

MINUTES
—OF THE—
Forty-Sixth Annual Session
—OF THE—
**ZION REST FREE WILL BAPTIST
ASSOCIATION**



Convening with
LEE'S CHAPEL CHURCH
Jones County, Laurel, Miss., on Friday and Saturday Before
the Fourth Sunday in September, 1953

NEXT SESSION TO CONVENE WITH COUNTY LINE CHURCH,
Perry County, Richton, Miss., on Friday and
Saturday Before the Fourth Sunday
in September, 1954

OFFICERS

W. A. MASON, Buckatunna, Miss.....	Moderator
REV. J. T. QUICK, Richton, Miss., Rt. 1.....	Asst. Moderator
WILLIAM M. BREWER, Richton, Miss., Rt. 1.....	Clerk
MRS. WILLIAM M. BREWER, Richton, Miss., Rt. 1....	Finance Treas.
LONNIE WALLEY, Richton, Miss.....	Finance Secretary

REPORT OF FINANCES FOR YEAR 1953

Churches—	Value	Expenses	Paid Paid Pastor	Evangelist	Paid Association
Corinth ..	\$1500.00	\$163.57	\$160.81	\$ 6.00
Pine Grove	1600.00	168.36	135.40	5.00
Lee' Chapel	2000.00	400.00	597.28	220.61	11.00
New Love Well.....	1800.00	33.77	606.12	86.34	10.00
County Line	54.40	2.70	5.00
Brought forward from last year.....					\$ 21.19
Paid in this year.....					37.00
Total.....					\$ 58.19

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Body called to order by Moderator.
2. Introductory Sermon.
3. Appointing Reading Clerks.
4. Enrolling Churches.
5. Call for Petitionary Letters.
6. Enrolling Delegates.
7. Enrolling Ministers.
8. Enrolling Deacons.
9. Appointing Finance Treasurer.
10. Appointing Finance Secretary.
11. Receiving Finance.
12. Election of Officers.
13. Appointing of Various Committees.
14. Receiving Ministers' Reports.
15. Appointing Preaching Committees.
16. Receiving Committee Reports.
17. Closing.

Proceedings

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION—Sept. 25, 1953

The Association convened with Lee's Chapel Church on the above date. Song by the Choir, "Hand in Hand with Jesus." Prayer by Rev. Ted Finley.

The Moderator called the body to order, and read 10 verses of 6th chapter of Gallations, and gave excellent comments and advice. Prayer was offered by Rev. Price.

Song by the Choir, "I Feel Liike Traveling On." Prayer by Rev. J. T. Quick.

Introductory Sermon by Rev. J. T. Quick. A wonderful message that was enjoyed by all.

Next appointing of Reading Clerks. Bro. Tillis Walley and Sister Edna Ezell were appointed.

Enrolling of Churches and Delegates followed: Corinth, Tom Walley, Jim Walley; Pine Grove, Louis Ezell, Edna Ezell; Lee's Chapel, Mr. and Mrs. Lee Hester; New Lovewell, Sister Will Brewer, Wyatt Dunnam; County Line, Myrtle Phillips, Polly Phillips.

Enrolling Ministers—Rev. J. T. Quick, Rev. O. L. Fields, Rev. Frank Collins, Rev. Ted Finley, Rev. G. C. Price.

Enrolling Deacons:

Corinth—Chapman Henderson, Buddy Nowell.

Lee's Chapel—A. W. Stephens, Lonnie Walley, George Smith and Joe McKinley.

New Lovewell—Tillis Walley, William M. Brewer.

County Line—R. C. Phillips.

Moved and seconded that we take Article 15 on Order of Business and call for petitionary letters. There was one petitionary letter brought forward, from County Line Church, Read and accepted.

Appointing Finance Treasurer. Sister William M. Brewer was appointed.

Appointing Finance Secretary. Bro. Lonnie Walley was appointed.

Moved and seconded to adjourn for lunch. Song by Choir, "Love Lifted Me." Dismissed by Rev. Frank Collins.

A nice lunch was enjoyed by all.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Song by Choir. Prayer by Rev. O. L. Fields.

Appointing Devotional Committee. Bro. Lonnie Walley and Bro. Louis Ezell were appointed.

Appointing of various committees:

Suggestion Committee—Bro. Tillis Walley, Bro. A. W. Stephens and Bro. Tom Walley.

Temperance Committee—Bro. C. H. Henderson, Bro. Lee Hester and Rev. J. T. Quick.

Obituary Committee—Sister Polly Philips, Bro. J. C. McKinley and Sister Lee Hester.

Sunday School Committee—Bro. Wyatt Dunnam, Bro. Buddie Nowell and Sister Myrtle Phillips.

Committee on Order of Business—Bro. Tillis Walley, Rev. J. T. Quick, and Bro. A. W. Stephens.

Congratulations Committee—Sister Myrtle Phillips, Rev. J. T. Quick and Bro. C. H. Henderson.

Next came the election of officers. Moved and seconded to elect Moderator and Clerk by secret ballot. Bro. W. A. Mason elected Moderator; Rev. J. T. Quick, Asst. Moderator; Bro. William M. Brewer, Clerk.

Moderator appointed Home Mission Board: Bethel Church, Bro. Joe Conway; County Line, Bro. Mathew Mozingo; Pine Grove, Sister Louis Ezell; Corinth, Bro. C. H. Henderson; Lee's Chapel, Bro. H. M. Richardson; New Lovewell, William M. Brewer, Treasurer, Bro. Lonnie Walley, Secretary.

Report of Devotional Committee:

Rev. Ted Finley 15 minutes devotional after business. Adjourns. Preaching by Rev. G. C. Price.

Night Service, 7 o'clock, Rev. O. L. Fields, evangelist service. 7:30 to 8 p. m., Rev. J. T. Quick, feet washing sermon.

Saturday Afternoon, evangelistic service, Rev. Frank Collins. Motioned to adjourn business session until 8 a. m. Saturday.

Song by Choir: "I'll Fly Away." Dismissed by Rev. Quick.

Next Rev. Ted Finley delivered a good devotional message, and gave way for a brief testimony meeting, the response was good.

Song by Choir: "How Beautiful Heaven Must Be." Prayer by Rev. G. C. Price.

Next Bro. Price announced his text and read from the 9th chapter of Luke, and delivered a wonderful message.

Songs by the Choir: "You Can't Do Wrong and Get By," and "Love Lifted Me." Dismissed by Bro. Tillis Walley.

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

Song by Choir: "If I Could Hear My Mother Pray Again."
Prayer by Rev. Frank Collins.

Session now open and ready for business. Rev. J. T. Quick read the Constitution and Rules of Decorum, after which song by Choir: "Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus."

In the absence of the Moderator, W. A. Mason, Rev. J. T. Quick, Assistant Moderator, took charge as Moderator. By move and second Rev. J. T. Quick appointed Bro. Lonnie Walley, Assistant Moderator for today only.

MINISTER'S REPORTS

Rev. J. T. Quick—Greetings in the name of our Lord, with gratitude and thankfulness that I present the following report of my year's work, ending Sept. 24, 1953.

No. of miles traveled, 5,192; No. of churches pastored, 3; No. churches organized, 2; Received 13 members; Baptised 9; Funerals held, 2; No. of revivals held, 7; Money received, \$1,451.10; expenses for traveling, \$96.00.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Lee's Chapel	\$ 11.00
New Lovewell	10.00
County Line	5.00
Corinth ..	6.00
Pine Grove	5.00

\$ 37.00

Brought forward from last year..... 21.00

Total.....\$ 58.00

Finance Treasurer Sister William M. Brewer.

Finance Secretary Bro. Lonnie Walley.

COMMITTEE ON SUGGESTIONS

We, your Committee on Suggestions, make our report as follows:

1. We suggest that all suggestions be read on the floor the day before they are to be voted on.

2. We suggest that the present Sunday, Sunday school program be dropped and this one adopted. That the church where the fifth Sunday meeting convenes sponsor the Sunday school program that Sunday.

3. We suggest that we adopt the Treatise of the National Association of Free Will Baptists as our rules and practice.

4. We suggest that the clerk have some petitionary letters printed.

5. We suggest that each church send \$10.00 to the 5th Sunday meeting for Home Mission fund, instead of \$5.00.

6. We suggest that the pastor and Home Mission Committeeman of each church make at least one drive for Home Mission funds at least once each year.

7. We suggest that we organize a quarterly meeting.

8. We suggest that each one of our churches give an offering to each new church that we organize and that we carry this suggestion from year to year.

9. We suggest that renewing petitionary letters be changed from No. 15 in our Order of Business to No. 5 in Order of Business.

10. We suggest that each church elect its Home Mission Board member each year, and that the Moderator of the Association appoint a chairman and clerk of said board.

11. We suggest that the Moderator appoint a Sunday School evangelist to visit one of our churches each month. The Moderator appointed Bro. Tillis Walley for Sunday School evangelist. Motioned and seconded that Bro. A. W. Setphens, Bro. Tillis Walley and Bro. Wyatt Dunnam work out their plans for Sunday School work.

The evangelist, Bro. Tillis Walley, will visit the churches as follows:

Pine Grove—Third Sunday in October, 1953.

County Line—Third Sunday in November, 1953.

Bethel—Third Sunday in December, 1953.

Corinth—Third Sunday in January, 1954.

Lee's Chapel—Fourth Sunday in February, 1954.

New Lovewell—Third Sunday in March, 1954.

Pine Grove—Third Sunday in April, 1954.

County Line—Third Sunday in May, 1954.

Bethel—Third Sunday in June, 1954.

Corinth—Third Sunday in July, 1954.

Lee's Chapel—Fourth Sunday in August, 1954.

New Lovewell—Third Sunday in September, 1954.

12. We suggest that the first 5th Sunday meeting be at New Lovewell, the 5th Sunday in November, 1953. The second 5th Sunday meeting be at Lee's Chapel. The third 5th Sunday meeting be at County Line. The fourth 5th Sunday meeting be at Bethel.

13. We suggest that the nex Association convene with County Line church on Friday and Saturday, before the 4th Sunday in September, 1954.

Bro. A. W. Stephens,

Bro. Tillis Walley,

Bro. Tom Walley.

TEMPERANCE COMMITTEE

We, your Committee on Temperance, report as follows: We recommend that all of our brothers and sisters in Christ be temperate in their obligations to their church and to Christ, so they will be a light for Jesus.

Signed: Committee.

SUNDAY SCHOOL COMMITTEE

We, your Committee on Sunday Schools, find that all of our churches have Sunday Schools except one, Pine Grove. We feel like we have made some progress in the last year, and pray that there will be more progress made next year.

Chairman, Wyatt Dunnam.

OBITUARY COMMITTEE

We, your committee reports as follows: We are more than thankful to our God and Saviour for His great blessings for letting all our beloved brothers and sisters commune together for another church working year of 1953, and for not calling any of our members away.

Sister Polly Phillips,
Bro. Joe McKinley,
Sister Edward L. Hester.

Motion carried to adjourn business session until afternoon.

Song, "I'll Fly Away." Prayer by Bro. Willis Walters. Song, "Heaven Holds all to Me." Then a special song by Bro. Tillis Walley and Bro. Wyatt Dunnam, "Life Is Like a Mountain Raliroad."

Then Rev. J. T. Quick gave the introduction for Rev. Frank Collins. He read Exodus 3rd chapter. Text, "Here Am I." A wonderful message was enjoyed by all. Next song by Choir: "Open the Door for Me." Dismissed for lunch by Rev. Quick.

A nice lunch was served and enjoyed by all.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

The Moderator called the body to order and read 133rd Psalms and led in prayer.

REPORT OF HOME MISSION BOARD

No. miles traveled, unknown; No. revivals held, 3; No. churches organized, 2; No. members taken into our churches over the entire association, 43.

Finance Report of Home Mission Board. Home Mission Funds and Tent Funds combined, \$370.55. We ask all to join in prayer

that we do more in the coming year than we did in the past year.

Bro. Lonnie Williams, Chairman.

Bro. William M. Brewer, Clerk and Treas.

COMMITTEE ON CONGRATULATIONS

We, as a group have sincerely enjoyed being with Lee's Chapel Church and community while in your midst. We are grateful for the fellowship, kindness and delicious food given us while with them. May God's richest blessings be with you is our prayers.

Sister Myrtle Phillips,

Rev. J. T. Quick,

C. H. Henderson.

Motional to adjourn until next regular session. Song by the Choir: "I Live On." A heartfelt closing, but a wonderful hand-shaking by all. Diismissed by Bro. Wyatt Dunnam.

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 composing 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 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. This 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 useage. 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 him a presbytery of three ministers to ordain him.

Article 9. This Constitution shall be amended at any regular session by two-thirds vote of the members present, provided the change is recommended in writing on the day before the vote is to be taken.

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

Article 3. The names of delegates from the different churches shall be enrolled and called as often as necessary during the session.

Article 4. A majority of delegates shall rule in all cases except in reception of churches into our body, which shall be unanimous.

Article 5. 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. No brother shall be interrupted while speaking unless he departs from the subject under discussion, or uses words of personal reflection.

Article 8. No person shall be allowed to speak more than fifteen minutes at a time, nor more than twice without the consent of the body.

Article 9. No member shall laugh or talk during the time the discussion is going on.

Article 10. No member shall absent himself from the Association while in session without the leave of the moderator.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. The Bible, the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament, were given by inspiration of God, and are our infallible rule of faith and practice.

2. God. There is one living and true God, revealed in nature as the Creator, Preserver, and Righteous Governor of the universe;

and in the Scriptures as Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, yet as one God, infinitely wise and good, whom all intelligent creatures are supremely to love, adore, and obey.

3. Christ. Christ is God manifest in the flesh; in His divine nature truly God, in His human nature truly man. The Mediator between God and man, once crucified, He is now risen and glorified, and is our ever present Saviour and Lord.

4. The Holy Spirit. The Scriptures assign to the Holy Spirit all the attributes of God.

5. The Government of God. God exercises a wise and benevolent providence over all beings and all things by maintaining the constitution and laws of nature. He also performs special acts, not otherwise provided for, as the highest welfare of men requires.

6. The Sinfulness of Man. Man was created innocent, but by disobedience fell into a state of sin and condemnation. His posterity, therefore, inherit a fallen nature of such tendencies that all who come to years of accountability sin, and become guilty before God.

7. The Work of Christ. The Son of God by His incarnation, life, sufferings, death and resurrection effected for all a redemption from sin that is full and free and is the ground of salvation by faith.

8. The Terms of Salvation. The conditions of salvation are: 1. Repentance or sincere sorrow for sin and hearty renunciation of it. 2. Faith or the unreserved committal of one's self to Christ as Saviour and Lord with purpose to love and obey Him in all things. In the exercise of saving faith the soul is renewed by the Holy Spirit, freed from the dominion of sin and becomes a child of God. 3. Continuance in faith and obedience until death.

9. Election. God determined from the beginning to save all who should comply with the conditions of salvation. Hence by faith in Christ men become His elect.

10. Freedom of the Will. The human will is free and self-controlled, having power to yield to the influence of the truth and the Spirit, or to resist them and perish.

11. Salvation Free. God desires the salvation of all, the Gospel invites all, the Holy Spirit strives with all, and whosoever will may come and take of the water of life freely.

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

13. Gospel Ordinances. Baptism, or the immersion of believers in water, and the Lord's Supper, are ordinances to be perpetuated under the Gospel; feet washing, an ordinance teaching

humility, of universal obligation, and to be ministered to all true believers.

14. Tithing. God commanded tithes and offerings in the Old Testament; Jesus Christ endorsed it in the Gospel (Matt. 23-23), and the Apostle Paul said, "Upon the first day of the week let everyone of you lay by him in store as God hath prospered him." (I. Cor. 16:2.)

15. The Christian Sabbath. The Divine Law requires that one day in seven be set apart from secular employments and amusements, for rest, worship, holy works and activities, and for personal communication with God.

16. Resurrection, Judgment and Final Retribution. The Scriptures teach the resurrection of all men at the last day. They that have done good will come forth to the resurrection of life, and they that have done evil unto the resurrection of damnation; then the wicked will "go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

CHURCH COVENANT

Having given ourselves to God, by faith in Christ and adopted the Word of God as our rule of faith and practice, we now give ourselves to one another by the will of God in this solemn covenant.

We promise by His grace to love and obey Him in all things, to avoid all appearance of evil, to abstain from all sinful amusements and unholy conformity to the world, from all sanction of the use and sale of intoxicating beverages, and to "provide things honest in the sight of all men."

We agree faithfully to discharge our obligations in reference to the study of the Scriptures, secret prayer, family devotions, and social worship; and by self-denial, faith and good works endeavor to "grow in the grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ."

We will not forsake the assembling of ourselves together for church conferences; public worship, and the observance of the ordinances of the Gospel, nor fail to pay according to our ability for the support of the church, or its poor, and all its benevolent work.

We agree to accept Christian admonition and reproof with meekness, and to watch over one another in love, endeavoring to "keep the unity of the Spirit" in the bonds of peace, to be careful of one another's happiness and reputation, and seek to strengthen the weak, encourage the afflicted, admonish the erring, and as far as we are able promote the success of the church and of the Gospel.

We will everywhere hold Christian principles sacred and Christian obligations and enterprise supreme; counting it our chief business in life to extend the influence of Christ in society constantly

by praying and toiling that the Kingdom of God may come and His will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.

To this end we agree to labor for the promotion of educational and denominational enterprises, the support of Missions, the success of Sunday Schools, and evangelistic efforts for the salvation of the world. And may the God of Peace santify us wholly and pre-serve us blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

STATISTICAL TABLE

CHURCH—	PASTORS	CLERKS	Days of Service	Membership	Received	Dismissed	No. of Deacons	Deceased
Corinth.....	Rev. J. T. Quick.....	Dave Palmer, Waynesboro.....	1S	56	3	4	3	0
Pine Grove.....	Rev. J. T. Quick.....	Miss Edna Ezell.....	3S	18	0	0	0	0
Lee's Chapel.....	Rev. G. P. Perkins.....	Mrs. Claiborne Holifield.....	2-4	51	29	2	3	0
New Lovewell.....	Rev. J. T. Quick.....	William M. Brewer.....	2-4	58	5	3	2	0
			1S					
			9:30					
			2-4					
County Line.....	Rev. J. T. Quick.....	C. D. Dunnam.....	p. m.	12	12	0	2	0