The population doubles every 32 years.
- ② 31% of the population of Mexico is under age 15.
- ③ Mexico has a land area of 761,605 square miles. This is over two and one-half times the size of Texas,
- ④ The Mexican constitution guarantees religious freedom. 89% of the people are officially Roman Catholic. Protestantism is growing.
- ⑤ Free Will Baptist work in Mexico began in 1958. Today we have 48 organized churches and 16 missions. The work is growing rapidly.

His report was dynamic, inspiring and challenging. It was received as information.

Cory Thompson gave a report on Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College in Moore, Oklahoma. He informed us that Hillsdale was facing a financial crisis and that, as a result, the faculty had voluntarily forfeited their salaries for the month of July. Moderator Clyde Gillentine, the trustee from Texas on Hillsdale's board of trustees, surrendered the chair to assistant moderator Lynn Beck while he gave an addendum to the report. J. E. Jean presented the following resolution from the Resolutions Committee:

WHEREAS, Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College is in the midst of a deep financial crisis, and it's credit line is exhausted, due, in part, to some churches failing to honor previous commitments, lower student enrollment, and not enough systematic monthly support; and,

WHEREAS, the college has nowhere to turn except to its constituent churches; and,

WHEREAS, the college has been and is now, a blessing to the West Fork District by training our children, our pastors and pastoral staff, as well as missionaries: and,

WHEREAS, the need is immediate; and,

WHEREAS, the Hillsdale faculty and many support staff will not receive a paycheck for the month of July, in spite of a 16% reduction of staff in the last 18 months; and,

WHEREAS, historically, the college has always survived on the sacrifices of the employees rather than the sacrifices of our churches; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that each church in the West Fork District be encouraged to respond with a sacrificial gift by the end of June and increase it's monthly and annual systematic commitment to Hillsdale.

There was a motion to adopt the resolution. The motion was seconded and carried.

Richard Terry spoke at length on the financial crisis at Hillsdale and appealed for monetary support for the troubled school, suggesting that West Fork churches give \$1,000.00 each to help meet the immediate needs at the school.

Clarence Hearron moved that the questionnaires for licensing and ordination be removed from the table. His motion was seconded and carried. The questionnaires were adopted without discussion.

Clerk Carmen Harris gave the report of the Executive Board, which consisted of two items. First, she moved that the Board of Christian Education get an appraisal on the youth camp and report the appraisal back to the Executive Board. This was done in view of the fact that the Board of Christian Education had received an offer for a long term lease on the camp or a lease with an option to purchase the camp. The motion was seconded. Tom Quinones moved that the motion be amended to state that the appraisal not be released to any prospective buyers until the association approved the release. The amendment was seconded and carried. The motion then, as amended, carried.

Second, the clerk announced that the next quarterly meeting would be at the Easley's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church in Comanche on August 4, 2007.

The Nominating Committee report was again given and Brother Hearron moved that all nominees be elected by acclamation, if there were no further nominations. However, there was a nomination for the position of assistant clerk. The following officers were elected:

General Officers/Executive Board

Moderator	Clyde Gillentine
Assistant Moderator	Lynn Beck
Clerk	Carmen Harris
Assistant Clerk	Thurmon Murphy
Parliamentarian	Jack T. Bankhead
Member-at-large	Richard Rust

Board of Christian Education, term expiring in 2012: Louise Maxwell

State General Board Member-at-large Richard Terry

Resolutions Committee
Ray Rhodes
Tom Quinones
Robert Posner

Credentials Committee
Benny Anderson
Clarence J. Hearron
Ed Pedigo

Richard Terry made a motion that five hundred dollars be given from the West Fork general fund to each of the following: Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College, Free Will Baptist International Missions and the Seminary of the Cross in Reynosa, Tamaulipas, Mexico. Barry Simpson recommended that the \$500.00 for International Missions be given to Hillsdale. Dr. Thomas Marberry recommended that the \$500.00 for the Seminary of the Cross be given to Hillsdale also. This motion was left hanging, not voted upon. The Executive Board recommended and moved that \$500.00 from the general fund be given to Hillsdale. Cory Thompson moved that the motion be amended by adding "plus whatever is available in the general fund after current expenses are paid." The motion to amend was seconded but failed because it would have left a zero balance in the checking account. There was another motion to amend the main motion by substituting \$1,000.00 for \$500.00 so that the motion would read "We move that \$1,000.00 from the general fund be given to Hillsdale." The amendment was seconded and carried. The main motion, as amended, passed.

At 11:15 moderator Clyde Gillentine called J. E. Jean to the front and placed him in the seat of honor as the person to be honored at the 2007 West Fork annual meeting. The moderator spoke words of appreciation to Brother Jean for his many years of service and ministry in the West Fork District Association and expressed the West Fork's gratitude. A brief biography of Brother Jean's life and ministry, written by Thurmon Murphy, was distributed to the delegates after a bundle of them were presented to Brother Jean for his family, church members and friends. Brother Jean sang "The Family Who Prays" while accompanying himself on the guitar.

The moderator announced a brief recess.

Morning Worship Service

The morning worship service, scheduled for 11:00 a.m. got underway at 11:42 as Richard Rust led the congregation in singing "I Am Thine, O Lord." Lynn Beck, assistant moderator, presided over the service. He announced that the Board of Christian Education had met briefly during the recess and voted to send the amount of the offering, usually given to the Board of Christian Education, to Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College. The offering was received and amounted to \$345.00. Barry Simpson was introduced as the speaker for the morning worship service. Using 1 Corinthians 1:17, 18 as a text again (with side comments on 1 Chronicles 12:32: "Men of Issachar, who understood the times and knew what Israel should do"). Brother Simpson spoke again on "The Cross." He listed three things we must understand: (1) The cross is essential to the gospel, (2) The cross offends and (3) The cross divides. He closed his message with prayer at 12:33.

Marcus Brewer, State Office Coordinator, gave the benediction and blessing on the food at 12:36 p.m.

A light lunch of sandwiches was served in the dining room of Covington Hall.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carmen Harris, Clerk

Rotation of Churches

Hosting Quarterly Meetings

(Adopted May 1, 2004, New Salem added on May 6, 2006, Hope Chapel deleted in 2006)

Faith Free Will Baptist Church
Wichita Falls

First Free Will Baptist Church
Duncanville

Friendship Free Will Baptist Church
Fort Worth

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

Officers, Boards and Committee Members

2007-2008

General Officers (Executive Board)

Moderator	Clyde Gillentine 1330 Rutherford Mesquite, Texas 75149-6226 (972) 288-5672 e-mail: clyde.gillentine@att.net
Assistant Moderator	Lynn Beck 357 Rock Church Road Bellevue, Texas 76228-2610 (940) 476-2242 e-mail: deblyn1@netzero.net
Clerk	Carmen Harris 9310 FM 1288 South Bellevue, Texas 76228-3060 (940) 928-7055; Cell: (940) 613-4652 e-mail: westfork@wf.net
Assistant Clerk	Thurmon Murphy 5037 Lindale Drive Wichita Falls, Texas 76310-2544 (940) 691-0318; Cell: (940) 867-9723 Insightful Publications: (940) 692-1200
Parliamentarian	Jack Trent Bankhead 2812 Roosevelt Fort Worth, Texas 76106-6837 (817) 624-7084; Cell: (817) 456-0658 e-mail: sis.mama@juno.com (Wanda's)
Member-at-large	Richard Rust 4114 Alpine Wichita Falls, Texas 76302-2702 (940) 766-0154; Cell: (940) 733-8733 FreeWill20@juno.com
Chairman of the Board of Christian Education	Jim Richards P. O. Box 704 Boyd, Texas 76023- (940) 433-5879; Cell (817) 690-8744 e-mail: judieg42@embarqmail.com

State General Board Member-at-large

Richard Terry
715 Meadowbrook Circle
Duncanville, Texas 75137-3818
(972) 572-4054; Cell: (972) 415-4951
Office: (972) 780-1608

Board of Christian Education

Ken Austin (2008)

2701 White Oak
Plano, Texas 75074-2932
(972) 422-1333; Cell: (972) 897-4476
e-mail: planoyouthpastor@juno.com

Jim Richards (2009),

P. O. Box 704
Boyd, Texas 76023-
(940) 433-5879; Cell (817) 690-8744
e-mail: judieg42@embarqmail.com

Cindy Grimes (2010)

308 Spring Hollow
Cedar Hill, Texas 76104-3413
(972) 291-8693; Cell: (214) 725-7178
e-mail: cgrimes308@aol.com

Debbie Beck (2011)

357 Rock Church Road
Bellevue, Texas 76228-2610
(940) 476-2242
e-mail: deblyn1@netzero.net

Louise Maxwell (2012)

696 Liberty Road
Bellevue, Texas 76228-3012
(940) 928-2241; Cell: (940) 224-1180
Work: (940) 322-4436
e-mail: louisedmax@aol.com
Work e-mail: Lmaxwell@fss-cpa.com

Resolutions Committee

Ray Rhodes
Tom Quinones
Robert Posner

Credentials Committee

Benny Anderson
1001 S. W. 2nd Street
Grand Prairie, Texas 75051
(972) 264-3558
Office: (972) 642-4800 - best number, 24 hours

Ed Pedigo
3109 Hale
Fort Worth, Texas 76106
(817) 624-2946

Clarence J. Hearron
1722 Sparta Drive
Duncanville, Texas 75137-3852
(972) 296-3490

**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

Adoped November 5, 2005

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 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.

West Fork Churches and Pastors

Calvary Free Will Baptist Church

4509 Rockwood
Fort Worth, Texas 76114-3841

Collin Creek Free Will Baptist Church

1905 East Parker Road
Plano, Texas 75074-2723
(972) 424--1905
Web Page: www.collincreek.org
e-mail: ccc@collincreek.org
Fax: (972) 423-9622

City View Fellowship

3920 Burkett
Benbrook, Texas 76116-1339
(817) 560-0427

Connally Free Will Baptist Church

2200 Air Base Road
Waco, Texas 76705-1503
(254) 799-0590

Easley's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church

11601 Highway 16
Comanche, Texas 76442-4482
(325) 356-3392

Faith Free Will Baptist Church

1202 36th Street
Wichita Falls, Texas 76302-1710
(940) 767-3265
Fax: (940) 766-0729

First Free Will Baptist Church

505 Strong Street
Bowie, Texas 76230-5522
(940) 872-4536

Ray Rhodes (Edwina)

121 N. Buffalo Grove Road
Fort Worth, Texas 76108-4111
Ray's Cell: (817) 875-2790
Edwina's Cell: (817) 919-5131

Robert Posner (Judy)

1600 Timberbrook
Wylie, Texas 75098-8146
(972) 575-8796
e-mail: planopastor@juno.com
Robert's Cell: (972) 897-4397
Judy's Cell: (972) 814-0411
robertposner@collincreek.org

Louis Nettleton (Freda)

3920 Burkett
Benbrook, Texas 76116-1339
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 76442-4482
(325) 356-3392
Marcus' Cell: (254) 842-8426
Sarah's Cell: (254) 842-8421

Richard Rust (Kareen)

4114 Alpine
Wichita Falls, Texas 76302-2702
(940) 766-0154
Richard's Cell: (940) 733-8733
Kareen's Cell: (940) 733-8723
e-mail: FreeWill20@juno.com

Larry Cox (Jacque)

605 Orchard
Bowie, Texas 76230-4120
(940) 872-4775
Larry's Cell: (940) 531-0109
Jacque's Cell: (940) 531-0005
e-mail: makala76230@yahoo.com

First Free Will Baptist Church
1415 West Wheatland Road
Duncanville, Texas 75116-4229
(972) 780-1608

First Free Will Baptist Church
109 North Line Street
Weatherford, Texas 76086-2641
(817) 599-9620

Friendship Free Will Baptist Church
4200 McKibben
Haltom City, Texas 6117-2936
(817) 831-7970
e-mail: ffwbchc@mail.com
Fax: (817) 831-7970

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

New Salem Free Will Baptist Church
4550 S. County Road 51 (*no mail here*)
Decatur, Texas 76234
(940) 627-5413
Mail to: Carla Womack (clerk)
4590 South FM 51
Decatur, Texas 76234-4806
Cell: (940) 393-9141

Pleasant Mound Free Will Baptist Church
357 Rock Church Road
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