

**MINUTES**  
—OF THE—  
**FORTY-FIRST ANNUAL SESSION**  
—OF THE—  
**Cave Spring Association**  
—OF THE—  
**FREEWILL BAPTIST CHURCHES**



—HELD WITH—  
**WALNUT GROVE CHURCH,**  
**NEAR ELM STORE, ARKANSAS.**  
**AUGUST 23, 24, 25, 1923**

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**OFFICERS:**

**REV. H. C. CRASE, Moderator**  
**REV. T. J. DUNKIN, Assistant Moderator**  
**J. P. McCULLOUGH, Clerk.**  
**REV. J. R. W. HARBISON, Ass't Clerk.**

## PROCEEDINGS.

The forty-first annual session of the Cave Spring Association of Freewill Baptist churches met with Walnut Grove church, near Elm Store, Ark., on Thursday evening, at 4 o'clock p. m., August 23, 1928. Was called to order by singing.

There not being enough present to organize, they adjourned after preaching by Bro. T. J. Dunkin, text, Matt. 11-28.

### FRIDAY, AUGUST 24, 1928.

The Association was called together with singing by the congregation.

The Association was opened by clerk reading 4th chapter of Hebrews, then prayer by Elder H. C. Crase.

Enrollment of members present: A. J. Hale, R. Doran, George Moore, S. P. Blankenship, Homer Johnson, Clyde Johnson, S. L. Huddleston, M. E. Baker, H. C. Crase, T. J. Dunkin, J. P. McCullough and J. R. W. Harbinson.

Conference proceeded to organize by electing H. C. Crase, moderator. On motion the moderator appointed Bros. A. J. Hale, George Moore and S. L. Huddleston committee on pulpit affiliation. Motion carried that we adjourn until 2:30 o'clock p. m. Song by congregation and prayer by Elder Winford C. Davis of Monett, Mo. At 11 o'clock a. m., preaching by Elder H. C. Crase, followed by Elder J. R. W. Harbinson, text 1st Cor. 15-22:23.

### FRIDAY AFTERNOON, 2:30 O'CLOCK.

Association met pursuant to adjournment. Called together by singing. Prayer by Elder T. J. Dunkin.

In the absence of Bro. S. L. Huddleston, moderator appointed Bro. Clyde Johnson on committee of pulpit affiliation.

Letters from the churches were called for and read as follows: Mile Creek Church—Delegates: Sisters Allie Wiseheart and Ida Whitehead; Bro. Roy Wiseheart, alternate.

Smyrna Church—Delegates not present; represented by letter and church clerk.

Oak Grove Church—Delegates not present; represented by letter.

Norman Church—Delegates: Bros. George Moore and Spence Blankenship.

Walnut Grove—Delegates: Bros. R. Doran and A. J. Hale.

Cotton Creek Church—Delegates: Bros. E. L. Frey, Melvin Cockman.

Bluff Spring Church—Delegates: Bro. Robert Traw, Sister Cora Scott.

Dial's Creek Church—Delegates: Bros. Henry Ehrhart, S. P. Scott.

Cave Spring Church—Delegates: Bros. Clyde Johnson, W. G. Parrott, N. P. Johnson.

Bethany Church—Delegates: Bros. Jode Crawford, Albert Wilkerson, Sister Tim Crawford.

Petitionary letter from Nebo church was presented, read and received. Delegates Homer Johnson and John Cartee. Motion carried to receive the delegates and seat them in council with us. All letters were received and delegates given the hand of fellowship by the moderator.

Letters from the quarterly conference was read and received. Delegates, Bros. R. T. Hoyt, S. P. Scott and T. L. McDonald. Our first quarterly meeting was held with Piney Church. Attendance fair, union good. Second meeting with Dial's Creek church, attendance fair, union good. Third was with Bethany church, attendance fair, union good. Bro. Wes McGehee was granted license to preach the gospel for 3 months. Fourth meeting was with Mill Creek church, attendance fair, union good. We received one new church in our council with a membership of 9. Elder Wm. Johnson, Moderator. E. L. Brewer, Clerk.

Quarterly conference delegates were given the hand of fellowship by the moderator. Corresponding messengers and visiting brethren were invited to seats of council with us.

Reports of corresponding messengers were called for. Elder Billy Rogers made verbal report as messenger to Social

Band Association. By request Elder J. R. W. Harbinson was received back into our Association as a minister of the gospel.

Letter received from Pleasant Hill Church. Delegates, Bros. R. T. Hoyt, Alvin Hollis, Allie Hays. The hand of fellowship was given the delegates by the moderator.

Motion carried that all committees prepare their reports and turn them in to-morrow morning at 10 o'clock. Talks were made by Elder Winford Davis and Elder Lem Waterman, evangelists sent out by the Missouri State Association of Freewill Baptists in behalf of an orphans and old ministers home in Missouri, urging that we do something towards building and also establishing a printing press and paper. Elder Dunkin stands as moderator, while Elder H. C. Crase makes talk on where we stand as Freewill Baptist in regard to establishing a home for orphans and old ministers. Brother R. Holman makes talk in regard to his belief in Freewill Baptist doctrine and indorses it as being his belief. Talk by Elder J. R. W. Harbinson in favor of the move for an orphan's and old folk's home.

Motion carried to adjourn until 9 o'clock a. m., Saturday. Singing by congregation, prayer led by Elder Naith Combs.

### **EVENING SESSION**

Singing by choir at 8 p. m. preaching by Elder Winford C. Davis, followed by Elder Lem Waterman, text Rev. 11-1

### **SATURDAY MORNING, AUGUST 25.**

Association met pursuant to adjournment. Called together by singing. Prayer led by Elder T. G. Rutledge.

Other letters were called for and letters were received from Liberty Church. Delegates Sisters Baker and Arnold.

Rose Hill Church—Delegates: Bros. R. G. Beatty and H. S. Young. Delegates given the hand of fellowship and seated.

The moderator inquired if any church is not represented. Shilo church was found to be not represented. The moderator made a call for volunteers to help them get started again, as several of their members had died and some had moved away. Several said they would go and help them in a revival meeting.

Report of committees previously appointed called for. Report of committee on state of religion fairly good, but could be better.

### TREASURER'S REPORT.

For printing 400 minutes.....	\$17.00
Postage on the same.....	.32
Other postage.....	.22
Paper.....	.10
Mailing out minutes.....	.15
Howell County Gazette, printing 200 letter blanks.....	2.00
South Missourian-Democrat, 200 letter blanks.....	1.50
Clerk's salary and postage.....	5.47
Treasurer's postage.....	.24
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$27.00</b>
<b>Balance on hand August 25, 1928.....</b>	<b>\$ 7.61</b>

Motion carried that ordaining council that ordained Elder Billy Rogers make out his ordination certificate and turn it over to him. Also that a duplicate certificate of credentials be made for Elder James McGeehee in place of that one that burned.

Motion carried to adjourn until 2:30 p. m. Prayer by Elder James McGeehee.

At 11 a. m., preaching by Elder James McGeehee, followed by Elder T. G. Rutledge. Text, Proverbs 14-12. Prayer by Bro. Dodson.

### SATURDAY AFTERNOON

At 2:30 p. m., Association called together by singing by choir. Prayer led by Elder Wm. Johnson. On motion moderator appointed Elder N. Combs and Elder James McGeehee to fill out the ordained council to examine and ordain Bro. Jesse Blankenship as a deacon in Norman church. The moderator appointed Bros. A. J. Hall, Charles Carroll and Ralph Hoyt committee to examine ministers for yearly certificates.

We your committee find the following ministers worthy of yearly certificates: Elders Naith Combs, T. J. Dunkin, Billie Rogers, A. H. Williams, W. P. Stogsdill, W. M. Johnson, Jas. McGeehee, T. G. Rutledge, Milo Stanley, Elmer Hodges, J. R. W. Harbinson, H. C. Crase, W. C. Crase, W. C. Norman.

The moderator calls for reports of ministers and they reported as follows:

### REPORTS OF MINISTERS.

I, N. Combs, elder of the Cave Spring Association of the

Freewill Baptist churches, beg to submit the following yearly report of my labors in said association for the year: Pastored 2 churches; preached at other places, 10 sermons; traveled 200 miles; received into the churches, 4; received for my labors, \$50.91; prayer meetings attended 2; homes visited 2.

N. COMBS, Minister.

I, F. G. Rutledge, elder of the Cave Spring Association of the Freewill Baptist churches, beg to submit the following yearly report of my labors in said association for the year 1928: Preached at other places 18 sermons; traveled 75 miles; received into the churches, none; witnessed 5 conversions; churches visited 5; days of service 8; Sunday schools visited 3; prayer meetings attended 4.

T. G. RUTLEDGE, Minister.

I, Wm. Johnson, elder of the Cave Spring Association of the Freewill Baptist churches, beg to submit the following yearly report of my labors in said association for the year 1928: Helped organize 1 church; preached at other places 28 sermons; traveled 210 miles; witnessed 16 conversions; churches visited 3; days of service 20; Sunday schools visited 5; prayer meetings attended 3; homes visited 3.

WM. JOHNSON, Minister.

I, Milo Standley, elder of the Cave Spring Association of the Freewill Baptist churches, beg to submit the following yearly report of my labors in said association for the year 1928: Pastored 1 church and another 6 months; preached at other places 45 sermons; traveled 460 miles; witnessed 2 conversions; received for my labors \$40.47; churches visited 2; days of service 2; Sunday schools visited 4; prayer meetings attended, 6; homes visited 2.

MILO STANDLEY, Minister.

I, Billie Rogers, elder of the Cave Spring Association of the Freewill Baptist churches, beg to submit the following yearly report of my labors in said association for the year 1928: Pastored 5 churches; preached at other places 5 sermons; traveled 300 miles; received into the church 17; baptized 18; witnessed 20 conversions; received for my labors \$166.95; churches visited 8; prayer meetings attended 8.

BILLIE ROGERS, Minister.

I, H. C. Crase, elder of the Cave Spring Association of the Freewill Baptist churches, beg to submit the following yearly report of my labors in said association for the year 1928: Preached at other places 25 sermons; traveled 100 miles; witnessed 3 conversions; received for my labors \$1.90; churches visited 5; Sunday schools visited 3; prayer meetings attended 6.

H. C. CRASE, Minister.

I, T. J. Dunkin, elder of the Cave Spring Association of the Freewill Baptist churches, beg to submit the following yearly report of my labors in said association for the year 1928: Pastored 2 churches; preached at other places 29 sermons; traveled 629 miles; received into the churches 12; baptized 1; received for my labors \$112.09. Churches visited 3; days of service 42;

T. J. DUNKIN, Minister.

I, M. J. McGhee, elder of the Cave Spring Association of the Freewill Baptist churches, beg to submit the following yearly report of my labors in said association for the year 1928: Pastored 1 church; preached at other places 35 sermons; traveled 200 miles; received into the church, 1; witnessed 10 conversions. Received for my labors \$40.00; churches visited 4; days of service 15; Sunday schools visited 5; prayer meetings attended 2.

J. M. MCGHEE, Minister.

I, C. H. Williams, elder of the Cave Spring Association of the Freewill Baptist church, beg to submit the following yearly report of my labors in said association for the year 1928: Pastored no churches; preached at other places 32 sermons; traveled 66 miles; received into the churches, none; witnessed 19 conversions; received for my labors nothing; churches visited none; Sunday schools visited 26; prayer meetings visited 8.

C. H. WILLIAMS, Minister.

Short talks were made in regard to an orphan's and old folk's home in Missouri, and what we could do for it. Motion carried that we send delegates to the state association and instruct them to work for the home. Delegates chosen were Elder T. J. Dunkin Elder H. C. Crase, Elder Billie Rogers and Bro. E. L. Brewer.

Motion carried that the members of our churches be assessed 10 cents a member for expenses of the delegates to the state association.

Motion carried that Bro. Wes McGeehee's license be renewed for one year.

On motion we vote on place to hold our next association. Smyrna church was chosen.

The ordaining council examined Bro. Jesse Blankenship and ordained him as a deacon in Norman Church.

On motion we return our heartfelt thanks to the good people of this vicinity for their kindness and hospitality toward us during our stay with them and pray that God's blessings may rest upon them.

On motion we have 400 minutes printed, Bro. J. P. McCulloch to superintend the printing and distribution of them.

Motion carried that Elder H. C. Crase preach the introductory sermon. Elder Billie Rogers was chosen as alternate.

Motion carried to adjourn to meet with Smyrna church on Thursday evening at 4 p. m., before the 4th Sunday in August, 1929, located four miles northwest of Alton, Oregon county Missouri. Singing by the congregation and the parting hand was taken. Prayer led by Elder T. J. Dunkin.

At 8 p. m., preaching by Elder T. J. Dunkin, followed by Elder Wm. Johnson, text St. John 14-23.

### **SUNDAY, AUGUST 25, 1928**

Sunday morning at 10 o'clock called together by singing, after prayer was offered and Sunday school closed there was preaching by Elder H. C. Crase followed by Elder Billie Rogers, text, Heb., 4-2.

H. C. CRASE Moderator.

T. J. DUNKIN, Assistant Moderator.

J. P. McCULLOUGH, Clerk.

J. R. W. HARBINSON, Ass't Clerk.



### BY-LAWS

ARTICLE 1—Each session of this conference shall be called to order by the standing clerk when present and in his absence by the member having seniority of years.

ARTICLE 2—Each session and adjourned sitting of the conference shall be opened and closed with prayer.

ARTICLE 3—Ten members shall be required to constitute a quorum to transact any business of this conference. But any less number may adjourn from time to time.

ARTICLE 4—After the opening of each session of this conference a chairman shall be appointed and a committee of not less than three persons shall be chosen to examine credentials for membership in this conference. After the report of this committee and enrollment of members the conference shall proceed to the election of a moderator and to the transaction of other business.

ARTICLE 5—At each session of this conference standing committees shall be appointed on each subjects as the following: "Printing establishments," "Ministry," "Slavery," "Missions," "Moral Reform," "Popery," "Peace," "Church Polity," "Petitions and Requests," "State of Religion," "Observance of the Sabbath," "Doctrine," and "State of Denomination." All petitions and committees on particular subjects shall be referred to appropriate committees. Special committees may be appointed at the pleasure of the conference.

ARTICLE 6—This conference may hold correspondence by message or otherwise with other religious bodies as it may deem advisable.

ARTICLE 7—This conference shall sit with open doors except when it may go into a committee of the whole.

ARTICLE 8—Any person not a member of this conference may be allowed to take part in its discussions by obtaining permission of the conference.

ARTICLE 9—It shall be the duty of the standing clerk

to furnish each session of the conference with a book or records containing the doings of its previous session.

ARTICLE 10—The conference may determine the time when its daily sessions shall commence and close.

ARTICLE 11—It shall be the duty of the members of this conference to be present at the time appointed for each daily session and anyone wishing to retire shall first obtain leave of the moderator.

ARTICLE 12—No member shall absent himself from conference during the sessions without first obtaining permission from the conference.

ARTICLE 13—Every member wishing to speak in conference shall first address the moderator.

ARTICLE 14—No person shall be allowed to speak more than ten minutes at any one time nor more than twice on any one subject without leave of conference.

ARTICLE 15—No debate shall be allowed on any motion except the same be submitted in writing and seconded by a member of the conference.

ARTICLE 16—No whispering shall be allowed in conference without leave of the moderator, but all members shall pay strict attention to the business of the conference.

ARTICLE 17—No person shall be allowed to nominate more than one member of any committee provided the brother nominated be elected.

ARTICLE 18—The yeas and nays may be taken on any question before the conference by request of one-fifth of the members present.

ARTICLE 19—The constitution and by-laws of this conference shall be read at each session, near its commencement.

### ARTICLES OF FAITH

**THE BIBLE**—The Scriptures of the Old and the New Testament were given by the inspiration of God and are our infallable rule of faith and practice.

**GOD**—There is one living and true God revealed in nature as the Creator, Preserver and Righteous Governor of the universe and in scripture as Father, Son and Holy Ghost, yet as one God infinitely wise and good when all intelligent creatures are supremely to love, adore and obey.

**CHRIST**—Christ is God manifest in the flesh, in his divine nature truly God in his human nature truly man. The mediator between God and Man once crucified, he is now risen and glorified and is our ever present Savior and Lord.

**THE HOLY SPIRIT**—The Scriptures assign the Holy Spirit all attributes of God. He is the reprover, comforter, guide and sanctifier of men.

**THE GOVERNMENT OF GOD**—God exercised a wise and benevolent providence over all beings and all things by maintaining the constitution and laws of nature. He also performs special acts of grace not otherwise provided for, as the highest welfare of man requires.

**THE SINFULNESS OF MAN**—Man was created innocent but by disobedience fell into a state of sin and condemnation. His posterity therefore inherit a fallen nature of such tendencies that all who come to years of accountability sin, and become guilty before God.

**THE WORK OF CHRIST**—The Son of God by his incarnation, life suffering, death and resurrection affected for all a redemption from sin that is full and free and is the ground of salvation by faith.

**THE TERMS OF SALVATION**—The conditions of salvation are: 1st, Repentance or sorrow for sin and hearty renunciation of it. 2nd, Faith of the unreserved committal of one's soul to Christ as Saviour and Lord with purpose to love and obey him in all things. In the exercise of saving faith the soul is renewed by the Holy Spirit freed from the domina-

tion of sin and becomes a child of God. 3rd, Continuance in faith and obedience until death.

**ELECTION**—God determined from the beginning to save all who should comply with the conditions of salvation. Hence by faith in Christ men become his elect.

**FREEDOM OF THE WILL**—The human will is free and self control, having power to yield to the influence to the truth and the spirit or resist them and perish.

**SALVATION FREE**—God desires the salvation of all, the gospel invites all, the Holy Spirit strives with all and whosoever will may come and take the water of life freely.

**PERSEVERANCE**—All believers in Christ who through grace preserve in holiness to the end of life, have promise of salvation.

#### **GOSPEL ORDINANCES.**

We believe that Baptism or the emersion of believers in water, the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper and the washing of the saints feet are ordinances to be perpetuated in the church and administered to all true believers.

**THE CHURCH SABBATH**—The divine law requires that one day in seven to be set apart from secular employments and amusements for rest, worship, holy works and activities; and for personal communion with God.

**RESURRECTION, JUDGMENT AND FINAL RETRIBUTION**—The scriptures teach the resurrection of all men at the last day. They that have done good will come forth to the resurrection of life and they that have done ill unto the resurrection of judgment; then the wicked will "go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

### 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 appearances 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 devotion 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 forget the assembling of ourselves together for church conferences, public worship and the observance of the 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 to 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 of the Gospel. We will everywhere hold Christian principle sacred and Christian obligations and enterprise supreme, continuing 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 promotion on the educational and demonstrational enterprise, the support of the missions, the success of Sabbath school, the evangelistic effort of the salvation of souls and the conversion of the world. And may the God of peace sanctify us wholly and preserve us blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

# Statistical Table of Cave Spring Association of Freewill Baptist Churches.

CHURCHES	PASTORS-ELECT AND POSTOFFICE ADDRESS	CLERKS AND POSTOFFICE ADDRESS	Received by Experience and Baptism	Dismissed by Letter	Excluded	Died	Total	Contribution
Alton Creek.....	N. Combs..... Couch, Mo.	E. L. Fry..... Couch, Mo.	6			41	\$24 05	
Oak Grove.....	N. Combs..... Couch, Mo.	Viola Mills..... Thayer, Mo.				14	20 60	
Al's Creek.....	Jas. McGeehe..... Myrtle, Mo.	S. P. Scott..... Myrtle, Mo.	1			7	14 00	
Liberty.....	Jas. McGeehee..... Myrtle, Mo.	Buster Christian..... Gatewood				24		
Walnut Grove.....	Billie Rogers..... Myrtle, Mo.	Alma Hall..... Elm Store, Ark.	3	3		140	63 27	
Myrna.....	H. C. Crase..... Couch, Mo.	J. P. McCullough..... Alton Mo				125	33 10	
Anthony.....	T. J. Dunkin..... Myrtle, Mo.	Bertha Brewer..... Alton, Mo.	8	1		43	28 00	
Wheeler.....	Billie Rogers..... Myrtle, Mo.	W. P. Wheeler..... Alton, Mo.						
Buff Spring.....	H. C. Crase..... Couch, Mo.	Hattie King..... Myrtle, Mo.				37	11 80	
Mill Creek.....	H. C. Crase..... Couch, Mo.	Ida Whitehead..... Myrtle, Mo.	2	3		31		
Norman.....	T. J. Dunkin..... Myrtle, Mo.	Ora Blankenship..... Alton, Mo.				130	57 72	
Love Spring.....	W. P. Stogsdill..... Alton, Mo	T. D. Johnson..... Alton, Mo.	4	2		54		
Pleasant Hill.....	Billie Rogers..... Myrtle, Mo.	Ralph Hoyt..... Thayer, Mo.				20		
Rose Hill.....	Milo Stanley..... Alton, Mo.	R. G. Beatty..... Thayer, Mo.				11	4 75	
Liberty.....	W. P. Stogsdill..... Alton, Mo.	L. C. Johnson..... Alton Mo.				9	1 00	