

MINUTES

Thirty Fourth Annual Session of Great Lakes
Association of F.W.B. Churches
Sterling F.W.B. Church, Sterling

May 18, 1996

The 34th Annual Session was called to order by Moderator, Rev. Bruce Beal

Congregational Singing - He Lives

Prayer - Rev. Jim McComas

Session Welcome - Rev. Jim McComas

Visitors Recognized - Rev. Paul Jerrell, Smithville New Hope Baptist Church,
former Pastor Sterling Church.

Roll Call of Churches and Ministers: Four conference churches were recognized,
along with their Ministers, Deacons, Delegates, and visitors.

Congregational Singing - Victory In Jesus

Devotion - Acts 9:23, "Who Is The "Paul" In Your Basket?" - Rev. Jim McComas

Oral Reports of Churches:

1. Akron F.W.B. Church - In the absence of Rev. Ken Frisbee, Bro Ron Bauman gave the report. Bro Ron reported that he was glad to be here this morning; and that our delegation numbered 8 people. The Lord has been blessing our church. We have had several decisions made recently. We have seen an increase in the number of young adults coming to our church. Our real young people have also been coming in greater number and we continue to reach out to the parents of these young people in an effort to win them over to the Lord. Pastor Frisbee is attending the Heritage Home Missions Tour in New Hampshire, and will be preaching a service there at the grave site of the Northern F.W.B. founder, Benjamin Randall. We look forward to hearing the reports of this meeting when he returns. We pray for continued decisions for the Lord in our services, and overall the Lord has been blessing us real well.

2. Dailyville F.W.B. Church - In the absence of Rev. Carl Dunn, Bro Charles Rapp gave the report. Bro Rapp reported that our church is doing well. At our annual meeting, Matt Dunn was hired as Youth Director. This is Bro Carl's youngest son, and he does a tremendous job with our young people. The Pastor has been teaching a series of lessons on the Tabernacle. We have just completed the erecting of a new light and sign. We were privileged to have Dr. Ken Eagleton, in our missionary service in April. I was amazed about his report on the very faithfulness of his people on the mission field.

3. Sterling F.W.B. Church - Bro Jim McComas gave the report. We have been praying and struggling and Austintown has passed us up, but we're not jealous of that, we're happy and thrilled that they passed us up, and are in their building, but I think the Lord does things in his time, and truly it was not time, but now it is, and the Lord has really been working. We have accomplished more in the last two months than we have in the last two years in our building program. It just seems like that the Lord has said that it is now time. One of the things that we had been struggling and praying about was getting this building sold, because financially it was a real worry to us due to the fact that there are churches that have sat around this area for years and have not sold, and two churches have just recently sold, one in Rittman sold for around \$30,000, and a church in West Salem, close here, sold for \$32,000, and our building is out here in the middle of nowhere, has been on the market for only a couple of months, and the owner of a trucking

company here locally, and if you'd ask him why he bought a church, he'd tell you he didn't know why he bought it, but he bought our church. It is closed, we have the money, and there's no way he can get out of it now, it's done and over with, and we got \$65,000 for it. Many told us that due to the location of the church, we'd never get \$20,000 for it. We just praise the Lord, that was a real blessing. We now have about \$100,000 in hand. A couple of years ago we applied to Home Missions, and they reported they didn't have any money, and this past year Richard Adams called back and said, "how much money do you need?", and the Home Missions board just met and it was just approved for up to \$200,000, if we need it, so our financial needs are completely taken care of for the building. Our church will be patterned after the Austintown church, with some changes we made to it, and those plans are done. I just got a call from the septic man and everything is O.K. with that and the EPA. We have also tried to keep ourselves committed to our church work here, it's important that we keep our minds on our work here at this church. God has tremendously blessed us. Easter Sunday we had several saved. We have just come through revival. We did not advertise it, but our church was filled every night, and last night a young husband we have been praying for for a long time came at invitation and gave his life to the Lord. It makes it all worthwhile, and so we're all on cloud nine and thank the Lord for what he doing for us.

4. ~~Austintown~~ ^{Austintown} First F.W.B. Church Bro Bruce Beal gave the report. We're happy to have Brother Jarvis McCoy with us, he is one of the senior members of this conference. As far as our church is concerned, we got in our building on December 10, 1995. We had our dedication service. The school where we were conducting service was eating us alive as far as costs. We dedicated the building on Sunday, January 28, 1996, with the largest number in attendance that we have ever had, with 234 in attendance. We hadn't expected anything like that. We ended up filling up the sanctuary, and propped the doors open in the foyer, and set chairs out straight back out the foyer for people to set, and it was a thrill and a blessing to see that on that day. Since that time the Lord has continued to give us increase and Lord willing this coming Sunday night, we will baptize 18 people. In my life I never thought I would get the opportunity to baptize that many. It just seems like God has been having something new and he hasn't let me down yet. I go into the church each Sunday morning and I go into each classroom and pray with them that God would give us more students in each classroom, and He's doing it. I told them last night that we're praying that there are many in Austintown that need a church, and we pray that God would put us together, and God is doing that. He is filling the church. I'm thankful for the people he is bringing in because they are committed. They are not just "bloomed" every once in a while. They are there every single week, evening services as well. So, God is giving us good people. I thank the Lord for the relationship that me and Bro Jim have been able to build over the working together with the plans for our churches these past two years. We have been encouraging each other. I get excited when I see what is going on in Sterling, and in our other churches. When I looked in the Ambassador magazine and see how our conference churches had so many saved on Roll Call Sunday. We are probably the smallest conference as far as number of churches, but we are one of the strongest conferences as far as God's anointing upon our churches. And I'm thrilled to be a part of the Great Lakes conference, and what God is doing. I can't thank him enough. The growth of our church and the numbers that are being saved, I want as Pastor to be able to stay on top of it, so that I can channel those new saved ones into the proper area of service, so that we don't lose them. If we don't stay on top of it discipling them, and channeling them into a place of service, we're missing the point, and we don't want to lose that. As a Pastor I want to stay on top of it, keep them disciplined, keep the faithful, and I believe that we'll continue to move ahead. Pray for us.

In the fall we ^{ARE} planning to start a new ministry for our young people. A Bible Club. I call it Clubhouse Ministry. It's a different type of ministry. It's Wesleyan based, which a lot of them were eternal security, and we are not, and so this is a good program, and we're going to be bringing that in on Wednesday night, pray for us as we do that. Our church voted in its last business meeting to pay into the coop. We had been doing it some long time ago, but for some reason got away from it; we have to share, it doesn't have to all stay in Austintown. We must share with other people with what God has blessed us with, and so I am thankful as a pastor to see this going on. It seems like 9 years we've waited to see things happen. Me and my wife in 1987, and on roll call Sunday we had 16 people after we had pledged and worked and I was glad we had the 16 people. But God has honored it and we're starting to see some fruits of the labor and I thank God for it. Pray that we'll stay faithful, stay on track. You can get your eyes on so many good things, but lose sight of the main thing, that of reaching people for Jesus Christ. We thank God for the opportunity to serve Him. And thank God for being a member of this Conference.

M/S/C to accept the Oral Reports of the Churches.

The Prayer of Consecration was given by Bro Larry Keener.

M/S/C to accept the reading of the Minutes of the October 21, 1995, Conference Meeting.

M/S/C to accept the Treasurer's Report as read by the Clerk.

M/S/C to accept the Ministerial Meeting Report that was given by Bro McComas.

M/S/C to accept the Woman's Auxiliary Report that was given by Sister Katheryn Rapp.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

M/S/C to accept the delegates appointed to the State Convention.

Prayer: Bro Jeff Hackworth

Songs: In The Garden - Sister Shirley Morrison
Rock Of Ages - Sister Genevieve Bundy, accompanied by Sister Grace Beal
My God Forgets - Sister Illene Bauman

Announcements: Bro Jim McComas wanted it made part of the record that "Under the adept leadership of Bro Bruce Beal, and, that there we no commercials from Pastor Ken Frisbee, this meeting was more "on time" than any other conference meeting."

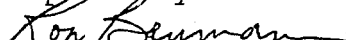
MESSAGE: "Taking Time" ^{TEXT} Eph. 5:14, & I Tim. 4:16 - Rev. Larry Keener

Song of Invitation: Just As I Am, sang by Congregation.

Benediction, and Prayer over meal: Bro Jarvis McCoy.

Meeting Adjourned. A wonderful lunch was served by the ladies of the Sterling F.W.B. church, with a warm fellowship enjoyed by all who were in attendance.

Respectfully submitted:


Ron Bauman, Clerk

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MINUTES

Thirty Fourth Annual Session of The Great Lakes
Association of Original Free Will Baptists of Ohio
First F.W.B. Church, Austintown, Ohio
October 19, 1996

The 34th Semi-Annual Session of the Great Lakes Association of Original Free Will Baptists of Ohio was called to order by our Moderator, Rev. Bruce Beal.

Congregational Singing - Revive Us Again led by Pastor Ken Frisbee

Prayer - Rev. Talo Teo

Session Welcome - Rev. Bruce Beal

Recognition of Visitors - Rev. Bruce Beal. Among our visitor's were Rev. John Christman, Father-In-Law to Rev. Tommy Jones, Rev. Talo Teo, First FWB Church of Zanesville, and Rev. Herman Hersey, past Director of FWB Retirement Board in Nashville.

Roll Call of Churches and Ministers: Four conference churches were recognized, along with their Ministers, Deacons, Delegates, and visitors.

Devotions - LU 12:13-21, "The Eye Factor" - Rev. Tommy Jones

Oral Reports of Churches:

1. Akron F.W.B. Church - Bro Kenneth Frisbee gave the report. I can tell you the Lord has been blessing, and that's what we ought to be able to say. And, he's going to continue to bless as we continue to follow the Lord Jesus Christ. He's been gracious to us; we've not been winning as many people to the Lord, as we did in the past, but that does not mean that we're not winning some to the Lord, and thank God for that. The Lord is moving, blessing, supplying every need, and thank God for it. And, I trust that he'll continue to be a blessing as we work under His direction, as we go into the community. We've started in the last month something; we've visited thousand's of homes; there's not a home in our community, nowhere, that the door has not been knocked on; and it's been three times in the last six or eight weeks that we have taken a van load of people and gone into a section near our church and passed out flyers, and that is flyer not flower; one little boy in Bible School he thought I was giving out flowers, and he said to Miss Frisbee, when is the preacher giving those flowers out, and she said what Honey?, and he said well the Pastor said he's givin' out flowers today, and I want my flowers, and she said Honey, he meant a piece of paper with all the things we're going to do on Friday; we're going to have hot dogs and all that stuff, and he said, "Oh, I wanted a flower, but this is a flyer that's got all the information on it. Last Sunday, we had two families, possibly three out of the community where we visited, and the ladies and fellows last Saturday morning, we had a breakfast; Brother Harold Jaynes, one of the best cooks in the country, had bisquets, and sausege gravy, and potatoes for the Northerners, and tators for the Southerners, and we just had a great time, and then a van load of us went into the community and what a joy it is; you don't know what it does; you've been at a church 35 and a half years, and you still got a van load of people going knocking on doors, it is a thrilling blessing. It blessed my heart and God blessed and gave us some new people last Sunday morning. So, thank God for what he's a doin, and I praise Him today. He's wonderful! To know Him is to love him; to love Him is to serve Him. Then let me encourage you to pray for us pray that God will use us. You know sometimes if we're not careful we get complacent. That means you get lazy. That word complacent means you know, it sounds a little better than lazy. But that's the same word as lazy, in the eyes of the Lord. Help us God, that we don't get lazy on God, that we keep on preaching; I said to the preachers awhile ago that I had a privilege to preach last year by Benjamin Randall's grave; and what a joy and thrill it was; one of the greatest thrills of my ministry, to be there and to preach and feel the presence of God almighty. On that mountain, I never got such a blessing. Everybody there was a blessing. And some ol' boys, that you know are used to being around when the fear of God hit, got a little happy and throwed up their hands and clapped them, and hollered glory, and we just had an old fashioned camp meeting,

out on the mountain. But I want to tell you I'm still preaching what we started. Preach free will, free grace, and free salvation. And I'm saying to all of our preachers, these young preachers, I want to be a help and I want to be an example, to them, and let's keep that there, Free Will Baptists believe in free will, free grace, and free salvation. That's the original bunch of us, believe that. What a joy so let's keep it up. May God bless you. What a joy to be here in this church. Isn't it a beautiful church? Praise the Lord. Bless you Pastor Beal.

2. Canaan F.W.B. Church - Bro Jim McComas gave the report. It was almost a year ago that I drove out here and Brother Gordon was here and they were building here, and I had a set of plans for the building that we thought we were going to build. And, I sat down with him that day, and he told what he thought it was going to cost to build, and he basically told us that we were out of our minds, and after that I drove back home, and that was the longest drive, and the most discouraging time I ever had. I told the pastor's I didn't know how I was going to back to the board and start all over again, and, you know God does things in his time. And a year ago there were so many things that seemed impossible that we could build, we had our land first, and then we seen Brother Bruce sail right past us, we were praying that what Brother Hersey was saying last night that we were praying for the wicked; and blessings for the wicked, but a we had to sell our building, we were told we couldn't sell it, that if we sold it we wouldn't get anything out of it, the Lord blessed that in January, we came back here, to look at this building in completion, and we felt that it was something that we could pattern our building after this one, and we started in January, with an eight point plan to get into a new building by the end of this year. And, there was a lot of things that had to be done, to get us to that point, but our exisiting building did sell, it sold, we ended up with \$65,000, when they told us we wouldn't get \$20,000, for it. That is where we were when we reported in May, '96. They said it was going to take six months to a year to get an EPA permit, 6 weeks after we submitted it, we had the EPA permit for our septic system. Then we did have to leave our old building. We were meeting with another church. They were meeting after us, and we kind of switched our services times around, and it really was impossible situation. We even had a sign out front where we would change our service times twice, and it was a nightmare for a church to have to do this. People didn't even know we were there. They were driving by and not know we were there. But our attendance held all the way through the time that we were in there. The end of September, '96, the last Sunday, was our last Sunday in the old building. It was a very emotional time, for a lot of us. We had really good services, but what I really appreciate was the church; it couldn't have been better timing, my wife and I were talking to Bruce and his wife last night, and about that last service in the building on Sunday night, the church had Pastor appreciation in with it, and when you are going right into a building program, boy it was just a great move for us to experience that, but we went into this school, the first Sunday in October and I was terrified, staying up at night, had an ulcer, wondering if we were going to lose everybody, that nobody was going to go over there, bleachers in the Jr. High School made for the bodies of the Jr. High kids, but the first Sunday, we had classes, we went down through all the classes, and all the kids were just like it was just made for it. It was a real blessing. The first Sunday, we had 104 in attendance, and then I went home and said well nobody is going to come back seeing it was so uncomfortable, and the next Sunday came and we had 6 first time visitors, and we had 112 in attendance. The Lord has been so good, and ~~were~~ ^{was} there in the school. Brother Gordon and the crew are over at the new site right now as we speak, from Missouri, they will be there tonight, and will be in service with us in the morning. And we start actually building, the foundations is already set, It'll be

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this building (meaning Austintown). Our sanctuary will be different. Instead of plaster wall, it will go all the way back. Plus some other things that we did differently, but we tried not to be jealous of Bruce and the Austintown church. We do have a change in the name. It will be the Caanan F.W.B. Church. I'm thankful for the Conference, and I'm thankful for the encouragement of the Pastor's, you know we've got a good mix; we got the more seasoned veterfn and then Brother Bruce, that we've been able to share together the cryin' on each other's shoulder's, but the pastor's have been great, and I'm just proud of all of our F.W.B. Churches.

3. Dailyville F.W.B. Church - In the absence of Rev. Carl Dunn, or church delegates, no report was rendered.

4. First F.W.B. Church of Austintown - Bro Bruce Beal gave the report. For our church, a couple of things I would like to share with you. I would like to thank the Lord for his blessings on our church. We do thank the Lord that we are in the building. One of the things that I would like to encourage Canaan F.W.B. church is: If there is any way that you can hold off getting into the building until she's done, do it, because you will be gettin' her done, forever. And there's a few things we had yet to finish. We just got our yard in, beginning this week, we worked 3 twelve hour days out here trying to get this yard in, and the Lord just kept the rain off just perfect for us, and then he brought us a good rain for two days, that was exactly what we needed, He knew what we needed, and supplied it, so we talked about that all week long, how that when we're done, He'll provide the rain. We were afraid it might snow. But snow is out of the forecast right now, so, we thank the Lord that we have been able to complete that. We have a couple of other things that we need to finish, we are going to extend our parking lot out back, they're going to topcoat over the whole thing. We have some projects that we have to get finished yet; in our fellowship hall, we found out when we moved in here we didn't have the money for the sound-proof doors; and the ones we have are woefully inadequate, and our teacher's were coming out of their classrooms with migrane's. Because of the echo in there and everything else, we ~~just~~ determined that we had to get the sound proof doors, and I prayed to the Lord, and we put it in the bulletin, that we had ordered them, and that they were on their way, and we needed the money for them, and that \$3670, was the price of them, and we encouraged people to give above their regular tithes and offerings, and that next Sunday, we had an offering of \$2,200. So praise the Lord, and thank God for that! They'll respond when you tell them what the needs are. One of the other things that was encouraging was that we had our first Vacation Bible School, in our building here. At the old church, we had 57 children registered, and 57 kids in that little building, was a lot. That doesn't sound like a whole lot, but we had a 125 total registered here this year. We've never had anything like that before. It was exciting to say the least. The highest night attendance was 99. I tried to squeak out another kid somewhere, we had a lady that was expecting twins; I tried to count that but they wouldn't let me count that. It was really, really, exciting. One of the things I am trying to encourage our people; we just had our quarterly business meeting last Wednesday night, and we have seen good growth, and seen people come, but I'm afraid that our people will get the idea that the goal has been achieved, in that there is a building there, and that is not our goal. Our goal is not build a building. That is the short range goal. The long range goal is win people to Jesus. The building just makes it a little easier, possibly to do that chore, so I don't want us to get to the place we just say, well we can quit now; I want to see this really move on from here, and continue to see people saved.

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We've seen a lot of people saved this year, and we hope to see a lot more saved, before the end of the year. So, keep praying for us, we're trying to get a choir together; we're trying to get it organized, and so please pray for us, so that we can do what God would have us to do. In November we're getting "Team Ministry" in here, where we can get everybody in the church involved in the ministry. so that everybody has a place of service. So pray for us as we do that. 1996 has been just an awesome year for us, and as I told Bro Jim's wife last night, I didn't tell him this; but I told her that if the church and your marriage is in tact, you'll have done well. So, we thank the Lord for keeping everything together.

An alter prayer of Consecration was offered for all our churches.

M/S/C to accept the Oral Reports of the Churches.

M/S/C to accept the Treasurer's Report as read by the Clerk.

M/S/C to accept the Conference Report of May 18, 1996, as read by the Clerk.

M/S/C to accept the Ministerial Meeting Report that was given by Bro McComas.

M/S/C to accept the Woman's Auxiliary Report that was given by Sister Marge Johnson.

Old Business: None.

New Business: M/S/C to change the date of the May 1997, Conference Meeting from May 17, 1997, to May 10, 1997, to accommodate the 1997 Heritage Tour to New Hampshire.

M/S/C to give an offering to Brother Herman Hersey.

M/S/C to give an offering of \$300 to Brother Tommy Jones, Home Mission Church in Pittsburgh.

Announcements: Bro Frisbee encouraged all Pastor's to work for Home Missions Month in the month of November, in order that they might earn an opportunity to join in the Heritage Mission Tour that would thrill their hearts to be where the Free Will Baptist ministry began, in New Durham, New Hampshire. Bro Frisbee related to the members of the First F.W.B. Church of Austintown, that Bro Bruce had earned a free trip after his work in getting the new church completed. And, by the time that May, '97 comes, Bro Jim will have earned a free trip, too.

Songs: Piano Solo: "When They Ring Those Golden Bells" - Rev. Herman Hersey
"He Lives" - Sung by Bro Ron Bauman

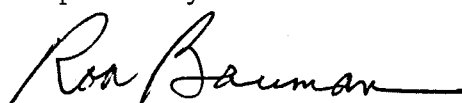
Congregational Song - "What A Friend We Have In Jesus" - led by Pastor Frisbee

MESSAGE: "Joseph's Bones" Text: Gen. 50:22 - Bro Herman Hersey

Benediction, and Prayer over meal: Bro Bruce Beal

Meeting Adjourned. A wonderful lunch was served by the ladies of the First F.W.B. Church of Austintown, with warm fellowship enjoyed by all who were in attendance.

Respectfully submitted:


Ron Bauman, Clerk

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