

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

Convening With
BETHEL CHURCH

Perry County, Richton, Route 3, Mississippi, Friday and Saturday
Before the Fourth Sunday in September, 1955.

NEXT SESSION TO CONVENE WITH CORINTH CHURCH

Wayne County, Waynesboro, Miss., Route 3, Friday
and Saturday Before the Fourth Sunday
in September, 1956.

OFFICERS

REV. J. T. QUICK, Route 1, Richton, Miss. Moderator
BRO. DAVE PALMER, Route 3, Waynesboro, Miss. Asst. Moderator
BRO. WM. W. BREWER, Route 1, Richton, Miss. Clerk
BRO. B. O. McLAIN, Route 1, Richton, Miss. Finance Treasurer
BRO. TOM WALLEY, Route 3, Waynesboro, Miss. Finance Secretary

REPORT OF FINANCES FOR YEAR 1955

CHURCHES—	Value	Expenses	Evangelist	Paid Pastor	Paid Association
Corinth	\$2500.00	\$ 906.16	\$ 291.49	\$ 62.10	\$ 8.50
Lees Chapel	3500.00	420.74	946.67	174.59	10.00
New Love Well	2500.00	332.12	1160.79	214.95	12.00
Bethel	1500.00	5.00	115.10	60.00	5.00
County Line	1500.00		204.07	70.00	8.00
Buckatunna					5.00
Quarterly Meeting paid in for Associational funds.....					\$ 6.00
Donation					5.65
					\$60.15
Association indebted last year.....					3.60
Net balance.....					\$56.55

Finance Report of Home Mission Board

Corinth	\$ 25.81
Lees Chapel	24.32
New Love Well	157.00
Bethel	15.00
County Line	34.80
Buckatunna	12.00
Grand Total.....	\$ 268.93

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 Reports
14. Appointing Preaching Committees
15. Receiving Committees Reports
16. Closing

Proceedings

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION

The association convening with Bethel church, Perry County, Miss., on September 23, 1955.

First a song No. 336. Led by Wyatt Dunnam.

Next the Moderator called the body to order, and read the 46th chapter of Psalms and made a wonderful talk. Prayer was offered by the Moderator, Rev. J. T. Quick. Next the Moderator declared the body in order and ready for business. Next the Moderator appointed Sister Edith Hollis to read the constitution. Next the Moderator appointed Bro. and Sister T. E. Baity for reading clerks.

Enrolling churches and delegates: Corinth—Tom Walley, Frank Henderson. Lees Chapel—Cleo Thomas, Edith Hollis. New Love Well Verbie Walley, B. O. McLain. County Line—Ella Malone, Myrtle Phillips. Bethel—Mrs. Austin Conway, Mrs. Anders.

Next the Moderator called for the reading of the petitionary letter from Buckatunna. This letter was read and accepted by a unanimous vote and the delegates were seated. Bro. Lewis Ezell and wife, delegates.

Next the Moderator called for the letter of the Quarterly meeting. The letter was read and accepted.

Next a motion was entertained to adjourn business until 1:00 p. m. Next the 11:00 o'clock worship service began. First a song, then Bro. Tillis Walley was appointed by the Moderator to preach the introductory sermon. Bro. Walley read from I Kings, chapter 17, verse 14, and a wonderful message was enjoyed by all. Dismissal for lunch by Rev. Joe Conway.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

First, a song No. 108, led by Bro. Wyatt Dunnam. Prayer was offered by Bro. T. E. Baity. The Moderator declared the session now open and ready for business.

Enrolling Ministers:

Rev. J. T. Quick

Rev. Joe Conway

Rev. Herman Richardson

Rev. Cecil Walley

Rev. Tillis Walley

Enrolling delegates:

Corinth—Buddie Nowell, Dave Palmer.

Lee's Chapel—A. W. Stephens, C. C. Thomas, T. E. Baity.

County Line—Lonnie Walley.

Bethel—Leroy Shows.

New Love Well—Will Brewer, Wyatt Dunnam.

The letters from the various churches were read and accepted. Next the Moderator appointed a finance treasurer and secretary. B. O. McLain was appointed Treasurer and Tom Walley, Secretary. Then the finance was received by B. O. McLain.

Next our retired Moderator, Bro. W. A. Mason, was asked by the Moderator, Rev. J. T. Quick, to give us a few minutes talk. Bro. Mason made a wonderful talk which was enjoyed by all.

Election of Officers:

Rev. J. T. Quick was elected Moderator.

Bro. Dave Palmer, assistant Moderator.

William M. Brewer, Clerk.

Appointing Committees:

Suggestions Committee: Wyatt Dunnam, Buddie Nowell, Leroy Shows.

Temperance Committee: Tom Walley, Verbie Walley, Mrs. Mammie Sigrest.

Obituary Committee: Jim Walley, B. O. McLain, Mrs. Myrtle Phillips.

Sunday School Committee: Frank Henderson, Francis Conway, Sister Anders.

Order of Business: Bro. A. W. Stephens, Wyatt Dunnam, Bro. T. E. Baity, Bro. Joe Conway.

Congratulations: Sister Edith Hollis, Sister Myrtle Phillips, Bro. Tillis Walley.

Next the Moderator appointed a presbytery for the ordination service: Bro. A. W. Stephens, Rev. Joe Conway, Bro. Wyatt Dunnam, Bro. Buddie Nowell, Rev. J. T. Quick, chairman

Next moved and seconded that the Moderator appoint a chairman for the Home Mission Board. Bro. Wyatt Dunnam was appointed.

Next moved and seconded that the Moderator appoint a Clerk and Treasurer for the Home Mission Board. Bro. Cleo Thomas was appointed. At this time the ordination council returned and asked the choir leader, Bro. Wyatt Dunnam, for a song. The title, "There Shall Be Showers of Blessings."

Next report of ordaining council. The council reports that they found Bro. Tillis Walley, Bro. Cleo Thomas and Bro. T. E. Baity worthy of ordination. Now the ordaining council proceeds to ordain Bro. Tillis Walley to the ministry. Bro. Cleo Thomas and Bro. T. E. Baity for deacons.

After the ordination the Moderator, Rev. J. T. Quick, gave the charge. A song by the choir, "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms" was given. We, the delegated body, gave the recently ordained Brethren a hearty handshake. Moved and seconded to adjourn until nine o'clock Saturday morning. Dismissed by Bro. Dave Palmer.

SATURDAY MORNING 9:00 A. M.

Song by the choir, "I'm Going That Way." Prayer by Rev. Cecil Walley. Moderator takes charge and reads the 15th Psalms, with

excellent commenting on this Scripture. Now the Moderator declares the body in order and ready for business.

MINISTERS' REPORTS

Report of Rev. J. T. Quick, Rt. 1, Richton, Miss.: Greetings in the Lord to the Zion Rest Free Will Baptist Association.

I humbly submit the following report of my years work ending September 25, 1955. Number of miles traveled 5,614; number of churches pastored 2, half time for each church; Churches organized one; members received 14; Baptized 6; no funerals conducted, held one revival; received for pastoral work \$1,480.16. Received miscellaneous \$166.38, grand total received \$1,646.54. Sermons preached 120, traveling expenses \$130.00.

Report of Rev. Cecil Walley, Rt. 1, Richton, Miss.: Greetings in the name of the Lord to the Zion Rest Association of the Free Will Baptists. I present the following report of my year's work ending Sept. 18, 1955. No. of miles traveled about 300; churches pastored one; members received 19, Baptized 21; money received \$126.16, sermons preached 35.

Report of Rev. Tillis Walley, Rt. 1, Richton, Miss. Greetings in the name of the Lord to the Zion Rest Association of the Free Will Baptists. Please accept my report as follows: I have preached 16 sermons, had four conversions, 3 reclaimed and Baptized 2. Traveled 416 miles.

The Moderator welcomed Bro. Kyrless Walley as a visiting minister. Next the Moderator appointed a devotional committee, Bro. Jim Walley, Bro. Frank Henderson, Bro. B. O. McLain. Then the Moderator called for a move and second that each minister have a certificate of standing. Next moved that the Moderator appoint a committee to investigate the cost of printing these certificates. Bro. Tom Walley, Bro. B. O. McLain and Bro. Lonnie Walley were appointed.

Next moved and seconded that we insert on the church letters how much each church pays in for Home Mission funds each year.

REPORT ON SUGGESTIONS

1. We suggest that Bro. Lonnie Walley be our Sunday School Evangelist for the next year.

2. We suggest that the association meet with Corinth Church in 1956.

3. We suggest that the quarterly meeting meet with New Love Well Church in October, and that the second quarterly meeting meet with Bethel Church, the third quarterly meeting meet with County Line and the fourth with Lees Chapel.

4. We suggest that the By-Laws of the tent be put in the minutes.

5. We suggest that the delegated body elect the preacher to preach the introductory sermon next year in the Association. Rev. Joe Conway was elected to preach the sermon at Corinth in 1956.

Signed: Committee.

Next the Moderator gave a few minutes recess for the Committeemen to get reports ready. After a few minutes recess the body was called back to order and the choir sang a song, "Not Made With Hands." Prayer by Rev. Kyrless Walley. Moved and seconded that we change article 8 of the Constitution to read like the Treatise of the National Association.

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE

We your committee on Temperance report as follows: We recommend 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.

Tom Walley,
Verbie Walley,
Mammie Sigrest.

SUNDAY SCHOOL COMMITTEE

We find that each church in the association has a Sunday School. We are thankful to the Lord for each of them. We find that each Sunday School has a good attendance record and that much good is being done through the Sunday School work. We are grateful for this accomplishment.

Mrs. Anders,
Francis Conway,
Frank Henderson.

OBITUARY REPORT

We, your committee on Obituary make, our report. The Lord has wonderfully blessed us this year. He has not called any of our members away, and we are thankful for this Blessing.

B. O. McLain,
Jim Walley
Myrtle Phillips.

DEVOTIONAL COMMITTEE

We report as follows: We suggest that Rev. J. T. Quick bring the message at 11:00 o'clock.

B. O. McLain,
Frank Henderson,
Jim Walley,

Next moved and seconded to adjourn business until 1:00 o'clock for Evangelistic Service. The choir sang, "There Shall Be Showers of Blessings." Prayer by Lonnie Walley. Rev. Quick takes the stand to bring the message. Text—Matthew 28-18. A good message was enjoyed by all. Bro. Quick called for a song. The choir sang, "Standing On The Promises." Then a handshake by all. Dismissed for lunch by Bro. Ray Walley. A delicious lunch was enjoyed by all.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON

Song by the choir, "Sitting At The Feet of Jesus." Prayer by Buddie Nowell. The Moderator now declared the body in order. Call for report of Sunday School Evangelist.

Greetings to you in the Lord. It has been a great pleasure to work with you in the past year. God has blessed our efforts. We find good Sunday Schools in all our churches and have organized one Sunday School in the past year. Received \$8.16 from Bethel church. May God continue to bless us in our work.

Wyatt Dunnam,

At this time we enjoyed a fine talk by our Sunday School convention President, Bro. Tillis Walley.

REPORT ON ORDER OF BUSINESS

We, your committee on Order of Business, report as follows: We find that the order of business should remain as it is at the present.—Committee.

REPORT OF HOME MISSION BOARD

We, the Home Mission Board, would like to report as follows: Sponsored two Tent Revivals, organized one church, and we have an increase of membership in our association this year of 51 members.

Lonnie Walley, Chairman.

Letter from quarterly meeting to the yearly association:

We meet you with delegates, Bro. James Walley, Bro. Woodrow Shows, to confer with you on any business or questions concerning our quarterly meeting. Business done in the meeting for this year as follows:

1. Buckatunna Free Will Baptist church accepted in quarterly meeting.
2. Rev. Herman Richardson ordained as minister from Lees Chapel Church.
3. Rev. Cecil Walley ordained as minister from New Love Well Church.
4. Bro. Tillis Walley licensed to preach the Gospel for one year.
5. Bro. Wyatt Dunnam ordained as Deacon from New Love Well Church.
6. The quarterly meeting ruled that each minister of this body have a certificate of standing and identification to keep with him at all times in carrying the Gospel. This business was done by order of quarterly meeting, this the 30th day of July, 1955. The quarterly meeting sent \$6.00 for association fund.

Joe Conway, Moderator,
Dave Palmer, Clerk.

Home Mission Board for next year:

Buckatunna, Claude Burgess; Lees Chapel, C. C. Thomas, Corinth, C. N. Henderson; County Line, C. D. Dunnam; Bethel, Leroy Shows; New Love Well, Wyatt Dunnam.

Rules and By-Laws concerning the Tent:

1. Resolved that no minister shall use the Tent who opposes Free Will Baptist doctrine.

2. Resolved that any minister, who is in good standing with the Zion Rest Association of Free Will Baptist Faith is entitled to use the Tent.

3. Resolved that the tent shall not be used other than Religious purposes and all churches shall be entitled to the use of the tent when it is not in use, or has already been spoken for. Churches may use the tent by making request to the person in charge of it.

4. Resolved that no minister shall be allowed to use the tent without permission of the Home Mission board and under their direction.

5. Resolved that a copy of these rules be posted in each church for their information.

6. Resolved that these rules shall not be altered, amended or changed except by a two-thirds majority of Home Mission Board present.

At this time the Moderator appointed Bro. Lonnie Walley as Sunday School Evangelist for the following year of 1956. Bro. Lonnie will contact the different churches and fix the visiting dates later.

CONGRATULATIONS REPORT

To the people of Bethel Church, Perry County, words cannot express the kindness and hospitality shown us while convening in your midst. We, the associational body, pray God's blessings upon every home and every member of this church and community.

Signed: Committee.

Moved and seconded that the association adjourn until next year. The choir sang, "God Be With You Till We Meet Again."

Dismissal 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 be recommended to the Quarterly meeting or association by the church to which he belongs to License him. Then, if he is found worthy of Ordination, his church shall recommend him to the Quarterly Meeting or association for Ordination.

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 6. Only one person shall speak at a time, who shall arise and address the monerator.

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 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 Savior and Lord.

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

5. The Government of God. God exerciss a wise and benvolent 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 bfore 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. Repentence 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 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 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 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 _ _ _ _ _	Irene Palmer, Waynesboro, Rt. 3 _ _ _ _ _	1-3	67	9	1	3	0
New Love Well _ _ _	Rev. J. T. Quick _ _ _ _ _	William M. Brewer, Rt. 1, Richton _ _ _ _ _	2-4	87	9	2	3	0
Lee's Chapel _ _ _ _	Rev. J. L. Lovander _ _ _ _	Mrs. Claiborne Holifield, Rt. 6, Laurel _ _ _ _ _	2-4	57	4	1	5	0
County Line _ _ _ _	Rev. Joe Conway _ _ _ _ _	C. D. Dunnam, Rt. 2 Richton _ _ _ _ _	2-4	17	1	0	3	0
Bethel _ _ _ _ _	Rev. Tillis Walley _ _ _ _ _	Pearlie Conway, Rt. 3, Richton _ _ _ _ _	1-3	51	30	0	3	0
Buckatunna _ _ _ _	Rev. J. T. Quick _ _ _ _ _	Lewis Ezell, Rt. 2, Buckatunna _ _ _ _ _	1-3	7	7	0	1	0