

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

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

Convening With
CORINTH CHURCH

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

NEXT SESSION TO CONVENE WITH NEW LOVE WELL CHURCH,
Greene County, Richton, Miss., Route 1, Friday and Saturday Before
The First Sunday in October, 1957

OFFICERS

REV. J. T. QUICK, Route 1, Richton, Miss. Moderator
REV. HERMAN RICHARDSON, Rt. 6, Laurel, Miss. Asst. Moderator
BRO. WILLIAM M. BREWER, Rt. 1, Richton, Miss. Clerk
BRO. FRANK HENDERSON, Rt. 3, Waynesboro, Miss. Finance Treas.
BRO. FELTON HOLLIFIELD, Rt. 6, Laurel, Miss. Finance Sec'y

REPORT OF FINANCES FOR YEAR 1956

CHURCHES—	Value	Expenses	Paid Pastor	Evangelist	Paid Association
Corinth	\$4500.00	\$ 354.03	\$ 331.00	\$ 70.00	\$ 8.00
New Love Well	2500.00	178.90	1309.32	251.00	15.00
Lees Chapel	3500.00	275.35	960.00	197.00	10.00
Bethel	1500.00	.....	200.07	100.00	5.00
County Line	1500.00	.....	155.81	144.00	6.00
Buckatunna .....	.....	1025.00	372.40	60.00	6.35
Quarterly Meeting paid in for Associational funds .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	\$8.00
Brought forward from last year .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	\$ 6.18
Total Funds .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	\$64.53

Partial Report of Missions for the Year

New Love Well	\$52.35
Corinth .....	.....
Lees Chapel	10.00
Bethel .....	.....
County Line .....	.....
Buckatunna .....	.75
Quarterly meeting paid for Foreign Mission	\$22.15
Grand Total	\$85.25

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 Corinth Church on September 10, 1956.

First a song, Everybody Will Be Happy Over There, led by Van Walley.

Next the moderator, Rev. J. T. Quick, took the stand and read Joshua first chapter, and conducted the devotional service, prayer by Rev. Tillis Walley.

Next the moderator read the Constitution and Rules of Decorum.

Enrolling Ministers: Rev. Hardie Loper, Rev. Joe Conway, Rev. Tillis Walley, Rev. J. T. Quick, Rev. W. H. Henderson, Rev. Cecil Walley, Rev. Hermon Richardson.

Enrolling Deacons: Wyatt Dunnam, A. W. Stephens, Dave Palmer, Buddie Nowell, C. N. Henderson, William M. Brewer, Columbus Dunnam, R. C. Phillips, Austin Conway, Leroy Shows.

Next the moderator declares the body in order and ready for business.

Appointing Reading Clerks: Bro. Felton Hollifield and Sister Mabel McLain.

ENROLLING CHURCHES AND DELEGATES

1. Corinth Church—Frank Henderson and Emmit Rains.
2. Lees Chapel—Felton Hollifield, Edith Hollis.
3. New Lovewell—Van Walley, Mabel McLain.
4. Buckatunna—Loria Ezell, Ada Mae Loper.
5. Bethel—Hazel Pearl Shows, Waygana Smith.
6. County Line—Alene Braddock and Rachel Walley.

Next the moderator called for the reading of the letter from the Quarterly meeting. Read and adopted.

Delegates from Quarterly meeting: Mrs. Leroy Shows, Hickman McLain.

Moved and seconded to adjourn the business until 1 p.m. Dismissed by Rev. Quick.

After a few minutes recess gathered back in the church. Song, "What A Friend We Have in Jesus". Prayer by Rev. Joe Conway. Rev. Conway took the stand to bring the introductory sermon, text, 2nd Kings 5th Chapter, 11th verse, a heart warming message, song by choir, "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms." The body enjoyed a hearty hand shaking. Dismissed for lunch by moderator. A nice lunch was enjoyed by all.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Song by choir, "I Go Where He Sendeth Me." Prayer by Rev. Hardie Loper.

Next the moderator called the body to order for business.

Moderator appointed Finance Secretary, Bro. Felton Hollifield; Bro. Frank Henderson, Treasurer.

The moderator called on Rev. Loper to make a short talk. Bro. Loper made a wonderful talk that was enjoyed by all. Song by choir, "Take The Name of Jesus With You."

Moderator called for the reading of the Church Letters: County Line, accepted; Bethel, accepted; Lees Chapel, accepted; New Lovewell, accepted; Corinth, accepted; Buckatunna, accepted.

Election of Officers: Rev. J. T. Quick, moderator; Rev. Hermon Richardson, asst. moderator; William M. Brewer, clerk.

Appointing Committees on Order of Business: Rev. Tillis Walley, chairman; Rev. Hardie Loper, Bro. Hickman McLain.

Suggestion Committee: Dave Palmer, chairman; Lonnie Walley, Felton Hollifield.

Temperance Committee: Wyatt Dunnam, Buddie Nowell, Van Walley, chairman.

Obituary Committee: Sister Rachel Walley, chairman; Sister Edith Hollis, Sister Leroy Shows.

Devotional Committee: Sister Olene Bradox, Sister Anders, Sister Mabel McLain.

Sunday School Committee: Bro. Frank Henderson, Bro. Tom Walley, Bro. Emmitt Rains, chairman.

Congratulation Committee: Rev. Joe Conway, Bro. C. N. Henderson, Bro. Lonnie Walley.

Executive Committee: Bro. Erastus McLain, Bro. A. W. Stephens, Bro. Johnnie Busby.

Home Mission Board—Bro. Ray Walley, secretary-treasurer; Bro. Cleo Thomas, chairman; Bro. Lonnie Walley, Bro. Leroy Shows, Bro. Tom Walley, Bro. Claude Burges.

Report of Devotional Committee: We, your committee, report that Rev. Hardie Loper will bring the message at 11 o'clock Saturday.

Moderator asked for a move and second that the association express their appreciation for Miss Ella Rae Jones, who has gone to the Bob Jones University, of Greenville, S.C. Ella Rae is a member of New Lovewell church. She has gone in training for a Foreign Missionary. At this time there was a donation made up for her of \$15.27. Moved and seconded that we adjourn until 9 o'clock a.m. Saturday morning. Dismissed by Bro. C. N. Henderson.

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

Song by choir, I'll Make It My Home. Prayer by C. N. Henderson. Rev. J. T. Quick, moderator, read 122 Psalms and gave the devotional service.

MINISTERS' REPORTS

Report of Rev. J. T. Quick, Richton, Rt. 1, Richton, Miss. To the Zions Rest Association of the Free Will Baptists. I humbly submit the following report of my years work ending September 21, 1956: miles traveled 7,310; sermons preached, 123; couples married, 1; money received for the year, \$2,196.72; expenses, \$650.00; churches pastored, 2, half time each. Conducted a radio program 7 months. Pray that I will have a greater year next year.—Respectively submitted, Rev. J. T. Quick.

Report of Rev. Joe Conway, Rt. 3, Richton, Miss. Greetings in the name of the Lord to the Zions Rest Association of the Free Will Baptists. I present the following report of my years work. Churches pastored, 2, half-time, each church; Baptised 1; funerals conducted 2; held 1 revival; received for pastoral work \$486.85; received for miscellaneous \$50.00; married 3 couples; sermons preached 80.

Report of Rev. Tillis Walley: Greetings in the name of the Lord, to the Zions Rest Free Will Baptist association. I humbly submit the following as my years work ending September 16, 1956. Churches pastored 1 half-time; members received 3; baptised 3; revivals 3; traveled 2,600 miles; received for pastoral work \$200.07; miscellaneous \$47.74; received for revivals \$120.75; grand total \$368.56.—Respectively Rev. Tillis Walley, Rt. 1, Richton.

Report of Rev. Cecil Walley. Greetings in the name of the Lord to the Zions Rest Free Will Baptist association. I beg you to accept this report of my years work, ending September 22, 1956. Sermons preached 19, money received \$39.85; miles traveled about 300. —Respectively, Rev. Cecil Walley.

Report of Rev. W. H. Henderson, Rt. 1, Richton, Miss. I humbly submit the following report of my year's work, ending September 22, 1956 to the Zions Rest Free Will Baptist association. Revivals 1; sermons preached about 15; miles traveled unknown, money received about \$26.21. —Respectively yours, W. H. Henderson.

Clerk's report on funds and disbursements accepted.

REPORT OF QUARTERLY MEETING

Letter from Quarterly meeting to the Zions Rest Free Will Baptist Association, convening with Corinth Church, Wayne County, September 21, 22, 1956.

We meet with you delegates to confer with you concerning our business, Bro. Hickman McLain, Bro. Tom Walley, and Sister Hazel Shows. Our business of the year of 1956: Bro. Erastus McLain or-

dained deacon from New Lovewell church; Bro. Claude Burges ordained deacon from Buckatunna church; Licensed Rev. Hardie Loper of Buckatunna church to preach the gospel for one year; Bro. Johnie Busby ordained deacon from Buckatunna church; Rev. W. M. Henderson ordained for minister to preach the gospel from New Lovewell church.

We send for association funds \$8.00.

Done by order of Quarterly meeting, July 23, 1956.

Rev. Cecil Walley, moderator,
Dave Palmer, clerk.

REPORT OF SUGGESTION COMMITTEE

1. We suggest that the convening of the association be changed to Friday and Saturday, before the 1st Sunday in October.

2. We suggest that this association purchase a memograph machine, for use of the association and each church, for religious purposes only.

3. We suggest that the ministers of this association have a meeting at least every three months, to discuss the welfare of the association, under the direction of the moderator.

4. We suggest that the present devotional committee be discharged, and we further suggest that the moderator appoint a three-member committee to serve for a program committee for the next association.

5. We suggest that the September Quarterly meeting be omitted.

6. We suggest that Rev. W. H. Henderson be our Sunday School Evangelist for the next year.

7. We suggest that the memograph machine be turned over to the Home Mission Board to decide where it should be stationed, and who should operate same.

8. We suggest that the Quarterly meeting meet with Buckatunna church in December; the second Quarterly meeting meet with Bethel church; third meet with Corinth church; fourth meet with Lees Chapel church.

9. We suggest that the association meet with New Lovewell church on Friday and Saturday before the first Sunday in October, 1957, Dave Palmer, chairman.

The moderator asked Rev. W. H. Henderson to make a short talk. Rev. Henderson made a wonderful talk that was deeply appreciated by all.

OBITUARY REPORT

The moderator called for a song in behalf of the departed loved one that was called from our midst. Song by choir, Precious Memories. Prayer by Rev. J. T. Quick.

We your committee on Obituary make our report. We regret

to report the passing away of our beloved sister, Mrs. Rubie Mozingo, who passed away Nov. 1, 1955. She was a member of County Line Church.

Rachel Walley, chairman,
Edith Hollis.

TEMPERANCE

We your committee on Temperance recommend that each church encourage their members and fellowmen to read and study the Bible more, be more temperate in their daily lives.

Van Walley, chairman,
Buddy Nowell,
Wyatt Dunnam.

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

All ministers found in good standing. We recommend that each minister be presented a certificate of standing for the next association year.

SUNDAY SCHOOL REPORT

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.

E. V. Raines, chairman,
Tom Walley,
Frank Henderson.

REPORT OF HOME MISSION BOARD

Partial report by Wyatt Dunnam accepted. Moved and seconded that the moderator appoint two members to check on price of memo-graph machine. Bro. Felton Hollifield and Sister Edith Hollis were appointed. Moved to adjourn the business until 1 p.m. and have an evangelistic service. Ten minutes recess. Dismissed by Rev. Cecil Walley.

Return for service. Song by choir, What A Friend We Have in Jesus, directed by Felton Hollifield. At this time the moderator introduced the speaker, Rev. Hardie Loper.

Rev. Loper took the stand and announced his text, St. Luke, 16th chapter, 19 verse, reading several verses. A great inspiring message was enjoyed by every one. Song by choir, Amazing Grace. Dismissed by Rev. W. H. Henderson. A refreshing lunch was enjoyed by all.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Song by choir, "Uncloudy Day". Prayer by Rev. J. T. Quick, moderator. At this time the moderator presented the certificates of standing to the ministers.

REPORT ON ORDER OF BUSINESS

We suggest that the Order of Business stay as it is at present.

We recommend that Article No. 3 in the Constitution be changed to read as follows: Each church of this body shall be considered an independent body, and shall control her own affairs in matters of discipline so long as she does not exercise authority over the association or the quarterly meeting.

We recommend that No. 8 in Rules of Decorum be changed to read as follows: No person shall be allowed to speak more than (10) ten minutes at a time nor more than twice on any one subject without the consent of the body.

The Committee.

Next the moderator appointed a program committee for the next association. Bro. E. V. Raines, Bro. Auston Conway, Bro. Johnie Busby.

REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE

On page 1 of minutes: Motion to grant the clerk permission to have some church letters printed when the minutes are printed.

Moved and seconded that we authorize Sister Edith Hollis to turn the Home Mission Funds over to Bro. Cleo Thomas.

We suggest that the association send messengers to the Northeast Mississippi Association, to investigate the possibilities of organizing a State association. Rev. Joe Conway volunteered to go. Moved and seconded that the moderator appoint two more to go. Rev. Tillis Walley and Rev. Hardie Loper were appointed to go.

CONGRATULATIONS REPORT

We wish to thank the members of Corinth Church for their respectful hospitality shown this association while convening with this church. Also for the courtesy shown the visitors and ministers of other faiths and order. May God's greatest blessings rest upon this church and community.

Lonnie Walley,
Rev. Joe Conway,
C. N. Henderson.

Moved and seconded to adjourn until next year. Friday and Saturday before first Sunday in October, 1957. Song by choir, "Oh, I Want To See Him", dismissed by Bro. Emmitt Raines.

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 so long as she does not exercise authority over the association or the quarterly meeting.

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 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 moderator.

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 10 minutes at a time, not more than twice on any one subject 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 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 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	Gladys Mae Sanderson	1-3	62	1	1	3	0
New Love Well	Rev. J. T. Quick	Jarma Lee Jones, Rt. 1, Richton	2-4	96	13	4	3	0
Lees Chapel	Not Elected	Mrs. Claiborne Holifield	2-4	58	1	2	3	0
County Line	Rev. Joe Conway	C. D. Dunnam, Rt. 2	2-4	20	4	0	3	1
Bethel	Rev. W. H. Henderson	Mamie Sigrest	1-3	54	3	0	3	0
Buckatunna	Rev. J. T. Quick	Mrs. Vermell Burges	1-3	15	1	0	2	0