

MINUTES

—OF THE—

Forty-Seventh Annual Session

—OF THE—

ZION REST FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Convening with

COUNTY LINE CHURCH

**Perry County, Richton, Mississippi, on Friday and Saturday
Before the 4th Sunday in September, 1954**

**NEXT SESSION TO CONVENE WITH BETHEL CHURCH,
Perry County, Richton, Miss., Route 3, Friday and
Saturday Before the 4th Sunday in
September, 1955.**

OFFICERS

REV. J. T. QUICK, Richton, Miss., Rt. 1	Moderator
BRO. WYATT DUNNAM, Clara, Miss.	Asst. Moderator
BRO. DAVE PALMER, Waynesboro, Miss., Rt. 3	Clerk
BRO. WYATT DUNNAM, Clara, Miss.	Finance Treasurer
BRO. TILLIS WALLEY, Richton, Miss., Rt. 1	Finance Secretary

REPORT OF FINANCES FOR YEAR 1954

Churches—	Value	Expenses	Paid Pastor	Evangelist	Paid Association
Corinth	\$1500.00	\$ 55.25	\$151.38	\$ 62.51	\$ 5.00
Lee's Chapel	2500.00	500.00	914.39	164.06	10.00
New Lovewell	2000.00	433.72	690.83	177.46	11.00
Bethel	3500.00	.00	143.13	65.00	3.00
County Line	1500.00	.00	138.02	60.00	10.00

Brought forward from last year \$10.19.

Paid in this year 39.00

\$49.19

ORDER OF BUSINESS

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

Proceedings

FRIDAY MORNING SESSIONS—SEPT. 24, 1954

The association convened with County Line Church, Perry County, on the above date. First was a song, "Heaven Holds All To Me". The Moderator called the body to order and read the 1st chapter of James and made a wonderful talk. Prayer was offered by Bro. Joe Conoway.

The Moderator appointed Bro. J. T. Quick to bring the introductory sermon. A song, "Some Glad Day" was sung by the choir. Prayer by Bro. Quick. The text was Matthew 28 chapter 19-20 verse, Isiah 40 chapter 3rd verse. A wonderful message was enjoyed by all.

Next appointed reading Clerks. Bro. Tillis Walley and Bro. Cleo Thomas were appointed.

Enrolling Churches:

Corinth

Lee's Chapel

New Love Well

County Line

Bethel Church by Petitionary Letter to join association.

Enrolling Delegates:

Corinth—Irene Palmer, Thomas Henderson.

Lee's Chapel—Cleo Thomas, Mrs. Cleo Thomas, Sister Hollis

New Love Well—Tillis Walley, Wyatt Dunnam

County Line—Sister Rachel Walley, Sister Myrtle Phillips.

Enrolling Ministers:

Rev. J. T. Quick

Rev. Joe Conoway

Rev. Hermon Richardson

Enrolling Deacons:

Corinth—Buddy Nowell, C. N. Henderson, Dave Palmer

Lee's Chapel—A. W. Stephens, Cleo Thomas

New Love Well—Tillis Walley, William M. Brewer

County Line—Lonnie Walley

Next appointing of Finance Treasurer. Bro. Wyatt Dunnam was appointed.

Next appointing of Finance Secretary. Bro. Tillis Walley was appointed.

Next, moved and seconded to receive Bethel Church. The church was received in full fellowship.

Enrolling Deacons from Bethel Church:

Bro. Shows, Bro. Austin Conway.

Next receiving finance.

Next call for Petitionary Letter from Quarterly meeting. Moved and seconded that we receive the letter as read.

Next Pine Grove Church letter read. Moved and seconded to put it into the minutes.

Moved and seconded that we adjourn for lunch. Dismissed by Bro. Herman Richardson.

A delicious lunch was enjoyed by all.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION:

A song, "Showers of Blessings". Prayer by Bro. Tillis Walley.

Call for reading of Church letters.

Corinth, read and adopted.

Lee's Chapel, read and adopted.

New Love Well, read and adopted with necessary ammendments

County Line, read and adopted.

Next discussions of Pine Grove Letter. Moved and seconded to put in the minutes.

Next Election of Officers:

Moved and seconded that we set Bro. Mason aside as an honorary Moderator.

Moved and seconded that we give Bro. Mason a hand shake of faithfulness and devotional service to the association.

Next we proceed to take the vote for Moderator. Bro. Quick was elected. Bro. Wyatt Dunnam assistant Moderator.

Next election of clerk, Bro. Dave Palmer was elected.

Appointing Devotional Committee—Bro. Austin Conway, Sister Minnie Walley, Sister Phillips.

Appointing of Various Committees:

Suggestion Committee: Bro. Leroy Shows, Bro. Buddie Nowell, Bro. A. W. Stephens.

Temperance Committee: Bro. Thomas Henderson, Bro. Cecil Walley, Sister Irene Palmer.

Obituary Committee:- Bro. Lonnie Walley, Sister Leroy Shows, Sister Minnie Walley.

Sunday School Committee: Bro. C. N. Henderson, Bro. William M. Brewer, Bro. Herman Richardson.

Committee on Order of Business: Bro. Tillis Walley, Bro. Wyatt

Dunnam, Bro. C. N. Henderson.

Congratulations Committee: Sister Joe Conway, Sister Irene Palmer.

Next appointing chairmen of Home Mission Board:

County Line—Bro. Lonnie Walley

Corinth—Bro. C. N. Henderson

Bethel—Bro. Leroy Shows

Lee's Chapel—Bro. H. M. Richardson

New Love Well—Bro. Cecil Walley

Bro. C. N. Henderson was appointed clerk and treasurer of the Home Mission Board.

Next a song, No. 114, lead by Bro. J. T. Quick.

A motion was made to adjourn business until 9 o'clock Saturday morning. A song, "I'll Fly Away". Dismissed by Bro. Cecil Walley.

FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICE

Song No. 91 "Some Glad Day". Prayer by Bro. Herman Richardson. A special song by Bro. J. T. Quick and daughter, and Bro. Wyatt Dunnam. Bro. Joe Conway brought the message. A wonderful sermon from Matthew 16-13.

SATURDAY MORNING AT 9 O'CLOCK

Song No. 91 "Some Glad Day". Prayer by Bro. A. W. Stephens. Bible reading by Bro. J. T. Quick, Moderator, Proverbs 15th chapter. A good talk was given.

Session now open and ready for business:

Tillis Walley read the constitution and Rules of Decorum.

MINISTER'S REPORTS

Rev. J. T. Quick—Greetings in the Lord. To the Zion Rest Association of Free Will Baptist, I present the following report of my years working ending September 23, 1954.

Number of miles traveled, 7,135. No. of churches pastored 4. No. of churches organized 1. Received into churches 27. Baptized 17. Helped in 3 funerals. Revivals held 4. Received for pastoral work \$1,193.43. Received for revivals and others \$311.86. Grand total received \$1,505.29. No. of sermons preached 195.

Rev. Herman Richardson—Greetings in the name of the Lord. I have preached 8 sermons, and I have traveled about 60 miles. Money received \$8.40.

Rev. Joe Conway—Greetings in the name of the Lord. I have visited the sick in hospitals and had prayer with them. I visited in homes of sick in the community and had prayer. Had special meetings for the sick and needy. Visited members of our church.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Corinth	\$ 5.00
Lee's Chapel	10.00
New Lovewell	11.00
County Line	10.00
Bethel	3.00
	<hr/>
	\$ 39.00
Amount brought forward	10.19
	<hr/>
	\$ 49.19

Finance Treasurer, Bro. Wyatt Dunnam,

Finance Secretary, Bro. Tillis Walley

COMMITTEE ON SUGGESTIONS

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

1. We suggest that each church clerk's name and address be put in the minutes.

2. We suggest that an offering be sent in from each church to Bro. J. T. Quick to go to Pascagoula to straighten out some misunderstandings.

3. We suggest that our minutes carry the name of Orphanage Home in Alabama.

4. We suggest that Bro. Wyatt Dunnam be our Sunday School Evangelist for the following year and for him to work out the plans of the Sunday School work. He will visit the various churches as follows:

Corinth—2nd Sunday in October, 1954.

County Line—2nd Sunday in November, 1954.

Bethel—2nd Sunday in December, 1954.

Lee's Chapel—2nd Sunday in January, 1955.

New Love Well—2nd Sunday in February, 1955.

Corinth—2nd Sunday in March, 1955.

County Line—2nd Sunday in April, 1955.

Bethel—2nd Sunday in May, 1955.

Lee's Chapel—2nd Sunday in June, 1955.

New Love Well—2nd Sunday in July, 1955.

Corinth—2nd Sunday in August, 1955.

County Line—2nd Sunday in September, 1955.

Bethel—1st Sunday in March, 1955.

Lee's Chapel—4th Sunday in July, 1955.

New Love Well—4th Sunday in July, 1955.

5. We suggest that the first 5th Sunday meeting be at New Love-Well, The 2nd at Lee's Chapel, The 3rd at County Line, The fourth at Corinth.

6. We suggest that the next association convene with Bethel

Church, Perry County, on Friday and Saturday, before the 4th Sunday in September, 1955.

Bro. A. W. Stephens,
Bro. Leroy Shows,
Bro. Buddy Nowell.

TEMPERANCE COMMITTEE

We, your committee on Temperance, report as follows: We recommended that all of our brothers and sisters in Christ should abstain from all intoxicating drinks, and also be a light for Jesus. Be temperate in all obligations to our church and fellowman.

Bro Cecil Walley,
Sister Irene Palmer,
Bro. Thomas Henderson.

SUNDAY SCHOOL COMMITTEE

We, your committee on Sunday Schools, find that all of our churches have Sunday Schools of which we are very thankful, yet there is much to be accomplished through Sunday School work in training of our youth. Let us all exert every effort possible in the furtherance of this great work.

Bro. William M. Brewer,
Bro. Herman Richardson

OBITUARY COMMITTEE

We, your committee on Obituary, report as follows: We find in our association that God has called one of our beloved members, Sister Martha Craven—age 82. We feel that our loss is Heaven's gain. She was faithful to her church (Lee's Chapel) and community.

We feel that it is a great privilege for any Christian to pass from this life.

Bro. Lonnie Walley,
Sister Leroy Shows,
Sister Minnie Walley.

Next motion carried to adjourn business until afternoon.

11:00 o'clock Service. Song, "I'm Not Ashamed." Bro. Herman Richardson read from St. Luke 5-11. A wonderful message was enjoyed by all. Bro. Cecil Walley read from St. Luke 5-13 and gave a wonderful talk. Dismissed for lunch by Cecil Walley.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

The Moderator called the body to order. Song No. 78, Prayer by Bro. Perkins. A special song by Sister Jaunese Brewer, "If We Never Meet Again".

REPORT OF HOME MISSION BOARD

Last December we purchased a tent at Birmingham, Ala. Last July we erected the tent in Pascagoula, Miss., and organized a church.

The increase in membership of our entire association of the past year was 58.

Finance Report:

We owe the bank of Laurel \$540.00

We have in treasury 332.51

To be raised to cover indebtedness . \$207.49.

Signed—Home Mission Board

SUNDAY SCHOOL EVANGELIST REPORT

Greetings: It is through the blessings of our Lord that I make this report as follows: Sunday Schools organized 1, Churches visited as the minutes called for. We feel like our Sunday School is progressing and getting more out in front. May we all pray that it continues to do so. Sunday School members in entire association is about 277. Miles traveled 520.

Bro. Tillis Walley.

We suggest that our minutes carry the Dissolution of Pine Grove Free Will Baptist Church.

Wayne County, Miss., July 17, 1954, after services the members of the church declared themselves into conference, as pre-ordered of the church on May 16, 1954, for the purpose of dissolution of Pine Grove Church, and granting a quit claim deed to the church property to George Webster Mason, the donor, for the said property and the granting of letters to the remaining members.

Rev. J. T. Quick was elected Moderator. We, members of the church, set out the following reasons for the Dissolution of the Church.

One, Charlie Jenkins, posing as a United Free Will Baptist Minister, came in our community and got together a bunch of our inactive members and organized a church of his own in our church house. Knowing that the Lord is not the author of confusion, a house divided against itself cannot stand. Then, too, the few remaining members are not financially able to support the Church and its Pastor. We, believe that our Pastor Rev. J. T. Quick's time could be better spent in other parts of the country, and we wish to say that it was no fault of Bro. J. T. Quick that the church went down.

There was a move by W. A. Mason and seconded by L. F. Ezell that the Church Trustees, W. A. Mason, L. F. Ezell, and W. S. Palmer be authorized to sign a quit claim Title to the church property to George Webster Mason. The motion was carried unanimous. Another motion was also carried that we grant letters to the following members: W. A. Mason, Lewis Ezell, James Ezell, Elbert Ezell, W. S. Palmer, Mrs. Lora Ezell, Edna Ezell, Ruth Myers, Vivian Chastang, Rivers Palmer, and Muriel Palmer.

Motion to adjourn.

J. T. Quick, Moderator,
Miss Edna Ezell, Clerk.

We, the Suggestion Committee, suggest that our minutes carry the address of the Orphan Home.

Address: Rev. R. N. Riland, Eldredge, Alabama.

COMMITTEE ON CONGRATULATIONS

We, as a group have sincerely enjoyed being with County Line Church, and community while in your midst. We are grateful for the fellowship, kindness and delicious food given us while with you.

May God bless all who took part in the association is our prayers.

Sister Adelaide Conway,

Sister Irene Palmer

A motion to adjourn until next session. Closing song No. 68. Closing sermon by Bro. Perkins.

A friendly handshake, and dismissed by Bro. Buddie Nowell.

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 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 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. Good 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 communications 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 devotion, 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 sanctify us wholly and preserve us blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

STATISTICAL TABLE

Churches—	Pastors	Clerks	Days of Service	Membership	Received	Dismissed	No. of Deacons	Deceased
Corinth	Rev. Joe Conway	Miss Irene Palmer, Rt. 3, Waynesboro	1-S	57	1	1	3	0
New Lovewell	Rev. J. T. Quick	William M. Brewer, Rt. 1, Richton	2-4	76	14	0	2	0
Lee's Chapel	Rev. G. P. Perkins	Mrs. Claiborne Holifield, Rt. 6, Laurel	2-4	61	12	3	5	1
County Line	Rev. J. T. Quick	C. D. Dunnam, Rt. 2, Richton	1-S	16	4	0	3	0
Bethel	Rev. J. T. Quick	Marion Conway, Rt. 3, Richton	3-S	25	0	0	2	0