

MINUTES OF THE 59TH ANNUAL SESSION OF THE OHIO STATE ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

The 59th annual session of the Ohio State Association of Free Will Baptists met June 27-28, 1997, at Heritage Temple Free Will Baptist Church, Columbus, OH. The theme for the convention was "PREACH THE WORD." Mike Mounts served as song leader with Donna Dean at the piano.

Friday Morning

Clerk Mike Stokes called the meeting into official session and introduced Moderator Robert Prichard.

The Moderator introduced Dr. Billy Sharpston, pastor of Heritage Temple Free Will Baptist Church, who welcomed the Association to Heritage Temple and to Columbus.

The Moderator's message to the convention was taken from Isaiah 28. His theme was, "THE REFRESHING."

After seating the delegates in the center aisles, the Moderator then called for the General Board Report. **Item #1** Board members present 15, absent 4. **Item #2** The Board voted on and approved Tim Crank as proxy for John Haney, Sr., of Lawrence County. **Item #3** The Executive Committee Report was given by the Clerk. The Executive Committee recommended that each department present a budget to be voted on by the Association. There was a motion and second to table the recommendation. The motion was sustained. **Item #4** The Ohio Mission Board Report was given by Roy Hutchinson. Voted on and received. **Item #5** Moderator Robert Prichard gave a devotional from Job 16. **Item #6** The CTS Report was given by Manuel Lopes which was voted on and received. **Item #7** The Board of Directors Report was given by Billy Sharpston which was voted on and received. **Item #8** The Executive Secretary's Report was given by Edwin Hayes. Bookstore Manager Jeff Dunn reported on the progress of the bookstore. The General Board recommends that the reports and projected budgets of the State Office and Ambassador Bible Bookstore be adopted. **Item #9** The Moderator then appointed the Chairmen of Committees as follows: Resolution, Danny Boggs; Obituary, Oziel Jeffries; Appreciation, Jim McComas. The General Board Report was voted on and received.

The Moderator then completed the appointment of committee members to serve during the convention. Those appointed to the **Resolution Committee** were Derl Porter and Tim Crank. The **Obituary Committee** consisted of Jim Henderson and Willie Booth. Those serving on the **Appreciation Committee** were Taefo Talo Tea and Roger Dempsey.

Moderator Robert Prichard then called for music while the convention welcomed visitors and corresponding messengers.

Missionary Cathy Crawford gave a report of her work in France which was voted on and received.

Melvin Worthington gave a report of the **National Executive Office**. Brother Worthington reported that Co-Op receipts during 1996 were the second highest in history. A motion carried to receive this report.

The **State Home Mission** Board report was given by Chairman Roy Hutchinson. Three churches received special thanks for their giving to Home Missions: Westerville Free Will Baptist Church, Mike Mounts, Pastor; Dailyville Free Will Baptist Church, Carl Dunn, Pastor; Hillsboro Free Will Baptist Church, Brian Bishop, Pastor. Brother Hutchinson also recognized the Franklin Conference for their generous giving to Home Missions. Brother Hutchinson also announced the appointment of Rev. Keith Perkins as Home Missionary to the Loveland-Montgomery area where he is beginning a new mission work. John Mountjoy is to assume the pastorate at Hamilton Free Will Baptist Church. A motion carried to receive this report.

There was a motion and second to adjourn from business for worship which carried.

Mike Mounts led the congregation in worship. Mike Stokes provided the special singing.

An offering of \$155.42 was received from the congregation.

Rev. Lloyd Locklear, pastor of Woodhaven Free Will Baptist Church of Woodhaven, MI, was introduced to bring the message. His subject was, "**The Authority of Biblical Preaching.**"

Following special prayer, the convention recessed for lunch.

Friday Afternoon

At 1:15 PM Mike Mounts led the congregation in singing.

Tom Dooley gave devotional thoughts from 1 Samuel 17 and offered prayer.

The **Board of Directors** Report was given by Dr. Billy Sharpston. A motion carried to receive this report.

Promotional Secretary Edwin Hayes was recognized to give a report of the State Office. Brother Hayes reported that giving to the State Office was at an all time high in 1996. Jeff Dunn gave a report of the Ambassador Bookstore. A motion carried to receive the reports and adopt their budgets.

Jim Cox gave a report of **Free Will Baptist Bible College**. Brother Cox reported that 124 acres of ground about ten miles from downtown Nashville has been purchased and paid for. Work will begin soon on the new campus for Free Will Baptist Bible College. A motion carried to receive this report.

Bill Evans gave a report of the **National Board of Retirement** and the **Free Will Baptist Foundation**. A motion carried to receive this report.

Sandy Mounts gave a report of the **Ohio Woman's Auxiliary**. The theme for this year was, "**NEIGHBORS WITHOUT BOUNDARIES**." Special guest speakers were David and Pam Potete, missionaries to Chicago, Illinois. The State project for 1997 is \$12,000. Officers elected for 1997/98 were as follows: President, Sandy Mounts; Vice President, Shirley Sharpston; Secretary, Linda Dunn; Treasurer, Geri Baker; Field Worker, Angela Dooley; Members at Large, Marty Bussey, Mary Webb, and Rhonda Mounts. A motion carried to receive this report.

National Delegate A.J. Dooley gave a report of the National Association meeting. A motion carried to receive this report.

The Moderator then appointed delegates to the National Association meeting in Cincinnati, Ohio in July. Those appointed were, A.J. Dooley, Christine Hildebrand, Linda Dunn, Evelyn Chamberlin, and Jo Ann Vaughn.

Jimmy Aldridge gave a report of the **National Foreign Mission Department**. A motion carried to receive this report.

Manuel Lopes gave a report of the **State CTS Department**. A motion carried to receive this report.

The convention then adjourned from business until Saturday Morning.

Friday Evening

Mike Mounts led the congregation singing, "When We All Get To Heaven."

Freddy Dutton welcomed the congregation and called for a time of singing and fellowship. Carl Dunn offered prayer.

Manuel Lopes was then introduced to present CTS awards to division winners who will represent Ohio in National Competition.

Special music was provided by Emily Dempsey, Southwest Choir, and Amanda Kramer.

An offering of \$716.11 was received from the congregation.

Rev. Keith Perkins was introduced to bring the message. His subject was, "**THE AMBASSADOR OF BIBLICAL PREACHING**."

Following the service there were activities for the young people in the church annex and open house at Ambassador Bookstore.

Saturday Morning

At 9:30 AM Jim McComas gave a devotion from Judges 12, and led in prayer. Moderator Robert Prichard then recognized Alton Loveless who gave a report of the **National Sunday School Department** and Randall House. A motion carried to receive this report.

Trymon Messer gave a report of the **National Home Mission Department**. A motion carried to receive this report.

Committee reports were then called for.

Obituary: Since we last met in June of 1996, the following fellow believers have gone to be with the Lord: Flora Mabel Jeffrey, Elmer Sizemore, Mary Sizemore, Robert Hollingshead, Everett Maynard, Mike Cassidy, Robert Delauder, Sara Scott, Edith Holbrook, Zelda Bryant, Art Chadwick, Ira Moore, Lucille Workman, Elmer Loap, Mary Benner, Stella Burgess, Tom Price, Okie Lewis, Vida Lewis, Louise Kidd, Paul Williams, Dale Smith, Carolyn Cunningham, George Bell, Lucille Cain, Mary Arrick, Clara Etterling, Donna Mersiel, Louise Cyrus, Elbert Cyrus.

A motion carried which asked the congregation to stand in a moment of silence to remember these who have gone to be with the Lord followed by prayer offered by Carl Dunn.

Appreciation: Special thanks to Heritage Temple Free Will Baptist Church and Pastor Sharpston, for the warm welcome and the use of their facilities, the Moderator Robert Prichard, all special singers, and Donna Dean for being our pianist, the song leader Mike Mounts, all speakers, boards, committees, Edwin Hayes and his staff who made the convention a success. There was a motion and second which asked for a standing vote of appreciation, which was granted.

Resolution: The committee recommends that the Ohio State Association of Free Will Baptists participate in the National Association call for a boycott of Walt Disney World and their products. Adopted.

Nominating Committee: Moderator, Robert Prichard-elected; Assistant Moderator, Mike Mounts-elected; Clerk, Mike Stokes-elected; Assistant Clerk, Bruce Beal-elected; General Board, Little Miami, forest Dyer-elected; Lawrence, Tim Crank-elected; Jackson, Marvin Markin-elected; Great Lakes, Kenneth Frisbee-elected; Franklin, Delmar Sparks-elected; Cuyahoga-Lorain, John Jeffrey-elected; Central Ohio, Kenny Cordell-elected; Tri-State, David Phillips-elected; Northeastern, Delmon Rose-elected; Capital City, Freddy Dutton-elected; Executive Committee,

Blaine Etterling, Forest Dyer, Delmar Sparks, Freddy Dutton-elected. Board of Directors, Keith Perkins-elected; State Mission Board, Roland Luthy-elected; Nomination Committee, Oziel Jeffries-elected; CTS Board, Roger Crusie-elected, Sandy Mounts to fill an unexpired term of Jerry Sargent which ends in 2003, Chuck Stewart to fill an unexpired term of John Beverly which ends in 1999.

The clerk then read the report which will be sent to the National Association meeting in Cincinnati, Ohio, July 20-24. The report was voted on and approved.

The total registration for this year's convention was 160. More than 500 was in attendance for all the services.

A motion carried to adjourn from business.

Assistant Moderator Mike Mounts led the worship service. An offering of \$223.97 was received from the congregation. Total offerings and gifts from various churches to the convention was \$7,320.50.

Special singing was presented by the Special Purpose Singers from Cleveland, Ohio.

Rev. David Schug was introduced to bring the message. His subject was "**THE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF BIBLICAL PREACHING.**" Benediction.

Mike Stokes, Clerk