

MINUTES
of the
LITTLE MISSOURI RIVER
ASSOCIATION
of
FREE WILL BAPTISTS
1959
PROCEEDINGS
of the
81st Annual Session

Convened With
PLEASANT GROVE CHURCH NO. 1
New Hope, Arkansas

August 1, 1959

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OFFICERS

REV. F. W. SCOGIN — Camden, Ark. _____ Moderator
R. D. SMITH — New Hope, Ark. _____ Clerk

EXECUTIVE BOARD

O. T. BABBITT — WILLIE MITCHELL — R. D. SMITH
REV. F. W. SCOGIN — A. B. MOORE

The next regular Annual Session will be held
with Glenwood Church, Glenwood, Pike County,
Saturday before the first Sunday in August, 1960.

PROCEEDINGS

The Eighty-First Annual Session of the Little Missouri River Association of Free Will Baptist met with Pleasant Grove Church No. 1, New Hope, Pike County, Arkansas, August 1, 1959.

Called to order at 10:00 by Moderator, F. W. Scogin, who spoke briefly and gave the usual welcome.

Three grand old hymns of the faith, directed by Otis Smith. Rev. B. P. Maness led in the morning invocation.

Letters from the churches composing the Association were read by the clerk and their delegates seated in the conference by the right hand of fellowship while singing "Won't It Be Wonderful There."

Rules of Order and Constitution read by the Moderator.

Arrangements committee appointed by the Moderator as follows: Willie Mitchell, Lona Carson.

Delegates listed by churches as follows:

GLENWOOD CHURCH—Bro. John Moore, Sister Lestenberger, Bro. and Sister McKennon, Bro. Cue Tollerson, Delegates; Bro. O. T. Babbitt and John Plyler, Deacons; F. W. Scogin, Minister.

PLEASANT GROVE CHURCH NO. 1—W. E. Smith, Otis Smith, Edith Smith, Verdene Whisenhunt, Lona Carson, Delegates; R. D. Smith, A. B. Moore, Doyle Hammock, Deacons.

PLEASANT GROVE CHURCH NO. 1—Minnie Horn, Delegate; Willie Mitchell, Deacon; R. L. Rainwater, Minister.

CALVARY CHURCH—Sister Essie Maness, Delegate; B. P. Maness, Minister.

10:00 intermission. Benediction, Rev. R. L. Rainwater.

Business resumed. Song, "When the Roll is Called Up Yonder," directed by Otis Smith. Prayer by Sister Lestenberger.

Dismissed for 11:00 devotional as follows:

Sermon by the Moderator, Rev. F. W. Scogin. Prayer by Bro. Lois Whisenhunt. Scripture reading from I Thess. Prayer by Bro. Scogin. Subject: "Sleeping Christians." Song, "'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus." Benediction by Cue Tollerson.

Other committees appointed by the Moderator as follows:

FINANCE—Sisters Essie Maness, Minnie Horn, Lona Carson.

RESOLUTIONS—Sister Lestenberger, Sister Fae Tollerson, Sister Freeman McKennon.

TEMPERANCE—Lois Whisenhunt, Cue Tollerson, Loyd McKennon.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS—John Moore, A. B. Moore, O. T. Babbitt.

OBITUARIES—Freeman McKennon, Edith Smith, Verdene Whisenhunt.

NON-REPRESENTED CHURCHES—Otis Smith, Sister Lestenberger, Fae Tollerson.

Song, "Oh How I Love Jesus."

Afternoon devotional. Sermon by Rev. B. P. Maness. Subject: "Old Time Religion and Old Time Free Will Baptists." Prayer by Bro. Rainwater. Song, "I Am 'Thine Oh Lord." Intermission.

Work resumed. Song directed by Otis Smith. Short talks on pro-

moting Free Will Baptists by Bro. Ortra and Bro. Dennis Young, ministers from Little Rock.

Impressive talk by R. D. Smith, encouraging better unity amongst the churches in our association.

All committee reports received and committees discharged accordingly.

Election of permanent officers: Rev. F. W. Scogin elected Moderator; Bro. R. D. Smith, Clerk-Treasurer; Bro. O. T. Babbitt, executive board member for five-year term.

Glenwood church was elected to entertain the next annual session of the Association, Saturday before the first Sunday in August, 1960.

Pleasant Grove Church No. 1 will entertain the first fifth Sunday meeting, fifth Sunday in November, 1959. This meeting will select the place for the next fifth Sunday meeting.

Motion for adjournment. We took the parting hand while singing "Old Time Religion," directed by Otis Smith.

Benediction, R. D. Smith.

REV. F. W. SCOGIN, Moderator, Camden.

R. D. SMITH, Clerk, New Hope.

P. S.: New Hope church, New Hope, Pike county, was selected to entertain the last fifth Sunday meeting, fifth Sunday, May, 1960.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ARRANGEMENTS

The stand will be filled in the order given here:

Saturday, 11 o'clock—Rev. F. W. Scogin.

Saturday afternoon, Rev. B. P. Maness.

FINANCE

We offer the following:

We have received _____ for the Minute Fund.

TEMPERANCE

We think temperance means total abstinence from the use of all intoxicating beverages and worldly amusements, and moderation in all things.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS

We the Committee, urge each church to maintain a Sunday School. And we insist that all officers and teachers should be Christians, and members of our church when possible.

OBITUARIES

We offer the following:

The Lord in His wisdom has seen fit to call from labor to reward: Sister Gennie O'Neal and one Risner infant of Glenwood church; Sister Vaught, Mt. Joy church, and Bro. T. W. Henry from Pleasant Grove Church No. 1. We are bereaved at their passing, but bow in humble submission to the Lord's will.

NON-REPRESENTED CHURCHES

We find that all churches are represented except Mt. Joy. We sincerely hope to have a delegation from this church in our next meeting.

RESOLUTIONS

We offer the following resolution of thanks:

Be it resolved, that Pleasant Grove Church No. 1 and others of the community so graciously entertained this Association, that we are thankful to our Heavenly Father for the privilege of meeting with them. May the Lord bless you richly.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. **GOD.** We believe in one true and living God, Triune God composed of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, equal in divine Essence, Purpose, Power and Glory.—St. John 1:1; I 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 1:26-27; Matt. 14:13; Mark 16:9-16; 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 the 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 Testaments, was given by Inspiration of God, is our way-bill from earth to Heaven, and the only infallible rule of faith and practice.—II Peter 1:19-21; II 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 the posterity, under 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 of CHRIST.—Gen. 1:27; 2:16-17; Psalms 51:5; Gen. 3; Gen. 6:5; Rom. 5:12-19; John 3:6 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 come upon Gospel terms, and a law of adoption into the Kingdom of Heaven, and an eternal inher-

itance 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 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; I Cor. 7:10; Luke 18:16-17; St. John 4:11-16; Psalms 96:3.

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 whoever will may come and be saved upon the terms of the Gospel.—I Peter 1:9-25; 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; I 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 Saviour 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; I 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 for the worship of God; that we should abstain from all sinful amusements and secular employment, works of mercy and piety excepted.—Exodus 20:11; 31:12-18; Deut. 5:12-15; Ezek. 20:12; Matt. 23:1; Luke 25:56; 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 and 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 purposes.—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; I Pet. 2:5; Eph. 2:20; 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.—II Thess. 1:1; Acts 16:5; III 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 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.—II Peter 1:12; II Cor. 9:10; II Peter 1:4-8; II Peter 2:2; Rom. 8:35-39; Apostasy; II Peter 1:8-9; I Cor. 10:1; Heb. 12:15-17; I John 5:16; Heb. 6:1-6; I Tim. 4:12; 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. 21:52; 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.—I Cor. 6:11; II Thess. 2:13; Heb. 12:14; Phil. 3:21; II Thess. 5:19-23; St. John 17:17-19; II 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; 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 24:43; Rev. 6:9; Luke 16:19-25; Matt. 10:28.

20. **JUDGMENT.** We believe that there will be a greater 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.—II Thess. 1:4-9; Rev. 14:9-13; Luke 16:23; Rev. 21:8; II Cor. 5:10; Matt. 12:36-37 Rev. 20:12-13; Acts 17:31.

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 sale and use 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 of the Gospel.

We will everywhere hold Christian principle sacred and Christian obligations and enterprises supreme; counting it our chief business of 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 or its poor, and in 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 School 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.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Association called to order by the Moderator, and in his absence, by the Clerk.
2. Introductory sermon.
3. Letters from churches composing the Association called for, read and messengers invited to seats.
4. Corresponding Associations.
5. Right hand of fellowship.
6. Call for letters from newly organized churches.
7. Election of permanent officers.
8. Reading the Constitution and Rules of Order by the Moderator or Clerk.
9. Appointment of the following committees: (a) Resolution, (b) Finance, (c) Arrangements for preaching, (d) Temperance, (e) Sunday Schools, (f) Obituary, (g) Condition of Non-represented Churches, (h) Union of Churches.
10. Report of Committees appointed at last Association and other unfinished business.
11. Report of new committees.
12. New business.

13. Choosing place for next Association.
14. Who shall preach the Introductory Sermon?
15. Reading and adopting the minutes.
16. Adjournment.

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 seat, allowed to take part in debates on all subjects, and to vote.
3. Those who speak shall rise and address the Moderator. Personal reflection shall be avoided in all debates.
4. No motion shall be discussed without a second.
5. When a motion has been 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 exercise equivalent thereto, during each day of the session, and the chair shall announce just before adjournment who shall fill the stand.
13. These Rules of Order shall be distinctly read from the chair immediately after organization of the Association.

CONSTITUTION

From long experience, we, the members of the Church of God (denominated Free Will Baptist), being regularly baptized upon profession of our faith in our 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 different churches of our union, not exceeding five 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 Little Missouri

River Association of Free Will Baptist, 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 numbers 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 have died during the year, that we may keep up the memorial of our dead.

Art. 4. **OFFICERS.** The Association is to have a Moderator, a Clerk and a Credential 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 questions from any church shall come under the consideration of the Association unless it has been first considered by 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, in 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 two-thirds vote of the members present at any regular session.