

State Convention Now History 1980

"Heavenly places," that is how Shirley Hutchinson, writer for the Columbus First Beacon (the church newsletter), described the 42nd Annual State Convention.

The meeting held June 26-28 at the Heritage Temple Free Will Baptist Church, Columbus, heard nothing contrary the entire 3 days (which in these days of criticism and such is uncommon).

This certainly fulfills the conference theme, "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 2:5).

To refer to Mrs. Hutchinson again, "It is my opinion that if every minister and lay person who attended would take the spirit of the meeting and put it into action, we would see tremendous growth of Free Will Baptists in Ohio this year. I greatly appreciate the call to unity, love, and Christian maturity by our Moderator, Executive Secretary, and other officers and ministers. Too long have we been divided, not enough love for each other, and to quote Dr. Melvin Worthington 'plagued with immaturity.' A marvelous spirit of fellowship prevailed throughout all the meetings.

"Some of the finest preaching in the country was delivered Friday morning, Friday evening, and Saturday by Rev. Fred Dutton, Dr. Melvin Worthington, and Rev. Calvin Evans. The Apostle Paul's letter to the Philippians was well covered in these three messages. Here is an outline of the topics: 1) The Single Mind (Joy in spite of circumstances), 2) the Submissive Mind

(Joy in spite of people), and 3) the Spiritual Mind (Joy in spite of things) Philippians 3:19, 20. Our moderator, Rev. Franklyn Harness, led the association through a very smooth business session and in record time. It was evident, by the reports given by our National Offices, that Ohio is contributing to the whole of Free Will Baptists in a big way, but our potential is even greater. I was encouraged with our Executive Secretary, Dr. Melvin Worthington's report. His enthusiasm, thoroughness, and spirit of humility impressed me very much.

"It was a thrill to see about 300 young people taking part in the Friday evening services. The 38th Annual Woman's Auxiliary Meeting was very good from start to finish. Ohio Free Will Baptist women had as their theme last year, 'Knowing and Growing.' We had three home and three foreign missionaries preach and speak to us in the same day." (See woman's page.)

The following officers were elected: Rev. Franklyn Harness, Pastor Long Run Church, MODERATOR; Rev. Ferrell Rood, Pastor Zaleski Church, ASSISTANT MODERATOR; Rev. James Henderson, Pastor Circleville and Washington Court House Churches, CLERK; Mr. Jim Cornwell, Layman, Community Church, West Jefferson, ASSISTANT CLERK; David Bryant, Layman, Williams Road, MASTER'S MEN SENATOR; Rev. Delmar Sparks, Pastor Westerville, BOARD OF DIRECTORS; Rev.

Fred Dutton, Pastor Mansfield, STATE MISSION BOARD; Rev. Carl Dunn, Pastor Dailyville, STATE CTS DIRECTOR; Rev. Floyd Wolfenbarger, Pastor Newark, NATIONAL GENERAL BOARD MEMBER; NOMINATING COMMITTEE as follows: Rev. C. A. Newman, Pastor Springfield; Rev. Wendell Combs, Pastor Springfield First; Rev. Larry Gill, Pastor Harrison; GENERAL BOARD MEMBERS: Central Ohio, Glenn Webb, Layman, Community, West Jefferson; Cuyahoga-Lorain, Milburn Alicie, Layman Amherst; Franklin, Rev. Edwin Hayes, Pastor Columbus First; Great Lakes, Rev. Kenneth Frisbee, Pastor Akron; Jackson, Rev. Elmer Sizemore, Pastor Petrea; Lawrence, Rev. Larry Salyers, Pastor Pine Grove; Little Miami, Rev. Homer Brooks, Pastor South Charleston; Meigs, Rev. Danny Boggs, Pastor Centerpoint; Northeastern, Rev. Damon Rose, Pastor Elm Street; Pine Creek, Rev. Ed Purcell, Pastor Germany Hollow; Porter, Rev. Andrew Workman, Evangelist; Trinity, Oscar Baldwin, Pastor Lebanon; Waynesburg, Rev. Andrew Parsons, Pastor Silver Memorial.

Rev. Elmer Sizemore, Rev. Homer Brooks, Milburn Alicie, and Rev. Oscar Baldwin were elected to serve on the Executive Committee with the General Officers of the Convention.

The next State Convention will convene June 25-27, 1981, at the Heritage Temple Free Will Baptist Church, Columbus, Ohio.