

ERNEST R. BOWEN
3606 WEST END AVENUE
NASHVILLE, TENN. 37205

MINUTES
of the
THIRTY SIXTH ANNUAL SESSION
of the

ZION REST FREE WILL
BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Convening With
PINE GROVE CHURCH
Bucatanua, Miss.

OCTOBER 2-4, 1943



- REV. C. C. BREWER, Richton..... Moderator
BRO. W. A. MASON, Bucatanua..... Vice-Moderator
BROOKS LITTLE, Richton Clerk and Treas.

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We your committee on Order of Proceedings, deem it necessary to change the Order of Business to the method as follows:

We submit this our report:

1. Calling the body to order by former Moderator.
2. Introductory sermon.
3. Enrolling ministers.
4. Enrolling petitionary letters.
5. Enrolling churches and delegates.
6. Receiving messengers from other associations.
7. Enrolling deacons.
8. Election of officers.
9. Appointing reading clerks.
10. Receiving church letters.
11. Appointing committees.
12. Receiving ministers report.
13. Receiving report from committees.
14. Closing.

W. A. Mason,
L. D. Walley,
Geo. Brewer.

PROCEEDINGS

The Thirty-Sixth Annual Session of the Zion Rest Free Will Baptist Association convened with Pine Grove Church, Bucatunna, Miss., October 2-4, 1943.

Song service, Rev. C. C. Brewer director.

Introductional by Rev. Arthur Brewer; Devotionals, reading by Rev. Arthur Brewer.

Prayer by Bro. Taylor Rigney.

Introductional sermon, Rev. D. Bishop.

Prayer, Rev. J. D. Stephens.

Organization

Appointment of Reading Clerks. Bros. A. L. Burges and L. D. Walley responded.

Enrolling messengers from other associations—none.

Petitionary letters—none.

Invitation to visitors to be seated.

Enrolling churches and delegates:

Lovewell—A. L. Burgess, L. D. Walley, Richton.

Pine Grove—W. A. Mason, B. O'Neal, Bucatunna.

Corinth—Gavin Kelly, C. H. Henderson, Waynesboro.

Lee's Chapel—Mrs. Courtney, Mrs. Stephens, Laurel.

Thompson Creek—J. Malone, W. M. Langley, Waynesboro.

Enrolling ministers and addresses: C. C. Brewer, Richton, Miss. Present; Arthur Brewer, Richton, Miss., Present; J. D. Stephens, Stringer, Miss., Present; D. Bishop, Laurel, Miss., Present; G. M. Pearson, Laurel, Miss., Not Present; Geo. Walley, Richton, Miss., Not Present; James Nowell, Waynesboro, Miss., Not Present; Geo. Douglas, Lucedale, Miss., Not Present; Wiley Hollifield, Laurel, Miss., Not Present; Joel W. Walters, Laurel, Miss., Not Present.

Enrollment of Deacons and churches:

Deacon Taylor Rigney, Pine Grove, Bucatunna.

Deacon Luther Rigney, Pine Grove, Bucatunna.

Deacon A. L. Burgess, Lovewell, Richton.

Deacon A. W. Stephens, Lee's Chapel, Laurel.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The body being seated, motion to elect officers. Rev. Arthur Brewer, chairman; Brooks Little, secretary. The following officers were elected: Rev. C. C. Brewer, Moderator; Bro. W. A. Mason, Vice-Moderator; Brooks Little, Secretary and Treasurer.

Motion to proceed with business.

The newly elected Moderator thanked the body for his elec-

tion, then asked the body to forgive him for not attending and taking interest in previous association. He also pledged his support and christian influence to the churches and the communities as far as he is able to go.

. Motion to accept the statement.

Motion to adjourn to 1:30 for lunch.

At 1:30 p. m. the Moderator called the body to order for song and prayer.

Motion to enter into business.

1. Appointment of different committees.

2. Suggestions—W. A. Mason, L. Walley, Geo. Brewer.

3. Order of Business—A. L. Burgess, A. W. Stephens, Mrs. Courtney.

4. Finance—G. Kelly, D. Bishop, J. D. Stephens.

5. Temperance—L. Rigney, Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Stephens.

6. Stand Service—Deacons of Pine Grove Church.

7. Sabbath Schools—Taylor Rigney, B. O'Neal.

8. Obituary—A. L. Burgess, Geo. Brewer, Mrs. Courtney.

9. Congratulations—D. Bishop, Mrs. Stephens, G. Kelly.

Motion to ask for report from the Stand Committee:

Stand Committee

We submit this as our report:

Saturday night by Rev. J. D. Stephens.

Sunday 10 a. m. Sunday School hour.

Sunday 11 a. m. Rev. C. C. Brewer.

Sunday 12 noon Lunch.

Sunday 2 p. m. Rev. D. Bishop.

Monday 1:30 p. m. Rev. Arthur Brewer.

Motion to accept report.

Motion to adjourn until 9 o'clock Monday morning.

Motion carried. Announcements. Benediction by Moderator.

Saturday's and Sunday's Activities

Saturday night Rev. Stephens delivered a forceful message.

Sunday at 10 Sabbath School; at 11 o'clock Rev. Stephens again took the stand due to it being impossible for Rev. C. C. Brewer to be present on account of the death of a relative.

In the afternoon Rev. Bishop brought a wonderful sermon.

Monday Morning, October 4

After calling the body to order by song, Bible reading and prayer, one hour or more of time was taken up in song service, as the school came and entertained the body by good old fashioned

singing. The Moderator praised them highly and encouraged them to keep up the good work.

Motion to enter business. Carried.

After several discussions of interest to the ministers, and the ordination of Rev. J. D. Stephens into the ministry by a letter of recommendation from his home church, Lee's Chapel, Jones county, the decision by motion was to appoint an ordaining council and proceed to ordain the brother at his home church the fourth Sunday in October. Revs. Joel Walters, George Walley and Arthur Brewer named as the ordaining council.

Asked for report on Suggestions.

Report on Suggestions

We, your Committee on Suggestions, after meditating upon our duty beg leave to make this our report.

We suggest that each church of this association at sometime before the association convenes again revise their church rolls. (a) That they serve notice on each member of their church to attend meeting of the church or give a good reason for not attending. (b) If they fail to respond to the churches request that they be dropped from the church rolls.

2. That the order of Business be modified and then remain unchanged as do the Articles of Faith and Constitutions.

3. We ask that our people be more liberal in supporting our Home Missions.

4. That this association authorize the Secretary and Treasurer of same to purchase a manuel or ledger and keep a permanent record of the transactions of the body from year to year.

5. Also that the Secretary make an effort to find minutes of this association for each year since its organization and keep them on file as a reference and record.

We suggest that the next association convene with Lovewell church, Greene county, 10 miles east of Richton. *Sept. 30 - Oct 2*

Motion to accept suggestion as read. Carried.

W. A. Mason,
L. D. Wally,
Geo. Brewer, Committee.

Call for Report of Finance Committee

We, your committee, submit this our report:

For Associational expenses from the different churches	\$28.00
Amount brought forward from treasury.....	12.10
Total	\$40.10

Dated 10-4-43.

Rev. J. D. Stephens.

Motion to accept the report as read and carried.

Moderator calls for Report on Temperance

We, your committee on Temperance, submit this our report:
Being led that Temperance is one of the Christian's glories
which adds power and influence to religious leadership.

We, therefore, recommend that our members watch their step
in life. Knowing that intoxicating liquor is the greatest obstruction
to man. This being a time when all men and women should be
alert and at their very best, cooperating with the emergencies of
today. We, therefore, insist that every citizen and member of all
churches exert every effort to stop the sale and distribution of
alcohol in any form. Not only in our own county, but throughout
the Nation.

Bro. and Sister Stephens.

Motion to accept the report and carried.

Moderator Calls for Minister's Report

The following report was given in oral and accepted by the
body: Rev. Arthur Brewer, Rev. C. C. Brewer, Rev. J. D. Stephens,
Rev. D. Bishop, writes as follows:

Sermons preached, 28; Miles traveled, 581; Baptised, 1; Money
received, \$726.00.

Motion to accept report and carried.

Motion to call for report of Sabbath School Committee. Car-
ried.

We, your Committee on Sabbath Schools, make this our re-
port.

We are pleased to notice four Sunday Schools enrolled at this
association, but suggest that Rev. J. D. Bishop be given the rights
from this association to help every way possible in this work and
we ask that he go to places where there is no Sunday School and
try to organize one. Then, if possible, bring to the Sunday School
Convention. We consider the Sabbath Schools as one of the great-

est factors in training the youth of today to become Christian leaders, Christian men and women of tomorrow.

Respectfully submitted,

Taylor Rigney.

Motion to receive the request and report. Carried.

Motion to call for report on Obituary. Carried.

We, your Committee, submit this our report:

We have lost from our presence four members; 2 Brethren, David Holifield and Charlie Holifield, from Lee's Chapel Church, ages 63 and 72, respectively; 2 Sisters, Rebecca Smith, Pine Grove, Lula Malone, Thompson Creek, ages 72 and 67, respectively.

We believe that our loss in Heaven's gain.

George Brewer, Chairman.

Motion and accepted.

Motion to call, read and adopt the report on congratulations.

We take pleasure in thanking Pine Grove Church and community for their loyal courtesy, their untiring efforts in making this one of the best associations ever convened in this community.

We deeply appreciate the kindness shown, especially shown by other faiths and order of the community. We also ask and invite these good people to visit in our communities, in our churches at any and all times. Praying God's greatest blessings upon Pine Grove Church; upon the community and the leadership of those generous people at the association.

Motion for adjournment.

Next association convenes with LoveWell Church, on Saturday before the first Sunday in October.

C. C. Brewer, Moderator.

W. A. Mason, Vice-Moderator.

Brooks Little, Sec. and Treas.

CONSTITUTION

Article 1. This association shall be known as the Zion Rest Free Will Baptist Association of Mississippi, and be composed of delegates from churches composisng same. Each church shall be entitled to two delegates to represent her at each session.

Article 2. This body shall be considered an advisory council, but having no authority over the local affairs of the church.

Article 3. Each church of this body shall be considered an independent body, and shall control her own affairs in matters of discipline, etc. She may, however, in extreme cases, call in aid from sister churches.

Article 4. All questions of doctrine and matters of general interest shall be settled by two-thirds vote of the association, and this vote shall be final.

Article 5. The officers of this association shall be a moderator, assistant moderator, and treasurer, who shall be chosen by a majority vote annually.

Article 6. The association shall meet at such time and place as shall be most convenient and shall not adjourn finally until all business is transacted.

Article 7. Churches wishing to become members of this association must adopt the Articles of Faith and conform to its usage. We agree as churches composing this association, to use our best influence to promote the interest of all moral and benevolent institutions, such as Temperance Cause, Sunday Schools, Missions, and so on.

Article 8. Any person who feels that he is called to preach, shall first ask the church to which he belongs to license him. Then if his life and conduct proves to be satisfactory to his church and they wish to have him ordained to the ministry, his church shall send a letter to this association to appoint a presbytery of three ministers of this association to ordain him.

RULES OF DECORUM

Article 1. This association shall be called to order by the former moderator, who presided at the last session; the former clerk also officiates until the body is fully organized.

Article 3. The moderator and clerk shall be chosen by ballot at each session; a majority of members present elect.

Article 4. The names of delegates from the different churches shall be enrolled and called as often as necessary during the session.

Article 5. A majority of delegates shall rule in all cases except in reception of churches into our body, which must be unanimous.

Article 6. The moderator shall vote in case only when the association is equally divided, but shall have equal right to speak on any question, provided he puts the assistant in the chair while he is speaking.

Article 7. Only one person shall speak at a time, who shall rise and address the moderator.

Article 8. No brother shall be interrupted while speaking unless he departs from the subject under discussion, or uses words of personal reflection.

Article 9. No person shall be allowed to speak more than fifteen minutes at a time, nor more than twice without consent of the body.

Article 10. No member shall laugh or talk during the time the debate is going on.

Article 11. No member shall absent himself from the association while in session without the leave of the moderator.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

General principles taught by the Zion Rest Free Will Baptist Church of Christ.

1. As to God—One God and Father of all—Ephesians 4:6.

2. As to Scripture—All Scripture is given by inspiration of God.—II Timothy 4:16.

3. As to Freedom of the Will—Ye will not come unto me.—John 5:40. Whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.—Revelations 22:17.

4. As to the Conditions of Salvation—He (Christ) died for all.—II Corinthians 5:15. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord will be saved.—Romans 10:13. For in due season we shall reap if we faint not.—Gallatians 6:9. Be thou faithful unto death and I will give thee a crown of life.—Revelations 2:10.

5. As to Election—God is no respecter of persons but in every nation he that feareth Him and worketh righteousness is accepted with Him.—Acts 10:34-35.

6. As to Grace—For the grace of God that bringeth salvation appeared unto all men.—Titus 2:11. For by grace are ye saved throuth faith.—Ephesians 2:8.

7. As to Faith—Justified by Faith.—Romans 5:1. This is the victory which overcometh the word even our faith.—I John 5:4.

8. As to Works—Faith without works, is dead—James 2:26. God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.—Ephesians 2:10.

9. As to Baptism—And, they went down both into the water.—Acts 8:39. We are buried with Him by baptism unto death.—Romans 6:4.

10. As to the Subject of Baptism—If thou believest with all thine heart thou mayest. So then every one of us shall give an account of himself to God.—Romans 14:12.

11. As to the Oneness of the Christian Church—Is God divid-

ed?—I Corinthians 1:13. I am the vine, ye are the branches.—John 15:5. That they may be one as we are.—John 17:11-21. There is one body and one spirit even as ye are called in one hope of your calling.—Ephesians 4:4.

12. As to Communion—This do in remembrance of me.—Luke 22:19. But let a man examine himself and so let him eat of that bread and drink of that cup.—I Corinthians 11:28. Let no man therefore judge you.—Colossians 2:16.

13. As to the Resurrection—For the hour is coming in which all that are in the grave shall hear His voice and shall come forth.—John 5:28. For the trumpet shall sound and the dead in Christ shall be raised incorruptible and we shall be changed.—I Corinthians 15:52.

14. As to the Judgment, Reward and Punishment—For we shall stand before the judgment seat of Christ.—Romans 14:10. And these shall go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.—Matthew 25:46.

15. As to Feet Washing—Ye also ought to wash one another's feet.—John 13:14. For I have given you an example.—John 13:15. Verily, verily, I say until you the servant is not greater than his Lord.—John 13:17. Because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example.—I Peter 2:21.

OUR CHURCH COVENANT

Having been led as we believe by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour; and on the profession of our faith, having been baptized into the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we do now, in the presence of God, Angels, and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another, as one body in Christ.

We engage therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church in knowledge, holiness and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spiritually; to sustain its worship, ordinance, discipline and doctrines; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, and relief of the poor and the spread of the Gospel through all nations.

We also engage to maintain family and secret devotions; to religiously educate our children, to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintance; to walk circumspectly in the world, to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary

in our deportment; to avoid all tattling, back-biting and excessive anger; to abstain from the sale and use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage, and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Saviour.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling, courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation and mindful of the rules of our Saviour, to secure it without delay.

And we moreover engage that when we remove from this place, we will as soon as possible unite with some other church, where we can carry out the spirit of this Covenant and the principles of God's word.

STATISTICAL TABLE—RECORD OF 1943

CHURCHES	CLERKS—ADDRESS	PASTORS—ADDRESS	Restored	Baptised	Deceased	Days for Service	Active Members	Total Membership	Paid for Asso. Funds	Paid Visiting Ministers	Paid Pastors	No. Sunday Schools	No. Sunday School Teachers	No. Sunday School Pupils	No. Ordained Ministers	No. Licentiate Ministers
Lovewell.....	A. J. Walley, Richton.....	C. C. Brewer, Richton.....	0	7	0	2	30	64	\$9.00	\$96.00	\$29.00	1	3	60	4	
Pine Grove.....	W. A. Mason, Bucatunna.....		0	0	1	3	10	59	4.50	14.00		1	3	45		
Corinth.....	Mrs. L. Kelly, Waynesboro.....	C. C. Brewer, Richton.....	0	0	0	2		37	5.00	25.00	33.50	1	4	55	2	
Lee's Chapel.....	A. W. Stephens, Laurel.....	J. W. Walters, Laurel.....	1	0	2	4	54	110	5.50	30.00	35.85	1	4	45	2	2
Thompson Creek.....	Mrs. E. Pippens, Waynesboro.....	J. W. Walters, Laurel.....	0	0	1	1		45	4.00		15.00				2	

The above is a true statement as to October 3 and 4, 1943.

BROOKS LITTLE, Clerk.

REV. C. C. BREWER, Moderator.

REV. W. A. MASON, Asst. Moderator.