

Mr. W.L. Waddle

MINUTES

OF THE

THIRTY SIXTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

FIRST OKLAHOMA ASSOCIATION

OF

FREEWILL BAPTIST

Convened With New Bethlehem Church
in September, 1933.

The next Annual Session of this Association will be held with
Earlsboro Church, beginning on Thursday night before
the Fourth Sunday in Sept., 1934

OFFICERS

W.E. Dearmore	Moderator
W.L. Waddle	Assistant Moderator
Pete Conner	Clerk
I.B. Dunaway	Assistant Clerk

MINUTES OF THE FIRST OKLAHOMA ASS'N.

PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of the Thirty-sixth annual session of the First Oklahoma Association which convened with the New Bethlehem Church of Asher, Oklahoma, Sept. 21-24, 1933.

THURSDAY EVENING SESSION

Song by congregation, prayer by Bro. L. O. Lemons. Rev. H. H. Heffley preached the introductory sermon, Subject, The Plan of Salvation.

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION

House called to order by Moderator. After singing, Devotional Services were conducted by Bro. L. A. McMurray, prayer by Bro. H. H. Heffley.

There being a quorum present the Moderator declared the conference open for the transaction of such business as may come before it.

Letters were called for and read as follows: Tecumseh, Box, Spring Hill, North View, Alive Earlsboro, New Bethlehem, Pleasant Hill, Liberty, and First Church of Oklahoma City.

The Delegates were seated and the right hand of fellowship given. Visiting brethren were invited to seats in council with all the privileges, vote excepted

By motion the body went into organization to elect officers for the coming year.

W. E. Dearmore, Moderator.

W. L. Waddle, Assistant Moderator.

Pete Conner, Clerk.

I. B. Dunaway, Assistant Clerk

Bro. J. A. Owens elected League President for the coming year.

Motion carried to elect a new executive board of five members to serve terms 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 years as follows; L. O. Lemons, Rev. W. L. Waddle, Rev. I. B. Dunaway, Rev. O. D. Wade, and Bro. Starlin Ingle.

Corresponding Messengers were called for, no Corresponding Messengers were present, but the following visitors were present Rev. E. E. Bristow and Rev. W. G. Fields from the Center Ass'n Rev. H. H. Heffley of the Roberts McGee Ass'n, Rev. W. L. Bean of the Mission Ass'n, Rev. J. E. Smith and Rev. H. O. Turner of the Eureka Ass'n.

Committees appointed:

Pulpit-W. L. Waddle, L. A. McMurray, Anis Pierson, Homer Perrin and Letha Long.

Sunday School-T. C. Christian, Ben Littleton, Luther Biven Sister Epperson and Sister Stevenson.

Finance-W. A. Kenyon, W. J. Southworth Ray Webb, W. L. Bean and A. B. Epperson.

Music-J. A. Owens, J. T. Patrick, Goldie Andrew, Albert Smithy and Esther Edmondson.

Obituary-Sister Hamel, Sister Littleton, Aline Dunaway, Joy Dearmore, Kenneth Sales and Emma Cole.

Prayer Meeting-Callie Cole, Auril Conner, Alva Downs, Sister Bashaw and Alice Abbott.

Resolution-O. D. Wade, L. O. Lemons, J. R. Fry, S. N. Ingle and B. D. Edmonson.

Missions-Ada Dearmare, Mrs. F. A. Strawn, Mrs. Shoopman Lou Gregory and Mrs. Johnson.

Young Peoples League-J. A. Owens, Fannie Sales, E. A. Bailey B. D. Edmonson and W. L. Waddle.

Temperance-J. T. Masters, E. E. Bristow and W. G. Fields.

Publishing-Pete Conner, T. C. Christian and W. L. Bean.

Ministerial Standing-J. T. Masters, L. O. Lemons and L. E. Bashaw.

Motion carried to adjourn until 2 o'clock in the afternoon.

Preaching at 11 o'clock by Brother Johnson.

FRIDAY EVENING SESSION

Came together with singing, after which, the Devotional was conducted by Bro. J. E. Smith, reading first chapter of second Peter Praper by Brother H. O. Turner.

Song by Quartet-Riding to Glory Land.

Committee Reports:-

We the committee on prayer meeting wish to report that most of the churches have regular prayer meetings. We urge each member to take part as it is uplifting to the weak members and is a good place to work for the Salvation of others. It is also a great help to the community in which we live.

Signed: Callie Cole, Chairman.

We the committee on Sunday School beg to report that we find each church represented in the association has an active Sunday School. We urge that the pastors of the respective churches teach and stress the great importance of the Sunday School for both young and old and especially the rising generations.

Since we have not the advantages that some have for training in Sunday School work we recommend that the Teachers and Officers apply themselves earnestly to the study of the Bible that they might be able to rightly divide the word of truth. We also recommend that where the local church deems it advisable that they use union literature, since in some instances we are dependent upon other Christians to help carry on the work.

Signed: T. C. Christian, Chairman

We the committee on Home Mission work submit the following:
We thank all Christians who are mission workers. There is plenty of work for all Christians. We can be a blessing to our community by lending a helping hand to the needy. We also think the young girls of our land should be encouraged to attend and help in every way possible, as the older ones will not be here always and someone else will have to take their places.

Signed: Ada Dearmore
Mrs. Shoopman
Mary Strawn
Mrs. Johnson
Mrs. Gregory

We the committee on young peoples league wish to report that we find that the young peoples Leagues are doing good work. Most of them using Bibles instead of literature. We believe the Bible should be used in senior classes, but no objections to little folks using literature.

Signed: J. A. Owens, Chairman.

We the Obituary Committee wish to report that since our last association we find that our beloved Brother Dick Baltimore and the infant of Brother and Sister Newval, both of Spring Hill, Sister Wade Lewis, and husband of Sister Anna Howell of North View, Sister Lemons of Earlsboro and Sister Alice Caskey.

Signed: Anna Howell
Sister Littleton
Emma Cole
Allyne Dunaway
Kenneth Sales

We the committee on music do agree that we adopt the old resolution and recommend that we all put forth every effort to the upbuilding of the cause of christ.

Signed: J. T. Patrick
Goldie Andrew
Albert Smithy
Esther Edmonson

Round table discussion on Finance.

Motion carried to adjourn until Saturday morning at 9 o'clock.

Friday night a splendid sermon was preached by Rev. B. B. Edmonson and two souls were saved.

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

House called to order by Moderator. Devotional by Rev. I. B. Dunaway, prayer by Rev. W. L. Bean.

RESOLUTIONS: -

No. 1. Resolved that each church take a collection each month and the money set aside for associational purposes, to be delivered to the association at its regular meeting.

Resolution No. 2.

Resolved that each Minister should be examined at least every three years to ascertain if they are still sound in the faith.

Resolution No. 3.

Resolved that Ministers come to the association prepared to speak in as simple and instructive way as possible on controverted points for the benefit of the Ministry.

Resolution No. 4.

Resolved that churches send their minute money to the clerk by Oct. 1st. 1933 and the clerk be authorized to surrender manuscript on or before that date to printer and not to pay for same until minutes have been examined and accepted. Be it further resolved that the clerk mail the minutes to the clerks of the respective churches.

Resolution No. 5.

Resolved that we as an association place ourselves on record as being opposed to 3 - 2 beer, and be it further resolved that we place ourselves on record as being opposed to the repeal of the 18th amendment.

Resolution No. 6.

Resolved that we vote the New Bethlehem Church and community a vote of thanks for the courtesy they have shown us during this association.

Resolution No. 7.

Resolved that we urge our churches not to ordain ministers without first bringing the matter to the association and securing their approval.

Motion carried to elect a new ordaining council. Rev. W. L. Waddle, Rev. I. B. Dunaway and Rev. W. E. Dearmore were elected.

At this time Bro. Luther Bivens was ordained for Deacon.

Motion carried to adjourn until 2 o'clock.

Preaching at 11 o'clock by Bro. J. A. Owens, text, "Be sure your sins will find you out."

SATURDAY EVENING SESSION

House called to order by Moderator. Devotional conducted by Rev. T. C. Christian. Prayer by Rev. Ward Woods.

Motion carried to set the places for the next association and quarterly meeting.

The next Association will be at Earlsboro.

First quarterly meeting at Spring Hill.

Second quarterly meeting at North View.

Third quarterly meeting at Pleasant Hill.

Bro. Virgel Florence elected to preach the introductory sermon at the next association.

Bro. I. B. Dunaway elected to preach the introductory sermon at the first quarterly meeting.

Motion carried to grant Bro. Ernest Johnson a letter of recommendation.

Delegates appointed to go to the State Association were Bro. Pete Conner, Bro. Tom Fry, Bro. Shoopman, Bro. S. N. Ingle, Bro. Ben Littleton, Bro. L. A. McMurry, Sister Pierson, Sister Esther Edmonson, Bro. Homer Perrin and Bro. Will Cluck.

Motion carried to adjourn until our next meeting.

MINISTERS REPORTS

T. C. Christian--I have preached 67 sermons since we last convened, assisted in three Revivals, witnessed 19 conversions and re-claimations, received \$9.99 in payment for my services, which means about 15 cents per sermon on an average. Pray for me that I may be humble and useful in the services of our God, T. C. Christian Trousdale, Okla.

W. E. Dearmore--I have served as Moderator of the First Oklahoma Ass'n and also Moderator of the State Ass'n and Moderator of the cooperative Ass'n, Pastored one church, married six couple, baptised one, conducted eleven funerals, preached about 100 times. Traveled 1500 miles in the Lords service, received about \$100. for Ministerial service, solicited \$3000.00 for needy and the suffering, contributed more than a fourth of my time to the distributing of supplies to the needy and suffering. I ask the prayers of the Brotherhood that the Lord may use me more and more. W. E. Dearmore

G. H. Johnson--I beg you to receive my report as follows: I was hurt in a wreck and was not in the work for three months. I have held two Revival Meetings this year and helped in another, Pastored one church, witnessed about 20 conversions, married 7 couple, money received \$75.00. G. H. Johnson, Drumright, Okla. Box 1533.

CHURCH LETTERS

We the First Church of the Free Will Baptists, worshipping at 2600 block So. W. 29th St. Oklahoma City, while in conference on

Wednesday night, Sept. 13th elected sister Smithy, sister Andrews Esther Bean and Bro. Southworth who we send to aid you in your Godly deliberations.

We have 44 members, average of 55 in Sunday School, 20 in the League and 30 in Junior League. State of religion good with church growing. We paid our Pastor \$120. and evangelists \$40. We have a shed 28 by 40 ft. which we intend to put walls to for winter.

We have received 35 in the church, baptised 19. We have called Bro. Edmonson for our pastor for the coming year. We desire an interest in your prayers. Ola Smithy, clerk.

We the Liberty Church of Bristow send greetings and statistics as follows: Pastor's salary for the coming year \$60.00, meeting day is the first Sunday of each month. We have received by confession 12, by letter 5, non-resident members 3, total in full fellowship 50. Value of Church property \$500. contribution for minutes \$2.50. We have chosen Sisters Hayter and Johnson and Bro. Johnson as our delegates. Mrs. Tressie Luker, Clerk.

We the Free Will Baptist Church of Tecumseh send the following letter. We have a membership of 56 on our books 21 of whom have moved away without calling for their letters. Not more than 28 can be called active members. Have a Sunday School of about 42 mostly children, have a young peoples league and a mission society for the Ladies. We are sending Sister Cluck and Sister Strawn whom we pray you will seat with you in your Godly deliberations. Alice B. Clark, Clerk.

We the Free Will Baptist Church of North View are sending as delegates Bro. Frank Kieffer, Sister Letha Long, and Sister Ida Maxwell. Alternates, Sister Annie Howell and Sister Crawford whom we pray you will receive to aid you in your Godly deliberations. Minute money, none. Paid pastor \$10.32 and some groceries.

Church members 35, 2 deaths, Mrs. Wade Lewis and Mr. F. A. Howell. Sunday School good, attendance 30, League good. Bro. Fry pastor. Signed, Sister Letha Long, Clerk.

We the Olive Free Will Baptist Church send the following report

We are sending Sister Avis Pearson as our delegate. State of religion good, membership 22, amount paid to pastor \$58.25, Evangelistic work \$16.20, minute money \$1.00, condition of Sunday School good attendance 46, G. H. Johnson pastor, value of property

\$200. Signed, Myrtle Pearson, Clerk.

We the Pleasant Hill Church send as delegates Sisters Emma Cole, Winnie Alsup, and Atyne Dunaway. Alternates Sister Callie Cole, Bro. and sister Elzie Cole, whom we pray you will receive to sit with you in your Godly deliberations. State of religion good, members received and baptised this year 7, no deaths, 83 members, prayer meeting good, Sunday School good, 3 Ministers, a good League, paid our pastor \$10. Signed, Winnie Alsup, Clerk.

We the Earlsboro Church send as delegates Bro. McMurry, and Sister Alva Downs and Sister Alice Abbit, as alteroates we send Sister Lottie Grooms and Sister Mamie Stevenson whom we pray you to receive to seat with you in your Godly deliberations. State of religion good, members received this year 13, baptised 11, dismissed 7, 2 died, total membership 121, condition of Sunday School good, average attendance 69, paid our pastor \$288.74, paid for building and repairs \$284.05, value of our church property \$3500.00. Eld. A. B. Epperson is our pastor. Eld. Will Bean has been called for pastor for the insuing year. Done by order of the church. Signed, Sister Medcalf, Clerk.

We the Free Will Baptist Church at Box send as delegates Bro. Ernest Bailey, Bro. Luther Bivens, Sisters Ada Dearnore, Joy Dearnore and Grace Bivens, whom we pray you to receive to sit with you in your Godly deliberations. State of religion good, members received this year 6, baptised 6, dismissed 8, 1 death, resident members 51, non-resident members 96, condition of prayer meeting fair, Sunday School good, average attendance 51, paid pastor \$5.05 paid evangelist \$2.10, incidental expences \$10.34, amount enclosed for minutes \$2.50, Eld. W. G. Fields, Trousdale, Okla. is our pastor.

Done by order of the church. Signed, T. C. Christian, Clerk.

We the New Bethlehem Church send as delegates Bro. Richard Hagar, Bro. George Tidwell and Bro. Kenneth Sales as alternates, Sister Fannie Sales and Sister Myrtle Masters. State of religion good, we had a wonderful two weeks meeting 11 souls saved, received 6 members in the church, baptised 3, dismissed 4, no deaths, we have 47 residential members and 9 non-residential members, prayer meeting fair, Sunday School good, League good still growing, paid pastor about \$18.00, evangilistic work \$24.00, amount for minutes \$2.00. We called Bro. Woods of Stratford for pastor for

another year retained same clerk, we have 2 ministers, 2 Deacons.
Signed, Bertha Hughes, Clerk.

We the Spring Hill Church send as delegates to represent us in your Godly deliberations Bro. Ray Webb, Bro. Jim Owens and Bro. Oscar Kees. As alternates we send Raymen Hunt, Ray Thompson and Samuel Kees. Condition of church fair, condition of Sunday School good, baptised 4, no. joined church 8, residential members about 120, non-residential members 40, average attendance in Sunday School 50, Bro. Edd Morris called back as pastor for another year, amount paid pastor \$101. amount paid evangelist \$15. We have 5 preachers and 5 Deacons. We have had 2 deaths, we have a good young peoples league, Bro. Jim Owens is president. Done in church conference Sept. 16, 1933. Signed, J. D. Anderson, Clerk.

We your committee on Ministerial Standing would respectfully ask the churches to see that their ministers are sound in doctrine, in morals, in truthfulness, in honesty, paying all just and honorable obligations. And we would recommend all ordained ministers to have their ordination papers recorded in the county which they live. We would respectfully ask or recommend that any church in this ass'n knowing that any preacher in their church who does not fill those requirements should report the same to your committee on ministerial standing and on failure to do so said church subjects themselves to be dealt with by the ass'n. Signed: L. E. Bashaw J. T. Masters and L. O. Lemons.

TEMPERANCE COMMITTEE

The Bible condemns intemperance in any form. If ever there was a time when people should be sober minded, self controlled and temperate, it is now. We urge our people to possess the mind of Christ, bring their bodies under subjection and abstain from the use of anything which will render the body unfit for God's service and from practicing things which are ungodly and hinder our lives as servants for God. We condemn the idea of the return to strong drink as one of the great blows of the devil against the cause of right, Signed: E. E. Bristow, chairman, J. T. Masters, member.

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 Savior Jesus Christ." We will not forget the assembling of ourselves together for church conference, public worship and the observance of the ordinances of the Gospel, nor fail to contribute 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 bond 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 principles sacred and Christian obligations and enterprises supreme, counting it our chief business in life to extend the influences 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 Sabbath School and evangelical efforts for the salvation of souls and the conversion of the world, and may the God of peace sanctify us whole and preserve us blameless unto the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

RULES OF ORDER

1. At every sitting the meeting shall be opened and closed with prayer by the moderator, or whomsoever he may request.
2. All ordained or licensed ministers and ordained deacons in good standing in this ass'n shall be invited to seats in the annual association.
3. Those who speak shall arise and address the moderator. Personal reflections shall be avoided in all debates.
4. No motion shall be discussed without first being seconded.
5. When a motion has been made and seconded, the moderator shall ask, "Any discussion or remarks?" If none, the question shall be disposed of as usual.

6. 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.

7. Motions made and lost shall not be recorded on the minutes unless ordered by the party making the motion.

8. No one shall speak more than twice on the same subject without special leave of the moderator.

9. All questions shall be decided by a majority of the members present.

10. No member shall be absent while in session without leave of the moderator, and if so, his name shall be left off the minutes.

11. Minutes shall be leisurely read and corrected if necessary before the close of the association.

12. Arrangements shall be made at each session of the Ass'n for two or more sermons or equivalent devotional exercises during each day.

13. The rules of order shall be distinctly read from the chair immediately after the organization of the body.

14. Alterations may be made in these rules at any regular session.

FREE WILL BAPTIST ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. The Bible. The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments were given by inspiration of God, and are our infallible rule of faith and practice.

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

3. 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.

4. The Holy Spirit. The Scriptures assign to the Holy Spirit all attributes of God. He is the reprover, comforter, guide and sanctifier of men.

5. The Government of God. God exercises 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.

6. The Sinfulness of man. Man was created innocent, but by dis-

obedience fell into a state of 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.

7. The Work of Christ. The Son of God, by His incarnation, life, sufferings, death and resurrection effected for all a redemption from sin that is full and free and is the ground of salvation by faith.

8. The Terms of Salvation. The conditions of salvation are, 1. Repentance or sincere sorrow for sin and the hearty renunciation of it. 2. Faith or the unreserved committal of one's self to Christ as Savior 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 dominion of sin, and becomes a child of God. 3 Continuanace in faith and obedience until death.

9. 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.

10. Freedom of the Will. The human will is free and self-controlled, having power to yield to the influence of the truth and the Spirit and live, or to resist them and perish.

11. 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 of the water of life freely.

12. Perseverance. All believers in Christ, who through grace persevere in holiness to the end of life, have promise of eternal salvation.

13. Gospel Ordinances. Baptism, or the immersion of believers in water, and the Lords Supper, are ordinances to be perpetuated under the Gospel; Feet Washing, an ordinance teaching humility, of universal obligation, and to be administered to all true believers.

14. The Christian Sabbath. The divine law requires that one day in seven be set apart from secular employments and amusements, for rest, worship, holy works and activities, and for personal communion with God.

15. War. War destroys the lives of the innocent, and is contrary to the New Testament, therefore, we are opposed to war.

16. 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 evil unto the resurrection of damnation; then the wicked will "go away into eternal punishment but the righteous into eternal life."

