

MINUTES
OF THE
MT. MITCHELL ASSOCIATION
ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTISTS OF NORTH CAROLINA

Organizational Meeting
Held
March 9 and 10, 1956

EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL SESSION
HELD WITH
RED HILL CHURCH, AUGUST 23-25, 1973

Joe Woody Moderator
Vinita Miller Deyton . . . Clerk

NINETEENTH ANNUAL SESSION

Scheduled to Convene With Terrys Fork Church
Thursday Before the Fourth Sunday in August, 1974
at 10:30 a.m.

Brother Cassie Thomas to Deliver the Introductory Message
Brother Raymond Whitehead to be the Alternate Speaker

IN DEDICATION



EMMA FRANCES RADFORD

She is the oldest minister among us, in years of experience. There is no person more dedicated to work of the Lord than she. Her deep knowledge of the Scriptures is the result of years of studying. She is one of God's most able servants. Because we are honored that she is one of us, and because we love her, we dedicate these Minutes to Sister Frances Radford.

OFFICERS OF MOUNT MITCHELL ASSOCIATION
AND MINISTERS' CONFERENCE

ASSOCIATION

Moderator Joe Woody, Burnsville, N. C.
Assistant Moderator Cassie Thomas, Burnsville, N. C.
Clerk Vinita Miller Deyton, Burnsville, N. C.
Treasurer, Disabled Ministers' Fund Gene Woody
Burnsville, N. C.
Committee for Disabled Ministers' Fund Joe Woody
Moscoe Towe
Committee of Investigation Jack Webb
Cassie Thomas, Raymond Whitehead

MINISTERS' CONFERENCE

Moderator Cassie Thomas
Assistant Moderator Wade Murphy
Clerk Vinita Miller Deyton
Assistant Clerk Queen Bullman
Ordaining Council Charlie Miller, Chairman
Cassie Thomas, Raymond Whitehead

PROCEEDINGS

The eighteenth annual session of Mt. Mitchell Free Will Baptist Association convened with the Red Hill Church, Route 5, Marshall, North Carolina, Thursday, August 23, 1973, at 10:30 a.m. The congregation sang "Heaven's Jubilee" and "He Set Me Free". Welcome given by Sister Frances Radford. Altar prayer led by Brother George Briggs, a 93-years-old minister who belongs to the Red Hill Church. Janie and Jeanie Anderson, 5-years-old twins from the Terrys Fork Church, sang "If You're Not Ashamed of Jesus". Sister Frances Radford read II. Corinthians 2:14-3:5, using for her text the question of chapter 2, verse 16: "Who is sufficient for these things?", and the answer from chapter 3, verse 5: "Our Sufficiency is of God". There was a handshake while the congregation sang. After several testimonies we were dismissed for lunch.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Reconvened at 1:30 p.m. for business. Service began with the congregation singing "In The Sweet Forever". Devotional conducted by Brother James Phillips, quoting Job 26:13. Prayer was led by Brother David Thomas. Sister Frances Radford testified to the result of prayers prayed at last Association for little Timothy McKinney.

Business called to order by Assistant Moderator, Brother Joe Woody, as the Moderator, Brother Charlie Miller is unable to attend due to the death of his brother. Elected Brother Joe Woody as Moderator; Brother Cassie Thomas as Assistant Moderator. Elected Sister Vinita Deyton as Clerk. Appointed Sister Frances Radford as reading clerk.

Appointed the following committees:

To receive Disabled Ministers' Fund Sister Vinita Deyton
To receive Foreign Missions Fund Brother Cassie Thomas
To receive Old Folks Home Fund Brother David Thomas
To receive Minute Fund Sister Vinita Deyton

Received letter of application for membership from the Old Horse Shoe Free Will Baptist Church of Route 1, Elizabethton, Tennessee. Voted to receive the church in membership.

Received \$29.05 for Minute Fund.

Churches with delegates enrolled as follows:

- BOWDITCH - Brother Clarence Byrd; Sisters Marie Thomas, Julia Boone, Frances Hughes.
- GREEN MOUNTAIN - Sisters Peggy Wilson, Lennie Laws, Tilda Bennett, Martha Williams, Shirley Fox.
- MINE FORK - Sister Marjorie Edwards
- OLD HORSE SHOE - Brothers Jackie Baumgardner, Elbert Bowman, I. V. Vance, Frank Tribett; Sisters Hattie Wilson, Iva Nave, Norma Baumgardner.
- PATTERSON BRANCH - Brothers Jack Webb, Tony Miller; Sisters Linda Miller, Mildred Renfro.
- PRICES CREEK - Brothers Justin Hudgins, David Thomas; Sisters Opal Blankenship, Adaline Higgins.
- RED HILL - Brothers Vernon Ramsey, John Davis, Loyd Rigsby; Sisters Cora Ramsey, Barbara Rice, Queen Bullman, Dorothy Rigsby.
- SOUTH BEND - Brothers James McKinney, Nath Renfro; Sister Lois McKinney.
- TERRYS FORK - Brothers James Phillips, Wayne Metcalf, Dave Proffitt; Sisters Frances Phillips, Betty Anderson, Essie Hicks.

The following committees were appointed:

- CARE FOR AGED AND CHILDREN - Brothers Jack Webb,
Wade Murphy, James Phillips.
- CHURCH AUXILIARIES - Sisters Queen Bullman, Peggy Wilson,
Helen Cole.
- CHURCHES AND PASTORS - Brothers Raymond Whitehead,
Cassie Thomas, Benny Baumgardner.
- DEEPER DEVOTION - Brothers Justin Hudgins, David Thomas;
Sister Opal Blankenship.
- DISABLED MINISTERS' FUND - Sisters Josephine Blevins, Lois
McKinney, Elsie Thomas.
- EDUCATION - Sisters Helen Cole, Queen Bullman, Tilda Bennett.
- INVESTIGATION - Brothers Jack Webb, Raymond Whitehead,
Cassie Thomas.
- MISSIONS - Sister Edith Pauley; Brothers James McKinney,
Vernon Ramsey.
- SUNDAY SCHOOLS - Sisters Lois McKinney, Lennie Laws,
Frances Phillips.
- TEMPERANCE - Sister Frances Radford; Brothers Jack Webb,
Vernon Ramsey.

Enrolled the following ministers:

Sisters Josephine Blevins
Vinita Deyton
Edith Pauley
Frances Radford

Brothers Roosevelt Briggs
Wade Murphy
Cassie Thomas
Raymond Whitehead
Benny Baumgardner

Appointed these preachers for the following services:

Thursday Evening - Brothers David Thomas and Justin
Hudgins

Friday Morning - Sister Edith Pauley

Friday Evening - Brother Raymond Whitehead

Saturday Morning - Brother Roosevelt Briggs

Sister Frances Radford read the Cross Beams report.
Adjourned until 9:30 o'clock Friday morning.

THURSDAY EVENING SERVICE

The 7:30 p.m. worship service began with the congregation singing "Because He Loves Us So" and "Sheltered From the Storm". Altar prayer was led by Brother Cassie Thomas, in behalf of some special requests. The pastor, Brother Cassie Thomas, welcomed the congregation and introduced the speakers of the hour, Brothers Justin Hudgins and David Thomas. Brother Hudgins read Psalm 23 and spoke briefly, followed by Brother Thomas, reading Matthew 24: 34 and 40-42, and commenting upon these verses. Both these young men are seeking license to preach and the people were edified by their ministry. There were several testimonies of praise. Brother Cassie Thomas commented on the messages, encouraging the young brothers. Service was dismissed by prayer by Brother James Phillips.

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION

Service convened at 9:35 a.m. The congregation sang "In The Shadow of The Cross". Devotional conducted by Brother Justin Hudgins, reading II. Timothy 1: 1-5. Altar prayer led by Brother Joe Woody.

Business called to order by Moderator. Minutes of Thursday's session read and adopted.

These ministers were enrolled:

Sisters Josephine Blevins
Vinita Deyton
Edith Pauley
Frances Radford

Brothers Claude Bradley
Roosevelt Briggs
Wade Murphy
Cassie Thomas
Raymond Whitehead
Benny Baumgardner

Enrolled these visiting ministers:

Brother Frank Murphy of Green Mountain, North Carolina
Brother George Briggs of Marshall, North Carolina
Brother Clarence Wilson of Elizabethton, Tennessee
Brother Dave Proffitt of Mars Hill, North Carolina
Brother Ronald Creech of Durham, North Carolina
Brother James C. Lynn of West Asheville, North Carolina

Report of Committee on Care for Aged and Childred called for.
Read by Brother Jack Webb. Discussed by Brother Jack Webb,
James Lynn, Sister Josephine Blevins. Received and adopted.

Brother James Lynn, chairman of the state Rest Home Board,
reported that they cannot sell the Burnsville Rest Home pro-
perty until the mountain property located in Yancey County is
sold.

Report of Committee on Temperance submitted at request of the
chairman. Read by Sister Frances Radford. Discussed by
Sister Frances Radford, Josephine Blevins, Brother Benny
Baumgardner. Received and adopted.

NOTICE: All registered Christians are urged to vote on
November 6th against the liquor issue.

Report of Committee on Churches and Pastors called for. Read
by Brother Raymond Whitehead, Roosevelt Briggs, Benny
Baumgardner. Tabled for further discussion after lunch.

Business session adjourned for preaching at 11:00 o'clock.

WORSHIP SERVICE 11:00 A. M.

The congregation sang "Just a Little Talk With Jesus". Sister
Edith Pauley read Mark 14: 1-17 and Mark 9: 1, using for her
text "The Upper Room". There was a handshake while the
congregation sang "Amazing Grace", followed by several
testimonies. Dismissed for lunch.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Reconvened at 1:00 p.m. for business. Sister Adaline Higgins sang "The Lights of Home". There was upon request a special prayer for Brother Charlie Miller's grandchild's physical need.

Business called to order by Moderator. Called for discussion on Pastors and Churches. Discussed by Brother Cassie Thomas. Received and adopted.

A report was given by state representative, Brother Ronald Creech. Discussed services available to churches, stating the Bible Bookstore can help churched with needs. Asked that one person from each church write news for The Witness.

Report of Committee on Deeper Devotion called for. Read by Sister Josephine Blevins. Received and adopted.

Report of Committee on Education called for. Read by Sister Queen Bullman. Received and adopted.

Report of Committee on Church Auxiliaries called for. Read by Sister Queen Bullman. Discussed by Brother Cassie Thomas. Received and adopted.

Report of Committee on Sunday Schools called for. Read by Sister Lois McKinney, Josephine Blevins; Brother Joe Woody, Raymond Whitehead. Received and adopted.

Report of Committee on Missions called for. Read by Sister Edith Pauley. Received and adopted.

Appointed Brother Frank Murphy to preach at the evening service, due to Brother Whitehead's being unable to attend.

Expressed appreciation for Brother George Briggs' attendance.

Adjourned until we meet with the Terrys Fork Church on Thursday before the fourth Sunday in August, 1974. Brother Cassie

Thomas to preach the introductory message; Brother Raymond Whitehead to be the alternate speaker.

FRIDAY EVENING SERVICE

The 7:30 p.m. worship service began with the congregation singing "Down On My Knees" and "Farther Along". Jack, Robin, and Wren Cole sang "I Won't Have To Worry Anymore". Welcome given by the host pastor, Brother Cassie Thomas. An altar prayer, with intention to claim the promise of Matthew 18:19, was made for the objects presented. Brother Frank Murphy read Romans 10:1-13, preaching on the subject, "The Nature of God's Salvation". After some testimonies there was a handshake of fellowship with much rejoicing. We were dismissed in prayer.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

AGED AND DISABLED MINISTERS' FUND

We, your Committee on Aged and Disabled Ministers submit the following Scripture for consideration of the body:
Isaiah 58:6,7: "Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the banks of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke?"

Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh?"

Luke 6:38: "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again."

We believe this is one way to show our love for the Lord and for one another. Our Lord said, "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another".

John 13:35. There is no other way to prove to the world our

love for our fellowman and to the Lord, but by our love to each other. God the Father proved His love for us by giving His Son. We can prove our love by our service for each other.

Josephine Blevins
 Elsie Thomas
 Lois McKinney

Treasurer's Report:

Amount on hand at close of last Association . . .	\$1,307.42
Paid to Sister Josephine Blevins	180.00
Paid to Sister Mollie Moore	165.00
Paid to Sister Dora Rice	165.00
Paid to Sister Frances Radford	100.00
Paid to Brother Wade Murphy	100.00
Deductions for Bonding Fee.	10.00
Deductions for Printing Checks.	2.41
On hand after above deductions.	585.01
Received at 1972 Association	282.44
Received at Ministers' Conferences	112.25
Interest paid by Bank	50.20
Given by Sister Madge Honeycutt.	40.00
Total Paid Out	722.41
Total Received.	484.89
Balance of August 1973.	1,069.90

CARE FOR AGED AND CHILDREN

We, your Committee on Care for the Aged and Children submit the following:

We, the born-again believers in Christ, the Church of Christ, should fulfill our place in God's great plan according to His precious, eternal Holy Word. We are not excused because of Social Security benefits, Welfare aid, Social Services, or the Salvation Army's supplying the needy, especially the Saints. We, as the Church, have a great responsibility. Besides this, we need fruit that may abound to our account.

The Word of God tells us who is to be the minister to the needy - Acts 6:1-4: "And in those days, when the number of disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministrations.

Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables.

Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business.

But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word."

The same blessed Word tells where those who minister are to get their goods - I. Corinthians 16:1-4:

"Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye.

Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gathering when I come.

And when I come, whomsoever ye shall approve by your letters, them will I send to bring your liberality unto Jerusalem."

As we think of the needs that would come under this topic, we of the Mt. Mitchell Association usually think of the Free Will Baptist Rest Home at Burnsville. Some years ago we thought of the children's orphanage. But the world is a field, a place of needy children and aged. It is a world of responsibility and opportunity for the Church. The needs are both natural and spiritual. Matthew 25: 31-46.

Jack Webb
Wade Murphy
James Phillips

CHURCHES AND PASTORS

We, your Committee on Churches and Pastors recommend the following Scriptures for your consideration:

I. Timothy 2: 1: "I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men..."

I. Timothy 3: 5, 6: "For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?"

Ephesians 5: 25-27: "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish."

Raymond Whitehead

Cassie Thomas

Benny Baumgardner

CHURCH AUXILIARIES

We, your Committee on Church Auxiliaries submit the following:

Auxiliary refers to being helpful. The Christian way of life is a way of togetherness. "So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and everyone members one of another". Romans 12: 5.

The guideline for helping each other is to be found in the leadership of the Holy Spirit. As united members work together they are able to hear Jesus' words from John 15: 4: "Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me".

In the way of being helpful it is not a matter of what a group of people may be able to decide to do. But the wisest choice is to seek the will of the Lord. When we find His will, then we as a body of united believers may rest assured that the Lord Himself will supply our needs. Much joy is found as we walk this road of life together. "Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be like minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.

Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem the other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus". Philippians 2: 2-5.

And at last when the helpful task has been performed, let us not fail to realize where our sufficiency comes from. "And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work". II. Corinthians 9: 8.

"Now that we are sufficient of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God". II. Corinthians 3: 5.

Queen Bullman
Helen Cole
Peggy Wilson

DEEPER DEVOTIONS

We, your Committee on Deeper Devotions submit the following: In order to be deeply devoted to our Lord, we must feel toward Him as Ruth felt toward her mother-in-law, Naomi: "For whither thou goest I will go". Ruth 1: 16. We must be willing to go where our Lord sends us; do what He commands us to do. We need to study His Word, pray, witness, and serve on another in the Lord.

II. Peter 1: 4-6: "Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;

And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience godliness."

Justice Hudgins
David Thomas
Opal Blankenship

EDUCATION

We, your Committee on Education submit the following:

When we are being educated we think in terms of developing by schooling. When we think of school we associate it with a place for teaching and learning.

To be educated is to develop in such a way so as to be able to know how to live. Everyone seems to want to be prepared for a good life. This good life that mankind seeks after requires a spiritual education. "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of God". II. Timothy 2: 15.

In this spiritual education, we think of ourselves as a group of students. Our teacher is our Heavenly Father. With the help of the Holy Spirit we study the greatest textbook that has ever been written...the Holy Bible. We seek the Lord for wisdom. The wisdom of God never fails. "For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God...". I. Corinthians 3: 19. We are unable to educate ourselves spiritually. However, we must try to learn if we are to obtain wisdom from God. We must seek the Lord. "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be give him." James 1: 6.

Let us be sure that the knowledge we have comes from God. For we are warned in James 3: 13-17: "Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom. But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish. For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits...".

In this evil day we must be careful what we learn and how we believe. "Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and

and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. As we study to shew ourselves approved unto God let us walk in Christ. As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: rooted and built up in him, and established in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving." Colossians 2: 6, 7.

Helen Cole
Queen Bullman
Tilda Bennett

BIBLE SCHOOL attendance for 1973: (conducted by Vinita Deyton)

Green Mountain	- 52	Prices Creek	- 42	Mine Fork	- 25
South Bend	- 44	Terrys Fork	- 34		

MISSIONS

We, your Committee on Missions submit the following for consideration:

Mark 16: 15, 16: "And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

He that believeth, and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

Romans 10: 12-15: "For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon Him.

For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?

And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!"

We think the greatest responsibility of a preacher is to go. The greatest work is to preach. The greatest thing under Heaven is to believe.

Edith Pauley
Vernon Ramsey
James McKinney

SUNDAY SCHOOLS

We, your Committee on Sunday Schools submit the following Scripture:

"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old he will not depart from it". Proverbs 22: 6.

"The ear that heareth the reproof of life abideth among the wise." Proverbs 15: 31.

"Apply thine heart unto instruction and thine ears to the words of knowledge." Proverbs 23: 12.

We feel that our Sunday Schools play a great part in getting the true Word to both young and old alike. Teachers should have wisdom from God and certainly should have the true Spirit which comes from God only. Those who are faithful in teaching, in hearing, and in accepting the Word of God will be rewarded. There is much to be accomplished in our Sunday Schools. "He that hath an ear, let him hear." Revelation 2: 11a.

Lois McKinney

Lennie Laws

Sally Frances Phillips

TEMPERANCE

We, your Committee on Temperance submit the following Scripture references: Proverbs 20: 1; 23: 31, and Ephesians 5:18.

Recognizing that the word "temperance" means self-control in all areas of life and is urged upon Christians by the whole tenor of the Scripture, perhaps it may be considered strange that we, your committee, have chosen only passages pertaining to the use of strong drink. We realize that total abstinence is the best temperance in regard to the use of alcohol in view of the fact that about one out of every nine people who start drinking socially become alcoholics and burdens to society.

We are, however, deeply concerned about House Bill No. 9, passed by the last General Assembly, providing for a state-wide

referendum on liquor-by-the-drink. We welcome an opportunity for the whole state to vote on the liquor question, but feel that the liquor interests have been at their old tricks of trying to win by subtilty before the voting.

The election is timed for November 6, 1973, when the largest city in the state, Charlotte, and perhaps others, will be electing mayors. Naturally, a large voter turn-out is expected because of this and cities are where liquor interests are strongest, while rural areas, the strong-hold of "dry" interests, have, in most cases, only this one issue to consider. We feel the liquor interests want us to "sleep" through the election. This we must not do.

We therefore make the following urgent recommendations:

1. That every church make all efforts possible to get out a 100 percent "dry" vote -- providing cars, seeing that every voter -- particularly 18-year-olds -- are registered one month before the election.

2. That each church receive an offering to help pay for radio, T.V. and newspaper advertising sponsored by the State Christian Action League, seeking to raise at least \$1.00 per member of the church.

3. That every pastor alert his people that elections are lost be well-meaning people doing nothing. We must get out almost 100 percent of the rural vote to overcome the expected large city turn-out.

4. That our people pray -- earnestly, fervently, daily for victory and use every influence at our command to win the forth-coming referendum.

Frances Radford
Jack Webb
Vernon Ramsey

CROSS BEAMS REPORT

Report of God's Amazing Grace on the Cross Beams Ministries,
August 1972 - July 1973:

"O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His Name together.. " Psalm 34: 3.

First of all, I want to make plain that no statistics can show the real work of any true ministry; that is written in Heaven only. The souls saved, the saints encouraged, the weak made strong in the Word: these only God knows perfectly. I have some faint hints in the letters that come with reports of people being blessed in every way the Gospel can help, and of course that is every area of human life. I praise God most of all for these spiritual statistics, recorded above...

Now I'd like to report that God's grace has been multiplied to Cross Beams this year as never before. The programs, according to latest information from the Network, are now being aired on about 74 stations, scattered over 32 of the 50 United States. Mission outreach has perhaps outgrown even the radio arm of the work, with a God-given Missions Minister and a consecrated missions board composed of five men. The Lord has amazed me most of all in giving to the work needed properties and machinery to enlarge the work even farther as it is His will for it to grow.

First, statistics on the moneys sent of God for the operation of the work during the past twelve months. For air time: \$20,361.10. For operating expenses, such as postage, office machinery, office supplies, tapes, etc.: \$2024.69. For radio contributions to the mission arm of the work: \$5,021.88. And for property expense, not including machinery, but including purchase, placement, and maintainance of C. B. Parsonage and Office-Studio Trailers: \$5,690.87. This means a total expenditure through the radio arm of the work of \$33098.54. And, Friends, this does not include much donated labor and equipment, nor have I paid through the Cross Beams receipts the general operating expenses of the

trailers, such as light, heat, and telephone bills, or car upkeep and operation. (The car I drive is also the property of Cross Beams, as I have no desire to own anything of this world, but to be owned wholly by the Lord, who bought me with His precious blood.) He gives me enough funds from the churches I serve to pay these necessary expenses, and often to contribute to the other expense of the work, which is my joy.

Of the above, in cash contributions, as nearly as I can figure them from my records, churches of the Mt. Mitchell Association contributed as follows: (Let it be noted that some of these amounts below are from people not actively affiliated with the church, but I considered them as being under the particular church's influence. Also, some gifts were personally to me, but, having no other way to credit them to the church, and since most of my income goes to the work anyway, I have included them.)

- Red Hill Church \$2,023.00
- Prices Creek Church \$1,291.30 . . . (Cash. Does not include lot valued at \$1500.00 donated by Burl and Cathy Austin, or masonry labor valued at \$250.00 donated by my other next door neighbor, Mr. Boyd Shephard, plus an equal amount given by various other neighbors in various ways, totaling \$2,000 more. This amount not luded in figures above, but just as valuable to me and to the work.)
- Patterson Branch \$1,097.90 . . . (cash, and labor by some of the men. Does not include an air conditioner valued at \$135.00 given by Brother Monroe Hensley.)
- Terrys Fork \$ 504.00
- Bowditch \$ 300.00
- Green Mountain \$ 313.00
- South Bend \$ 283.00

(I might mention also that Red Hill's contribution, as given here, is not complete, for they also contribute separately to Cross Beams Missions through its Director, Brother Howard Munsey.)

This report shows, Friends, how greatly God uses the people of the Mt. Mitchell Association and Conference to supply the needs of this work He has raised up, and I am eternally grateful to both ministers and laymen.

Concerning the mission arm of the work, the Lord has given us a most able and consecrated Missions Minister in Rev. Howard T. Munsey of Morristown, Tennessee. Brother Munsey is at this writing either in Mexico or on his way there, to supervise the construction of our first Cross Beams house of worship. It is amazing that, in the short time Brother Munsey has been serving with us--since about June 1, 1973--the Lord has given us almost \$7,000.00 to begin construction of the first Cross Beams house of worship in Cadereyta Jimenez, N. L., Mexico. Besides this, He has enabled us to pay our missionaries there, Rev. and Mrs. Arthur Billows a monthly wage of \$500.00, as well as contributing to our other mission fields around the world. \$50.00 per month goes to Petros Gomedé in Zululand, South Africa, supported by Sister Sallie Link of Lincolnton, now 89 years of age. \$50.00 to our newest missionaries, Rev. and Mrs. Clarence Ledford, natives of Yancey County, who only this year began their ministry in Zambia, Africa. \$50.00 per month to native workers under the supervision of Rev. and Mrs. Cecil Neese in Venezuela, South America. \$50.00 per month to two precious ladies, Ruth Gruber and Naomi Rhinehart, laboring with the American Indians in Arizona, and \$75.00 monthly to Rev. and Mrs. Glenn Henson, laboring in our own Pacific Northwest, especially in Oregon, Montana, and the Dakotas. . . . "This is the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in my eyes." The men of our mission board deserve mention, but due to the length of this report, I will simply give their names: Rev. William R. Holt, Chairman; Rev. Harlan Ramsey, Secretary; Brothers Jack Cole, J. D. Sisk, and H. R. Dixon. All these men are devout and consecrated to the cause of missions. They will be assisted by an advisory council chosen from across the nation, and all the mission arm of the work is under Brother Munsey's supervision, at the Lord's leading.

This report would not be complete without mentioning a beautiful desk and print cabinet built and installed free of charge by the Hughes Brothers of Micaville, sons of Brother and Sister F. A. Hughes of the Bowditch Church. Also, a recording console designed and built by Mr. James Hembree and other workers at Tarmac Audi-Visuals of Asheville. It is valued at between two and three thousand dollars and I am to be billed only for some

of the components. Mr. Hembree and his co-workers have donated many, many long hours of labor, plus a large part of the components of the machine. One other gift must not go unmentioned. I do not have permissions, so will not use her name, but a widow donated the last of her deceased son's insurance money, over \$2000.00, for the construction and equipping of the office trailer. With such sacrifice as these, do you wonder that I am never caught up with my praise to the great God who so moves His people to help His unworthy servant....?

Thank you all, Friends. And God bless you every one. When the rewards are handed out up there, I long to shout while you get the crown of glory that fadeth not away.

Frances Radford
Radio Minister of Cross Beams

OBITUARIES

MAGGIE BALDRIDGE

Maggie Anderson Baldrige was born August 26, 1894, and died March 31, 1973. She was the wife of the late Charlie M. Baldrige, and the daughter of the late Gather and Emily Ward Anderson. Surviving are three sons, Lonnie, George, and Richard of Drexel. Maggie was a native of Madison County and a member of the Terrys Fork Church. She was a good friend and neighbor to all. She was truly a Christian. Her light shone for all to see. She is greatly missed by friends and loved ones. She had many trials and sorrows. But we praise God that we believe our loss is Heaven's gain. Maggie was really a wonderful person.

Lois and Mafrey Honeycutt

FRED BLANKENSHIP

Fred Blankenship was born September 10, 1895, and departed this life February 13, 1973, at the age of 77. He is survived by the wife, Kathleen Smith Blankenship; one son, David, and one grandchild. Surviving also are two sisters, Mrs. Gertrude Smith and Mrs. Novelle Smith and three brothers, Joe, Douglas, and Utah. He was the son of the late Rev. Wiley Blankenship, a well-known Free Will Baptist minister of this area.

Fred was lovingly known as "Heavy" among the people of the Green Mountain Church of which he was a member and deacon. His place on the bass seat of the choir may be filled by someone else, but he will never be replaced. When we weep at the loss of him, we weep for our own loss, for we believe that he has great gain. It is our confidence that if Fred could speak to us today, he would say with Paul of old that it is "far better" to depart, and to be with the Lord.

Vinita Deyton.

BERNICE LAWS BALL

Bernice Laws Ball was born August 26, 1937, the daughter of the late Walter and Ella Jay Laws. After a long illness in which she patiently endured much suffering, she departed this life on May 26, 1973, at the age of 35. She is survived by the husband, Mr. Junior Ball and three children, Regina, Wilma, and Jerry, all of the home. Surviving also are three sisters: Mrs. Bruce Ledford, Mrs. Ivan McCurry and Mrs. Fred Honeycutt; seven brothers: Roscoe, Zeph, Albert, Ralph, Rassie, Paul, and Ramon.

Bernice was a member of the Mine Fork Church, and later joined the Prices Creek Church. She knew Christ as her personal Saviour. She left the testimony that she was ready to go. We do not understand why she was called from her husband and children. But we believe in not only God's love, but His wisdom. And with this faith, we know He did that which He saw was best for this, His child.

Vinita Deyton

LOUBERGIE FOX

Loubergie Deyton Fox was born June 2, 1900 and died February 18, 1971. She is survived by the husband, Charlie Fox; one son, Johnny Fox; six daughters, Mrs. James Walker, Mrs. Gladys McCurry, Mrs. G. D. Robinson, Mrs. Roy Robinson, Mrs. Baccus Elkins, Mrs. Talmadge Elkins; twenty eight grandchildren and several great-grandchildren.

Loubergie attended the Green Mountain Church. She was a quiet woman, faithful wife, and hard-working mother. Her years of labor were well repaid by her children, especially Mrs. G. D. Robinson with whom she lived, in the loving care they administered her during her years of sickness before her death. We believe we will meet Loubergie again in a new place, as real as this one, where pain is not remembered, and death is a conquered thing.

Vinita Deyton

CARL GARDNER

Carl Gardner was born October 2, 1893 and passed away October 28, 1972, at the age of 79. He leaves a grieving wife, Christine Gardner; a daughter, Mrs. Brezell Anderson; a grandson and grand-daughter-in-law, Donald and Barbara Anderson; and other relatives and friends to mourn his loss.

He attended Terrys Fork Church as long as he was able. Although he was ill for quite a while, he radiated courage, hope, and cheer to those who knew him. We feel Heaven is brighter by his presence and earth surely is more lonely to us who loved him. We look forward to the time when sorrow and parting comes no more.

"HIS OTHER DAUGHTER",

Mrs. T. D. Hicks

CLEARISIE MILLER LAWS

Clearsie Miller Laws was born on February 4, 1881, and died July 18, 1973, at the age of 92. She is survived by the husband, Mr. Frank Laws; one sister, Mrs. Grover Hunter; on grandson, Edward Lingerfelt; and five great-grandchildren.

Known to the neighbors, relatives, and many friends as "Aunt Clearsie", she is remembered for the sweetness and gentleness of her personality. She was a little old lady; but she is missed by those who loved her, and especially by the patient husband who tended her so faithfully in those last years when she could not attend to her own needs. We look forward to going to her. But we would not bring her back if we could, for we believe she has exchanged pain for joy, age for happiness. She was a member of the Mine Fork Church.

Vinita Deyton

JOHN GILLIS

On the last day of the year of 1972, Death visited the Terrys Fork community and claimed our neighbor and friend, Mr. John Gillis. He was born December 12, 1903, and died at the age of 69. He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Annie Gillis; two daughters, Mrs. Pauline Lunsford and Mrs. Maxine Owensby; three grandchildren; two sisters; one brother; and several nieces and nephews.

Although he belonged to a neighboring church, he attended Terrys Fork. We miss his presence at church and in the community. He left a testimony that makes us firmly believe that if we're faithful to the end, we'll meet him again in a place where there'll be no sickness or parting.

A Friend,

Mrs. T. D. Hicks

ARNOLD MILLER

In October of 1920 there was born to Erskine and Princey Cannon Miller a third son whom they named Arnold. Over 52 years later, on August 21, 1973, Arnold was suddenly called from this life. Left behind are his wife, Magdalene Fox Miller; two sons, Jack, of Maryland, and R. B. of Hickory, N. C.; six daughters, Jennie Miller and Judy Lawman of Maryland, Suzy Jones, Gail Wilson, Carolyn Layle, and Shirley Miller of Hickory, N. C.; his mother, Princey Miller; a sister, Mrs. Echird Hunter; three brothers, Ted, of Asheville, John and Rev. Charlie Miller of Burnsville; and eleven grandchildren. He was a member of the Green Mountain Church.

Arnold.....

When I have finished writing these lines
I will have done the last thing I can do for you.
But my heart still doesn't realize that you are gone.
It doesn't know that doing for you is all over...through.
My eyes would still seek your form; my ears, your voice;
My hands would yet reach; my feet go to you again.
When will they learn that you're gone,
That this is the end?

Ah, Arnold! You were the family Black Sheep, the wanderer.
Your road was often so hard; you tasted misery.
But you were precious; oh! how precious you were.
And I loved you with all that is in me.
Men speak to me of your genius, of the talents you had.
They talk of things you did; of your good.
I knew all this for myself. I knew
If you could do anything for me at all...you would.
I try. Yet, I fail...to make the words
The tribute I want to pay.
I cannot express what your living meant,
Or the awful hurt when you were taken away.

"I am ready to go."

Those were the words you recently said.
And now they are more valuable
Than anything you ever spoke or did.
For those words assure our hearts
That you wait in a better place;
And that we can go to you there.
This is a provision of God's marvelous grace.
So wait. We're everyday another day nearer
To the place where we believe you are.
And although we don't see or hear you,
You aren't far away, are you?...Not far.

Arnold, I'll look for you in the Morning;
I'll look for you to smile at me again;
I'll listen for you to sing a new song....
So...wait for us until then!.....

Vinita

ALLIE RENFRO

Allie Tipton Renfro was born September 4, 1888, and was called Home October 21, 1972, at the age of 84. Surviving is the husband who so faithfully tended her, answering her every call during those last days when she lay bedfast, Mr. Nath Renfro. Surviving also is one son, Rex Renfro; two grandsons and five great-grandchildren.

Allie was for many years a member of the North Bend Church, and then a member of the South Bend Church from the year it was organized. She was faithful in her attendance at the services, in her participation in church activities until her sickness ended her going. Hundreds of years ago, in his Proverbs, King Lemuel asked, "Who can find a virtuous woman?" And then he stated, "For her price is far above rubies." Allie Renfro was only a country wife and mother, but in the sight of God and those people who knew her, she was worth more than rubies, for she was a virtuous woman. There is coming a day when God will make up His jewels. And I sincerely expect to see Allie Renfro as one of them.

Vinita Dayton

ATTENTION: Please, if you want an obituary of someone included among these in the Minutes, write it as you wish it to be worded and give it to your church clerk by Association time. Church Clerks, if no obituaries are given you, please give the names of the deceased members to the clerk at Association.

MINISTERS' CONFERENCE

FIRST QUARTERLY SESSION

The 66th session of Ministers' Conference met with the Green Mountain Church on October 28, 1972. Choir sang "When the Roll is Called Up Yonder". Devotional conducted by Sister Frances Radford, reading Psalm 23. Prayer led by Brother Joe Woody.

Business session. Ministers present were:

Sisters Josephine Blevins
Vinita Deyton
Edith Pauley
Frances Radford

Brothers Roosevelt Briggs
Claude Bradley
Wade Murphy
Cassie Thomas
Charlie Miller
Raymond Whitehead
Benny Baumgardner
Roy Whitson

Received \$36.25 for Aged and Disabled Ministers' Fund. Received \$6.66 for Flower Fund. Topic discussed: "Soul Winning".

Morning worship service. Choir sang "I've Seen the Light". Brother Benny Baumgardner read Psalm 133: 1-3, using for his text, "Unity With Christ".

Afternoon business session. Sister Robin Cole sang "Family of God". Welcomed Brother Frank Murphy, visiting minister. Voted to grant Brother Benny Baumgardner license to preach for one year.

Brother Cassie Thomas, Moderator
Sister Vinita Deyton, Clerk

SECOND QUARTERLY SESSION

The 67th session of Ministers' Conference met with the Patterson Branch Church on December 30, 1972. Choir sang "What a Happy Day". Prayer led by Brother Clarence Wilson.

Business session. Those ministers present were:

Sisters Vinita Deyton

Edith Pauley

Frances Radford

Brothers Benny Baumgardner

Claude Bradley

Roosevelt Briggs

Charlie Miller

Cassie Thomas

Raymond Whitehead

Welcomed Brother Clarence Wilson, from the Appalachian Conference, and Brother Norman Jarrett, from the Toe River Conference. Received \$29.00 for Aged and Disabled Ministers' Fund. Received \$6.47 for Flower Fund.

Morning Worship Service. Choir sang "When the Redeemed Are Gathering In". Sister Robin Cole sang "Remind Me". Prayer led by Brother Benny Baumgardner. Brother Raymond Whitehead read John 11: 25-43, using for his subject, "Alive In The Lord".

Afternoon business session. Brother and Sister Clarence Wilson sang "Satisfied With Me". Devotions conducted by Brother Norman Jarrett, reading John 15: 1-14. Prayer led by Sister Frances Radford. Topic discussed: "Working In God's Vineyard".

THIRD QUARTERLY SESSION

The 68th session of Ministers' Conference met with the Mine Fork Church on April 29, 1973. Choir sang "Heaven's Jubilee". Devotional conducted by Sister Vinita Deyton, reading Hebrew 10: 19-25. Prayer led by Brother Roy Whitson.

Business session. Welcomed Brother Glenn Henson, visiting minister from Boring, Oregon.

Enrolled these ministers:

Sister Vinita Deyton

Brothers Benny Baumgardner

Claude Bradley

Roosevelt Briggs

Charlie Miller

Wade Murphy

Cassie Thomas

Raymond Whitehead

Roy Whitson

Received \$51.00 for Aged and Disabled Ministers' Fund. Received \$9.81 for Flower Fund. Brother Joe Woody discussed the Mt. Mitchell Conference buying the Rest Home property from the State Association and Conference. Appointed these men in the churches to co-operate with Brother Joe Woody in these dealings.

Bowditch -

Mine Fork - Carmon Laws

Patterson Branch - Jack Webb

Prices Creek - Joe Blankenship

Red Hill - Jack Cole

South Bend - Nath Renfro

Terrys Fork - Troy Honeycutt

Morning Worship Service. Choir sang "I Rejoice In The Lord". Brother Benny Baumgardner preached on "The Love Of God". Brother Glenn Henson spoke. Prayer for Sister Frances Radford's physical need.

Afternoon business session. Sister Robin Cole sang "Because He Lives". The Old Horse Shoe Chapel Trio sang "City of Gold". Devotional conducted by Brother Charlie Miller. Topic discussed: "The Stewardship of the Gospel".

FOURTH QUARTERLY SESSION

The 69th session of Ministers' Conference met with the Red Hill Church on August 25, 1973, in connection with Association. Choir sang "Hold To His Hand". Great outpouring of Holy Spirit.

Business session. Elected Brother Cassie Thomas as Moderator; Brother Wade Murphy as Assistant Moderator. Elected Sister Vinita Deyton as Clerk; Sister Queen Bullman as Assistant Clerk. Re-elected Brother Charlie Miller as Chairman of Ordaining Council; Brothers Cassie Thomas and Raymond White head to serve with him. Those ministers present were:

Sisters Josephine Blevins	Brothers Benny Baumgardner
Frances Radford	Claude Bradley
Vinita Deyton	Roosevelt Briggs
	Wade Murphy
	Cassie Thomas
	Raymond Whitehead

Received \$40.00 for Aged and Disabled Ministers' Fund and \$10.60 for Flower Fund. Reported flowers bought for Brother Charlie Miller's brother. Discussed purchase of Rest Home and withdrawal from State Association. Letters of application for license to preach submitted by Brother David Thomas and Brother Justin Hudgins, of Rt. 3, Burnsville, North Carolina. Voted to receive both brothers under watchcare of Conference until next session.

Topic for next Conference: "What Is Man Without God?"
Ephesians 2: 12; Colossians 4: 5, 6; Luke 9: 62; Revelation 3: 15, 16.

Levi Deyton
Raymond Whitehead
Wade Murphy

Next session of Conference to convene with Bowditch Church on December 29, 1973. Brother Roosevelt Briggs to preach introductory message; Brother Raymond Whitehead to be alternate speaker.

Brother Cassie Thomas, Moderator
Sister Vinita Deyton, Clerk

CONSTITUTION OF MOUNT MITCHELL
FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

ARTICLE 1

This Association shall be known as the Mount Mitchell Association of the Original Free Will Baptists of North Carolina.

ARTICLE 2

The objects of this Association shall be: to proclaim a full salvation and lift up a standard of holy living in accordance with the teaching of the Bible; to promote unity, fraternity, fellowship and cooperation within the bounds of our own churches, and Christian charity toward all Christians; to encourage and engage in larger Christian enterprises than can be carried on by one church; to combine and direct the energies of the Free Will Baptists within its bounds in one sacred effort to encourage and promote the general spread of the Gospel, and all of its benevolent enterprises.

ARTICLE 3

1. This Association shall be composed of all licensed and ordained ministers, and of delegates chosen and sent by each church within its bounds, said delegates being duly recommended by letter from the church to which they belong.
2. Each church, irrespective of size, shall be entitled to five (5) delegates, with an additional delegate for every ten (10) members or fraction thereof above fifty (50). Each church is expected to defray the expenses of the Association and the causes which it fosters.
3. The Association disclaims the right to exercise lordship over the churches, or to have any power which entitles it to infringe upon internal affairs or rights of any of the churches composing it. Each church shall consider its internal affairs to be its own business, but it shall not disrespect the Association and those placed in authority by the proper processes.

ARTICLE 4

The Association may withdraw from any church that becomes

disorderly or refuses to be represented by letter or delegation, providing, however, that any church accused of disorderly walk or unscriptural doctrine shall have the same rights as an individual in the church to have specific charges presented in writing, together with convincing evidence; a fair opportunity for defense and to be considered innocent until proven guilty.

ARTICLE 5

This Association shall make use of the Treatise of the Faith and Practices of Free Will Baptists adopted by the National Association November 7, 1935 at Nashville, Tennessee; recognizing however, the truth stated therein; that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments were given by inspiration of God, and are our only infallible rule of faith and practice.

ARTICLE 6

Churches coming from another denomination will be carefully examined and approved as to doctrine and practice before being received as members.

ARTICLE 7

1. The officers of this Association shall be Moderator and Assistant Moderator, Clerk, Treasurer and Historian, all of whom shall be elected for a term of two years, except the Moderator and Assistant Moderator, who shall be elected annually. They shall enter upon the duties of their offices at the close of the current season.
2. It shall be the duty of the Moderator to preside over all the meetings of the Association.
3. It shall be the duty of the Assistant Moderator to preside in the absence of the Moderator.
4. It shall be the duty of the Clerk to keep a faithful record of the proceedings of the Association in a business-like manner, to superintend printing and distribution of the minutes, and to give over all properties belonging to his or her office to his or her duly elected successor.

5. The Clerk shall be paid a fee to be determined by the Association. Minutes of the Association shall be sent to all visiting Free Will Baptist Ministers.

6. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to receive all funds belonging to the Association, and to disburse same as directed by the Association. The Treasurer shall be bonded for an amount sufficient to cover all the funds for which he is responsible.

7. It shall be the duty of the Historian to keep a record of such items of interest as may be useful in the future, especially a file of all the minutes, and to preserve the same in a book. He or she shall also be required to give over all properties of the office to the successor to the office.

ARTICLE 8

The Association shall appoint annually such committees as it shall deem necessary to expedite its business. These committees may be called upon to serve in either a temporary or standing capacity. Temporary committees complete their work and make a report of it during the same session in which they are appointed. Standing committees are appointed to assist in such matters as may require service both during and between sessions. The Moderator is empowered to choose the Chairman of each Committee, and the delegates may assist in choosing other members of said committees from among their own ranks.

ARTICLE 9

The Executive Board of this Association shall consist of the Moderator, Assistant Moderator, Clerk, Treasurer, Historian and three (3) members elected from the floor. It shall be the duty of the Executive Board to have the supervision of the work of the Association between sessions. The Moderator and Clerk, by virtue of their respective offices, shall be Chairman and Secretary, respectively, of the Executive Board.

ARTICLE 10

It shall be the duty of this Association to encourage a sound ministry, such as present Christ as an all-sufficient Saviour,

having made salvation possible to every human being on the terms of the Gospel, which is freely offered to all.

ARTICLE 11

A Church may become a member of this Association by making request by delegation, which delegation shall present a letter showing vital statistics of said church, providing however, that such church shall be examined as to doctrine, practice and willingness to abide by the Constitution and By-laws of this Association.

ARTICLE 12

The Bylaws of this Constitution shall be read annually immediately after the body is organized.

ARTICLE 13

This Association advises all its churches to commemorate the death and sufferings of our Lord at least twice a year, with the service of feet-washing to follow the communion.

ARTICLE 14

The Association shall meet annually on Thursday before the fourth Sunday in September for the purpose of worship and the transaction of business. There shall be no less than two (2) worship services daily while the Association is in session.

ARTICLE 15

This Association's printed Minutes shall consist of a record of all business transacted and all worship services during the annual meeting, the proceedings of the quarterly sessions of Conference, the Constitution and Bylaws of the Association and the Constitution and Bylaws of the Ministers' Conference, the Church Covenant, and such tables of statistics and blank forms as may be necessary.

ARTICLE 16

This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote at any annual meeting of the Association.

BYLAWS OF THE MOUNT MITCHELL
ASSOCIATION OF THE ORIGINAL
FREE WILL BAPTIST OF
NORTH CAROLINA

ARTICLE I

A session of this Association shall meet annually.

ARTICLE 2

This Association shall be opened with Bible reading and prayer.

ARTICLE 3

There shall be no conversation with members, one with another so as to interrupt business, while in session.

ARTICLE 4

Every person wishing to speak shall first arise to his feet, address the moderator and receive recognition.

ARTICLE 5

No member shall interrupt another who is speaking.

ARTICLE 6

Every member shall attend to the subject under consideration.

ARTICLE 7

No member shall speak more than three (3) times on any one subject.

ARTICLE 8

Every motion made and seconded shall be acted upon after suitable discussion unless withdrawn by those who made it.

ARTICLE 9

A motion before the house must be acted upon before another motion can be made.

ARTICLE 10

On all motions, when a vote of the body is taken, a majority shall prevail.

ARTICLE 11

The Moderator shall have the same privilege to speak as any other member, provided the chair is filled.

ARTICLE 12

We will admit of no other title but that of Brother or Sister while in session.

ARTICLE 13

No member shall absent himself from the body while in session without permission of the Moderator.

ARTICLE 14

Any person transgressing these Bylaws shall be admonished by the Moderator.

ARTICLE 15

No less than seven (7) members shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE 16

These Bylaws may be amended at any regular annual meeting by two-thirds vote.

CONSTITUTION OF THE MINISTERS' CONFERENCE OF MT. MITCHELL ASSOCIATION OF THE ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTISTS OF NORTH CAROLINA

ARTICLE 1

This body shall be known as the Ministers' Conference of the Mount Mitchell Association of the Original Free Will Baptists of North Carolina.

ARTICLE 2

This body is formed under and by the authority of the Mt. Mitchell Association, and shall be composed of its licensed and ordained ministers, with such delegates as provided by Article 8.

ARTICLE 3

This body shall have entire jurisdiction over the ministry in said Association, issuing license, prescribing qualifications

for the ministry, conducting examinations and ordaining ministers, and at all times working for the most harmonious and effective ministry. Each licensed minister shall work under a license for a period of not less than one year; then being eligible for ordination, providing he can meet all other requirements set forth by the Ordaining Council.

ARTICLE 4

We deem it necessary for the protection of the Gospel not to receive anyone as a minister who has two living wives.

ARTICLE 5

Suitable women may be ordained to the Christian ministry, provided there are no objections to such endorsement other than the matter of sex. (NOTE: This is a word for word copy of a ruling passed in the General Conference of the Free Will Baptist Church in 1886.)

ARTICLE 6

We believe the Bible teaches that Christian women should wear modest apparel, having long hair, and avoid adorning their persons with useless jewelry. This body shall require its female members to be guided by these principles.

ARTICLE 7

The officers of this Conference shall be Moderator. Assistant Moderator, and Clerk-Treasurer, who shall be elected annually and shall perform the duties usually performed by such officers.

ARTICLE 8

Each church shall be advised by its pastor to send two delegates to each session of this Conference, with a letter of authorization from the church, which delegation shall enjoy equal privileges with the ministry, both in deliberations and voting.

ARTICLE 9

Each year, upon being organized, this body shall elect an Ordaining Council. This Council shall consist of three (3) ordained ministers. One member of this Council shall be retained

from the preceding year's Council, the other two (2) to be elected at the discretion of the Conference.

ARTICLE 10

The Ordaining Council, when properly organized, shall have charge of all examinations and ordinations of candidates for the ministry, who have been ordered before it by the Conference. It shall also conduct due investigation into the social life of any candidate for ordination.

ARTICLE 11

This Conference may receive any Christian minister as a visiting member, and when thus received he may enjoy all rights and privileges of regular members except voting privileges.

ARTICLE 12

This Conference shall meet on Friday before each fifth Sunday, with some church in the Association previously agreed upon, or at the call of the Moderator, provided that more than one session may not be held with any church during the same Conference year; and providing also that there be no session held at the fifth Sunday in April immediately following the adoption of this Constitution.

Amended - August 26, 1972 - This Conference shall meet on Saturday before each fifth Sunday, at 9:30 a.m.

ARTICLE 13

The Moderator is empowered, and it is his duty, to call an extra session of the Conference, upon receiving a properly signed petition from five (5) members, at least (3) three of whom shall be ordained ministers.

ARTICLE 14

Each applicant for either license or ordination shall present a letter of recommendation from his church, properly signed by both pastor and clerk.

AMENDED -August 21, 1971- The letter is required for applicants for license only.

ARTICLE 15

Any minister who does not represent either in person or by letter for two (2) successive sessions of Conference shall be charged with delinquency and shall be deprived of his vote on any question until his disability is removed by vote of the Conference. However, if the delinquent brother offers a satisfactory reason for his absence, a majority vote of the Conference may remove his disability.

ARTICLE 16

The Conference may withdraw fellowship from any member who becomes disorderly, provided however, all Scriptural and Christian means have first been used to help him.

ARTICLE 17

The Moderator is empowered to appoint any Committee the Conference deems necessary to expedite its business.

ARTICLE 18

Any article of this Constitution or its Bylaws may be suspended or amended by a two-thirds vote of the Conference.

ARTICLE 19

A session of Conference shall be held in connection with the yearly Association.

ARTICLE 20

Five (5) members shall constitute a quorum, provided at least three (3) of them shall be ordained ministers.

ARTICLE 21

(Added as an amendment to ARTICLE 15)

Every minister granted license or ordination by this body shall be required to pledge that he will faithfully attend and support the Conference.

ARTICLE 22

(Added as an amendment to ARTICLE 14)

Every minister coming from another Conference to seek membership in our body must bring with him a letter of recommendation from the Conference he is leaving.

BYLAWS OF THE MOUNT MITCHELL
FREE WILL BAPTIST
MINISTERS' CONFERENCE

No licentiate shall succeed to ordination unless he can furnish sufficient evidence that he has obeyed the Scriptural admonition to "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of Truth." The Ordaining Council must be satisfied that he or she is divinely called, and the fruit of life and work during the period served under license must be satisfactory to the Ordaining Council. If it deems such a course advisable, the Ordaining Council may require a licentiate to renew his license, for as often as may be necessary, before ordination.

ARTICLE 2

Necessary expenses of this organization shall be met by voluntary contributions or by assessment of its members.

ARTICLE 3

No member shall serve as pastor of a church which does not enforce discipline, care for its pastor according to its ability, and strive to go forward in spiritual progress and the advancement of the Cause of Christ.

ARTICLE 4

Any member who meddles with the work of another, or injures another's reputation for usefulness shall be subject to a charge of disorderly conduct, and shall be dealt with according to Article 16 of the Constitution.

ARTICLE 5

Membership in this body shall be proof of good standing in the ministry.

ARTICLE 6

All ministers seeking license to preach must be kept under the watchcare of the Conference for the period of three months.

* * * * *

FAITH

Saving faith is an assent to the mind to the fundamental truths of revelation; an acceptance of the Gospel, through the influence of the Holy Spirit; and a firm confidence and trust in Christ. The fruit of faith is obedience to the Gospel. The power to believe is the gift of God; but believing is an act of the creature, which is required as a condition of pardon, and without which the sinner cannot obtain salvation. All men are required to believe in Christ; and those who yield obedience to this requirement become the children of God by faith.

Scripture references to Faith: II Cor. 7:10; Prov. 28:13; Ezek. 18:30; Acts 17:30; Luke 13:5; Heb. 11:6; Rom. 10:9-10; Acts 16:31; James 2:17; Phil. 1:29; Gal. 3:26.

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 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 grace and the knowledge of our Lord and

Saviour Jesus Christ." We will not forget 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, of 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 the Gospel. We will everywhere hold Christian principle sacred and Christian obligations and enterprises supreme; counting it our chief business in life to extend the influence of Christ in society; constantly 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.

DIRECTORY OF CHURCHES, PASTORS, CLERKS, REST HOME
AND AUXILIARY WORK COMMITTEES

<u>Church and Pastor</u>	<u>Clerk and Address</u>	<u>Rest Home Chairmen</u>	<u>Auxiliary Work Chmn.</u>
Bowditch (Union) Frances Radford	Frances Hughes Micaville, N. C.	Bertie Hensley	Alec Hensley
Green Mountain Charlie Miller	Mrs. Joe Woody Route 1 Burnsville, N. C. 28714	Earl Fox	Earl Fox
Mine Fork Charlie Miller	Mrs. Edd Edwards Route 1, Box 64 Burnsville, N. C. 28714	Carmon Laws	
Old Horse Shoe Benny Bumgardner	Norma Bumgardner Route 1 Elizabethton, Tenn. 37643		Hattie Wilson
Patterson Branch Wade Murphy	Mrs. Stanley Deyton Route 1, Box 97 Burnsville, N. C. 28714	Leland Scott Jack Webb	Fletcher Bryant
Prices Creek Frances Radford	Adalene Higgins Route 3, Box 271 Burnsville, N. C. 28714	Moscoe Towe	James Bursleson
Red Hill Cassie Thomas	Mrs. Claude Bullman Route 5 Marshall, N. C.	Jack Cole	Helen Cole
South Bend Charlie Miller Vinita Deyton	Mrs. Bula Thomas Route 2 Green Mountain, N. C. 28740	Luther Renfro	Levi Deyton
Terrys Fork Claude Bradley Frances Radford	Mrs. Bernice Metcalf Route 2, Box 47 Mars Hill, N. C. 28754	Wayne Metcalf	Phil Anderson

TABLE OF STATISTICS

	Bowditch Union	Green Mtn.	Mine Fork	O. Horse Shoe	Patt. Branch	Prices Creek	Red Hill	South Bend	Terrys Fork
Meeting Days	Full	1-3	2-4	Full	2-4	2-4	1-3	1-4	Full
Number Baptized	4	2	Unknown	20	1	4	4	1	12
Added Otherwise	1	0	0	7	0	1	0	1	4
Excluded	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Dismissed	2	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0
Deaths	0	2	2	2	0	1	0	2	1
Communion Ser.	4	1	1	0	3	1	1	1	1
Sunday School Att.	40	90	35	35	50	45	40	75	85
Active Membership	40	72	40	27	39	50	35	95	123
Pastor Present	47	24	22	Full	34	24	49	36	Full
Paid Pastor	605.73	837.45	462.09	0	1303.71	1748.44	1760.00	842.32	3575.98
Revival Offering	73.21	326.63	153.94	0	485.65	602.84	66.00	210.27	407.93
Minute Fund	22.00	30.00	30.00	0	38.00	22.45	30.00	31.56	25.00
Missions Offering	80.00	530.92	60.53	0	485.23	1252.16	1300.92	271.00	379.91
Home For Aged	0	361.16	42.02	0	77.00	76.34	55.00	428.95	0
Poor and Sick	605.73	413.45	93.06	200.00	90.00	213.75	30.00	223.50	543.35
Missions Pledge	0	0	0	0	2nd Off.	70.00	50.00	0	14.00
Dis. Min. Fund	0	90.00	0	0	60.00	74.81	80.00	0	18.28
Visiting Min.	0	227.84	34.10	0	118.10	105.80	0	43.55	25.00
Pd. Bible School	0	128.69	96.00	0	40.00	160.00	0	83.60	118.00
Pd. Cross Beams	300.00	73.00	Unknown	0	1232.90	3291.30	2023.00	283.00	504.00
Church Auxiliary	0	47.60	0	250.00	0	0	1522.08	0	0
S. S. Expenses	275.00	501.31	358.82	50.00	214.00	315.21	537.29	418.54	500.00
Ch. Improvements	250.00	0	Unknown	650.00	286.00	2745.68	2237.90	142.10	600.00
Value Ch. Prop.	10,500	10,640	9,000	5,000	4,000	10,527	25,000	9,000	15,000
R. Briggs Fund	71.60	Unknown	20.00	0	289.09	176.35	183.00	97.28	193.65

SESSIONS OF ASSOCIATION

<u>Number</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Year</u>
19	Terrys Fork Church	1974
20	Green Mountain	1975
21	Bowditch Church	1976
22	Patterson Branch Church	1977
23	South Bend Church	1978
24	Mine Fork Church	1979
25	Prices Creek Church	1980
26	Old Horse Shoe Church	1981
27	Red Hill Church	1982

CONFERENCE SESSIONS

Bowditch Church -----December 29, 1973
South Bend Church ----- March 30, 1974
Prices Creek Church ----- June 29, 1974
Terrys Fork Church ----- August 24, 1974
Green Mountain Church ----- December 28, 1974
Patterson Branch Church----- March 29, 1975
Old Horse Shoe Chapel ----- June 28, 1975
Green Mountain Church ----- August 23, 1975
Mine Fork Church ----- November 29, 1975

The women of the churches serve lunch for the Association on Thursday and Friday; for the Conference on Saturday.

MINISTERS ROLL

ORDAINED

Claude Bradley Rt. 1, Weaverville, N. C. 28787
Roosevelt Briggs Green Mountain, N. C. 28740
Charlie Miller Box 612, Burnsville, N. C. 28714
Wade Murphy Rt. 5, Burnsville, N. C. 28714
Frances Radford Box 155, Burnsville, N. C. 28714
Cassie Thomas Rt. 5, Burnsville, N. C. 28714
Raymond Whitehead. Rt. 1, Elizabethton, Tenn. 37643
Roy Whitson Green Mountain, N. C. 28740

PERMANENT LICENSE

Josephine Blevins Rt. 6, Box 398-J, Burnsville,
N. C. 28714
Vinita Miller Deyton Rt. 1, Burnsville, N. C. 28714
Edith Pauley. Erwin, Tennessee

HONORARY MEMBER

T. A. Green 2013 Cedar Fork Drive
Greensboro, North Carolina

SUBJECT TO BE ORDAINED

Benny Baumgardner Elizabethton, Tennessee

SUBJECT TO BE LICENSED

Justin Hudgins Rt. 3, Burnsville, N. C. 28714
David Thomas Rt. 3, Burnsville, N. C. 28714

CHURCH LETTER TO THE ASSOCIATION

We, the _____ Free Will Baptist Church, now in session, send Christian greetings to the Mt. Mitchell Association, and the following delegates to represent us in your body.

Our statistics are as follows:

Our preaching days are _____; Times Pastor present _____
Number baptized _____; Members added otherwise _____
Excluded _____; Dismissed _____; Deaths _____
Total Active Membership _____; Average in Sunday School _____
Number of Communion and feet-washing services _____. Church
Auxiliaries Receipts _____; We paid our Pastor (s) _____
Paid for revivals _____; Paid visiting ministers _____
Paid for Rest Home Support _____; Value of foodstuffs given to
Rest Home _____; Foreign and Home Missions Support _____
Local Church and Sunday School expenses _____; Paid to Poor
and sick _____; To Aged and Disabled Ministers' Fund _____
For Minutes Fund _____; Paid for Bible School _____
Paid to Cross Beams Radio Ministry _____; Paid to Bible
College _____; Paid to Briggs Building Fund _____
Monthly pledge to Aged and Disabled Ministers' Fund _____
Monthly pledge to Home or Foreign Missions _____; Amount
spent for church property improvement _____; Our church
property is valued at _____. Number of revivals _____
Conducted by _____
We believe our general spiritual condition as compared with a
year ago is _____
Pastor this year _____
Pastor-elect _____
Clerk _____
Address _____
Rest Home Chairman _____
Church Auxiliary Chairman _____
Steward _____

CHURCH LETTER TO THE CONFERENCE

We, the _____ Free Will Baptist Church,
now in session, send Christian greetings to the Mt. Mitchell
Conference convening with the _____ Church,
and the following-named delegates to represent us in your body.

Pastor _____

Clerk _____

Date _____

