

**PROCEEDINGS**  
**OF THE**  
**FIFTH ANNUAL SESSION**  
**OF THE**  
**SOUTH CAROLINA STATE ASSOCIATION**  
**OF**  
**ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCHES**

**HELD WITH**

Salem Church, near Coward, S. C.  
November 13-14, 1947

The next Session will be held with Oak Grove Church  
Number One, near Conway, S. C., November 18-19, 1948.  
Rev. J. T. Sinclair to preach the Introductory Sermon.

## OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

President ..... Rev. L. A. Holliday  
 Vice President ..... Rev. Paul Shehan  
 Secretary ..... Rev. H. J. Sawyer  
 Reading Clerk ..... Mr. Loyd Cole  
 Treasurer ..... Rev. Sheldon Bullard

### EXECUTIVE BOARD

Rev. M. H. Mellette, Turbeville, S. C. .... 1952  
 Rev. M. S. Todd, Rt. 3, Lake City, S. C. .... 1951  
 Rev. J. A. Hucks, Rt. 3, Conway, S. C. .... 1950  
 Mr. F. A. Sawyer, Boy 144, Arcadia, S. C. .... 1949  
 Rev. T. A. Williams, Rt. 2, Hemingway, S. C. .... 1948

### BOARD of TRUSTEES

Rev. Paul Shehan ..... 1952  
 Mr. J. E. Thigpen ..... 1951  
 Mr. Julius Vause ..... 1950  
 Mr. J. G. Williams ..... 1949  
 Mr. G. W. Shelby ..... 1948

### FIELD SECRETARIES

Orphanage Work ..... Rev. J. A. Hucks  
 Christian Education ..... Rev. M. H. Mellette  
 Home and Foreign Missions ..... Rev. H. J. Sawyer  
 Missions Treasurer ..... Rev. H. J. Sawyer

The next Session will be held with Oak Grove Church  
 Number 1, near Conway, S. C., November 18-19, 1948.

Rev. J. T. Sinclair to preach the Introductory Sermon.

## MODERATOR'S MESSAGE

Brother ministers, delegates, and visitors, we're now entering into our fifth year as a State Association of The Original Free Will Baptists of South Carolina.

We cannot boast of many years of service or of great achievements as a State Association because our State Organization is just a babe. Four years ago we attempted to organize by this name, and I feel that we are actually yet trying to perfect that organization.

These four years have been fraught with many hardships and disadvantages. We know that many of these have been caused by the war, but not all of them. This worthy undertaking has been tremendously hindered by gross neglect and indifference on the part of some Free Will Baptists. This has probably been our greatest hindrance. In spite of all our obstacles, I am happy to observe that we have made progress; for this I humbly thank our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

We may find courage in the fact that God has in His great wisdom, seen fit to use what at the time may have appeared discouraging and even doubtful, as a means toward an end. I have found much consolation in this truth because of experiences through which I am passing at this time. In fact, this message is being written in the hospital beside the bed of my wife who is a patient here for the third time in the last nine weeks, and I have been here for one week at the same time. I do believe that "All things work together for good to them that love the Lord". The word of God says so, and I believe every word of that Book.

I believe we have in this gathering a fair representation of Progressive Free Will Baptists of this State. I want to emphasize that word PROGRESSIVE. Personally, I can't see how any believer can be any other way, but we have far too many people in our church who have no vision beyond their own community and not much there. Progress is an essential element of the Christian Religion, and we know from Acts that the New Testament Church was a progressive body of believers. Doctrinally, we are the New Testament Church. We can afford to say AMEN to that; but let us go a little farther. We know that the New Testament Church was a Spirit-fill-

ed Church, and as such, it became a church with a zeal for missions. It was a studious church. They studied to show themselves "approved unto God". The early church was liberal as is seen in the first chapters of Acts. We know that the early church was a soul winning church. We certainly want to emulate their worthy example and to do this, we must be led by Christ.

A few years ago we heard of a few colleges (most of them in the north) that had on their faculty those that denied the very fundamentals of Christianity. Today, it is very difficult to find schools that are not contaminated with this Hellish stuff that we call modernism. Free Will Baptists want to be able to offer our prospective ministerial students a place of training that is free from this "Devilution" theory, a place where modernism cannot make its inroads. Free Will Baptists must remain fundamental if we're to please the Lord. We are fortunate in having a representative from our Bible College present this cause to this Body.

Missions have been referred to as belonging to the Apostolic Church. We cannot place too much emphasis on this part of our program. We have a representative present who will report on this phase of our work. I hope that this body will take definite action and consider recommendations that may be offered. Missions are inseparable from the Christian Religion, and Gospel literally means "Good News". Christ expects us to spread that "Good News". We should make plans for a Home Mission program that would establish churches where we are not known. Brethren, we need action here and now.

To have a Bible College, a program for Home and Foreign Missions, a plan of Superannuation, etc., We must have people who are willing to give the Lord what is His. We have some pastors who fail to preach and teach giving to their people - they treat the subject as though it had no place in the program of the church. You might as well be guilty of failing to teach people to pray as fail to teach them to give for both are taught in the Bible. Pastors, it is our job to teach our people to worship God with their tithes and offerings. We cannot run a church without money.

We have present at this meeting a delegation from our Ladies' Work. I want to officially welcome them

and invite them to join us in this great work that lies out before Free Will Baptists everywhere.

Christian women have played a great part in helping in every worthy undertaking of our great denomination. Ladies, we need your help badly. We extend the Macedonian call "Come over and help us".

Our National Work is very encouraging and we find that the National Association of Free Will Baptists is a progressive movement among our people. It was a spiritual feast to have attended the session held in Detroit, Michigan last July. We will have further reports from this body.

I conclude this message as your servant with this urgent appeal to the Free Will Baptists of South Carolina - those in attendance upon this message and those who will read it.

Let us go forward in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ until He shall come back to earth for His Church.

L. A. Holliday  
President S. C. State Ass'n.  
Manning, S. C.

---

## PROCEEDINGS

The Fifth Annual Session of the South Carolina State Association of Original Free Will Baptists was called to order at 10 a.m. November 13, 1947 by Rev. L. A. Holliday, President, who asked to be excused to attend a funeral. He was excused.

The devotions were conducted by Salem Church with song, and prayer by Rev. Paul Jenkins.

The Welcome Address was given by the host Pastor, Rev. M. H. Mellette.

The Response by Rev. Paul Shehan, Vice President of the Association.

The Introductory Sermon was preached by Rev. A. F. Lawter, who read in 2 Kings 6:1-7. Subject, "The borrowed axe".

Lunch was served on the church yard at 12 o'clock.

## THURSDAY AFTERNOON

Opened with singing after which Rev. M. S. Todd led in prayer.

Visitors welcomed and given seats in our Association were: Rev. and Mrs. Maurice W. Roach, Rev. Paul Jenkins, and Rev. Wade Calvert all of N. C.; also Rev. L. C. Coats of Cheraw, S. C.

It was explained that by virtue of his calling and residence in S. C., Rev. Coats is considered a member of the State Ass'n.

Committees were appointed as follows:

### FINANCE—

Bro. Jim Thigpen, Rev. J. A. Hucks, and Rev. A. F. Lawter.

### RESOLUTION—

Rev. J. A. Hucks, Rev. J. B. Olliver, and Rev. A. F. Lawter.

Rev. M. H. Mellette was re-elected as Chairman of the Executive Board for a period of five years. Rev. M. S. Todd for a period of four years.

Rev. Paul Shehan was elected on the Board of Trustees for a period of five years.

Rev. M. H. Mellette was elected Secretary of Christian Education for one year.

Rev. H. J. Sawyer was elected Secretary-Treasurer of Home and Foreign Missions for one year.

Reports were called for and read as follows:

### Beaver Creek Ass'n.—

Located in Spartanburg, Union, York, and Lancaster Counties, send the following delegates to sit with you in council: Bro. F. A. Sawyer and Bro. Lee McSwain.

We have 9 churches with a combined membership a year ago, 367; present, 494. We have 10 ordained ministers and 5 licensed ministers.

Paid for pastors' salaries .....	\$6,550.57
Paid for revivals .....	1,209.89
For Home and Foreign Missions .....	422.16
Building & Repairs .....	4,230.46
We send for Ass'n. expenses .....	13.00
Home Missions .....	125.00

Total .....	\$12,428.08
Balance in Treasury .....	357.35
Value of church property .....	\$30,700.00

Moderator, Rev. J. C. Franks, Black Mountain, S. C.  
 Clerk, Rev. A. F. Lawter, Box 20F, Lockhart, S. C.  
 Ministers present from Beaver Creek Ass'n.  
 Rev. Carl Wright, Rev. J. M. White, Rev. A. F. Lawter, Rev. Paul Shehan, and Rev. H. J. Sawyer.

### Central Ass'n.—

We send delegates, Rev. M. S. Todd and Bro. L. L. Cole.

We have 8 churches with a combined membership of about 400.

We have 8 ordained ministers and 2 licensed ministers.

Total paid out during the year:

Pastors salaries, \$486.38; for building and repair, \$2,272.75; for Orphanage, \$139.83; for Evangelists, \$135.00; Home and Foreign Missions, \$319.60; Radio Broadcast, \$154.59; Ass'n. expenses, \$5.00. Total, \$3,358.50.

Oak Grove Church No. 1 sent a nice report; delegates, Bro. R. B. Jones and Bro. Aubrey Singleton. Ass'n. expenses, \$5.00.

Ministers present from Central Ass'n.: Rev. J. A. Hucks, Rev. H. E. Powell, Rev. Malcomb Harrelson, and Rev. M. S. Todd.

### Eastern Conference—

Represented by Bro. Tracy Williams, Bro. J. G. Williams, and Rev. Arthur Williams.

Both Rev. Arthur Williams and Bro. J. G. Williams gave verbal reports on conditions in the conference and pledged their whole-hearted support to the work of the State Association.

A very fine report was received from St. Johns Church of Florence County, member of Eastern Conference. (Note we gave the figures in this letter because this is the only church representing from the Eastern Conference).

Delegate, Bro. Lonie Tanner.

Paid pastor, \$195.41; Visiting ministers and evangelists, \$117.75; Missions, \$40.00; church repair & expenses,

es, \$166.00, Charity, \$30.00; other expenses, \$41.21. Total, \$585.37. Receipts, \$590.37. Balance, \$5.00. We send \$5.00 for Association expenses.

The Eastern Conference has a total membership of about 330. Rev. Arthur Williams was the only minister present from this Conference.

#### South Carolina Conference—

We, the South Carolina Conference, send the following brethren as delegates to your body: Bro. Fred Powers, Bro. Walker Miles, and Bro. B. L. Evans.

We have a combined membership of 2,494. We have had a net gain of 117 members this year.

We have paid our pastors a total of \$5,622.06 for services rendered. We have raised a total of \$15,585.56 which has been spent for repair of churches, Charity, missions, and Education.

We send \$100 for Education, \$75 for Home Missions, and \$10.00 for Ass'n. expenses. We desire the prayers of this body that we may ever abide in the will of God as revealed in His word.

S. C. Conference Churches sending a contribution and delegates were as follows:

Lebanon— Ass'n. expenses, \$5.00; Education, \$5.00.

Bulah— Ass'n. expenses, \$5.00; Education, \$100.00.

Tabernacle— Ass'n. expenses, \$5.50; Home Missions, \$5.00; Education, \$5.00.

Bethany— Ass'n. expenses, \$5.00.

Sand Hill— Ass'n. expenses, \$5.00; Education, \$5.00.

Darlington— Ass'n. expenses, \$5.00; Education, \$5.00.

Hores Branch— Ass'n. expenses, \$5.00; Education, \$100.00.

Salem— Ass'n. expenses, \$5.00; Education, \$100.00.

(Note, Next year a blank will be mailed to each church on which to send the name of the delegate).

Ministers present from the South Carolina Conference were as follows:

Rev. J. B. Olliver, Rev. E. P. Kirby, Rev. L.V. Matthews, Rev. M. H. Mellette, Rev. Sheldon Bullard, Rev. Clyde Hyman, Rev. Lowel Hyman, and Rev. L. A. Holliday.

Report of St. John's Church, Chesterfield County, S. C. a member of a Conference in North Carolina.

Delegates, Gilbert Mclean, Harold Mclean, Earley

Gainy, and J. W. Melean Jr.

State of religion, good; members received in past year, 2; members lost - by death, 2; present membership, 87; a good Sunday School with an average attendance of 65. Paid pastor, \$396.00; paid Evangelist, \$108.00; for building and repair, \$313. We send for Ass'n. expenses, \$10.00.

Pastor, Rev. Steve English, Rockingham, N. C.

Clerk, Miss Dorothy Mclean, Rt. 2, Patrick, S. C.

Other ministers in our church are: Rev. L. C. Coats, Cheraw, S. C. and Rev. G. W. Huesters, Patrick, S.C.

At this time a fine talk on Ladies' Aid Work by Mrs. M. H. Mellette was enjoyed by all, and the report from the Ladies' Aid Work in the South Carolina Conference given by Mrs. Willey Johnston shows that the Ladies in that Conference have been very active indeed.

Mrs. Lee Poston of the Eastern Conference gave a good verbal report on the Ladies Aid Work in their churches and pledged her support to the efforts being made to establish a state wide organization of the Ladies Aid Work.

The Pastors in other Associations also promised to do all they can to bring about such an organization.

At 3 p.m. our beloved President, Rev. L. A. Holliday, brought his message which was greatly enjoyed by all. (Note - This message appears elsewhere in the Minute.)

Report on Christian Education by Rev. M. H. Mellette.

Rev. Mellette also made some very timely remarks concerning legalized whiskey and the divorce, two questions which are very much in the news in our state today.

Adjourned until Friday morning.

#### THURSDAY NIGHT SERVICE

The missionary service Thursday evening was indeed one of the most impressive I have ever attended. We were fortunate in securing Rev. and Mrs. Maurice W. Roach of Durham, N. C. for this service.

The sermon was delivered by Rev. Roach in a very able manner using the subject, "What have I done for Christ", followed by Sis. Roach who presented the cause in a flannel board program. Surely any of our folk who had not been contributing to this great work were

deeply touched, and those who have been supporting missions were glad to have attended this wonderful service.

An offering for Foreign Missions was taken amounting to \$34.00.

### FRIDAY MORNING

Devotions led by Rev. R. N. Hinent, Secretary of N. C. State Association.

Singing by congregation followed by prayer led by Rev. W. L. Moretz, also of N. C.

Since Rev. Paul Shehan, Vice President, had taken ill and left and President, Rev. L. A. Holliday was delayed because of his wife's illness, Rev. J. B. Olliver was elected Temporary Moderator.

The following visitors were noted and welcomed to seats in our body.

From N. C. - Rev. J. A. Evans, Rev. M. L. Johnson, Rev. R. N. Hinent, Rev. J. C. Moye, and Rev. W. L. Moretz; from Nashville, Tenn., Rev. Henry Melvin, Business Manager of the Free Will Baptist Bible College.

Rev. Henry Melvin gave a very encouraging report on the work of the Bible College and especially on contributions from this state.

According to his report, our state needs only \$125.19 to have our quota paid for the year 1947. (Note - Since \$412.25 was sent to the State Association for the school by our churches and this amount turned over to Bro. Melvin, we have exceeded our quota by \$287.06.

Rev. Seldon Bullard made a financial report on Home Missions as follows:

In Treasury .....	\$394.79
Received at this session .....	205.00
Total in Treasury .....	\$599.79

### ELEVEN O'CLOCK SERVICE

The eleven o'clock devotional sermon was preached by Rev. J. A. Hucks who brought a fine doctrinal sermon using as his scripture, the second Chapter of Acts.

### FRIDAY AFTERNOON

Devotional message by Rev. T. A. Williams who brought a good, short message which was greatly enjoyed by all.

Rev. E. P. Kirby, Field Worker for the Home Missions Board, reported that he worked five weeks, visiting several churches.

Report of Resolution Committee was called for and the following resolutions were presented.

Whereas, we, the South Carolina State Association, feel the need of expansion in our work in the state, we offer the following recommendations:

1. We recommend a continuation of our Home Mission work;
2. We recommend that our Executive Committee employ the most competent and capable worker available and that he be secured on a part time basis.

3. That this person be paid a weekly salary of \$45.00 for an actual 7 day week spent in Home Mission work or the amount of \$7.00 daily for any part of a week.

However, we further recommend that in no case should his salary exceed 50% of the amount collected for the Home Mission cause.

4. That this Evangelist be expected to conduct revival services in places where there is a prospect of organizing Free Will Baptist Churches, and with all funds raised by him to be turned over to the Treasurer on the Home Mission Board who in turn will pay him.

This resolution was passed by the body.

Also a resolution authorizing the Executive Committee to buy a tent when there is sufficient funds on hand.

Whereas, The National Association of the Original Free Will Baptists in session last July in Detroit Michigan adopted a resolution designating the Month of March, 1948 as National Revival Month in our denomination, we recommend that all Pastors in our state endeavor to conduct a revival in their church during the month of March, and if they find it difficult to complete in March, continue into April.

—adopted.

Realizing the threat and destruction that a divorce

law would have on the sanity and sacred privileges of the home which is the foundation of life; also that the Biblical injunction for the separation of man and wife is already protected by the constitution of our state now, therefore, be it resolved by our State Association of Original Free Will Baptist Churches of South Carolina now in session, that we implore the Senate to kill outright the House Joint Resolution submitting liberal causes for divorce in this state; and that the Clerk be instructed to present said resolution to the Senate at its next setting.  
—adopted.

Realizing the dangerous effects and influences of intoxicating drinks upon the health, morals, finances and happiness, and especially its influence against the spiritual life of our people, we would request the General assembly of our state to at least give to the sovereign people of our state the right to express themselves through the ballot on the legal sale of intoxicating drinks.

We believe that its sale and the revenue obtained therefrom to be an indictment against our liberties and a reproach to generations yet unborn. Our Clerk is hereby instructed to submit this resolution to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and to the President of the Senate.  
—adopted.

Committee— Rev. J. A. Hucks, Rev. J. B. Oliver, and Rev. A. F. Lawter.

At this time it was made known that a revision committee, composed of members from the several states, were soon to meet for the purpose of revising the Treatise, and our President, Rev. L. A. Holliday, and Rev. Seldon Bullard were selected to represent our state in this work.

Mr. Fred Powers was chosen as a delegate from our State Association to the National Association next July.

Report of the Finance Committee.

We, your committee, report the following:

Received

For Christian Education ..... \$412.25

For Home Missions .....	205.00
For Ass'n expenses .....	70.50
Carried forward .....	102.00

We recommend that we contribute \$15.00 out of the expense fund to Rev. and Mrs. Roach for their expenses in coming to us to present the mission program.

We recommend that the Secretary receive \$40.00 for his services and that \$30.00 be sent to the National Association Expense Fund.

We recommend the printing of 1,000 copies of the minutes, provided the cost of printing is no more than \$70.00; in the event it is more, that we get what we can for the \$70.00.

We also recommend that \$30.00 be raised to help pay the expenses of our delegate to the National Association.

Committee— J. A. Huckh, A. F. Lawter, and J. E. Thigpen.

—Accepted, and the amount of \$14.75 was collected making out the above mentioned \$30.00.

The business of this Session being completed, Salem Church, its pastor, and the surrounding community were given a rising vote of thanks for the splendid way they have entertained the Association.

A move to adjourn was passed, and thus the fifth and most progressive session of our State Association became history.

Let us meet again Nov. 18-19, 1948 with even better reports and expect great things from the Lord.

Rev. L. A. Holliday, President  
Manning, S. C.

Rev. H. J. Sawyer, Secretary  
Box 283, Rock Hill, S. C.

## PROGRAM FOR 1948 SESSION

THUSDAY NOV. 18

- 10:00 a.m. — Devotions by Oak Grove Church.  
 10:15 " — Address of Welcome by Rev. J. A. Hucks.  
 10:20 " — Response by Bro. Walker Miles of Coward, S. C.  
 10:30 " — Moderator's Message.  
 10:50 " — Welcoming of Visitors.  
 10:55 " — Appointment of Committees.  
 11:10 " — Introductory sermon by Rev. J. T. Sinclair.  
 12:00 Noon. — Lunch.  
 1:30 p.m. — Devotion conducted by \_\_\_\_\_  
 140 " — Enrollment of delegates and ministers.  
 2:10 " — Report on Christian Education by Rev. M. H. Mellette.  
 2:25 " — Report on Orphanage work by Rev. J. A. Hucks.  
 2:40 " — Report on Ladies' Aid Work by Mrs. Wiley Johnston.  
 2:55 " — Report, and sermon on Missions by Rev. Winford Davis.  
 4:00 " — Election of officers.  
 4:30 " — Round table discussion on needs of our organization by Rev. F. G. Ard.  
 4:55 " — Announcements.  
 5:00 " — Adjournment until 7:30 p.m.  
 7:30 ' — Devotions by local church.  
 8:00 " — Sermon by Rev. Paul Shehan.

### FRIDAY

- 9:00 a.m. — Devotions conducted by .....  
 9:15 " — Talk on Sunday School work by Bro. J. G. Williams.  
 9:30 " — Report on work of the National Association by Bro. Fred Powers.  
 9:45 " — Short talks by chance visitors from other states.  
 10:00 " — Resolutions.

—14—

- 10:30 " — Unfinished business.  
 11:00 " — Sermon on Christian Education by Rev. M. H. Mellette.  
 12:00 Noon — Lunch.  
 1:30 p.m. — Devotions by Rev. L. P. Brown.  
 1:40 " — Sermon by Rev. Malcomb Hanelson.  
 2:10 " — Invitations for next session.  
 2:20 " — Report of Finance Committee.  
 2:30 " — Report of Home Mission Treasurer.  
 2:35 " — General business.  
 — Adjournment.

### CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE ASSOCIATION OF ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTISTS CONSTITUTION

*Preamble:* We, the officials, ministers, and delegates, members of this the South Carolina State Association of Original Free Will Baptists, while in session at Una Church, Spartanburg, South Carolina, November 13-14, 1946, do accept and adopt the foregoing constitution and by-laws:

Article One: This body shall be known henceforth as the South Carolina State Association of Original Free Will Baptists.

Article Two. It shall be the purpose of this organization to cooperate with the National Association in its efforts to elicit, combine, and direct the energies of the Free Will Baptist Church, for the promotion of Home and Foreign Missions, Christian Education, Sunday School, Free Will Baptist League, and Ladies Auxiliary Work, and for the extension of the kingdom of God in general.

Article Three. Section One. This Association shall consist of delegates duly appointed or elected by the church or organization to represent, and ordained and licensed Free Will Baptist Ministers, who are of good repute in the Original Free Will Baptist Church, and who reside in South Carolina, or hold member-

—15—





