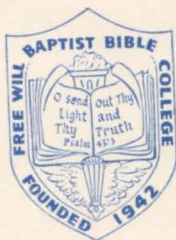


The
First Oklahoma Ass'n.
of
Free Will Baptists

1941

Proceedings of the
44th Annual Session

Convened at
Earlsboro, Oklahoma



FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

Presented by

Rev. John H. West

MINUTES

OF THE

FORTY-FOURTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

FIRST OKLAHOMA ASSOCIATION

OF

FREE WILL BAPTISTS

HELD WITH
Earlsboro Church, Earlsboro, Oklahoma,
September 24-26, 1941.

OFFICERS

Moderator,	Eld. W. E. Dearmore,	Wanette, Okla.
Ass't. Mod.,	Eld. A. E. Downs,	Earlsboro, Okla.
Clerk,	Eld. Cleo Pursell,	Tecumseh, Okla.
Ass't. Clerk,	Vivian Ketchum,	Earlsboro, Okla.

The next annual session of this Association will be held with the Tecumseh Church, Tecumseh, Okla., beginning on Wednesday night before the fourth Sunday in September, 1942.

A ten day's Camp Meeting preceding the Association will also be held at Tecumseh.

PROCEEDINGS

Proceedings of the Forty-Fourth Annual Session of the First Oklahoma Association of Free Will Baptists held with the Earlsboro Church, September 24-26, 1941.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERVICE

Opened by singing led by Eld. O. H. Staires and Bro. L. O. Lemmons.

Prayer by Eld. Will Bean.

Solo rendered by Sister Jane Ellen Land.

Eld. Cleo Pursell, followed by Eld. W. A. Land, brought the introductory message; subject, "The Godly Man's Defense". Text, Isaiah 33:16.

Song and old-time handshake.

Prayer by Eld. Paul Pursell.

THURSDAY MORNING SESSION

Opened by singing led by Jake Armstrong, Earlsboro.

Prayer by Eld. Harry Staires, Drumright.

Devotional, Psalm 23, by moderator, W. E. Dearmore.

Welcome address given by Rev. Sutterfield, pastor of Baptist church of Earlsboro, in behalf of Ministerial Alliance of this city. Response by Eld. Harry Staires.

Letters from Box, Springhill, Wolfe, Pleasant Hill, Tecumseh, Earlsboro, North View, and New Bethlehem were read and received on condition that those churches not sending their full amount for minutes raise the remainder.

The hand of fellowship was given delegates and visitors.

Temporary Pulpit Committee was appointed: B. F. Maxwell, H. M. Lynn, and Clay Bowlan.

Visiting ministers who were given an opportunity to speak were: Elders Will Bean, Harry Staires, E. E. Morris, W. H. Carter, W. V. McPhail, V. L. Wilson, and Virgil Bradford.

Divine Committee reports Eld. V. L. Wilson, followed by Eld. W. H. Carter to speak at eleven o'clock.

Election of officers as follows:

Moderator, Eld. W. E. Dearmore, Wanette, Okla.

Ass't. Mod., Eld. A. E. Downs, Earlsboro, Okla.

Clerk, Eld. Cleo Pursell, Tecumseh, Okla.

Ass't. Clerk, Vivian Ketchum, Earlsboro, Okla.

Executive Board —

Eld. Othel Staires Two Years

Eld. W. L. Waddle Three Years

Eld. W. E. Dearmore, remaining.

Moderator was given power to appoint the several committees:

Pulpit — O. H. Staires, C. F. White, Ben Littleton, Ben Maxwell.

Resolution — W. L. Waddle, Paul Pursell, J. W. Thompson.

Sunday School — Alice B. Clark, Jane Ellen Land, Mrs. Ben Littleton, Mrs. Vena Bowlan, Etta Williams.

League — Perry Argo, Buck Williams, Roy Fry, Ray Thompson, Clyde Argo.

Music — Mrs. Earl Stevenson, Myrtle Mixon, Esther Landsdowne, Bernice Carr, Vivian Ketchem.

Prayer Meeting — Lonnie Fry, Claude Dinwiddie, Floyd Northam, Leva Pierce, Nellie Taylor.

Publication — W. A. Land, W. L. Waddle, W. E. Hodam, O. H. Staires.

Temperance — E. J. King, J. T. Fry, Arthur Clarida, A. E. Downs, H. M. Lynn.

Finance — Earl Stevenson, B. F. Maxwell, C. F. White, J. W. Vanwinkle, W. E. Hodam.

Credential — Clay Bowlan, Ben Littleton, T. L. Fry, Barney Van Winkle.

Obituary — O. H. Staires, Alice Clark, Frith Wilson.

Mission — Paul Pursell, Jake Armstrong, Arthur Clarida.

Prayer by A. E. Downs.

A pulpit and resolution committee were appointed by the moderator.

Motion to adjourn until one-thirty o'clock.

Prayer by E. E. Morris.

THURSDAY ELEVEN O'CLOCK SERVICE

Opened by singing.

Devotional service led by Eld. E. E. Morris, Ada, Okla.

The moderator introduced the speakers of the hour, Eld. V. L. Wilson, text, Acts 26:19 "I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision"; followed by Eld. W. H. Carter, reading from John 15th chapter, text, "Ye are my

friends if ye do whatsoever I command you”.

Song and handshake.

Dismissed in prayer by Eld. E. J. King.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Opened by singing.

Devotional, John 14th chapter, read by Eld. Virgil Bradford.

Prayer by Eld. W. E. Dearmore.

Previous minutes approved as read.

Rules of Order were read.

Motion carried that we suspend business from three to four o'clock in favor of preaching hour.

Pulpit Committee appointed Eld. Harry Staires and Eld. E. E. Morris to preach.

Moderator declared that we should discuss consolidation of our Association with the First Mission Association.

Motion carried that the First Oklahoma Association shall not consolidate their yearly meeting but remain as it is.

THURSDAY THREE O'CLOCK SERVICE

Solo, “I Won't Have To Cross Jordan Alone,” by Eld. E. E. Morris. He then took the stand, followed by Eld. Harry Staires, using as their subject, “The Wells of Salvation”.

Invitation was given and one soul came forward and was saved.

Ordaining Council reported that they had found Bro. Hodum worthy of ordination. Brothers Argo, Waddle, and Maxwell were chosen as presbytery. Bro. Waddle led the prayer and Eld. Dearmore gave the charge.

Divine Committee reported Eld. Bradford and Eld. Paul Pursell to preach at the evening service.

Motion to adjourn; dismissed by Eld. Pitts.

THURSDAY NIGHT SERVICE

Opened by singing led by Bro. A. Wilson.

Prayer by Bro. Anderson and Bro. E. C. Ketchem.

Praise service conducted by Eld. O. H. Staires.

Special number by quartet from Earlsboro.

Eld. Virgil Bradford took the stand reading from

Isaiah 35:8, followed by Eld. Paul Pursell.

Two souls came forward and rededicated their lives to God.

Prayer by Bro. F. A. Straughn.

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION

Singing led by Eld. E. E. Morris.

Prayer by Bro. McMurray.

Devotional led by Eld. W. A. Land, Heb. 6th chapter.

Pulpit Committee reports that Eld. Arthur Clarida and Eld. W. L. Waddle to preach at eleven o'clock.

Previous minutes approved as read.

Brother and Sister Wilson and Bro. Cummins from Canadian Association were welcomed by the Moderator.

Report of Eld. W. A. Land for the year was read and accepted.

Sister Bessie Harrington (Tecumseh), Vivian Ketchem (Earlsboro) and Buck Williams (Norman) were elected by acclamation as delegates to the State Association.

Motion carried that if any delegate find it impossible to attend, that they be empowered to appoint an alternate in their place.

After a ten minute recess the Moderator announced that Col. Geo. W. Poague, ex-senator, will speak in the afternoon.

Reports of Eld. Dearmore and Eld. O. H. Staires were read and received.

Reports of the Sunday School, Music, Temperance, and League Committees were received.

Resolutions Number 1 and 2 were received.

Prayer by Eld. A. E. Downs.

FRIDAY ELEVEN O'CLOCK SERVICE

Opened by singing.

Prayer by Eld. A. B. Epperson.

Duet rendered by Eld. and Mrs. O. H. Staires.

Eld. Arthur Clarida took the stand, followed by Eld. W. L. Waddle, using as their lesson Psalms 116.

Dismissed by Eld. E. E. Morris.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Quartet from Earlsboro.

Previous minutes received as read.

Motion carried that the first league rally be held with Tecumseh church. Eld. Clyde Argo elected to bring the message.

Reports of the Credential, Obituary, Finance, and Publication Committees were received.

The body stood in a moment of silent prayer in reverence to the deceased.

Elders Harry Staires and Paul Pursell were elected to preach at the Camp Meeting of this Association.

The Association and also the Camp Meeting were placed at Tecumseh.

Motion carried that the Camp Meeting will convene ten days preceding the Association each year.

Resolution Number 3 carried.

A collection of \$7.78 was taken for the custodian of the Old Ministers Fund. Sister Earl Stevenson (Custodian) led in prayer.

FRIDAY TWO O'CLOCK SERVICE

Eld. Harry Staires introduced Col. Geo. W. Poague, of Tennessee, who spoke on the "Second Coming of Christ". A love offering of \$8.31 was given Eld. Poague.

The Association and Quarterly Meetings were placed for the following year:

First Quarterly Meeting — Pleasant Hill.

Second Quarterly Meeting — Springhill.

Third Quarterly Meeting — Wolfe.

Association — Tecumseh.

The next Quarterly Meeting will convene on Thursday morning before the fourth Sunday in December at nine o'clock.

Eld. O. H. Staires elected to bring the introductory message at the Association. Eld. W. A. Land, alternate.

Eld. Arthur Clarida elected to bring the introductory message at the first quarterly meeting; Eld. W. A. Land, alternate.

The Deacons, Clerks, and Preachers Meeting to be held at Earlsboro, one month preceding the first quarterly meeting.

A rising vote of thanks was given the Earlsboro Church for their hospitality.

Previous minutes were approved as read.

Motion to adjourn.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

RESOLUTIONS:

No. 1—Be it Resolved, That we, The First Oklahoma Association, have a ten-day Camp Meeting preceding the Association. Also that we elect two ministers to preach at the Camp Meeting.

No. 2—Be it Resolved, That this body appoint the pastor and clerk of each church to act as a committee in their church to promote league work, and that we have a league rally each fifth Sunday.

No. 3—Be it Resolved that each church of this Association pay fifty cents (50c) per month for expense of Camp Meeting.

No. 4—Be it Resolved that this body give the Earlsboro Church a vote of thanks for the courtesy shown us and the wonderful way they have entertained this Association.

SUNDAY SCHOOL—We find that we have Sunday Schools in all our churches using Free Will Baptist literature. We urge that we put forth an effort to encourage a higher goal of regular attendance for all ages in our churches and that we build interest by faithful teaching of the Scriptures.

LEAGUE—We, your Committee on League work, find that the league is a strong support to the church and do recommend that each church in the Association that does not have a league organize one. Our league is a training school for our young people that they may be able to carry on God's work more effectively than we.

TEMPERANCE—We, your Committee on Temperance, submit the following:

Temperance covers a broad field and should be an individual subject and appeal to all true followers of Christ. We urge our people of the several churches to be temperate in all things. We also urge that they use all the ability they have to prohibit the sale and use of intoxicating liquors.

FINANCE—We, your Committee on Finance, beg leave to report the following:

We find our churches have paid \$1,522.69 for the support of pastors; \$405.10 for evangelists; \$610.00 for building and repairs; and \$45.00 for minute and expense money.

PUBLICATION—We, your Committee on Publication, recommend that we, the First Oklahoma Association use our own printing presses. Since we have no state press in operation, we recommend that the clerk use her own judgement in the publishing of our next minutes. We also recommend that we send \$5.00 to the State Association for state minutes.

MUSIC—We, your Committee on Music, think sacred music and singing very helpful to the church. We recommend that every church have a singing school; also try to arrange a special number or two in every service.

OBITUARY—We, your Committee on Obituary, find only two deaths in our Association. Bro. Andy Cline of Earlsboro and an eight-year old daughter of Sister Pierce of Wolfe church.

CREDENTIAL—We, your Committee on Credentials, find all our preachers and deacons working together in harmony for the glory of God.

ENROLLMENT OF MINISTERS

Eld.	E. E. Morris	420 S. Ash, Ada, Okla.
"	V. L. Wilson	Oklahoma City, Okla.
"	W. V. McPhail	Oilton, Okla.
"	Paul Pursell	Tecumseh, Okla.
"	Cleo Pursell	Tecumseh, Okla.
"	O. H. Staires	Earlsboro, Okla.
"	W. A. Land	Dale, Okla.
"	J. W. Thompson	Earlsboro, Okla.
"	A. B. Epperson	Tecumseh, Okla.
"	Mattie Epperson	Tecumseh, Okla.
"	W. H. Carter	Bristow, Okla.
"	Virgil Bradford	Bristow, Okla.
"	E. J. King	McCloud, Okla.
"	Harry Staires	Drumright, Okla.
"	W. L. Waddle	Noble, Okla.
"	J. P. Fry	Asher, Okla.
"	Arthur Clarida	Ada, Okla.
"	Arthur Downs	Earlsboro, Okla.
"	W. E. Dearmore	Wanette, Okla.
"	Pitts	Tecumseh, Okla.
"	W. E. Hodam	Norman, Okla.

RULES OF ORDER

1. At every sitting of the Association, business shall be opened and concluded by prayer by the Moderator or whomsoever he may request.
2. Ministers and deacons present are invited to seats, allowed to take part in debates on all subjects, and to vote.
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 a second.
5. When a motion has made and seconded, and a member opposes its discussion, the Moderator shall put the question, "Shall it be discussed?" If negative, the question shall be dismissed.
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.
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 vote of all members present.
10. No member shall absent himself without special leave of the Moderator.
11. Minutes shall be leisurely read and corrected if necessary before the close of the Association.
12. 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
13. These Rules of Order shall be distinctly read from the chair immediately after organization of the Association.
14. Alterations may be made in these rules at any regular session of the Association.

CHURCH REPORTS

CHURCH	PASTOR	CLERK	Members	Paid Pastor	Paid Evangelist
Box	W. A. Land	Reba Vanwinkle	30	\$ 88.94	\$ 30.50
North View	Arthur Clarida	Thelma Tuce	27	\$ 38.60	\$ 10.00
Spring Hill	W. A. Land	George Molder	100	\$ 91.00	\$ 55.00
Earlsboro	O. H. Staires	Mrs. Earl Stevenson	90	\$660.00	\$137.19
Tecumseh	Paul and Cleo Pursell	Vivian Ketchem	67	\$483.75	\$ 56.00
Pleasant Hill	W. A. Land	Lillian Argo	53	\$ 65.00	\$ 41.20
Wolfe	Arthur Clauda	Mrs. T. E. Coffman	36	\$ 50.40	\$ 37.21
New Bethelham	Vard Woods	Vida Fry	55	\$ 45.00	\$138.00

FREE WILL BAPTIST 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 the 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 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 of 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.

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 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.

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 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.

