

MINUTES OF THE 64TH ANNUAL SESSION
OF THE
OHIO STATE ASSOCIATION
OF
FREE WILL BAPTISTS

The 64th annual session of the Ohio State Association of Free Will Baptists met June 21-22, 2002 at the Gahanna Free Will Baptist Church, 3868 Stygler Road, Gahanna, Ohio. The theme for the convention was, "Jesus-In Times Like These." Mitch Salyers served a song leader and Sister Julie Kirk at the piano.

FRIDAY MORNING

At 9:30 AM Clerk Mike Stokes welcomed the congregation and called the meeting into official session by introducing the moderator, Robert Prichard.

The moderator then introduced Rev. Curtis Booth, pastor of Gahanna Free Will Baptist Church, who welcomed the convention to Columbus, and to Gahanna Free Will Baptist Church.

The moderator's message to the convention was taken from John 17:21. His theme was "**The Nature of True Unity.**" Brother Prichard then offered prayer.

After seating delegates the moderator then called for the General Board Report. The General Board met June 20, 2002 at the Gahanna Free Will Baptist Church, Gahanna, Ohio. Items of business: **Item #1** Board members present 10, absent 9. The board approved Mitch Salyers and Roy Bennett as proxies for Mark Bailey and Redford Meadows. **Item #2** The clerk gave the Executive Committee Report, which was received. **Item #3** Bill Hayes gave the Board of Directors Report, which was received. **Item #4** Edwin Hayes gave a report and presented the budget of the State Office and Literature Center. Brother Hayes is proposing a Pastor's Retirement Plan for our state. The cost is included in the proposed budget. The General Board recommends that his report and projected budget be adopted. **Item #5** Roy Hutchinson and Paul Etterling gave a report of the Ohio Home Mission Board. The General Board recommends that this report and projected budget be adopted. **Item #6** The OYC Report was given by Mark Price. The General Board recommends that this report and projected budget be adopted. **Item #7** The General Board recommends a constitutional change of Article 6 Section 2, in reference to General Board Members. The suggested change to include the chairman of the Nominating Committee as a General Board member. **Item #8** General Board member Ollie Collins of the Northeastern Conference whose term ends in 2003 has resigned for health reasons. The General Board has elected Clarence Mullins, Jr. to fill the unexpired term. **Item #9** The General Board recommends that Section 1 of our By-Laws be changed. The suggested change would read, "The clerk shall call the Association to order and in his absence the assistant clerk shall call the Association to order." **Item #10** The moderator then appointed the chairmen of committees: Resolution – Mitch Salyers; Obituary – Paul Finney; Appreciation – David Trusty. A motion carried to receive this report.

The moderator then called for a time of fellowship while the convention welcomed Richard Green, Ron Hunter, Jim Leonard, Ralph Dingus, Neal Gilliland, Bill Evans, Melvin Worthington and James Cox.

After welcoming visitors from other bodies the moderator then completed the appointment of committee members to serve during the convention. Those appointed to the Appreciation Committee were, Jeremy Luthy, and Mike Nabors. Serving on the Obituary Committee were Mark Bailey, and Tom Jones. The Resolution Committee was completed by the appointment of Roy Bennett, and Tim McKnight.

The moderator then recognized Roy Hutchinson and Paul Etterling who gave a report of the State Home Mission Board. Brother Hutchinson reported that we have four missionaries on the field: Roger Daniels, Neville Mission; Charles (Randy) Hall, Hamilton Mission; Timothy Byers, Astabula Mission and Tim McKnight, London Mission. The Hamilton Mission will be self-supporting by the end of this year. A motion carried to receive this report and to adopt their projected budget.

Ron Hunter gave a report of the National Sunday School and Randall House Publications, which was received. Melvin Worthington gave a report of the National Executive Office, which was received. A standing vote of appreciation was given to Brother Worthington who is retiring at the end of this year.

The moderator then entertained a motion to adjourn from business until after lunch, which carried.

The singing group, Divine Purpose, from Wyandotte Free Will Baptist Church, Mansfield, Ohio, provided special singing.

An offering of \$138.00 was received.

Roy Bennett pastor of Antioch Free Will Baptist Church, Wheelersburg, Ohio, was introduced to bring the message. His subject was, "Jesus is the Way-The Christian Road." Following the message the convention recessed for lunch.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON

At 1:30 PM Mitch Salyers led the congregation in worship with a song.

Evangelist Clovis Vanover gave devotional thoughts and Robert Prichard offered a prayer.

Sandy Mounts gave the OYC Report. A motion carried to receive this report and to adopt the projected budget.

Bill Hayes gave the Board of Directors Report, which was received.

Edwin Hayes gave the State Office and Literature Center Report. A motion carried to begin a Pastor's Retirement Plan in our state. A motion was sustained to receive Brother Hayes' report and to adopt the projected budget. An amendment included special thanks to Paul Keener for his assistance in computer programming at the state office.

Debbie Teo gave a report of the Ohio Women Active For Christ. Their theme for this year was "Where are your Treasures?" The state project for 2002-2003 is \$9,000.00. A motion carried to receive this report.

The moderator then returned to the General Board Report to consider items #7 and #9. After discussion these items were approved.

A.J. Dooley gave a report of the National Association Meeting, which was approved.

James Cox gave a report of Free Will Baptist Bible College, which was received.

Neal Gilliland gave a report of the National Foreign Mission Department, which was received. Tim Keener gave a report of his preparation to go to the mission field in France.

Richard Greene gave a report of the Children's Home in Virginia, which was received.

Ralph Dingus gave a report of the Children's Home in Greenville Tennessee, which was received. Ohio Free Will Baptist gave \$77,000.00 to the Children's Home in 2001.

Bill Evans gave a report of the National Board of Retirement and the Free Will Baptist Foundation, which was received.

Larry Powell gave a report of the National Home Mission Department, which was received.

Tom Dooley gave a report of the National Master's Men Department, which was received.

The convention then adjourned from business until Saturday morning.

FRIDAY EVENING

Mitch Salyers led the congregation in singing.

Mark Bailey welcomed the people and offered prayer.

Mark Price was introduced to present CTS awards to division winners who will represent Ohio, in national competition.

An offering of \$7,482.33 was received.

Special music provided by, Liberty Free Will Baptist Church Choir, CTS Instrumental winner Sarah McCarty, and Lacey Price.

Rev. Larry Powell was then introduced to deliver the message. His subject was, "Jesus is the Truth-The Christian Rule." Benediction.

SATURDAY MORNING

At 9:30 AM Mitch Salyers led the congregation in singing.

Rev. Emil Cartee gave devotional thoughts and Robert Prichard offered prayer.

Moderator Robert Prichard then called the meeting to order.

Jim McComas gave a report of the David Marks Memorial Service, which was held May 4, 2002.

Committee reports were then called for:

Resolution Committee: We the resolution committee submit the following two resolutions:

*Whereas, the Bible challenges us as believers to hold fast to and preach solid, sound, Biblical Doctrine (Titus 2:1),
And, Whereas, Scripture also teaches us that there will come a day of great compromise and carnality, when people will not adhere to sound Biblical principles (2 Timothy 4:1-4),
And, Whereas, Free Will Baptists have historically stood strong for the fundamentals of the faith,
And, Whereas, perhaps no doctrine has been more attacked historically than the doctrine of the Atonement of Sin through and by the shed blood of Jesus Christ,
And, Whereas, there has been dissension and discussion on this issue in our own ranks of late,
Therefore, be it resolved, that we as Ohio Free Will Baptists boldly and without apology proclaim our stand to the world on the issue of the Blood of Jesus Christ by presenting the following declaration, and furthermore send this declaration on to the National Association with high hopes that we will stand together as a denomination on this most crucial issue:
We as Free Will Baptist still believe in*

- 1. **The PURPOSE of the Blood** – From the Garden of Eden all the way down through human history, the shedding of BLOOD has been essential in God's plan for the forgiveness of sins. Hebrews 9:22b states unequivocally that "without shedding of blood is no remission."*
- 2. **The PROBLEM of the Blood of Animal Sacrifices** – The multitude of animals sacrificed on the altars of the temple down through centuries of time were just temporary solutions to a very permanent sin problem. Hebrews 10:1 says "For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect."*
- 3. **The PRODUCT of the Blood shed at Calvary** – From Christ's Words on the cross of "It is Finished", to the rending of the veil in the temple, the message from Calvary was clear – Christ's Blood was enough to cover all sins, and no further sacrifice was needed. Hebrews 9:12 states "Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by His own blood He entered into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us."*
- 4. **The PRINCIPLE of the Blood** – It is impossible for a sinner to be saved without being washed in the Blood of the Lamb. Revelations 7:14 says "...these are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." This fact makes the shedding of Christ's blood on the cross not secondary to His death, but an absolute essential in God's great salvation plan.*
- 5. **The PRECIOUSNESS of the Blood** – Far from trying to distance ourselves from the Blood of Christ and it's importance, in the "user friendly", "seeker sensitive" church age we live in, now is the time when we as Bible Believing Free Will Baptist Christians must stand as firm, as emphatic, and as bold as we have ever stood for the Blood of Christ. The Precious Blood is INCORRUPTIBLE – It cannot be anything else because of it's intrinsic purity. (1 Peter 1:18-19)
The Precious Blood is INDESTRUCTIBLE – It cannot be anything else because of it's permanent place in our redemption. (Hebrews 9:12)
The Precious Blood is INVALUABLE – It cannot be anything else because of it's parentage. (Acts 20:28)
The Precious Blood is INDISPENSABLE – It cannot be anything else because of it's power. (Revelations 7:14)
In light of the aforementioned Biblical truths, let us resolve as a denomination, as individual churches, and as individual Christians to lift the blood stained banner of our Savior high in the midst of a lost and needy world. We will not wilt in the face of liberal theological trends, waffle in the face of popular religious opinion, or waver in the face of ecumenical calls to surrender doctrinal specifics. It is still the Blood of Jesus Christ that saves from sin. Here is where we stand, and we will do no less.*

Resolution #2

*Whereas, the Catholic movement has been bombarded by lawsuits over sexual molestation, and,
Whereas, our denomination has always stood for maintaining the Biblical qualifications of it's ministers, and,
Whereas, our denominational position of autonomy does not connectionally link our ministers to a hierarchy, and,
Whereas, we believe sexual molestation or gross misconduct of any kind disqualifies a man from becoming a minister or remaining ordained.*

*Be it resolved that we reaffirm our strong stance on the high moral and Biblical character of our ministers, and,
That we direct the clerk of the State Association to send a copy of this resolution to each conference to remind them of their responsibility in the ordination of ministers and in holding each ministers credentials.*

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Obituary Committee: Since we last met in June of 2001, the following fellow believers have gone to be with the Lord: Rev. Clarence Newman, Margaret Harvey, Denny Swetnam, Carol Grubbs, Dan Kern, Mary Lou Turner, Lilly Stover, Myrtle Paisley, Rev. Pete Maynard, Hager Burton, Bill Duffer Sr., Myrtle Emrich, Vada Ratliff, Roberta Loar, Mildred Stone, Opal Graves, Ralph Castle, Burns Brown, Robert McNeely, Marvin Kitchen, Larry Jones, Jim Varney, Dot Heskett, James M. Cox, Brother Jean Day, Bill Burrows, Richard Meade, Natalie Coutour, Vivian Davis, Bob Perry, Corral Day, Betty Sparks, and Madeline Keith.

Appreciation Committee: A special thanks to the Gahanna Free Will Baptist Church and pastor Curtis Booth for the warm welcome and the use of their beautiful facilities. Thanks to Moderator Robert Prichard, Assistant Moderator Mike Mounts, Clerk Mike Stokes, Assistant Clerk Mark Bailey, song leader Mitch Salyers, pianist Julie Kirk, all special singers, speakers, boards, committees, the sound man, ushers, all prayer partners, all corresponding messengers and all who attended this session. Most of all we appreciate Jesus for being with His people in times like these.

Nominating Committee: For officers term ending 2003: Moderator, Robert Prichard, elected; Assistant Moderator, Mike Mounts, elected; Clerk, Mike Stokes, elected; Assistant Clerk, Mark Bailey, elected.

General Board term ending 2004: Cornerstone, Blain Etterling, elected; Gallia, Eugene Bare, elected; Pine Creek, Roy Bennett, elected; Meigs, Charles Hively, elected; North and Western, David Trusty, elected; Porter, Dan King, elected; South Central, Mitch Salyers, elected; Southern Ohio, Robert Fulton, elected; Trinity, Densil Wright, elected; Northeastern, Clarence Mullins to fill an un-expired term of Ollie Collins, elected. Executive Committee terms ending 2003: Roy Bennett, David Trusty, Paul Finney, and David Phillips, elected. Board of Directors term ending 2009: Bill Hayes, elected; Mike Nabors to fill an un-expired term of Keith Perkins, which ends in 2004, elected. CTS Board term ending 2009: Mark Leonard, elected; Mark McCarty to replace Don Buhro whose term ends in 2006, elected. State Home Mission Board term ending 2009: Oziel Jeffries, elected. National General Board Member term ending 2004: Mike Stokes, elected. Nominating Committee term ending 2005: Paul Keener, elected.

Registration Committee: Chairman Freddy Duton reported that 69 ministers, 7 Deacons, 27 Delegates, and 96 visitors registered. For a total of 199.

The clerk then read the report, which will be sent to the National Association Meeting in Memphis, Tennessee. This report was approved.

A motion carried to adjourn from business.

Assistant Moderator Mike Mounts led the worship service.

An offering of \$255.47 was received.

The Cartee Grandchildren provided special singing.

Rev. John Meade Pastor of Southwest Free Will Baptist Church, Columbus, Ohio, was introduced to bring the message. His subject was, "**Jesus is the Life – The Christian Reality.**" Benediction.

Mike Stokes, Clerk