

MINUTES

OF THE

FORTY-THIRD ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

ROCKFISH CONFERENCE

OF THE

Original Free Will Baptist

HELD WITH

MT. CALVARY CHURCH

Route 2, Hamlet, Richmond County, N. C.

October 12th, 13th, 1951

ORDAINED MINISTERS

M. L. Baxley, Red Springs, N. C.
J. H. Galloway, R. F. D., Lumberton, N. C.
Steve English, Route 2, Hamlet, N. C.
C. W. Bennett, Route 2, St. Pauls, N. C.
R. L. Clark, Hamlet, N. C.
A. J. Pearson, St. Pauls, N. C.
Angus Prevatte, Raeford, N. C.
J. H. Tyson, Raeford, N. C.
Frank Sanford, Route 2, Hamlet, N. C.
George Langley, Mills Rural Station, Rockingham, N. C.
H. S. Clark, East Laurinburg, N. C.
C. B. Hopkins, Mills Rural Station, Rockingham, N. C.
Lynwood Bryant, Mills Rural Station, Rockingham, N. C.
J. F. Rogers, Box 22, Rockingham, N. C.

MINISTERS PRESENT

M. L. Baxley, George Langley, Angus Prevatte, Steve English, J. F. Rogers, C. B. Hopkins.

SICK EXCUSES

C. W. Bennett, J. H. Tyson, R. L. Clark, A. J. Pearson, H. S. Clark.

ORDAINING COUNCILORS

Revs. Steve English, George Langley, C. B. Hopkins, C. W. Bennett, and H. S. Clark.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

G. H. Carver, Chairman	Sandy Grove
Clyde Cox	Pine Grove
George Langley	Pine Grove
J. P. Huffman	Highland Pines
John Paterson	Hickory Grove

FINANCE COMMITTEE

G. H. Carver, Chm.	Sandy Grove
Clyde Cox	Pine Grove
Jerry Budd	Sandy Grove
Lee Carpenter	Highland Pines
Ruth Jenkins	Mt. Moriah

OFFICERS OF THE CONFERENCE

Rev. M. L. Baxley	Moderator
Rev. Angus Prevatte	Asst. Moderator
Wm. H. Edwards	Secretary-Treasurer
Nellie Edwards	Asst. Secretary-Treasurer

Route 1, Hope Mills, N. C.

PROCEEDINGS

The Forty-Third Annual session of the Rockfish Conference of the Original Free Will Baptist met in session with the Mt. Calvary Church at Route 2, Hamlet, N. C., on Oct. 12th thru 13th, 1951.

FRIDAY MORNING

Song by congregation—"Standing on the Promises."

Song by congregation—"Are You Washed in the Blood."

Prayer by Rev. M. L. Johnson.

Devotions by Rev. A. F. Lawter, read from Revelations chapter 1.

The following visiting ministers were given a hearty welcome:

Rev. D. W. Hansley, Eastern Conference, Rev. M. L. Johnson, Western Conference, Rev. R. N. Hinnant, Western Conference, Rev. Walter Carter, Piedmont Association, Rev. A. F. Lawter, Lockhart, S. C.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

Devotional: Bro. H. P. Hodge, Chairman, Sister Nellie Edwards, Sister Mattie Norton.

Sabbath School: Bro. John Patterson, Chairman, Bro. G. H. Carver, Rev. Steve English.

Education: Bro. Wm. H. Edwards, Chairman, Bro. H. P. Hodge, Bro. Thomas Owens.

Orphanage: Bro. Jesse Lee, Chairman, Sister Lineze Johnson, Sister Nellie Edwards.

Missions: Rev. C. B. Hopkins, Chairman; Bro. W. E. Chavis, Sister D. L. Sports.

At this time the Promotional Secretary of the N. C. State Convention of Original Free Will Baptist, Rev. M. L. Johnson of Sims, N. C., made his report. Some of the high spots in his report were as follows:

District Conferences or Associations	Totals . . .	9
Churches	"	306
Members	"	40,029
Ministers	"	324
Leagues	"	82
Womens Auxiliaries	"	199
Sunday Schools	"	251

Value of Free Will Baptist property in the State of North Carolina totals \$2,483,258.63.

Rev. Johnson also stressed the need for all the churches to follow the Seven Point Program, especially donations for Superannuation, because our list of aged ministers is increasing, and there was only \$5,526.11 collected last year to be distributed among our aged ministers.

Money or gifts for the four following purposes: Superannuation, Education, Church Finance Ass'n., and Cragmont, are to be mailed to Rev. M. L. Johnson, Sims, N. C., indicating the purpose for and the Conference and Church from which sent.

Motion was made to receive Rev. M. L. Johnson's report; motion seconded, Conference voted to receive the report.

Rev. R. N. Hinnant was requested to deliver the message during the morning worship hour.

Song by congregation: "Glory to His Name."

Moved and carried to adjourn for recess.

Dismissed by Rev. Walter Carter.

RECESS

Call to Worship.

Song by congregation: "I Am Thine O, Lord."

Song by congregation: "The Way of the Cross leads Home."

Prayer by Rev. Angus Prevatte.

Song: "There shall be Showers of Blessings."

Rev. R. N. Hinnant was introduced by Rev. M. L. Baxley.

Rev. Hinnant read from Romans chapter 4 using as a text verse 2. Theme of sermon "Justification." Rev. Hinnant brought a much needed and inspiring sermon, thoroughly explaining how we are justified before God and man, by our faith in Him, by our works we cause men to see that we do believe in God, and are willing therefore to work for Him.

Dismissed by prayer for lunch.

Lunch hour was enjoyed by all, making new acquaintances and renewing the old, accompanied by a fine Dinner, prepared by the members of Mt. Calvary Church.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON

Song by congregation: "Send the Light."

Song by congregation: "Jesus Saves."

Prayer by Bro. John Patterson.

Devotional by Rev. Angus Prevatte, reading 3rd chapter Colossians.

At this time, Rev. R. N. Hinnant made a talk, concerning our Press, the Free Will Baptist Press at Ayden, N. C., urging us and all Free Will Baptist to use the facilities at Ayden thereby keeping the moneys used for literature and printing within the denomination, also asking those that were not already subscribers to The Free Will Baptist, to subscribe for it.

Rev. D. W. Hansley also spoke briefly on the Educational Program, mentioning the fact that there is a drive underway to organize a Free Will Baptist Junior College at Cragmont, to be known as The Mt. Allen Junior College and urged all to donate to this cause, which as Rev. Hansley ex-

plained, is essential to our denomination. The studies at this College are to be based on the standards of any Junior College of the nation, teaching both literary and religious education, thereby helping us to keep our young people Free Will Baptist minded. Send your donations to Rev. M. L. Johnson, Sims, N. C. (designated as follows: For Education, half to be sent to our College in Nashville, Tenn., half to be kept in N. C. for the above purpose.).

Moved and carried to accept Rev. R. N. Hinnant's and Rev. D. W. Hansley's reports.

Song by Rev. R. N. Hinnant: "What a Friend we have in Jesus."

Letter from Piney Plains F. W. B. Church at Gibson, N. C., requesting membership with the Rockfish Conference, read by Clerk.

Moved and carried to receive Piney Plains as a member Church to the Rockfish Conference.

Moved and carried to accept the action of the Executive Committee for the previous year.

Song by congregation: "Stand up for Jesus." During this time the Right Hand of Fellowship was given to the delegates from Piney Plains Church.

Moved and carried to excuse the absence of the Ministers that are sick.

Moved and carried to adjourn.

Dismissed by Rev. Steve English.

Friday evening services were held by Rev. D. W. Hansley.

SATURDAY MORNING

10:00 Song by congregation: "When I see the Blood."

Devotions by Rev. Steve English. Read 1st thru 9th verses of Ecclesiastes.

Prayer by Rev. J. F. Rogers.

10:15 Discussions concerning Conference Treasury. Various ways were debated on how to raise money to be used by the conference other than for publication and Clerk's fee.

Moved and carried that each Pastor take this matter before his Church.

10:45 Rev. C. H. Coats of the Cape Fear Conference arrived about this time, accompanied by his wife. Both were very much welcomed by all.

Moved and carried to adjourn for a short recess. Dismissed by prayer.

11:00 Worship Hour.

Song: "Standing on the Promises."

Prayer by Bro. J. P. Huffman.

Song: "Bringing in the Sheaves."

Rev. M. L. Baxley arose to introduce Rev. C. H. Coats to those present that had not had the pleasure of meeting him, also called on Rev. Coats to bring the Morning Message.

Sermon by Rev. C. H. Coats. Rev. Coats read from 1st chapter St. John, using as a text the 5th verse. Subject: "The Light of the Church to the Darkened World." This message was enjoyed by all.

The doors of Mt. Calvary Church were opened for membership by the Pastor, Rev. Steve English.

Rev. J. F. Rogers was admitted by letter as a member, or under the watch care of the Church until his letter has been received from former Church.

Song: "Lord, I'm coming Home."

12:00 Dismissed by prayer.

Dinner was served on the Church grounds, as on the previous day. The dinner was enjoyed by all present.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON

1:00 Song by congregation: "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms."

Devotional by Rev. C. B. Hopkins, reading the 139th Psalm.

Prayer by Rev. George Langley.

1:15 Business Session:

Report of Committees:

SABBATH SCHOOL

We, your Committee for Sabbath School, urge you to support your Sabbath School with your money and presence each Sabbath Day, encourage your children to attend Sabbath School regularly.

Bro. John Patterson, Chm.

Bro. G. H. Carver,

Rev. Steve English.

EDUCATION

We, your Committee for education, urgently request you to see that our Free Will Baptist Schools and Colleges of the past and future are supported sufficiently to train our people to enable them to teach God's Word better.

Bro. Wm. H. Edwards, Chm.,

Bro. H. P. Hodge,

Bro. Thomas Owens.

ORPHANAGE

We, your Committee for Orphanage, recommend that all our churches realize that the orphan children at our Orphanage Home are looking to us for their support. Let each one do their best for this worthy cause.

Bro. Jesse Lee, Chm.

Sister Nellie Edwards,

Sister Lineze Johnson.

MISSIONS

We, your Committee for Home and Foreign Missions, recommend that we continue to do every thing possible for this worthy cause.

Rev. C. B. Hopkins, Chm.
Bro. W. E. Chavis,
Sister Armaitha Sports.

Moved and carried to receive the reports of the Committees.

Call for Church Letters.

Mt. Moriah—Delegates: Mrs. Mattie Norton, Mrs. Addie Jenkins, Miss Bernice Norton; State of religion, Good; Members received past 12 months, 1; Total Membership, 23; Condition of Sunday School, Fair; Average No. of pupils, 25; No. of Officers, 3; No. of Teachers, 3; Paid Pastor \$305.00; Paid Evangelist \$71.00; Orphanage \$39.00; Foreign Mission \$34.00; Building and Repairs \$71.00; Lights \$12.00; Literature \$15.34; Enclosed for Minutes \$10.00; Money received this year \$654.62; Money spent \$612.59; Balance \$32.03; Pastor's name, Rev. Angus Prevatte, Raeford, N. C.; Clerk, Mrs. Mattie Norton. The Church of Mt. Moriah request the sitting of the Conference of 1952 with us.

Pine Grove—State of Religion, Good; Members received this year, 22; Baptized 11; Dismissed 6; Died 1; Total membership 130; Condition of Prayer Meeting, Good; Condition of Sunday School, Good; Average No. of pupils 115; No. of Officers 3, No. of Teachers 7; Paid Pastor \$3,360.00; Paid Evangelist \$435.00; Home Mission \$395.30; Foreign Mission \$183.49; Building and Repairs \$4,292.78; For Education \$121.50; For Publication \$9.50; Enclosed for Minutes \$5.00; Minister belonging to our church, Rev. Geo. Langley; Pastor's Name, Rev. Geo. Langley, M. R. S., Rockingham, N. C.; Clerk, Mrs. Viola Riddle. Total Value of property of church \$17,500.00.

Sandy Grove—Delegates: Thomas Owens, Sister Nellie Edwards, Sister Lineze Johnson; State of Religion, Good; Members Received past 3 months 4; Baptized 2; Dismissed 0; Died 0; Total Membership 65; Condition of Prayer Meeting, Good; Condition of Sunday School, Good; Average No. of Pupils 45; No. of officers 4; No. of Teachers 4; Paid Pastor \$219.36; Paid Evangelist \$75.00; Home Mission \$10.00; Foreign Mission \$6.00; Building and Repairs \$302.50; For Publication \$16.00; Enclosed for Minutes \$5.00. Ministers Belonging to our Church: Rev. A. J. Pearson, St. Pauls, N. C.; Rev. J. H. Tyson, Raeford, N. C. Pastor's Name, Rev. Angus Prevatte, Raeford, N. C.; Clerk, Ellen Thames.

Highland Pines—Delegates: Bro. J. P. Huffman, Bro. Jack Skipper, Bro. Lee Carpenter; State of Religion, Good; Members Received for year 26; Baptized 8, Dismissed 5; Total Membership 76; Condition of Prayer Meeting, Good; Condition of Sunday School, Good; Average No. of Pupils 98; No. of Teachers 6; Paid Pastor \$1,355.83; Paid Evangelist \$235.00; Home Mission \$134.00; Foreign Mission \$19.36; Building and Repairs \$1,500.00; For Orphanage \$120.66; For Church expenses \$621.77; Enclosed for Minutes \$5.00; Retired Ministers \$19.36. Minister belonging to our

Church: Rev. Frank Sandford, Hamlet, N. C., Rt. 2. Pastor's Name, Lynwood Bryant, East Rockingham, N. C. Clerk, Mrs. E. R. Covington.

Mount Calvary—Delegates: Ralph Sheppard, Sister Lilly Starnes, Sister Ethelyne Sheppard; State of Religion, Good; Members Received past 3 months 17; Baptized 4; Dismissed 2; Total Membership 40; Condition of Prayer Meeting, Fair; Condition of Sunday School, Good; Average No. of Pupils 60; No. of Officers 6, No. of Teachers 4; Paid Pastor \$384.68; Paid Evangelist \$75.00; Home Mission \$65.50; Foreign Mission \$14.00; Building and Repairs \$175.00; For Education \$120.00; Enclosed for Minutes \$5.00; Orphanage \$50.00; Paid Out \$889.18; Balance in treasury \$250.30; Total \$1,139.48. Minister belonging to our Church: Rev. Steve English. Pastor's Name, Rev. Steve English, Route 2, Hamlet, N. C. Clerk, Ralph Sheppard.

Hickory Grove—Delegates: Sisters, Avy Jane Lee, Armaitha Sports; State of Religion, Good; Members Received past 3 months 1; Condition of Sunday School, Good; Average No. of Pupils 45; No. Officers 2; No. of Teachers 3; Paid Pastor \$69.88; Paid Evangelist \$19.50; Building and Repairs \$47.50; Enclosed for Minutes \$5.00. Ministers belonging to our Church: Rev. Angus Prevatte, Raeford, N. C.; C. B. Hopkins, Rockingham, N. C. Pastor's Name, C. B. Hopkins, Rockingham, N. C. Clerk, Nannie Lee Ray. Value of Church property \$2,500.

Piney Plains—Delegates: Will Jacobs, Sister Vertia Grooms; State of Religion, Good; Condition of Prayer Meeting, Good; Condition of Sunday School, Good; No. of Officers 3; No. of Teachers 3; Enclosed for Minutes \$5.00. Pastor's Name, C. B. Hopkins, Mills R. Sta., Rockingham, N. C. Clerk, Will Jacobs. We would like the prayers of all the churches that our church, Piney Plains, may grow in grace and love for all God loving people.

Eastside—For Minutes \$1.45. No Report.

Bethel—We the members of Bethel Free Will Baptist Church met in Conference, Sunday, October 7. We appoint as delegates to the Association: Sisters Inez Himlaw and Lillie Mae Tatum. We pray you to receive them to sit with you in your Godly deliberations. Our Sunday School is good. We are sending \$5.00 for funds. Rev. J. H. Galloway, Pastor; Lillie Mae Tatum, Clerk.

Moved and carried to receive Church Letters.

Rev. J. F. Rogers requested membership with the Rockfish Conference; moved and carried to receive Rev. Rogers as a member, pending receipt of letter from former association.

Bro. R. R. Shepard handed in his resignation from the Executive and Finance Committee. Moved and carried to accept Bro. Shepard's resignation.

Moved and carried to appoint Bro. G. H. Carver of Route 1, Hope Mills, N. C., to fill the vacancy caused by Bro. Shepard's resignation.

Moved and carried to appoint Rev. George Langley to the Executive Committee to replace Bro. G. H. Carver's seat as member, for Bro. Carver to accept Chairmanship of the Executive Committee.

Delegates from Mount Moriah asked that the next session be held at their Church. Moved and carried for the 44th Annual Session of the Rockfish Conference to be held with the Mount Moriah Original Free Will Baptist Church at Hamlet, N. C., on Friday and Saturday before the second Sunday in October, 1952.

A rising vote of thanks was given to the good people of Mt. Calvary Church for the hospitality shown us during this session.

Moved and carried to adjourn.

Dismissed by prayer.

Rev. M. L. Baxley, Moderator

Wm. H. Edwards, Sec.-Treas.

Route 1

Hope Mills, N. C.

