

MINUTES

OF THE EIGHTY-FIFTH ANNUAL SESSION OF

THE ARKANSAS ASSOCIATION

OF THE

CHURCH OF GOD

DENOMINATED

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST

**CONVENED WITH THE PLEASANT GROVE FREE WILL
BAPTIST CHURCH AT POTTS, NEAR CHARLESTON,
FRANKLIN COUNTY, ARKANSAS**

September 3-4, 1953, A.D.

OFFICERS

Moderator _____ Bro. Joe Phillips, Booneville, Ark.
Asst. Moderator _____ Bro. Earnest Page, Belleville, Ark.
Sec.-Treas. _____ Bro. Elmer Turner, Branch, Ark.
Asst. Secretary _____ Bro. Amos Hook, Ratcliff, Ark.
Credential Committee _____ Bro. Amos Hook (2-yr.);
Bro. Joe Phillips (2-yr.); Bro. J. M. Burnett (1-yr.)
Mission Board _____ Rev. Elmer Turner,
Rev. Robert King, Deacon E. Page

The next annual session will convene with the Harmony Free Will Baptist Church, Waldron, Scott County, Arkansas, beginning Thursday before the first Sunday in September, 1954, A.D., at 9 a. m. The introduction sermon by the pastor; the memorial sermon by Bro. B. O. Stahl, with Bro. W. M. Guinn, assistant.

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PROCEEDINGS

The Eighty-fifth Annual Session of the Arkansas Association of the Church of God known as the "Free Will Baptist," convened with the Pleasant Grove (Potts) Free Will Baptist Church at Charleston, Franklin County, Arkansas, on September 3-4, 1953, A. D.

The song praises were conducted by Brothers W. M. Guinn, B. O. Stahl, Rex Vanmeter, Lester Bradley, Jim Burnett, and A. E. Sharp. Services at the piano were rendered by Sisters Louise Page, Velma Vanmeter, and others we failed to receive their names. Special songs were arranged by Brothers Lester Bradley, W. M. Guinn, B. O. Stahl and Rex Vanmeter.

THURSDAY

At 10 a. m., the Session was called to order by uniting in singing praises unto the Lord. Scripture lesson was read from Phil. 2:1-16, by the Moderator who also led the consecration prayer for the Will of the Lord to be done in our midst.

The following ordained were present during the Session: Elders W. M. Guinn, B. A. Artman, I. J. Wilson, B. O. Stahl, Sam Southerland and Elmer Turner; Deacons, E. L. Page, Jim Burnett, Lester Bradley, Rex Vanmeter, A. E. Sharp, Amos Hook, Joe Phillips.

The wife of each of the former elders or deacons was present: Sisters B. A. Artman, Elmer Turner, W. M. Guinn, B. O. Stahl, Amos Hook, Joe Phillips, Lester Bradley, Rex Vanmeter, A. E. Sharp, Jim Burnett, and Sam Southerland.

A quorum being present, the Church letters were read and received as follows:

Branch Mission, represented by letter; Harmony, represented by letter and Sister Maver Martin as delegate; Mulberry, represented by letter; Freedom, represented by letter; Pleasant Grove, represented by letter and Brothers Ralph Robison, and Lonnie Looney, and Sisters Ruby Womack, Elva Metcalf, and Fredia Story as delegates; Ranger, represented by letter and Sister Louise Page, delegate; Union Hill, represented by statement of the pastor; Brooklyn, by statement.

The non-represented churches were Pleasant Hill and Upper Spring Creek. They were reported in good standing.

The delegates were received in order and given the right hand of Christian fellowship. The moderator declared the Session organized for such business as may properly come before it.

Brothers E. L. Page, Amos Hook and Jim Burnett were selected to serve on the Divine Committee. Recessed by prayer led by Brother B. A. Artman.

11 A. M. SERVICE

Opened by singing and prayer led by Bro. W. M. Guinn; Bro. Sam Southerland, the pastor of the entertaining church, was called to the rostrum. He read for a lesson and a text Neh. 4:19-20; 6:3. Subject of theme: "We're doing a great work; have no time for our enemies." Theme well delivered. Dismissed for noon by Bro. I. J. Wilson. Dinner served on the ground.

1 P. M.

Called back to work by songs of praises and a lesson read from Eph. 6:11-19. Bro. Sam Southerland led in prayer. The rules of order were read, delayed letters received; and seated Brother Sam Southerland a member in full standing for the session.

The officers elected were: Bro. Joe Phillips, Moderator; Bro. Ernest Page, Assistant Moderator; Bro. Elmer Turner, Secretary-Treasurer and Bro. Amos Hook, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer. The new officers were installed and business proceeded.

The letter from the Quarterly Conference was read and received:

The following committees were appointed: Finance, Bro. Jim Burnett, Sisters Amos Hook and B. A. Artman. Sunday School, Sisters Jim Burnett, W. M. Guinn, and Mary Phillips. Resolution, Bros. W. M. Guinn, B. A. Artman, and Sam Southerland. Obituary, Sisters Thelma Vanmeter, Lorene Looney, and Freddie Story. Temperance, Sisters E. Page, Ruby Womack and Elvie Metcalf.

Bro. Amos Hook was elected for the three-year man on the Credential Committee.

Letters from Brothers Robert King and Robert Hiddie were read, and they were commended for their labour in the Lord.

The day's business was closed by song and prayer led by Bro. E. Page.

7:30 P. M.

Called to worship, singing praises unto our Lord; led in prayer by Bro. Lester Bradey. A special given by the quartet. Bro. B. A. Artman brought the message; the word of our Lord, "I Thirst." The message was very inspiring. Dismissed by Bro. Jim Burnett.

FRIDAY

Called back to work at 9:30 a. m. After singing the Brother Moderator read a lesson from Gal. 6:1-10, and invoked the blessing of God and the leadership of the Holy Spirit on the day's work.

The Sunday School committee reported (see reports), accepted.

Obituary Committee reported (see in the 11 a. m. service), accepted.

Recessed until 11 a. m. service. Prayer led by Bro. B O. Stahl.

11 A. M.

Called to worship by songs of praises and prayer led by Bro. W. M. Guinn. The Obituary report was read:

We your Committee find that the Lord has, in His infinite wisdom, seen fit to call from labor to reward:

Bro. B. P. Cockburn of Mulberry Church,

Bro. L. A. Blalock of Mulberry Church,

Bro. J. A. Bradley of Pleasant Grove Church,

Bro. Hill Hearing of Pleasant Grove Church,

Sister Maggie Sharp of Pleasant Grove Church,

of our number. We regret very much their passing, yet we conclude our loss is Heaven's gain.

A brief remark was made in memory of each. Bro. W. M. Guinn took for his memorial thoughts "Where Are the Dead," 1 King 17:22: We were all made to look forward with a new hope of meeting our loved ones who are gone on before. Bro. B. O. Stahl invoked the blessings of our Lord on all.

The noon lunch was served on the ground.

1 P. M.

We united our voice in song praises. Bro. Sam Southerland led in prayer. A lesson was read from Rom. 5:1-21. The following business was received:

Temperance report received (see reports).

Resolutions No. 1, 2, 3, and 4 received. (See enactments).

Finance report received. (See reports).

Harmony Free Will Baptist Church near Waldron was selected to entertain the 1954 session of the Arkansas Association.

The pastor of the Harmony Church to preach the introductory.

Bro. B. O. Stahl was selected to preach the memorial sermon in 1954, with Bro. W. M. Guinn his alternate.

The Credential Committee reported favorably for the ordaining of Bro. Lester Bradley, who feels the spiritual call to preach.

Sisters W. M. Guinn, Mary Phillips, B. A. Artman, and B. O. Stahl were selected to represent us in the State Association.

The resolution of thanks was read and the parting hand was taken while singing, "God Be With You Till We Meet Again," closed by a prayer of thanks for the harmony and unity enjoyed in the body during the transaction of all business. Thus closed another session of the Arkansas Association of Free Will Baptist. May the Lord bless us in His work.

JOE PHILLIPS, Moderator.

ELMER TURNER, Sec.-Treas.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE

1952—Received:

Sept. 6, Cash	\$112.02
Oct. 20, Harmony Church, for College	10.00
Oct. 22, Branch Mission, for college	2.00

TOTAL	\$124.02
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Disbursements, 1952

Oct. 12, Arkansas State Association	\$ 54.00
Nov. 12, Mena Star Co.	54.08
Nov. 14, Postage	3.94

TOTAL	\$124.02
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The contributions sent in by the Churches were: Pleasant Grove, \$27.00; Mulberry, \$6.69; Ranger, \$5.00; Harmony, \$13.00; Branch Mission, \$17.00; Freedom, \$5.00; and Brooklyn \$5.00. We recommend \$30 to the State Association.

Jim Burnett, Addie Hook, Bertha Artman, Committee.

TEMPERANCE

We, your Committee on Temperance, find that the devil has many different ways to draw our minds from God and His cause, namely everything that is sinful such as worldly amusements, narcotics, and pleasure resorts, etc. We recommend that we obey the Apostle Paul who said, "Taste not, touch not, handle not; which all perish with handling or using. Be ye temperate in all things." Col. 2:22.

Sisters E. Page, Ruby Metcalf, Committee.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

We, the Sunday School Committee, wish to report that we find that all of our Churches have Sunday School. We urge that our Pastors and all members invite people who are not attending Sunday School, to come out to our Sunday schools. We also urge that the parents bring their children out to Sunday School; furthermore that we all read the Word of God in our family circle more.

Sisters Mary Phillips, Lizzi Guinn, Dethoria Burnett, Committee.

ENACTMENTS (Revised in 1953)

1939—Be it resolved that the Association shall elect the minister to preach the opening sermon on Thursday at 11 a. m., of the following Association. This selection shall take place just before the adjourning hour of the Association.

1940—Be it resolved that we shall devote the 11 a. m. service on Friday of each session of the Association to a memorial service. The one to preach the memorial sermon shall be selected by the Association each year before the close of the session for the ensuing session.

1943—Be it resolved that we, the Free Will Baptist, in speaking of our CHURCH, speak of it as, "THE CHURCH OF GOD, OR CHRIST, denominated the FREE WILL BAPTIST."

1948—Be it resolved that the several Churches give our deacons credentials and that they shall be required to record same.

1951—Be it resolved that the Association mention in their minutes the different pianists that serve so faithfully during the Association.

1952: No. 1—Be it resolved that our Credential Committee, also shall act as our GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE, as long as we have a Credential Committee.

No. 2—Be it resolved that our Association shall instruct our Secretary to drop from our Roster or Diary the name of any ordained Minister or Deacon, who are not a member of a Church in good standing in our Union, and reported in the letter of the Church to our Association, as an ordained member in good standing.

Be it further resolved, that the ordained Minister or Deacon, who are past the active age, through their Church cease to exist, and they are living a Christian life and of good report, we shall retain the name of such on the ROSTER as a member of our Association.

No. 3—Be it resolved that this Association will convene Thursday morning at 10 a. m. before the first Sunday in September, and remain in session until the close of the service Friday night before the said first Sunday.

1953: No. 1—Be it resolved that each CHURCH in the Association organize, if possible, a league for the training of our young people, and the general welfare of the CHURCH.

No. 2—Be it resolved that we drop from our enactments the following: Those of 1918, 1936, 1943 No. 3, 1947, 1948 No. 3. Also, that we shall reword those of 1939 and 1940 so as to comply with our present time of meeting.

No. 3—Be it resolved that we, The Arkansas Association of Free Will Baptist, shall hereafter this date, September the 4th, 1953 A. D., recognize the BOARD OF MISSION as established by the Quarterly Conference of the said Association of Free Will Baptist, as the authorized BOARD OF MISSION of the said Association. Furthermore, we do hereby sanction the Constitution, as adopted by the said Quarterly Conference, as the working base of the Board of Mission.

W. M. Guinn, B. A. Artman, Sam Southerland, Committee.

We, the Arkansas Association of Free Will Baptist, do hereby express our appreciation for the hospitality and cooperation of the POTTS community which we have enjoyed while in this session of the Association. We do hereby pray that the LORD will continue His grace and mercy unto you all.

The Arkansas Association of Free Will Baptist.

STATISTICAL REPORT

Membership at the beginning of 1953, 467; Received during the year, 42; Dismissed, 8; Membership at the close of the year, 501.

Paid for pastors' support, \$1,580.00; For evangelist, \$256.00; For mission work, \$197.15; For Sunday School Supplies, \$92.00; Support of the Free Will Baptist college, \$12.00; For incidental expenses, \$216.00; For all other expenses, \$64.19. Value of church property \$4500.00.

DIARY OF CHURCHES

CHURCH	CLERK	ADDRESS	PASTOR
BRANCH MISSION	Fannie Lyles	Branch, Ark.	Elmer Turner
BROOKLYN	Lila Kanady	Ratcliff, Ark.	Robert Hiddi
FREEDOM	Queta L. Graham	Mansfield, Ark.	B. F. Black
HARMONY	Ruby Lamar	Waldron, Ark.	J. T. Burnett
MULBERRY	Louise Jones	Nola, Ark.	B. F. Black
UNION HILL	Rosa Parker	Olio, Ark.	B. A. Artman
PLEASANT GROVE	Geneva Hammond	Charleston, Ark.	S. Southerland
RANGER	Ila Hancock	Belleville, Ark.	B. O. Stahl
UPPER SPRING CREEK	Mary King	Belleville, Ark.	Ben Black
SPRING HILL		Hackett, Ark.	B. F. Black
MT. OLIVE		Magazine, Ark.	

ROSTER OF THE ORDAINED MINISTERS' DAIRY

Ben F. Black, Hackett, Ark.
G. J. Starns, Waldron, Ark.
C. C. Kitchens, Gravelly, Ark.
B. A. Artman, Nola, Ark.
Elmer Turner, Branch, Ark.
Robert King, Waldron, Ark.
B. O. Stahl, Plainview, Ark.

W. M. Guinn, Booneville, Ark.
Albert Remby, Booneville, Ark.
J. S. Lovett, Magazine, Ark.
I. J. Wilson, Charleston, Ark.
Robert Hidde, 3919 South
Carthage, Fort Smith, Ark.

DEACONS' DIARY

Jim Burnett, Waldron, Ark.
W. M. Copeland, Gravelly, Ark.
Freddie Copeland, Gravelly, Ark.
Bryon Hays, Charleston, Ark.
J. E. Phillips, Booneville, Ark.
A. E. Sharp, Charleston, Ark.
Odell Elmore, Belleville, Ark.
I. J. Hudson, Olio, Ark.
Claud Parker, Olio, Ark.
Hermon Kanada, Ratcliff, Ark.
Othel May, Belleville, Ark.
Arley Holly, Belleville, Ark.
Chas. Stapleton, Belleville, Ark.
A. C. Gipson, Charleston, Ark.
Joe Taylor, Waldron, Ark.
Jim Drewery, Waldron, Ark.
E. R. Lovett, Magazine, Ark.
Homer Robison, Branch, Ark.
D. E. Elmore, Belleville, Ark.

Clarence Wilsen, Waldron, Ark.
L. J. Dishoungh, Gravelly, Ark.
J. F. Robinson, Gravelly, Ark.
R. B. Vanmeter, Charleston, Ark.
Dolph Sharp, Charleston, Ark.
Steve Phillips, Springdale, Ark.
Lester Bradley, Charleston, Ark.
Clyde Bull, Havana, Ark.
Charles Jones, Olio, Ark.
Amos Hook, Ratcliff, Ark.
J. B. Morris, Belleville, Ark.
Ernest Page, Belleville, Ark.
Hubert Hall, Danville, Ark.
Dell Conley, Ratcliff, Ark.
Joe Carnahan, Waldron, Ark.
Chester Boatright, Waldron, Ark.
Bethel Garner, Olio, Ark.
Frank Keller, Branch, Ark.
Troy Jones, Belleville, Ark.

RULES OF ORDINATION

1. Do you believe in the Total Depravity of the human heart?
Answer—No.

2. Do you believe that infants are saved while in a state of in-
nocence? Answer—I do.

3. Do you believe in a Full and Free Salvation to all who will
accept it on the Gospel terms? Answer—I do.

4. Do you believe in a burial of a believer in Christ with water
after he has been baptized into Christ by the Holy Ghost is the only
baptism? Answer—I do.

5. Do you believe that any man has a right in the Gospel to re-
peat Baptism to such a subject? Answer—No.

6. Do you believe that Communion, Feet Washing and Baptism
are Gospel Ordinance and are to be taught and practiced until He
comes again? Answer—I do.

7. Will you solemnly pledge yourself to preach and practice the
same, God being your helper? Answer—I will by the help of God.

8. Do you believe that none will finally be saved but those who
persevere in Holiness to the end. Answer—I do.

CHURCH COVENANT

Having given ourselves to God, by faith in Christ, and adopted the Word of God as our rule of faith and practice, we now give ourselves to one another by the will of God in this solemn covenant.

We promise by His grace to love and obey Him in all things, to avoid all appearance of evil, to abstain from all sinful amusements and unholy conformity to the world, from all sanction of the use and sale of intoxicating beverages, and to "provide things honest in the sight of all men."

We agree faithfully to discharge our obligations in reference to the study of the Scriptures, secret prayer, family devotions, and social worship; and by self-denial, faith, and good works endeavor to grow in grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

We will not forsake the assembling of ourselves together for church conferences; public worship, and the observance of ordinances of the Gospel, nor fail to pay according to our ability for the support of the church, of its poor, and all its benevolent work.

We agree to accept Christian admonition and reproof with meekness, and to watch over one another in love, endeavoring to "keep the unity of the Spirit" in the bonds of peace, to be careful of one another's happiness and reputation, and seek to strengthen the weak, encourage the afflicted, admonish the erring, and as far as we are able, promote the success of the church and the Gospel.

We will everywhere hold Christian principle sacred and Christian obligations and enterprises supreme; counting it our chief business in life to extend the influence of Christ in society; constantly praying and toiling that the Kingdom of God may come, and His will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

To this end we agree to labor for the promotion of educational and denominational enterprises, the support of Missions, the success of Sunday Schools and evangelistic efforts for the salvation of the World. And may the God of peace sanctify us wholly, and preserve us blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Introductory sermon.
2. Association called to order by Moderator; in his absence, the Clerk.
3. Letters from the Churches called for, received and Delegates invited to seats.
4. Right hand of Fellowship.
5. Election of permanent officers.
6. Call for petitionary Churches.
7. Reading Rules of Order by Chair or Clerk.
8. Appointment of following Committees: (a) Arrangements for Preaching, (b) Resolutions, (c) Finance, (d) Temperance, (e) Sunday Schools, (f) Obituary, (g) Condition of Non-Represented Churches.
9. Report of Committees appointed at last Association and other unfinished business.
10. Report of new committees.
11. New business.
12. Adjournment.

RULES OF ORDER

(Revised in Regular Session, 1941)

At every sitting of the Association, business shall be opened and concluded by prayer by the Moderator or whomever he may request.

2. Ministers and corresponding delegates of other Associations are invited to seats; allowed to take part in debates on all subjects, but have no power to vote.

3. Those who speak shall arise and address the Moderator. Personal Reflections shall be avoided in all debates.

4. No motions shall be discussed without a second.

5. If any proposition or motion under debate contains two or more points, it shall be divided at the request of any member, and the vote taken separately.

6. Motions made and lost shall not be recorded.

7. No one shall be allowed to speak but once on any question until all witnesses have had an opportunity to speak, and then not more than twice without special leave of the Moderator.

8. All questions shall be decided by a majority vote of all members present.

9. No member shall absent himself without special leave of the Moderator.

10. Minutes shall be leisurely read and corrected if necessary before the close of the Association.

11. At all future sessions of the Association arrangements shall be made to insure two sermons, or other devotional exercises equivalent thereto, during each day of the session, and the chair shall announce just before adjournment who shall fill the stand at the next meeting.

12. These Rules of Order shall be distinctly read from the chair immediately after organization of the Association.

13. Alterations may be made in these rules at any regular session of the Association.

CONSTITUTION

(Revised in Regular Session 1934)

From long experience, we, the members of the Church of God (denominated Free Will Baptist), being regularly baptized upon a profession of our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and being convinced of the necessity of a combination of churches to perpetuate a union among us, and to preserve and maintain correspondence with each other, do therefore ordain this Constitution for our better Church government.

Art. 1. MEMBERSHIP. This Association shall be composed of members chosen by the churches or quarterly meetings of our union, not exceeding three messengers from each church, and upon producing letters, they shall be entitled to seats. All ordained ministers and deacons of said union shall be regular members, when present, by virtue of their office.

Art. 2. NAME. The members thus chosen and assembled with the ministers and deacons, to be denominated the Arkansas Association of Free Will Baptists, being composed of the several churches of our union, the Association having no power to lord it over God's heritage, nor having any ecclesiastical power over the churches, reserving the right of withdrawing from any church becoming disorderly.

Art. 3. **LETTERS.** Letters from the different churches representing are to express their number in fellowship, including the names and addresses of ordained and licensed ministers, the number of members received upon profession of faith, by letter or recommendation, by restoration or denominational choice; the number dismissed by letter, excluded, and those having died since last Association. Churches, in sending their letters, may send obituaries of any who died during the year, that we may keep up the memorial of our dead.

Art. 4. **OFFICERS.** The Association shall have a Moderator, a Clerk, and a Credentials Committee of three ordained elected by the suffrage of the members of the Association at each annual Association. The Credentials Committee shall be elected as follows: One for three years, one for two years, and one for one year. Then one each year following to succeed the outgoing members.

Art. 5. **NEW CHURCHES.** Newly constituted churches may be admitted to the Association, which are to petition by letter and delegates, and if upon examination, they are found to be orthodox and orderly, they may be received into the Association, the Moderator giving the right hand of fellowship.

Art. 6. **QUESTIONS.** No question from any church shall come under the consideration of the Association unless it has been first considered in its own church.

Art. 7. **MOTIONS.** Every motion made and seconded shall come under the consideration of the Association, except it be withdrawn by the member who made it.

Art. 8. **MINUTES.** The Association is to endeavor to furnish the churches with minutes of the Association to proportion to the amount paid by each church, the distribution to be at the discretion of the Association.

Art. 9. **CLERK.** It shall be the duty of the Clerk to keep a regular file of the minutes of the Association in a book to be kept by the Association for that purpose.

Art. 10. **SIGNATURES.** The minutes of the Association shall be read and corrected, if needed, and signed by the Moderator and Clerk before the close of the Association.

Art. 11. **AMENDMENTS.** Amendments to this Constitution may be made, when necessary, by a majority vote of the members present, notice having been given in writing, and recorded at the last previous session.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. **GOD.** We believe in one true and living, Triune God; composed of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, equal in divine Essence, purpose, Power and Glory.—St. John 1:1; 1 Cor. 8:6; St. John 10:30.

2. **CHRIST.** We believe that Jesus Christ is the divine Son of God. Was with the Father and the Holy Spirit at the time of the Creation, left the Courts of Heaven and came to this earth. Took upon Himself the form of humanity, sin excepted, by being born of the Virgin Mary, manifested His power, was crucified, placed in Joseph's tomb, rose from the dead the third day, completed the great plan of salvation, walked and talked with His disciples, publicly ascended up to Heaven, and that He will descend again to gather his jewels home.—Isaiah 9:6; St. John 1:14; Luke 1:26-28; Matt. 14:13-21; Mark 16:9-19; Luke 24:50-53; Acts 1:9-12; Mark 15:22-47.

3. **HOLY SPIRIT.** We believe that the Holy Spirit has visited true believers in all ages, and especially since the ascension of the SON back to the Father, and His coming on the day of Pentecost.

Has taken up His office work among all nations of people, as a divine Reprover, Comforter and Guide.—Judges 6:34; 11:29; St. John 16:8-14; Isaiah 63:10-12; Ephesians 4:30; Acts 8:17-20; Ezek. 36:27; Joel 2:28.

4. **THE BIBLE.** We believe the Bible, which is composed of the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament, was given by Inspiration of God, is our way-bill from earth to heaven, and the only infallible rule of faith and practice.—2 Peter 1:19-21; 2 Tim. 3:14-17; Daniel 10:21; Acts 1:16-17; Matt. 21:42.

5. **THE FALL OF MAN.** We believe that GOD created man good, gave him a just law by which he should be governed; with promise of reward for faithfulness and with penalties of punishment for disobedience. Gave man power of free moral agency to choose the right and reject the wrong. But our first parents heeded the voice of the great enemy of souls, voluntarily transgressed the law of GOD, fell, with their posterity, under the just penalty of the same, and were unable of their own power to extricate or save themselves from the great dilemma into which they had fallen. God gave them the hope of salvation through the coming CHRIST.—Gen. 1:27; 2:16-17; Psalms 51:5; Gen. 3; Gen. 6:5; Rom. 5:12-19; Eph. 2:3.

6. **REDEMPTION, SALVATION, ADOPTION.** We believe that Jesus Christ by His birth, death, burial, resurrection and ascension paid the purchase price for the redemption of the whole human race, arranged a pardon for all who came upon Gospel terms, and a law of adoption into the Kingdom of Heaven, and an eternal inheritance into the glorified Kingdom above.—Heb. 9:12; Gal. 3:13; 4:4-5; Titus 2:14; Heb. 1:4; St. John 3:16; Isaiah 15:22.

7. **CONDITIONS OF SALVATION.** We believe that all persons dying in infancy and all idiots are saved by the atoning merits of the Son of God without any act on their part; that persons coming to the years of accountability, transgressing the law of God, must upon their part, exercise faith in Jesus Christ through repentance toward God, at the completion of which pardon takes place in the mind of the Father and by the Holy Spirit they pass through the ordeal of regeneration, are washed in the blood of the Lamb and are planted in the Kingdom of Christ.—St. John 3rd chapter; Matt. 19:13-22; II Cor. 7:10; Luke 18:16-17; St. John 4:11-26; Eph. 2.

8. **SALVATION FREE.** We believe that God desires the salvation of all; Christ died for all; the Gospel invites all; the Holy Spirit strives with all; and whosoever will may come and be saved upon the terms of the Gospel.—1 Peter 1:5-25; 2:9-25; Revelation 22:17.

9. **BAPTISM.** We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion of believers in water, in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, in which are represented the burial and resurrection of Christ; also represents our death to sin, and only those who have come under the presbytery of the elders are qualified to administer the same.—Matt. 3; 1 Peter 3:21; St. John 3:23; Acts 10:47; Matt. 28:19.

10. **COMMUNION AND FEET WASHING.** We believe that the Lord's Supper and the washing of the saints' feet are ordinances of the Gospel of Christ; the Lord's Supper was instituted by our Savior to commemorate His broken body and shed blood for the sins of the world, and to show our remembrance of Him till He comes. All Christians have a right to the Lord's Supper and should be invited; "Let a man examine himself and so let him eat."

The washing of feet was instituted by our Lord at the same time that the Supper was instituted as an act of humility to show our love for each other, and both ordinances should be perpetuated by

all Christians until His second coming.—Luke 22:19-20; 1 Cor. 11:20-29; St. John 13:1-17; Matt. 26:26-29.

11. **THE SABBATH.** We believe that the Christian Sabbath should be observed as a day of rest and for the worship of God; that we should abstain from all sinful amusements and secular employments, works of mercy and piety excepted.—Exodus 20:11; 31:12-17; Deut. 5:12-15; Ezek. 20:12; Matt. 28:1; Luke 23:56; Acts 13:42-48; Mark 2:27.

12. **CALL TO THE MINISTRY.** We believe in a divine call of the ministry; that God in His goodness and power of grace, impresses His ministers with the burden of lost souls, to the extent that the call becomes irresistible with personal contentment; that when they yield to the call and exercise the native gifts according to the Scriptures, with a full reliance upon Him, He accompanies them in the person of the Holy Spirit to guide them in the way of truth and to bless their labors according to His purpose.—Jonah 1:1; Jer. 1:5; Mark 3:14; Acts 1:22-26; Matt. 28:19.

13. **THE INVISIBLE CHURCH.** We believe that the invisible or Spiritual Church is the redeemed in the aggregate, is the family of God, is composed of all true Christians of every congregation from righteous Abel to the restitution of all things, from every kindred, nation, tongue and people.—Eph. 3:16-21; Heb. 12:22-23; 1 Pet. 2:5; Eph. 2:20-22; Acts 2:47; Matt. 16-18.

14. **THE VISIBLE CHURCH.** We believe that a visible church of Christ is a congregation of faithful men and women, having obtained fellowship with the Lord and with each other, agreeing to keep up a good discipline and doctrine according to the rules of the Gospel.—2 Thess. 1:1; Acts 16:5; 3 John 1:10; Matt. 18:17; Acts 20:28; Revelation 1:4-20.

15. **PERSEVERANCE.** We believe that all true believers in Christ should persevere in divine grace, and in the knowledge of the truth, and that God's grace is sufficient to help them to overcome all the obstacles of life, and that all the combined forces of the great enemy of souls on earth and in hell (or in his eternal abode) are not able to pluck them from His hand so long as they walk in the path of duty; but those who side-step and wilfully refuse or neglect to perform their duty, they would backslide if persistently continued would be eternally lost.—2 Pet. 1:12; 2 Cor. 9:10; 2 Peter 2:2; Rom 8:35; Apostasy: 2 Peter 1:8-9; 1 Cor. 10:1-13; Heb. 12:15-17; 1 John 5:16; Heb. 6:1-6; 1 Tim. 4:1-2; Heb. 3:12 St. John 15:1-7 Matt. 12:31-32.

16. **CHRIST THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH.** We believe that Christ is the Head of the Church, and that the government of the local church is with the body.—Col. 1:18-19; Matt. 16:18; Heb. 12:23; Matt. 21:42; Eph. 1:22.

17. **SANCTIFICATION.** Sanctification is a work of God's grace, by which the soul is cleansed from all sin and wholly consecrated to Christ. It takes place in regeneration, and the Christian can and should abide in this state to the end of life, constantly growing in the grace and the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.—1 Cor. 6:11; 2 Thess. 2:13; Heb. 12:14; Phil. 3:21; 2 Thess. 5:19-23; St. John 17:17-19; 2 Tim. 2:20-21.

18. **THE RESURRECTION.** We believe in the resurrection of the dead, both of the righteous and the wicked. When the resurrection shall take place, the soul and body shall be united, the righteous shall be received into everlasting happiness to reign with God for ever; but the wicked shall go away into everlasting punishment.—Matt. 28:5; John 5:28-29; 1 Cor. 15:51-58.

19. THE SOUL. The soul is endless, hence does not die with the body, but immediately after death enters into a conscious state of happiness or misery, according to the spiritual character here possessed.—Phil. 1:23; Luke 23:43; Rev. 6:9; Luke 16:19-25; Matt. 10:28.

20. JUDGMENT. We believe that there will be a general universal judgment, when all men shall be judged according to their works, whether they be good or bad, and that immediately thereafter the wicked shall enter into everlasting punishment, and the righteous into eternal happiness.—2 Thess. 1:4-9; Rev. 14:9-13; Luke 16:23; Rev. 21:8; 2 Cor. 5:10; Matt. 12:36-37; Rev. 20:12-13; Acts 17:31; Matt. 25:32; Rom. 2:12-14; Mark 9:43-48.