

Proceedings
of the
Fifty-second Annual Session
of the
Sardis Association of
Old Regular Baptist
THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST

IN SESSION ASSEMBLED WITH
LITTLE DOVE CHURCH
Mingo County, West Virginia

September 8, 9, 19, 1944

PROCEEDINGS

of the

FIFTY-SECOND ANNUAL SESSION OF THE SARDIS ASSOCIATION OF OLD REGULAR BAPTIST THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST

In session assembled with Little Dove Church, September 8, 9, and 10, 1944, at the place where arrangements were made for the preaching. The services were introduced by Elder Harrison Bevins, followed by the introductory sermon delivered by Elder Willie White, from text First John, 4th Chapter and 19th verse as follows: "We love him because he first loved us." Then we sang the song, "Brethren, we have met again," and after a short talk and prayer by Elder W. A. Hurley, the Association proceeded as follows:

1. Called for the letters from the several churches and received the letters and seated the delegates.
2. The Association then organized by electing Elder Hi Maynard moderator, Elder Ester Hopkins, assistant moderator, Elder W. C. Hay as clerk and Brother Troy T. Francis, assistant clerk.
3. At the request of the moderator, the rules of decorum were read by the clerk.
4. Called for newly organized churches and received none.
5. Called for letters from sister associations and received as follows: New Salem by the hands of Elders Joe

6. That the clerks superintend the printing of the minutes and that we have 2,000 copies printed, and that he be allowed \$15.00 for his services for preparing manuscript and recording the same.

7. Brethren called in union meetings and associations last year made their reports. Their reports received, failures excused, and they all were admonished to be more faithful this coming year.

8. Appointed same committee to arrange for preaching Sunday, who reported as follows: First, Elder Grover Carey; second, Elder Ester Hopkins; third, Elder Hi Maynard, also Saturday night service; first, Elder James Adkins; second, Elder Shadle Pauley.

9. Letters to sister associations read and delegates appointed as follows:

New Salem, to be held with the Beaver church to begin on Friday before the fourth Saturday in September, 1944. Elders H. C. Maynard, Emmett Case, J. G. Thornsbury, Shadle Pauley, and Brothers Donnie Lowe and George Stanley. Letter in the hands of Elder H. C. Maynard.

Philadelphia, to be held with the Friendship church to begin on Friday, before the third Saturday in September, 1944. Elders Shadle Pauley, W. A. Hurley, W. C. Hay and Brother Troy T. Francis. Letter in the hands of Elder W. C. Hay.

Mud River, to be held with the Little Laurel church, to begin on Friday before the fourth Sunday in August, 1945. Elders Harrison Bevins, Ester Hopkins, Hi Maynard and Asa Evans. Letter in the hands of Elder Ester Hopkins.

Union, to be held with the Little Zion church, to begin on Friday before the third Saturday in September, 1944. Elders Ester Hopkins, Hi Maynard and Brothers Lewis Marcum and Harold Edmonds. Letter in the hands of Elder Ester Hopkins.

10. Ordered that we print obituaries presented to the

Brother Clerk at the close of the Association, or within ten days afterward.

11. Ordered that the treasurer pay the expense of one (1) car for the delegates to visit sister associations, paying for the gas and oil.

12. Ordered that we advise ministers of our association not to marry people into adultery where either man or woman has a living wife or husband.

13. Shall we receive into our fellowship men having more than one wife, or women having more than one husband?

Answer: We advise the Churches not to receive into their fellowship any such except those who have put away their companions for the cause of fornication and such cases to have the Gospel or Church evidence of same.

14. Ordered that we draw from our treasury \$100.00 and donate the same to the Dix Fork Church to assist them in building a Church House.

15. Ordered that our next Association be held with the Pilgrim Home Church, Varney, Pike County, Ky., about five miles from the top of Bent Mountain, leaving the State Highway, to begin on Friday before the second Saturday in September, 1945.

16. By vote is ordered that Elder Ester Hopkins preach the introductory sermon and that Elder Asa Evans be his alternate.

NOTE: The votes for Elders Wallace Evans and Asa Evans were equal, but by mutual agreement between these two brothers, Asa Evans will be the alternate.

17. Ordered that we tender our thanks to the Little Dove Church, and the community at large for the hospitality shown us during the sitting of the Association. May God's blessings follow you daily.

18. Ordered that the minutes be read and signed by the moderator and clerk.

On motion, we adjourned the time and place above mentioned.

(Signed)

ELDER HI MAYNARD, *Moderator.*

ELDER ESTER HOPKINS, *Asst. Moderator.*

ELDER W. C. HAY, *Clerk.*

BROTHER TROY T. FRANCIS, *Asst. Clerk.*

Upon Request the Following Churches Have Union Meetings

May

SALEM: First Saturday and Sunday. Elders Grover Carey, Hi Maynard and Willie White, with moderator attending.

TURKEY CREEK: Second Saturday and Sunday. Elders Ester Hopkins, W. A. Hurley and Asa Evans, with moderator attending.

June

ENON: First Saturday and Sunday. Elders Asa Evans and Wallace Maynard, with moderator attending.

APPLE ORCHARD: First Saturday and Sunday. Elders James Thornsbury, Ester Hopkins, H. C. Maynard and Willie White, with moderator attending.

LEANAH: Second Saturday and Sunday. Elders Bill Jude, Harrison Bevins and Ester Hopkins, with moderator attending.

BUCK CREEK: Third Saturday and Sunday. Elders W. A. Hurley, W. C. Hay, Grover Carey, Harrison Bevins and Willie White, with moderator attending.

SIDNEY: Fourth Saturday and Sunday. Elders Harrison Bevins, Ester Hopkins, Willis Blackburn and W. C. Hay, with moderator attending.

July

DIX FORK: First Saturday and Sunday. Elders Milton Thacker, Hi Maynard, Grover Carey, Willie White and J. H. Hensley, with moderator attending.

MT. PLEASANT: Second Saturday and Sunday. Elders Hi Maynard, Grover Carey and Willie White, with moderator attending.

MARY ELIZABETH: Third Saturday and Sunday. Elders W. C. Hay, Bill Jude and Grover Carey, with moderator attending.

BIG BRANCH: Third Saturday and Sunday. Elders Shadle Pauley, H. C. Maynard and Emmett Case, with moderator attending.

NARROWS BRANCH: Fourth Saturday and Sunday. Elders Willis Blackburn, Grover Carey, Wallace Maynard and Shadle Pauley, with moderator attending.

LITTLE ROSA: Fourth Saturday and Sunday. Elders Wallace Maynard, Shadle Pauley and Grover Carey, with moderator attending.

August

LITTLE DOVE: First Saturday and Sunday. Elders Asa Evans, Ester Hopkins, Wallace Maynard and Willie White, with moderator attending.

TABITHA: First Saturday and Sunday. Elders Wallace Maynard, Willie White, J. H. Hensley and Grover Carey, with moderator attending.

REBECCA: Second Saturday and Sunday. Elders Wallace Maynard, J. G. Thornsby and Asa Evans, with moderator attending.

ELK FORK: Third Saturday and Sunday. Elders W. A. Hurley, Harrison Bevins and Wallace Maynard, with moderator attending.

BENT BRANCH: Third Saturday and Sunday. Elders Willie White, Jonah Bevins and Asa Evans, with moderator attending.

BEECH GROVE: Third Saturday and Sunday. Elders J. R. Evans, Orville Runyon, Willie White, H. C. Maynard and Wallace Maynard, with moderator attending.

PILGRIM HOME: Fourth Saturday and Sunday. Elders W. C. Hay, Shadle Pauley and Grover Carey, with moderator attending.

SARDIS: Fourth Saturday and Sunday. Elders Wallace Maynard, J. R. Evans and Brother Lewis Marcum, with moderator attending.

BETHANY: Fourth Saturday and Sunday. Elders Grover Carey, H. C. Maynard, E. S. Coleman and J. G. Thornsby, with moderator attending.

SUNDAY SERVICE

September 10, 1944

Met with a large, orderly congregation in the Lenore High School building. After singing several of the old songs of Zion, service was introduced by Elder W. A. Hurley, followed by the congregation singing "I'm Not Ashamed to Own My Lord," after which we were led in prayer by Elder W. A. Hurley. Then the preaching brethren preached in the order arranged by the committee on ministry as follows:

1: Elder Grover Carey filled the stand, using for a text to preach from the 2nd Chapter and the 2nd Verse of St. Matthew, which reads as follows: "Where is he that is born King of the Jews?" showing forth among many other wonderful things the promised seed of God being revealed by being born into the world a lovely little infant, and laid in a manger, then in Jordan, and finally laid in the grave, and raised up from the grave a glorified redeemer and received up into the cloud of his glory and is now seated at the right hand of his Father making intercession for his children but omnipotent and eternal can and does fulfill his promise to be with them alway.

2. Elder Ester Hopkins was called to the stand. He used as a text or subject to preach from the 12th Chapter and the 1st verse of Hebrews, which reads as follows: "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses," and etc., admonishing the brethren to be of one mind depending on God ever looking unto him who is the author of and finisher of our faith.

3. Elder Hi Maynard, who briefly traced the pedigree of the old Baptist Church, with reference to origin, doctrine, faith and practice, and with wonderful feeling we feel the spirit showed the difference between truth and

falsehood. Then in closing amid much rejoicing the brethren and sisters sang with the spirit and understanding the old song, "Farewell, Vain World, I'm Going Home."

So, brethren, let us all pray both night and day till we meet in another lovely, peaceful and happy association, which will be held with the Pilgrim Home Church, on Brushy Creek at Varney, Pike County, Ky.

The Clerks

MEMORIALS

Memorial of Elder J. S. Muncy and other deceased members of the Narrows Branch Church will be held the fourth Saturday and Sunday in May, 1945. Ministers called to attend: Elders James Green, Willie White, H. C. Maynard and J. G. Thornsby.

Memorial of Brother Lee Robinson and wife will be held with all the deceased members of the Leanah Church, the second Saturday and Sunday in July, 1945. A memorial will also be held on a cemetery in the head of Big Branch, the second Sunday in August, 1945. All ministers are invited to attend.

Memorial of all the deceased members of the Buck Creek Church will be held the third Saturday and Sunday in June, 1945, this being our Union Meeting time.

Memorial of all the deceased members of the Little Dove Church will be held the first Saturday and Sunday in June, 1945. All ministers are invited to attend.

Memorial of Elder W. H. Bowling and wife, Cynthia Bowling, and others will be held on the Right Fork of Brushy Creek, the first Saturday and Sunday in September, 1945. All ministers are invited to attend.

Memorial of all the deceased members of the Turkey Creek Church will be held the second Saturday and Sunday in October, 1945. Ministers requested are Elders Jonah Bevins, Willis Blackburn and Wallace Maynard.

Memorial of Elder Wallace Jackson and others will be held with the Mary Elizabeth Church the third Saturday and Sunday in September, 1945. All ministers are invited to attend. Also, the memorial of Brother M. B. Romans will be held the first Sunday in July, 1945. Ministers requested are Elders Ester Hopkins, Hi Maynard, Bill Jude and Willis Blackburn.

Memorial of Elder J. W. Smith and others will be held on the Fraley Cemetery the third Saturday and Sunday in August, 1945. All ministers are invited to attend.

Memorial of Russel P. McCoy and others will be held the third Sunday in May, 1945; of J. M. Taylor and others, the third Sunday in July, 1945; also memorial of Harrison McCoy and others will be held the third Sunday in August, 1945. All of these memorials will be held with the Big Branch Church. All ministers are invited to attend.

Memorial will be held on the Joe Taylor Cemetery the third Sunday in September, 1945. All ministers are invited to attend.

Memorial at the Hannah Cemetery will be held the third Saturday and Sunday in August, 1945, and at the Stergill Cemetery the fourth Saturday and Sunday in August, 1945. All ministers are invited to attend.

Memorial of all the deceased members of the Rebecca Church will be held on the second Saturday and Sunday in August, 1945. All ministers are invited to attend.

Memorial of Elder Heenan Maynard and others will be held with the Apple Orchard Church the first Saturday and Sunday in August, 1945. Memorial on the J. M. Lowe Cemetery will be held the first Sunday in July, 1945. Also memorial on the Flem Maynard cemetery on the head of Big Branch will be held the first Sunday in September, 1945. All ministers are invited to attend.

Memorial of all the deceased members of the Enon Church will be held the first Saturday and Sunday in August, 1945. All ministers are invited to attend.

Memorial of all the deceased members of the Bent Branch Church will be held the third Saturday and Sunday in October, 1945. All ministers are invited to attend.

Memorial of all the deceased members of the Elk Fork Church will be held the third Saturday and Sunday in May, 1945. All ministers are invited to attend.

Memorial of all the deceased members of the Pilgrim

Home Church will be held the fourth Saturday and Sunday in October, 1945. All ministers are invited to attend.

Memorial of all the deceased members of the Salem Church will be held the first Saturday and Sunday in October, 1945. Ministers requested to attend are as follows: Elders Willie White, H. C. Maynard and Hi Maynard.

Memorial of Nathan Jude and others will be held on the point near Dave Jude's home the fourth Sunday in July, 1945. Also a memorial of all the deceased members of the Sidney Church will be held the fourth Saturday and Sunday in August, 1945. All ministers invited.

Memorial of all the deceased members of the Dix Fork Church will be held on the Sunday following the first Saturday in July, this being our Union Meeting time.

Memorial at John Canterbury's home the last Sunday in September, 1945. Elder Matt Mounts is requested, all others are invited to attend. Also memorial of all deceased members of the Bethany Church will be held at Tom's Branch on the fourth Sunday in August, 1945, this being our Union Meeting time.

OBITUARIES

Elder James Jude

By request I will try to write an obituary of Elder James Jude. He was born in the year 1875, a son of Nathan and Charity Jude; was married to Mintie Robinett, and to this union were born nine children, two of whom preceded him in death. Seven children, with the mother,

are left to mourn his loss, namely, Nathan, Harmon and Willis Jude, Flora Maynard, Florence Maynard, Charity Bragg and Glatice Phillips.

From the best information I can obtain, Brother Jude joined the Regular Baptist Church about 45 years ago, and placed his membership with the Pilgrim Home Church. He soon after was ordained to the ministry, and was always ready to go at every call from his neighbors and friends.

For the last several years Uncle Jim, as he was known to us, was so afflicted that he could not travel so well, but always tried to be at his home church as often as his health permitted. It seems to me that he enjoyed being in the worship of our God as much as any one I ever saw. Uncle Jim, feeling that his life was nearing an end, requested that his body be taken to the Pilgrim Home Church, this being his home church. He wanted to be kept in the church house the last night and that Elders Jonah Bevins, Willis Blackburn, Harrison Bevins, Ester Hopkins and Bud Coleman preach his funeral that night. He asked that preaching, singing and praying continue throughout the night. His request was filled and an unusually large congregation filled the church house that night, to view the remains and pay their last respect to Uncle Jim. He was widely known, having lived in different localities. He was loved and respected by all who knew him. He was the father of a large family, and worked hard to obtain the necessities of life for them, but always seemed to bear his burdens and tribulations with great faith and patience.

Children, your father has left you. The God whom he so faithfully served has called and he has answered, but I hope the deeds of his life will ever remain fresh in your memory, and that you will give heed to his counsel and accept the offered mercy of Jesus, for if you ever again live with Daddy in peace, you must repent; believe, and be baptised, and keep the faith as Daddy did. I, the writer, have every reason to believe that Brother Jim's spirit is now basking in the sunlight of God, just asleep in

Jesus, enjoying the rest and peace awaiting the day of redemption, when he will receive in fullness the richness of God's glory.

So farewell, and may the Lord Jesus bless each of you to find pardon and mercy through him who died that we might live.

He is only asleep,
The dear angels will keep
His soul from all trouble and care;
He has gone to rest,
In the home of the blest,
And his soul will there better fare.

—Written by Troy T. Francis.

Alta Keesee

It is with love and much sadness in my heart that I try to write the obituary of my mother, Alta Keesee. She was the daughter of Elder Bob and Marire Elswick. She was married to Harkins Blackburn and to this union were born four children, Tremble, Myrtie, Tildon and Trinnie, Tildon preceding her in death. Mother was nearly blind for several years of her life. Our father died when we were small. Mother toiled to care for our needs, and in later years she was married to Albert Keesee, who also preceded her in death. Mother was a member of the Regular Baptist Church for many years and was a faithful member until that sad day on December 13, 1943, when God called her from among us to rest with all the saints and await the great day of redemption. On that day I have a hope that I will see mother again. I want to say to her other two children, her two brothers and one sister. if you want to see mother and enjoy the happiness that she told us awaited her, you will have to seek God for pardon as mother did. Children, you know mother was feeble

at the age of 74 years, but she was sweet and kind to us. Now she is gone to return no more. Let us try by the help of him who died for us to meet her as she asked us to do.

—Written by her daughter in hope,
Myrtie Pinson.

Victoria Belle Maynard

It is with much sadness that I will try to write a short obituary of Sister Victoria Belle Maynard. Born March 6th, 1870, deceased April 26th, 1944, she was married to Flem Maynard May 12th, 1892, and to this union were born five children, three girls and two boys. One girl preceded her in death. This mother and sister confessed a hope in Christ and was baptised on the third Sunday in July, 1940, by the hands of Elder E. S. Coleman, and took her fellowship with the Big Branch Church, but was not permitted to attend church by reason of her affliction. She was afflicted for seven years, but bore her affliction with great patience. She always wanted the brothers and sisters to sing and pray with her. I visited her often and she had great faith; she often told me she believed I could help her pains. She would ask her husband to pray for her, that she had obtained relief many times through his prayer. Now I just want to say a few words to her children, to those who have not made peace with God. If you ever see mother again you will have to make heaven your home, for I have no doubt but that mother is at rest, awaiting for the judgment day. She told her husband to tell Julius (a grandson somewhere overseas) that when he comes home, if he ever wants to see Grandma any more, he will have to meet her in heaven where there will be no wars or troubles, all will be peace, joy and happiness forever. Now Pa, I want to say to you, don't get worried; just pray on a few more days and we will

all meet mother in that beautiful home the Lord prepared for us.

A few words of mother's hand writing which was found after she was gone read: "Give to Dicey Ann—think of mother when she is gone up yonder to heaven to rest. I want you children to meet me there. (Signed, your mother Belle.)" To all of mother's kindred and friends I feel that this statement is true. I believe she is just asleep in Jesus awaiting the great judgment day where she can have a pure, holy, sanctified body and will not be afflicted any more.

A brother in hope of eternal life,
J. L. Nichols.

George Spencer

It has become my sad duty to write an obituary of a brother in the Lord, to-wit, Brother George Spencer. He was born February 8th, 1891, and departed this life February 2nd, 1943. He was 51 years, 11 months and 24 days old at the time of his death.

He was married to Manervia Slone November 15th, 1917, and to this union were born six children, four of whom preceded him in death. Two sons are still living, Warren G. and Elbert Spencer. His wife preceded him in death, and he was again married, to Mary Farley, April 30th, 1929. Brother Spencer confessed a hope in Christ and was baptised into the fellowship of the Regular Baptist Church by the hands of Elder E. S. Muncy and Elder Lewis Smith the first Sunday in May, 1932, and to this faith he lived true until the Lord of glory was pleased to call him home where joy and happiness never end.

To you two sons of Brother Spencer, let me ask you in the name of Jesus, who died for us all, father is gone, he will no more return to you, but by giving your life to

Jesus you can join him around the throne of mercy where its glittering towers outshine the sun.

—Written by Elder Jonah Bevins.

Sarrah Ellen Hinkle

It is by request of the husband that I will attempt to write the obituary of Sister Sarrah Ellen Hinkle, depending on God to guide and direct my mind, that I may write a true record of her life, as I have personally known her from childhood until her death. She was the daughter of John and Mintie Maynard; was born March 9th, 1900, and departed this life January 20th, 1944. She was married to William Landon Hinkle July 21st, 1923, and to this union were born five children, three girls and two boys, Thurman, Mary Magdalene, Clara, Lishie and Ervin Hinkle.

Sister Sarrah joined the Regular Baptist Church and was baptised into the fellowship of the Pilgrim Home Church, by the hands of Elders Bud Coleman and Basil Robinett, the second Sunday in August, 1941, and to this faith she stood firm until the Lord of glory called her home to rest. She was not blessed as many of us have been to fill our seat in church at our meeting time, by reason of her health. She was afflicted for a period of years with tuberculosis. Her strength was weak but her faith was strong, and when her strength allowed her to go she would walk from her home across the hill, to meet with us all at the Pilgrim Home Church. To you, Uncle Landon, just pray on, I know your home is lonely. You have lost a good companion, the children have lost a good mother, and the church has lost a good member, but weep not for her for we have a hope, given us by her own testimony, that our loss is her eternal gain. Counsel those little children of hers just where mother is gone and how

they can meet her where death will never take her from them again.

Mother dear, we long to meet you,
In the land of endless care;
Angels came and took you from us,
And we know you're happy there.

—Written by her niece, Elon O. Francis.

Martha Young

With much sadness I try to write the obituary of Sister Martha. She was the daughter of Thomas and Emma McGuire. She was born August 16th, 1913. Sister Martha was married to Wayne Ray, a son of Thomas and Nancy Ray, of which all preceded her in death. To this union was born one son, Charles Wayne Ray, who resides with the family now left to mourn her loss. She was then married to Brother J. B. Young. To this union were born three children, Lillian Mae and Harold Clifford, still residing with their father. Kenneth Marion, the youngest son, preceded Sister Martha in death.

Sister Martha leaves seven brothers, Troy, Trimble, Rell, Kennis, Earl, Forrest and Tunnis McGuire, also four sisters, Minnie, Marybell, Victoria and Lillian, all to mourn her loss.

Sister Martha gave her hand to become a member of the Old Regular Baptist Church about four years ago and was baptised at the hand of Elder Basil Robinett and took fellowship with the Pilgrim Home Church which she always enjoyed.

Sister Martha became sick shortly after the decease of her younger son and seemed to get no better. She was very patient in her sickness, pleading to the Lord for mercy and to let her stay with her little family and friends

and brothers and sisters in the Lord, realizing that she couldn't get well, but that she was going to heaven.

So to the little family and seven brothers and four sisters and many friends, don't weep for Sister Martha. But rather weep for yourselves that when Jesus comes you can say, like mother, "Come, welcome Death, I gladly go."

—Written by a brethren in hope of
Eternal Life, Marion Young.

Ona Hankins

It is by request of the family that I try to write the obituary of my dear aunt and Sister in the Lord, Sister Ona Hankins. She was born November 13th, 1899, the daughter of Tom Morris and Sinda Mullins Morris. She was married to Tom Hankins and to this union three children were born. The children are Curtis, Margaret Ann, and Roy.

Sister Ono confessed a hope in Christ and was baptized into the fellowship of the Regular Baptist Church of Jesus Christ at the hands of Elders Ester Hopkins and Jonah Bevins. Sister Ona was baptized Sunday, July 13, 1936 and immediately took up her membership with the Mount Pleasant Church. She was faithful until death, therefore there is a crown laid up for her which the righteous judge will give at that glad day when the saints shall come in all of their glory.

Sister Ona was an earnest, sympathetic, and lovable member, always abounding in acts of kindness towards the church members and interested in the welfare of everybody. The Church will never forget her and God will reward her with eternal life where all is sweet joy and happiness.

Sister Ona's life in this world came to an end January 16th, 1943, and a lovely flower is gone from our midst to

brighten God's eternal throne. Yes, mother is gone, Curtis, Margaret Ann, and Roy; and wife is gone, Uncle Tom. But her loving Savior is earnestly, tenderly pleading for you to come unto him so that some sweet day you may see mother again. May God bless and save you all, is my prayer.

—Written by a brother and nephew in hope of eternal life, Harold Edmonds.

Mary Smith

It is by request of the family that I try to write the obituary of Sister Mary Smith. Sister Mary was born March 22nd, 1907, the daughter of Stephen Robinson and Ora Smith Robinson. She was married to Brother Thomas J. Smith and to this union were born two children, Shirley Ann, and Kenneth Jack.

Sister Mary was afflicted with a lingering illness, but bore her affliction with much patience. The children will always remember the loving care of mother and Brother Tom, as we love to call him, will never forget his loving companion and sweet wife.

Sister Mary confessed a hope in Christ and was baptized into the fellowship of the Regular Baptist Church of Jesus Christ at the hands of Elders Jonah Bevins and Harrison Bevins on April 11th, 1943. Sister Mary was not permitted to be with us long until her death on May 14th, 1943. But we have every reason to believe that our loss is Heaven's gain. God has called for another one of his jewels and Sister Mary has answered. Since then Brother Tom has taken up his cross and some sweet day will see his sweet wife again. May God bless and save Shirley Ann and Kenneth Jack as it pleases him.

—Written by a brother in hope of eternal life, Harold Edmonds.

J. K. Young

It is with much sadness of heart I will by the help of God asking him to direct my mind in writing the obituary of Brother J. K. Young. He was the son of Andrew J. and Esther Williamson Young, born December 18th, 1875, and departed this life September 7th, 1944. He was married to Dixie Alice Pinson February 11th, 1905, to which union were born eight children, one boy (Brother Ernest) preceding his father in death. Six boys and one girl, with their mother, are left to mourn his loss, namely, Mrs. Nancy Walters, Glenn, Mike, Lucian, Woodrow, John and J. K., Jr.

Brother Ken, as he was known to us, lingered with a long illness, and during his suffering he called for the preaching brethren to come at different times and hold service for him, and on the 25th day of August, 1944, he joined the Regular Baptist Church and was baptised into the fellowship of the Pilgrim Home Church by the hands of Elder Basil Robinett.

The writer did not have the privilege of visiting Brother Ken during his illness, but in my youth I lived in the community with him. I always found him to be a good, honest citizen and neighbor, always willing to help his community in any way he could. He was also a veteran of the Spanish-American War, and has now two sons serving in World War II, Woodrow, in the Navy, and J. K., in the U. S. Army. I want to say to his children and wife, Brother Ken is gone to return no more. He has joined your brother Ernest. Don't you all remember how he talked to Brother Ernest in his last hours here? He talked as though he was already with him.

Now, children, you can meet Daddy and Ernest too, where death will part you no more, but you must seek Jesus as they did to be your personal Saviour. I know you realize our Lord does not save sinners, but says, come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest. He has made the way possible for us. Will

you obey the call and when your summons come you can unite with Daddy and all the saints of God. If we don't bear the cross we cannot wear the crown. So may the God of all Grace bless every one of you, to be joy and comfort to your mother in her lonesome days.

Since our daddy's gone and left us,
O'er death's sea we too must go;
Let us all begin preparing,
Mother wants us to, you know.

—Written by a sister in hope,
Elon O. Francis.

Sallie T. Francis

She was the daughter of James and Ibbey Bell Burris, born April 27th, 1856. She was married to Thomas J. Bevins December 18th, 1877, to which union were born eight children, four boys and four girls, one boy and two girls preceded her in death, as did her husband. Mother was married a second time to John C. Francis, who also preceded her in death. Mother joined the Regular Baptist Church of Jesus Christ about twenty-five years before death, and was baptized by the hands of J. W. Fields. She took her fellowship with the Pilgrim Home Church of Regular Baptist and was faithful to attend the church meetings until her death which took her on June 20th, 1943, at the age of 88 years and 23 days, leaving five of the children and one sister, Jane Burris, to mourn her loss. She also leaves 35 grandchildren, 72 great-grandchildren and eight great-great-grandchildren.

Thank God all the children have taken fellowship in the church with mother's God, and several of the grandchildren also, and we are not like them who have no hope. If mother is sleeping in Christ and we the children and grandchildren have been born again into the covenant of the blood of Jesus Christ, we are all the children of faith.

When Christ shall appear the second time we shall appear with him in his glory, where there will be no separation, and we will meet mother again with all the family of God, where there is no death but the last enemy is death, and we have that precious promise of Jesus Christ that he will destroy him that has the power of death which is the devil.

And I, like Paul, thank God who gave us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. So children, remember the word of the Lord to us who are left to mourn for our dear mother. Dear precious brothers and sisters, and all the grandchildren, with the entire brotherhood and sisterhood of the church, to be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord for as much as ye know your labors are not in vain in the Lord. They that sleep in Christ will God bring with him.

This is the hope of one of our mother's sons. Farewell, mother a little while.

—Elder Jonah Bevins.

Oscar Smith

The son of Harman and Peggy Smith, born March 28th, 1900, deceased January 30th, 1944, aged 43 years, 10 months and 29 days. He was married to Bessie Davis, the daughter of John and Angeline Davis, March 13th, 1924, to which union was born one son, Alvery Smith. Brother Oscar was very sick for about four years, and on Sunday, July 5th, at the memorial meeting on the cemetery where his wife's father and mother and sister are sleeping in death, Brother Oscar joined the church the received Christ by confession. At the regular meeting of the Mt. Pleasant Church at his home at Canada, Ky., he was baptized by the hands of Elder Jonah Bevins, August 15th, 1943, and took fellowship with the Mt. Pleasant Church of Regular Baptist of Jesus Christ.

Brother Smith was well loved by all who knew him. As a citizen there was none better, but with all his good morals he was not content to meet the judgment of God without a confession of his faith in Christ by baptism, in whom (he) ye also trusted, after that (he) ye heard the word of truth, the Gospel of his salvation in whom also after that (he) ye believed (he) ye were sealed with that holy spirit of promise, which is the earnest of (his) our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory. Eternal life is a gift of God, received of men by the blood of Jesus Christ, and sealed to men, after they believed and obey the gospel. This was the hope of our dear brother in Christ, which hope is and was the anchor of his soul.

Death has taken him, Sister Bessie and Alvery, from you, but your faith and hope in Christ will secure for you the same promise when you have reached the journey's end, and are safely housed in Heaven. He that once wept and trembled outside the city of destruction now sings his salvation song within the walls of the heavenly Jerusalem, at home at rest forever with the Lord.

I wish myself among them. Oh, that such blissful dreams could but become realities. Truly I long to be there among the myriad choir, among the harpers harping upon their harps, to enter those pearly white gates, to tread those golden streets, to wear those jewelled crowns, to wave those triumphant palms, and to be present with the living Lord, but it must be to us as it was to all the saints. Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints, and if we patiently endure as they did to the end we too shall be saved, and shall join them in the blessed throng of glorified saints in Heaven, so if I could speak to Brother Oscar I would say to him, sleep on and take your rest, not dead but sleepeth, so farewell to all my brothers and sisters; live faithful to the end, and get the crown.

Your humble servant in hope,

Elder Jonah Bevins.

James Melvin Smith

James Melvin Smith, son of Victoria Smith, was born May 9, 1888, at Canada, Kentucky, and died July 9, 1943, at the age of 55 years and two months.

Peab, as he was known by most everyone who knew him, was married to Abba Blackburn February 12, 1920. They had no children.

He professed a hope in Christ and was baptized into the Salem Church of Regular Baptist April 5, 1926, by Elders Jonah Bevins and Ester Hopkins. He lived a devoted Christian life until death.

During his sickness he often spoke to me of the necessity of living right in this life, and of his hope in the resurrection of the body, in which he had a strong faith. The last day he was able to talk much, he lay in bed and sang songs of faith in Jesus and the resurrection.

The life he lived has given me hope that if I continue faithful until the end, I'll be able to clasp hands with him in the land of sweet deliverance where there will be no more sickness or death.

He is survived by his mother and two brothers, Sid Smith and Willie Smith of Canada, Kentucky; the widow of Goody, Kentucky; three sisters, Mrs. Lucretia Lykens of Catlettsburg, Ky., Mrs. J. E. Dildins and Josephine Vanhorne, of Ashland, Ky.

—Written by the widow,

Mrs. Abba B. Smith.

CONSTITUTION

From a long series of experiences, we, the churches of Jesus Christ being regularly baptized upon our profession of faith in Jesus Christ are convinced of the necessity of a combination of churches in order to perpetuate a union and communion among us and preserve, maintain and keep the rules and orders of an association according to the following form of government:

ARTICLE I. The association shall be composed of members chosen by the different churches and duly sent to represent them in this association who shall be members whom they shall think best qualified for the purpose. And, producing letters from their respective churches certifying their appointment, shall be entitled to seats.

ARTICLE II. In the letters from the different churches, shall be expressed their number in full fellowship, their baptized, received by letters, restored, dismissed, excommunicated and dead since the last association.

ARTICLE III. The members thus chosen and convened shall have no power to lord it over God's heritage, nor shall they infringe upon the internal rights of any church in the union.

ARTICLE IV. The association, when convened, shall be governed and ruled by a regular and proper decorum.

ARTICLE V. The association shall have a moderator, clerk and treasurer, who shall be chosen by the suffrage of the members present.

ARTICLE VI. New churches may be admitted into our union that shall petition by letter and delegates, and if found upon examination to be orthodox and orderly shall be received by the association and manifested by the moderator giving the right hand of fellowship.

ARTICLE VII. Every church in the union shall be entitled to a representative in the association.

ARTICLE VIII. Every query presented by any church to the association being first debated by their own church, shall be taken up by the association.

ARTICLE IX. Every motion made and seconded shall be taken up by the association, except it be withdrawn by the member who made it.

ARTICLE X. The association shall endeavor to furnish the churches with the minutes of the association.

ARTICLE XI. The churches shall send money by the delegates of each church for printing the minutes of the association.

ARTICLE XII. There shall be a record book kept wherein the proceedings of every association shall be regularly recorded by the secretary appointed for that purpose.

ARTICLE XIII. The minutes of the association shall be read and corrected, if need be, and signed by the moderator and clerk before the association rises.

ARTICLE XIV. Amendments to this plan or form of government may be made at any time, by a majority of the union, when they deem necessary.

ARTICLE XV. All matters coming before the association shall be decided by the will of the majority.

ARTICLE XVI. The association shall have power:

1. To provide for the general union of the churches.
2. To preserve inviolably a chain of communication among the churches.
3. To give the churches all necessary advice in matters of difficulty.
4. To inquire into the cause when the churches fail at any time to present themselves in the association.

5. To appoint any member by and with their consent to transact any business which they think necessary.
6. The association shall have power to withdraw from any church in this union which shall violate the rules of the association or deviate from the orthodox principles of religion.
7. To admit any orderly minister of our order to a seat with us in the association.
8. The association shall have power to adjourn themselves to any future time or place they may think most convenient to the churches of the union. That no minister shall be ordained unless forwarded by the church, and it shall require two or more ordained ministers to compose a presbytery, for that purpose.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

ARTICLE I. We believe the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired, and is a perfect treasure of Heaven by instinct, that it has God for its Author; salvation for its end, and truth without any mixture of error for its mother; that it reveals the principles by which God will judge us and, therefore, is and shall remain to the end of the world the true center of Christian union and the supreme standard by which all human conduct and opinions shall be tried.

ARTICLE II. That there is one and only one true and living God, whose name is Jehovah, the maker and the supreme ruler of Heaven and earth, inexpressible, glorious in holiness, worthy of all possible honor, confidence and love, revealed under the personal relation of the father, the son, and the Holy Ghost, equal in every divine perfection, and executing distinct, but harmonious, offices in the great work of redemption.

ARTICLE III. That man was created in a state of holiness under the law of his maker, but by voluntary transgression, fell from that holy and happy state, in consequence of which all mankind are now sinners, not by constraint, but by choice, being by nature utterly devoid of that holiness, required by the law of God, wholly given to the gratification of the world, to Satan, and their ever sinful passions, and, therefore, are under just condemnation to eternal ruin without defense or excuse.

ARTICLE IV. That the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace, the meditorial offer of the son of God, who took upon Him our nature yet, without sin honored the law by his personal obedience and made atonement for our sins by his death, being risen from the dead, he is entered into Heaven and uniting in his wonderful person the tenderest

sympathies with divine perfection, is in every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate, and an all sufficient Saviour.

ARTICLE V. That the great gospel blessing which Christ in his fullness bestowed, in such as believe in him, is justified and that justification consists in the pardon of his sins and the promise of eternal life on principles of righteousness, that it is bestowed, not in condition of any works of righteousness we have done, but through his own righteousness.

ARTICLE VI. That the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the gospel, and that it is the immediate duty of all to accept them by a cordial and obedient faith.

ARTICLE VII. That in order to be saved, we must be regenerated or born again, that regeneration consists in giving holy disposition to the mind and is effected in a manner above our comprehension or calculation by the power of the Holy Spirit so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the Gospel, and its proper evidence is found in the holy fruit which we bring forth to the Glory of God.

ARTICLE VIII. That such only are real believers as endure to the end, that their preserving attachment to Christ is the ground work which distinguish them from superficial professors, that a special providence watches over their welfare and they are kept by the power of God, through faith unto salvation.

ARTICLE IX. That a visible Church of Christ is a congregation of Baptized believers associated by a covenant of faith in the Gospel, observing the ordinances of Christ's government by his law and exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges in them by his work, that its only proper officers are bishops or pastors or deacons, whose qualification claims and duties are described in the Epistles of Timothy and Titus.

ARTICLE X. That Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, the Son

and the Holy Ghost, to a solemn and beautiful emblem of our faith in a crucified and risen Saviour, with its purifying power that is presented to the privilege of a Church unto the Lord's Supper in which the members of the church, by the use of bread and wine, are to commemorate together the dying love of Christ, preceded always by a solemn and self examination.

ARTICLE XI. We also believe that feet washing is a duty enjoined upon us to show our love for one another.

ARTICLE XII. We believe in the resurrection of the dead both of the just and the unjust. Also that the happiness of the saints, and the punishment of the wicked are eternal.

RULES OF DECORUM

ARTICLE I. The association to be opened and closed by prayer.

ARTICLE II. The Moderator and Clerk shall be chosen by the suffrage of the members present.

ARTICLE III. Only one member shall speak at a time and he shall rise from his seat and address the Moderator when he is about to make a speech.

ARTICLE IV. The person thus speaking shall not be interrupted in his speech, except by the Moderator, until he is done speaking, and shall strictly adhere to the subject, and in no wise reflect upon the person who spoke before, nor make remarks or mishaps, failures or imperfections, but shall verily state the cause and matter as nearly as he can, so as to convey his light and idea.

ARTICLE V. No person shall rise and speak more than three times on one subject without consent of the association.

ARTICLE VI. No person shall abruptly break off or absent himself from the association without liberty obtained therefrom.

ARTICLE VII. No member of the association shall have the liberty of laughing during the sittings nor whispering in the time of public speech.

ARTICLE VIII. No member of this association shall address another by any other term or appellation other than that of brother.

ARTICLE IX. The Moderator shall not interrupt a member nor prohibit him from speaking until he gives his light upon the subject, except when he breaks the rules of decorum.

ARTICLE X. The names of several members of the association shall be enrolled by the clerk and called over so often as the Moderator requires.

ARTICLE XI. The Moderator shall have the same privilege of speech as another member; provided the chair be filled. But shall have no vote unless the association be equally divided.

ARTICLE XII. Any member who shall wilfully and knowingly break any of the rules shall be reprovved by the association as it may think proper.

ARTICLE XIII. The delegation to be seated in this association shall be limited to three members from each church.

ARTICLE XIV. No person shall speak more than five (5) minutes at the same time without liberty obtained from the association.

Names and Addresses of

ORDAINED MINISTERS

Tommy Adair	R.F.D. 1, Williamson, W. Va
Jonah Bevins	Box 1534, Williamson, W. Va
Harrison Bevins	Box 655, Williamson, W. Va
Dike Blackburn	Moree, Ky.
J. H. Brown	Canada, Ky.
Willis Blackburn	Goody, Ky.
E. S. Coleman	Hardy, Ky.
Grover Carey	R.F.D. 1, Williamson, W. Va.
P. H. S. Curry	R.F.D. 1, Williamson, W. Va.
Emmett Case	Varney, Ky.
Asa Evans	R.F.D. 1, Williamson, W. Va.
J. R. Evans	R.F.D. 1, Williamson, W. Va.
E. F. Fields	Moree, Ky.
S. B. Fraley	Hatfield, Ky.
John Fouch	Chauncey, W. Va.
Ester Hopkins	Williamson, W. Va.
W. C. Hay	R.F.D. 1, Williamson, W. Va.
W. H. Hurley	Verdunville, W. Va.
J. H. Hensley	Meta, Ky.
Bill Jude	Pilgrim, Ky.
L. G. Lowe	Williamson, W. Va.
Hi Maynard	R.F.D. 1, Williamson, W. Va.
H. C. Maynard	Stone, Ky.
M. J. Mounts	R.F.D. 1, Williamson, W. Va.
Wallace Maynard	R.F.D. 1, Williamson, W. Va.
B. F. Maynard	Holden, W. Va.
Shadle Pauley	Beauty, Ky.
James Queen	Hearts, W. Va.
Orville Runyon	Chattaroy, W. Va.
Basil Robinett	Varney, Ky.
W. T. Rife	R.F.D. 1, Williamson, W. Va.
C. L. Swanson	Boomer, N. C.
Lewis Smith	Hardy, Ky.
A. A. Shephard	R.F.D. 1, Williamson, W. Va.

Jonah Smith	Turkey Creek, Ky.
J. E. Taylor	Heenan, Ky.
J. G. Thornsbery	Canada, Ky.
Willie White	Lenore, Ky.

Licensed Minister

George Hinkle	Hardy, Ky.
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Names and Addresses of

CLERKS

Mt. Pleasant	Harrold Edmonds	Canada, Ky.
Apple Orchard	Eldon Maynard	Heenan, Ky.
Enon	Ethel Varney	McCarr, Ky.
Rebecca	F. M. Preece	R.F.D. 1, Williamson, W. Va.
Bent Branch	Forest Bevins	Meta, Ky.
Sardis	Tommy Adair	R.F.D. 1, Williamson, W. Va.
Big Branch	J. L. Nichols	Thomas, Ky.
Mary Elizabeth	Lacy Lowe	Hatfield, Ky.
Bethany	Willard Blair	Lenore, W. Va.
Elk Fork	Allie Maynard	R.F.D. 1, Williamson, W. Va.
Pilgrim Home	Troy T. Francis	Box 52, Williamson, W. Va.
Salem	A. M. Varney	Road Fork, Ky.
Sidney	Stella Maynard	Three Forks, Ky.
Dix Fork	J. G. Thornsbery	Canada, Ky.
Narrows Branch	Willie Stanley	Hardy, Ky.
Leanah	Eldon Maynard	Heenan, Ky.
Buck Creek	Shadle Pauley	Beauty, Ky.
Tabitha	Comfort Gillman	Barnabus, W. Va.
Little Dove	J. S. Dempsey	R.F.D. 1, Williamson, W. Va.
Little Rosa	Orville Runyon	Chattaroy, W. Va.
Beech Grove	Joe Hannah	R.F.D.1, Kermit, W. Va.
Turkey Creek	Ken Varney	Williamson, W. Va.

STATISTICAL REPORT

Churches and Delegates	Received by Baptism	Received by Letter	Restoration	Received by Recommendation	Dismissed By Letter	Died	Excluded	Total Membership	Church Time	Church Contribution
Mt. Pleasant: Harold Edmonds, Frank Collins	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	34	2	\$10.00
Apple Orchard: Willie Nichols, Eldon Maynard, Elvert Maynard	0	0	0	0	4	1	0	38	1	4.00
Enon: Logan Spencer	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	9	1	6.75
Rebecca: Mosco Gillman, Sam Gillman, Maynard Hay	6	0	3	0	0	0	2	58	2	15.00
Bent Branch: Forest Bevins, Thomas Morrison	4	0	0	0	0	1	0	51	3	10.00
Sardis: Jessie Farley, N. R. Evans, Oscar Chapman	4	0	0	0	0	3	1	192	4	10.00
Big Branch: Johnie Nichols, Harvey Lowe, Ernest Lowe	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	31	3	4.00
Mary Elizabeth: Leonard Stanley, T. D. Lowe, Lacy Lowe	2	0	0	0	0	0	3	29	3	5.00
Bethany: John H. White, John Mayhon, Jessie Canterbury	3	0	3	0	0	1	5	50	4	10.00
Elk Fork: W. E. Runyon, Grover Carey	4	0	0	1	0	0	0	73	3	8.00
Pilgrim Home: Troy T. Francis, Willis Blackburn, Harvey Young	5	0	0	0	0	2	1	127	4	15.00
Salem: Ester Hopkins, Harrison Bevins, Clyde Bevins	4	0	0	0	1	0	1	118	1	16.00
Sidney: Bascom Maynard, John Maynard, Bill Maynard	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	27	4	5.00
Dix Fork: J. G. Thornsberry, J. H. Brown, Henry C. Maynard	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	50	1	10.00
Narrows Branch: Willie Stanley, Charley Scott, George Stanley	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	44	4	12.00
Leanah: Willie Howard, Samuel Robinson	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	22	2	3.00
Buck Creek: Shadle Pauley, Pete Dials, Alvis Maynard	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	25	3	5.00
Tabitha: Comfort Gilman, Charley Evans, Bill Gilman	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	47	1	6.00
Little Dove: James S. Dempsey, Mack Davis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	43	1	11.40
Little Rosa: Orville Runyon	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	22	4	3.00
Beech Grove: Joseph Hannah	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	3	4.00
Turkey Creek: Lewis Marcum, Ken Varney, Julius Bargett	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	44	2	6.00
TOTALS	53	3	6	1	5	14	18	1150	18	\$179.15