

MINUTES  
OF THE  
FIFTY-NINTH ANNUAL SESSION  
OF THE  
LITTLE MO. RIVER ASSOCIATION  
OF  
FREE WILL BAPTIST

HELD WITH

Pleasant Grove Church, Newhope, Pike County, Arkansas, September 2—4, 1937.

OFFICERS

Moderator, Eld. E. J. Oneel, Newhope, Arkansas  
Clerk, Treas. R. D. Smith, Newhope, Arkansas.  
Corresponding Clerk, M. J. Smith, Newhope, Ark.

The next annual session of this Association will be held with Mt. Joy Church, Daisy, Pike County, Arkansas, beginning Thursday night before the first Sunday in September, 1938.

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## PROCEEDINGS

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The Little Missouri River Association of the Free Will Baptist Church of Christ, met in its Fifty-Ninth Annual Session with Pleasant Grove Church, Newhope, Pike Co., Arkansas, Thursday night before the first Sunday in September, 1937.

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### THURSDAY NIGHT SERVICE

The Introductory Sermon was preached by Elder W. E. Pinkerton.

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### FRIDAY MORNING SESSION

The Moderator being absent, the house was called to order by the Clerk, R. D. Smith.

Song by the congregation.

Elder C. D. Fox being the senior minister in years was invited to make the welcome address, and read the morning Scripture lesson. Scripture read, Psalms 23.

Prayer by G. W. Van Horn.

Arrangements Committee was appointed by the Clerk as follows: C. L. Tedder, M. J. Smith, Walker Henderson.

Intermission for eleven o'clock service.

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### FRIDAY, ELEVEN O'CLOCK SERVICE

Preaching by W. E. Pinkerton. Text: Matt. 7:22.

Prayer by E. W. Hill.

Conclusion and benediction by the Moderator.

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### FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Called to order by the Moderator.

Opening song, "He loves me so."

Prayer by M. S. Almond.

The roll of the church letters was called for. The following were presented and their delegates seated in the Conference and given right hand of fellowship:

Mt. Joy Church—Delegates: Robert Rodgers, Walker Henderson, T. L. Tedder, Garland Tedder. Deacons: T. J. Crow, C. L. Tedder. Minister: E. J. Oneel.

Pleasant Grove Church—Delegates: J. M. Bell, Roy Smith, C. J. Moore, Bill Collins, Sister W. A. Hearn. Deacons: M. J. Smith, R. D. Smith. Minister: W. A. Hearn.

Kirby Church—Minister: C. D. Fox.



Mt. Zion Church—Ministers: W. R. Porter, E. W. Hill.  
Fair View Church—Delegate: Sister M. S. Almond.  
Deacon: M. S. Almond. Minister: J. A. Karr.  
Newhope Church—Delegate: Sister W. E. Pinkerton.  
Minister: W. E. Pinkerton.  
Glen Wood Church—Minister: Roy Hughes.  
Pleasant Home Church—Represented by letter.  
Speed Well Church—Represented by letter.  
Thomas Church—Represented by letter.

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### **Election of Officers**

Moderator, Eld. E. J. Oneel, Newhope, Arkansas.  
Clerk, Treas. R. D. Smith, Newhope, Arkansas.  
Corresponding Clerk, M. J. Smith, Newhope, Ark.

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### **Appointment of Committees**

Divine Service—M. J. Smith, Walker Henderson, and  
C. L. Tedder.

Finance—E. W. Hill, Bill Collins, J. T. Crow.

Resolutions—C. D. Fox, C. L. Tedder, W. E. Pinkerton,  
W. A. Hearron.

Temperance—M. S. Almond, Robert Rodgers, Sister  
W. A. Hearron.

Sunday Schools—Sister M. S. Almond, T. L. Tedder,  
W. R. Porter.

Obituaries—W. A. Hearron, Robert Rodgers, R. D.  
Smith.

Adjournment.

Benediction by E. W. Hill.

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### **FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICE**

Devotional service conducted by W. E. Pinkerton.

Sermon delivered by W. R. Porter. Lesson read,  
Psalms 23. Text: Psalms 42:1.

Benediction by Roy Hughes.

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### **SATURDAY MORNING SESSION**

Opened by singing by the congregation, "There's a  
Deep Settled Peace in My Soul."

Prayer by Bro. Yell, a visitor.

Round table talk by delegates on the best methods to  
promote the Kingdom and build up the Church.

Resolution No. 1. of last Quarterly Meeting tabled.

Intermission for eleven o'clock service.

## SATURDAY, ELEVEN O'CLOCK SERVICE

Song service conducted by W. A. Hearron.

Sermon delivered by J. A. Karr. Subject, "The Cross of Christ."

Prayer and benediction by W. E. Pinkerton.

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## SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Opened, with singing by the congregation.

Prayer by W. E. Pinkerton.

Resolution No. 1. passed. (See the report of Committee).

Elder G. W. Van Horn, without being solicited by the Association, confessed to having some articles in his possession which said Association considered created in him unchristian conduct. He (Eld. G. W. Van Horn) was asked by motion sustained by the body to surrender above mentioned items to the Committee on Ministerial Character, or deliver his credentials to the Associational Clerk. He chose to deliver his credentials.

Mt. Joy Church, Daisy, Pike County, Arkansas, was selected as the place for the next Annual Session of the Association.

First quarterly meeting to be held with Mt. Zion Church, Langley, beginning Friday night before the fifth Sunday in October, 1937.

Second Q. M. with Mt. Joy Church, beginning Friday night before the fifth Sunday in December.

Third Q. M. with Pleasant Grove Church, beginning Friday night before the fifth Sunday in May, 1938.

At this time, Deacon J. T. Crow delivered his usual message on the importance of Sunday Schools.

The following were elected to represent us in the State Association, which convenes with Branch Church, Branch, Franklin County, beginning Thursday night before the first Sunday in October, 1937: Sisters Elsie Lawless, W. A. Hearron; Deacon R. D. Smith; Ministers Roy Hughes, W. A. Hearron.

The assembly adjourned to meet with Mt. Joy Church Thursday night before the first Sunday in Sept. 1938.

Closing song, "God Be With You Till We Meet Again."

Benediction by J. A. Karr.

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## SATURDAY NIGHT SERVICE

Sermon delivered by W. A. Hearron. Subject, "The Establishment and Identity of the Church."

Song service conducted by Earnest Smith.  
Prayer by E. J. Oneel.

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## COMMITTEE REPORTS

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**Arrangements**—The following were selected to fill the stand in the order named here:

Eleven o'clock, Friday, W. E. Pinkerton.

Friday night, W. R. Porter.

Saturday, eleven o'clock, J. A. Karr.

Saturday night, W. A. Hearron.

Committee { M. J. Smith.  
              { C. L. Tedder.  
              { Walker Henderson.

**Finance**—The several churches contributed the following amounts for the minute fund:

Mt. Joy, .....	\$2.50
Mt. Zion, .....	1.12
New Hope, .....	.50
Pleasant Grove, .....	2.50
Glen Wood, .....	1.00
Fair View, .....	.50
Thomas, .....	.80
Speed Well, .....	.20

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Total amount contributed ..... \$9.12

Committee { E. W. Hill  
              { Bill Collins  
              { J. T. Crow.

**Resolutions**—No. 1. Be it Resolved, That this Association urge the churches to be more careful about keeping a clean house for the Lord, and insist that careless members who do not make an honest effort to attend their Church Conference, do so in the future, and insist on those who are dram drinkers or card players to refrain from such practices.

No.2. We very gratefully extend to the good people of Pleasant Grove and Community our best regards for their kindness and hospitality during our stay with them. We feel that your efforts merit God's richest blessings. which we pray may rest upon you all.

Committee { C. D. Fox  
C. L. Tedder  
W. E. Pinkerton  
W. A. Hearron.

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**Sunday Schools**—We find a membership of about 250 pupils attending Sunday School in our district. We feel the growing need of more and better Sunday Schools in our district, and insist that our ministers put more stress on the Sunday School work, and urge the use of our literature more extensively.

Committee { Sister M. S. Almond  
T. L. Tedder  
W. R. Porter.

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**Temperance**—Intemperance is disloyal to good morals and the divine laws of God; therefore, abstinence is the only safeguard. We urge all true-hearted Christians to unite with us in rescuing humanity from its blighting influence.

Committee { M. S. Almond  
Robert Rodgers  
Sister W. A. Hearron.

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**Obituaries**—We find that the blessings of the Lord have spared all of our lives, except Sister Emma Oliver of Fair View Church, and Deacon Henry Tedder of Mt. Joy Church. They will be greatly missed from our ranks. Bro. Tedder had been a Free Will Baptist for more than fifty years. We especially mourn his departure.

Committee { W. A. Hearron  
Robert Rodgers  
R. D. Smith.

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## RULES OF ORDER

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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 been made and seconded, the moderator shall ask, "Any discussions 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.

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 before the close of the Association, if necessary.

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 fill the stand at the next meeting.

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.

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## CHURCH COVENANT

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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 unhol'y 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.

## 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 15:22-41.

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.

4. **THE BIBLE.** We believe the Bible, which is composed of the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, was given by Inspiration of God, is our waybill 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; Romans 11:11-35; Psalms 37:23-14; 5:18.

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 come upon Gospel terms; and a law of adoption into the Kingdom of Heav-

en, 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.—John 3rd chapter; Matt. 19:13-22; 1 Cor. 7:10; Luke 18:16-17; St. John 4:11-16; Psalms 98:3.

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 1:9-25; 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. 3:14-16; 3:5-6; 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 1:1-18; 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; 31:12-18; 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 or 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 sidestep and wilfully refuse or neglect to perform their duty, they would backslide if persistently continued, would be eternally lost.—Sec. 1:12; 2 Cor. 9:10; 2 Peter 1:4-8; 2 Peter 2:2; Rom. 8:35-39; 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; Acts 16:4-5.

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. 28:6; 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.



## CONSTITUTION

From a long series of experience, we, the Association of Jesus Christ, being regularly baptised upon the profession of faith in Christ, are convinced of the necessity of a combination of churches to perpetuate a union and communion among us, and to preserve and maintain a correspondence with each other, we therefore purpose to keep order and rules of our Association according to the following plan of government:

1. This Association shall be composed of five messengers chosen by each church of this union and all regularly ordained ministers, deacons, and church clerks.

2. Letters from the different churches shall express their number in fellowship, the number received by experience, letter or recommendation, dismissed, restored, and that have died since our last Association; and the name of the clerk, moderator, county, postoffice, Sunday of meeting, and the amount paid for the minute fund.

3. The members thus chosen and convened, to be denominated the Little Missouri River Association of Free Will Baptist, being composed of the sundry churches of the Little Missouri River Association, and the Association to have no power to lord it over God's heritage, nor have any ecclesiastical power over the churches, reserving the right of withdrawing from any church becoming disorderly.

4. The Association shall have a Moderator, Clerk, and a Corresponding Clerk, who are to be chosen by the members present.

5. New churches may be admitted into the Association by letter and delegates, if found orthodox in the faith of the Free Will Baptist, the Moderator giving the right hand of fellowship.

6. Every motion made and seconded shall come under the consideration of the Association unless it be withdrawn by the member making it.

7. This Association is to endeavor to furnish the churches with the minutes of the Association in proportion to the number of members in each church; the distribution being at the discretion of the Association.

8. It shall be the duty of the Clerk to keep a regular file of the minutes.

9. The minutes of the Association shall be read and corrected, if needed, and signed by the Moderator and the Clerk before the Association closes.

10. The Association shall have a fund for her support, which shall be supplied by voluntary contribution of the churches, whose duty it shall be to send it in the hands of the messengers, which money so sent shall be deposited in the hands of the Treasurer for that purpose, and he shall be held accountable to the Association for all money received by him until paid out as they may direct.

11. The Association, in case of failure of any church to attend, may inquire into the cause.

12. It is the duty of the Association to see after the union of the churches.

13. Amendments to this plan of government may be made at any time when the majority of the members deem it necessary.