

Minutes

of the

Little Missouri River Association

of

Free Will Baptists Proceedings

of the

1999-2000 Quarterly Meetings

and the

122nd Annual Session

Kenny Fant, Moderator

116 N. Grandfield Road, New Hope, AR 71959

Eddie Ary, Clerk

45 Central Road, Arkadelphia, AR 71923

THIS ANNUAL REPORT IS DEDICATED
TO THE MEMORY OF THOSE IN OUR MEMBER
CHURCHES WHO WENT TO BE WITH OUR LORD
DURING THE 1999-2000 FISCAL YEAR

Daisy Church: *Paul Young*

Hatfield Church: *Bonnie Rhodes*

Pleasant Grove Church: *Pam Deaton and Bonnie Whisenhunt*

LITTLE MISSOURI RIVER ASSOCIATION

BOARD MEMBERS AND OFFICERS FOR THE 2000-2001 FISCAL YEAR

Credentials Board

Rob Gerst.	5 years
Joe Ray Short.	4 years
Terrell Holland.	3 years
Kevin Jewell (Chairman).	2 years
David Taylor	1 year

General Board

Larry Denton (Chairman).	Hatfield
Phyllis Ary (Secretary).	Arkadelphia
Cecil Fant	Daisy
Darrell Waldo.	Glenwood
Sonny Dunn	Lake Hills
Hursel Parker.	Lodi
Judy Short	Mt. Joy
Doyle Hammock.	Pleasant Grove

Officers

Kenny Fant	Moderator
Larry Denton	Assistant Moderator
Eddie Ary.	Clerk
Judy Short	Assistant Clerk

LITTLE MISSOURI RIVER ASSOCIATION

CHURCHES, PASTORS, AND CLERKS

JUNE 30, 2000

<u>Church</u>	<u>Pastor</u>	<u>Clerk</u>
Arkadelphia	Reverend Rob Gerst 455 Red Hill Road Arkadelphia, AR 71923 870-246-5609	Phyllis Ary 45 Central Road Arkadelphia, AR 71923 870-246-3305
Daisy	Reverend Kevin Jewell 3815 Hwy 70 W Kirby, AR 71950 870-398-4355	Pearline McCauley/Tammy Davis 2868 Hwy 70 N New Hope, AR 71959 870-398-4370
Glenwood	Reverend Terrell Holland P. O. Box 54 Glenwood, AR 71943 870-356-2375	Diana Plyler P. O. Box 560 Glenwood, AR 71943 870-356-2695
Hatfield	Reverend Larry Davis P. O. Box 71 Cove, AR 71937 870-387-3055	Linda Denton 123 S. Tilley Road Hatfield, AR 71945 870-389-6676
Lake Hills	Reverend David Taylor 103 Chisholm Trail Hot Springs, AR 71913 501-760-4824	Sandra Dunn P. O. Box 2480 Hot Springs, AR 71914 501-520-4544
Lodi	Reverend Roger Beshears 415 Birch Street Mt. Ida, AR 71957 870-867-7643	Vennis Parker 1144 Hwy 84 W Glenwood, AR 71943 870-356-2209
Mt. Joy	Reverend Joe Ray Short Box 1586 Glenwood, AR 71943 870-356-2374	Mary Golden Box 226, Bear Creek Rd. Amity, AR 71921 870-398-5419
Pleasant Grove	Reverend Kenny Fant 116 N. Grandfield Road New Hope, AR 71959 870-398-4698	Ethel Pinkerton 710 Parsons Road New Hope, AR 71959 870-583-2044

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 9, 1999 QUARTERLY MEETING
AT THE PLEASANT GROVE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

Ten O'Clock Service

Brother Kevin Jewell led the congregation in the singing of "Bring Them In;" Sister Ethel Pinkerton played the piano.

Following the song, Brother Sonny Dunn led in prayer.

Brother Larry Denton, Assistant Moderator, welcomed us in the absence of our Moderator, Brother Kenny Fant who had a work related commitment.

Brother Eddie, our Clerk, asked that pastors or church representatives pick up copies of the 1998-99 Associational minutes for distribution to their church members. He cited the fact that 45 members were added to Associational churches during the 1998-99 reporting period, and that receipts from churches increased by over 16 percent.

Brother Eddie then read the church letters. All of our churches were represented except Daisy, but its letter was available for reading later in the session. A motion was made to receive the letters and seat the delegates (including those of the Daisy Church). The motion was seconded and carried. Delegates were given the right hand of fellowship as "When We All Get to Heaven" was sung.

Brother Kevin Jewell reported that he was representing our Association on the A.C.T.S. 1:8 Task Force, a group with the objective of supporting foreign missions. He indicated that A.C.T.S. 1:8 receipts during the January-September period were way below goal, and that to meet the budgeted goal, \$30,000 a month must come in during the remaining three months of 1999. He encouraged all pastors and churches to pray for and support the A.C.T.S. 1:8 Program.

Brother Larry asked Brother Bill Brewer to serve as chairman of the Resolutions Committee. He requested that Sister Lisa Miller and Sister Leslie Sirmon also serve on the committee.

Brother Larry reported with enthusiasm that according to the minutes 36 people were baptized during the 1998-99 reporting period.

Brother Eddie read the letter from the Daisy Church.

Brother Joe Ray Short then dismissed us in prayer for a brief break before the morning worship service.

Eleven O'Clock Service

Prior to the beginning of the morning worship service, Brother Larry asked that minutes of the state meeting be picked up by representatives of each church.

There were approximately 50 present for worship.

Sister Ethel Pinkerton, Sister Lisa Miller, and Sister Leslie Sirmon brought a special, "Take My Hand, Precious Lord." Sister Ethel played the piano for the group.

Sister Terri Frost then played the piano and sang "The Sun's Coming Up."

Prayer requests included the following: Sister Helen Jewell (Brother Kevin's mother) who has a lump in her breast, the parents of the child who died in a car wreck recently, the A.C.T.S 1:8 Plan, Sister Ruth Plyler, and Brother David Joslin's wife. Brother Kevin also indicated that his uncle had died recently.

Brother Hursel Parker took the requests before the Lord in prayer.

Brother Roger Beshears, Pastor of the Lodi Church, before bringing the morning message, gave some brief background information. He was the son of a Baptist preacher. Brother Roger accepted the Lord when he was nine, but drifted away from God when he was 18-19. He and his family went to church in 1994; the preacher preached on faith. He, his wife, and daughter went back to the church one week before Christmas, and all rededicated their lives to God. Brother Roger preached his first message in July.

Brother Roger read Romans 12:1-2, and indicated that his message was entitled "It's Time for a Change." God made man and woman in his likeness, but what God formed, man deformed. We must quit playing games in church. We must get out of our comfort zone and go to work for the Lord. As Christians, we must study the Word, live it, and speak out against the evil in our world. Satan tries to drag us down, but Christ can enable us to overcome him. Other scriptures cited during the message were John 14:2-3 and Romans 1:28-31.

It was announced that the General Board would meet during the lunch hour. Brother Larry indicated that there would be three groups singing at the Hatfield Church tonight. He requested prayer for his sister-in-law who has cancer. A baby shower for Sister Michelle Smead will be at the Daisy Church on November 14 at 3:00 p.m. Sister Michelle is doing much better now.

Brother David Taylor dismissed us in prayer and asked the blessing on the noon meal.

Saturday Afternoon

Brother Kevin Jewell led us in the singing of "Victory in Jesus" as Sister Ethel Pinkerton played the piano.

Brother Doyle Hammock brought the afternoon devotion. He indicated that over 40 years ago his family went to Mt. Joy to church. The month following he and his wife accepted the Lord as their Savior. Brother Doyle expressed appreciation to the Lord for being good to him and the Pleasant Grove Church. He read I Corinthians 13, and emphasized that when we get to Heaven, there will be no need for hope and faith, but love will abide—it will be there.

Business Session

Brother Larry declared us in conference for the transaction of business.

Brother Bill Brewer presented two resolutions on behalf of the Resolutions Committee.

1. "Be it resolved that the host church be given a rising vote of thanks for the good noon meal."
2. "Be it resolved that each church encourage more of its members to attend Associational meetings."

A motion was made and seconded to accept the resolutions and dismiss the committee. Those in favor stood to their feet and the motion carried.

The General Board recommended that \$1000 from the General Fund be given to A.C.T.S. 1:8, and that Brother Kevin Jewell be the speaker at the January, 2000 quarterly meeting. A motion was made to accept the report of the General Board and act on it item by item. The motion was seconded and each recommendation carried.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn. Those in favor stood to their feet and the motion carried.

Prayer was requested for Brother Luther Turner and his bypass surgery. Brother Lew Reid dismissed us in prayer.

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 8, 2000

QUARTERLY MEETING AT THE LODI FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

Ten O'Clock Service

Our moderator, Brother Kenny Fant, welcomed everyone. Prayer was requested for Ruth Plyler, Mildred Horn, and Mrs. Kennedy. Brother Rob Gerst brought the requests before the Lord in prayer.

Brother David Taylor led us in the singing of "At Calvary" and "Redeemed;" Sister Debe Taylor played the piano.

Brother Kenny gave a challenge for the new millennium: that each of our churches have revival. He then asked our clerk, Brother Eddie Ary, to read the church letters. All eight Associational churches were represented. After the reading of the letters, Brother Kenny reminded us that ordained ministers and their wives, ordained deacons and their wives, church clerks, the Association clerk, and General Board members have a standing vote.

A motion was made to receive the church letters and seat the delegates designated by the churches. The motion was seconded and carried. Those in favor of the motion stood to their feet and gave the delegates the right hand of fellowship as "Glory to His Name" was sung.

Brother Kenny asked Sister Emogene Reid to serve as chairperson of the Resolutions Committee. Sister Jill Monroe and Brother Verlin Price were also asked to serve on the committee.

Brother Roger Beshears dismissed us in prayer for a brief recess before the morning worship service.

Eleven O'Clock Service

Brother David led in the singing of "Just a Little Talk with Jesus" and "What a Day That Will Be" as Sister Debe played the piano. There were 47 present for the service.

Sister Phyllis Ary sang a special, "Because He Lives" with Sister Debe Taylor accompanying her on the piano.

Brother Bradley Taylor thanked the Association for the tuition scholarship he received during the fall, 1999 semester, and indicated that he would be taking 17 hours during the spring, 2000 semester. His major is Christian Education--Youth Ministries.

Brother Kevin Jewell, Pastor of the Daisy Church, brought the morning message, "Our Responsibility as Leaders," based on Isaiah 56:9-12. After reading his text, he led in prayer.

Brother Kevin first described the condition of the leaders at the time Isaiah was writing: they were blind, ignorant, dumb dogs, lazy, greedy dogs. In addition, the leaders were giving a sense of false security to the people of Israel.

The responsibilities of leaders were then highlighted.

1. Leaders must feed the flock. The Great Commission commands that leaders do this.
2. Leaders must warn the flock. As Paul told Timothy, leaders must "reprove, rebuke, and exhort."
3. Leaders must visit the flock. Leaders should love their flock, and suffer with members who are suffering.
4. Leaders must be examples to the flock. Their attitude must not be, "Don't do as I do, do as I say;" their speech and actions must be Christlike.

Scriptures cited during the message were Matthew 13:24-30, Proverbs 6:10-11, Luke 15:17, II Timothy 4:10, Matthew 28:19-20, Acts 20:28, II Timothy 4:2, and I. Timothy 4:12.

Brother Kevin closed by warning that Satan is "seeking whom he may devour" (I Peter 5:8-9). Leaders must be "sober" and "vigilant." At the conclusion of his message, he led in prayer.

It was announced that the General Board would meet during the lunch hour. The Glenwood Church invited everyone to the ordination service for Brother Steve Turner as deacon on January 16 at 2:00 p.m.

Brother Hursel Parker dismissed us in prayer and asked the blessing on the noon meal.

Saturday Afternoon

"Victory in Jesus" and "That Glad Reunion Day" were led by Brother David as Sister Debe played the piano.

Brother Rob Gerst, who recently accepted the pastorate of the Arkadelphia Church, brought a devotion stressing the need for a revival of prayer in our churches. He read II Chronicles 7:14 which indicates the need for God's people to humble themselves, pray, and seek God's face.

Brother Rob cited the following as reasons we need a revival of prayer.

- Young people are needed if our churches are to continue.
- The world needs to see supernatural things.
- Total surrender to Christ is needed.

Business Session

Brother Kenny declared us in conference for the transaction of business.

Sister Emogene Reid, Chairperson of the Resolutions Committee, presented one resolution: "Be it resolved that the host church be given a rising vote of thanks for the good meal and fellowship." Sister Emogene expressed concern that so few people attend Association meetings.

A motion was made and seconded to receive the resolution presented, and dismiss the Resolutions Committee; the motion carried.

Sister Phyllis Ary, Secretary of the General Board, indicated that the General Board recommended that each church raise funds for the Maumelle Mission, and bring an offering to the April quarterly meeting at Glenwood. Rob Gerst will be the speaker at the next meeting of the Association.

A motion was made to accept the recommendation of the General Board; the motion was seconded and carried.

Brother Larry Denton, Chairperson of the General Board, expressed appreciation to the members of the General Board for being so faithful.

Brother Kevin Jewell, who is a member of the A.C.T.S. 1:8 Task Force, thanked the Association for its support of the program. He indicated that he did not know whether the 1999 A.C.T.S. 1:8 Plan goal was achieved.

The following announcements were then made.

- Brother Steve Turner will be ordained as a deacon of the Glenwood Church on January 16 at 2:00 p.m.
- The Lodi Church will have a singing on January 29 at 6:00 p.m.
- The Lakes Hills and Cavanaugh churches are having a bass tournament as a means of fellowship, and to raise money for Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College. Brother David Taylor will distribute more information to Associational churches later.

Brother Terrell Holland thanked the members of the Association for praying for him during his recovery from foot surgery.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn; those in favor stood, and the motion carried. Brother David Taylor dismissed us in prayer.

MINUTES OF THE APRIL 8, 2000

QUARTERLY MEETING AT THE GLENWOOD FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

Ten O'Clock Service

Brother Kenny Fant welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Brother Terrell Holland asked for prayer that the President God wants will be elected this fall. He also sought prayer for the sick and bereaved. Brother Kenny requested prayer for Deloy Jester, a man who has cancer, and does not know the Lord. Sister Karen Kirkpatrick asked prayer for the 30th anniversary celebration of the Arkadelphia Church which will be held April 9, especially for the unsaved who have been invited; she also requested continued prayer for her mom, Sister Ruth Plyler. Brother David Taylor brought the requests before the Lord in prayer.

Brother David then led in the singing of "The Solid Rock" and "There Shall Be Showers of Blessing;" Sister Judy Short played the piano.

Brother Eddie Ary read the church letters. All eight of our churches were represented. Two requests were made in the letters. The Arkadelphia Church asked that Brother Rob Gerst be examined as a minister and seated in full fellowship with the Little Missouri River Association. The Glenwood Church requested that Brother Steve Turner be examined as a deacon and seated in full fellowship with the Association.

A motion was made and seconded to receive the letters and seat the delegates. The motion carried. Delegates were given the right hand of fellowship as "There Is Power in the Blood" was sung.

Brother Kenny asked that Sister Emogene Reid serve as chairperson of the Resolutions Committee. Sister Lisa Miller and Sister Janice Mack were asked to also serve on the committee.

Brother Kevin Jewell reported that Sister Andrea Linville, a young lady who is a member of the Daisy Church, will work with foreign missions in Brazil. Sister Andrea had applied in December for TEAM (Teens Equipped and Active in Missions), and was chosen as a member of Team Brazil 2000. She will spend some time in Nashville, Tennessee for training, and then go to Brazil to work with Free Will Baptist missionaries.

Brother Kevin indicated that Sister Andrea will need \$2,400 for the trip. Thirteen hundred dollars has already been raised through her local church, but the other \$1,100 must be sent to the Foreign Missions Board by May 31.

Brother Doyle Hammock dismissed us in prayer for a brief recess before the morning worship service.

10:40 Service

Brother David Taylor led in the congregational singing of "I Will Sing the Wondrous Story," "Take the Name of Jesus with You," "Standing on the Promises," and "The Haven of Rest." Sister Judy Short played the piano. There were 53 present for the service.

Sister Krystal Pannell brought a special, "Come Morning," with a tape accompaniment.

Brother Rob Gerst, Pastor of the Arkadelphia Church, brought the morning message, "Man of God." The message was based on I Timothy 6:11-12. Before beginning the message, Brother Rob gave a brief report on the Arkadelphia Church, and requested prayer for the work there.

Brother Rob stressed that God expects a lot from Christians. He emphasized the following concerning the Man of God.

1. The Man of God is known by what he flees from—sexual sins, youthful lusts, idolatry, false teaching, and the love of money. Scriptures cited were I Corinthians 6:16, II Timothy 2:22, I Corinthians 10:14, II Timothy 2:16, I Timothy 6:6-16, Proverbs 30:8-9, Job 31:23-25, Psalm 62:5, Matthew 6:33, I Peter 5:8, Joshua 1:7-8, Acts 20:33-35.
2. The Man of God is known by what he runs to (pursues)—righteousness, godliness, faith, love, and patience. Phillipians 3:16, I Corinthians 9:27, Psalm 42:1-2, I Corinthians 13:6, Matthew 7:22-24, Proverbs 27:5-6, and I Peter 4:9 were scriptures cited.
3. The Man of God is known for what he fights for; the Christian is a soldier of God battling sin and the world. Scriptures cited were II Timothy 2:3-4 and II Timothy 4:7.
4. The Man of God is known for what he lays hold on—things above, not the things of the earth. Colossians 3:2, I Timothy 6:20, and James 3:1 were scriptures cited.

Brother Rob closed his message in prayer.

Sister Linda Denton announced that the Woman's Auxiliary would meet during the lunch hour. It was announced that the Credentials Board and General Board would also meet.

Brother Joe Ray Short dismissed us in prayer and asked the blessing on the noon meal.

Saturday Afternoon

Sister Phyllis Ary led in the singing of "Mansion Over the Hilltop," "O How I Love Jesus," and "Amazing Grace," while Sister Judy Short played the piano.

Brother Terrell Holland brought a devotion based on II Thessalonians 2:1-4. Brother Terrell stressed that some thought the coming of the Lord was so imminent that they had quit working. They had become busybodies and tattlers. Before Christ comes, there will be a great falling away, and the man of sin will be revealed. Brother Terrell emphasized that not only do we need to be ready for the Lord

to return, but we need to try to get others ready to meet Him. Scriptures cited by Brother Terrell were I Timothy 4:1, II Thessalonians 2:9, and Matthew 24:5, 24.

Business Session

Brother Kenny, our moderator, declared us in conference for the transaction of business.

Sister Emogene Reid, Chairperson of the Resolutions Committee, thanked us for coming to the Glenwood Church to feast on spiritual and physical food. Brother Joe Ray Short made a motion to give the Glenwood Church a rising vote of thanks for the good noon meal. The motion was seconded; those in favor stood to their feet and the motion carried.

On behalf of the Credentials Board, Brother Joe Ray presented the following two recommendations.

1. That Brother Rob Gerst upon ordination as a minister be accepted into full fellowship with the Association.
2. That Brother Steve Turner be accepted as a deacon into full fellowship with the Association.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the report of the Credentials Board and act on it item by item. The motion carried. Each item was then voted and carried.

Sister Phyllis Ary, Secretary of the General Board, reported the following Association account balances as of March 31, 2000: General Fund-\$4,768.21, Missions Fund-\$1,249.73, Christian Education Fund (Education)-\$6,269.78, and Christian Education Fund (General)-\$1,335.95.

Sister Phyllis then presented the following General Board recommendations.

1. Give Sister Andrea Linville \$1,100 from the Christian Education-Education Fund.
2. Raise Associational fees to the annual meeting in July to \$90 per church. This is necessary because the National Association of Free Will Baptists voted in 1999 to increase the National Association fee from \$25 to \$50. The proposed \$90 annual meeting fee will be distributed as follows: \$50-National Association Fee, \$25-State Association Fee, \$5-state minutes, and \$10-retained by the Little Missouri River Association to help finance its operations.
3. Give \$839.15 to the Maumelle Mission to make the total donated by the Association and its churches an even \$2,500.

As a point of information, Sister Phyllis indicated that the speaker for the July meeting would be Brother David Taylor.

A motion was made to accept the report of the General Board and act on it item by item. The motion was seconded and carried.

In connection with Item 1, Brother Joe Ray suggested that the money be given from the Christian Education-General Fund rather than the Christian Education-Education Fund. His amendment was seconded and carried. The motion to give Sister Andrea Linville \$1,100 was then voted and carried.

The other two items were voted and carried as presented.

Brother David Taylor and Brother Terrell Holland both confessed that they had forgotten about the offering for the Maumelle Mission, but promised that their churches would send an offering.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn; those in favor stood, and the motion carried.

After adjournment, several announcements were made.

- Brother Loy Counts will be preaching at the Daisy Church on Friday night, April 24.
- The Pleasant Grove Church will be in revival June 5-9; Brother Kevin Jewell will be the evangelist.
- The Oklahoma State Ministers Quarter will be holding a revival at the Glenwood Church on April 17-20. Services will start at 7:30 p.m.; the quartet will sing each night for about 30 minutes, and then one of them will preach.
- Hatfield will have a singing tonight.
- Lodi will have a singing the night of April 29.
- There will be a Woman's Auxiliary Retreat at Camp Beaverfork on May 5-6.
- The Arkadelphia Church will be celebrating its 30th Anniversary on April 9. Brother Rob will be ordained and in addition there will be a baby dedication service.

Brother Kevin thanked the Association for the gift to Sister Andrea Linville. Brother Rob expressed appreciation to the ladies of the Association for the baby shower during the noon hour.

Brother Kevin asked prayer for his wife's health. Sister Linda Denton requested prayer for the health of Brother Larry's son. Sister Karen asked prayer for her mother, Sister Ruth Plyler. Brother Eddie requested prayer for his son Royce who is serving in the Army in Bosnia.

A praise item was mentioned; Brother Dave Joslin's wife now has no sign of cancer!

Brother Kevin Jewell brought the prayer requests before the Lord and dismissed our meeting in prayer.

MINUTES OF THE JULY 8, 2000

ANNUAL MEETING AT THE DAISY FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

10:00 O'Clock Service

Brother Kenny Fant, our moderator, welcomed us to the service. He asked for prayer requests; among the requests mentioned were the following: Sherri Jewell, Sheila Sass, Don Stevens, Leah and Wesley Wright, Lisa Gerst's Mom, Glenn Mack, families having problems, those in our churches who are sick. Brother Larry Denton brought the requests before the Lord in prayer.

Sister Phyllis Ary led in the singing of "More About Jesus Would I Know" and "Mansion Over the Hilltop;" Sister Terri Frost played the piano.

Brother Eddie Ary, our clerk, read several letters the Association had received. First, was a letter from the Central Association requesting a letter of recommendation for Brother Oscar Walling. The second was a letter from Brother Kerry Gandy, Missionary to Maumelle, thanking the Association for its financial support. The third letter was from Bradley Taylor expressing his gratitude for the tuition scholarship the Association provided during the fall, 1999 and spring, 2000 semesters at Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College. The final letter was from Shane Davison who was given a tuition scholarship by the Association during the 1998-99 fiscal year. In August Shane will be leaving for Cote d'Ivoire, West Africa. He will be teaching music to grades K-12 in a boarding school attended by Free Will Baptist missionary children.

Brother Eddie then read the church letters. All eight of our churches were represented by letter. The following churches indicated delegates to the state meeting on August 8-9: Daisy-Sherri Jewell, Glenwood-Jo Ann Holland, Lake Hills-James Mitchell.

A motion was made to receive the letters and seat the delegates. The motion was seconded and carried. Delegates were given the right hand of fellowship as "Standing on the Promises" was sung.

Brother Kenny appointed the following individuals to the committee indicated.

Resolutions Committee:

Sister Emogene Reid, Chairperson
Sister Velron Young
Sister Charlotte Jones

Obituary Committee:

Sister Carolyn Monroe, Chairperson
Sister Tammy Davis
Sister Billie Ruth Fant

Sunday School Committee:

Sister Brenda Fant, Chairperson
Sister Kandi Turner
Sister Vennis Parker

Temperance Committee:

Brother Bob Blake, Chairperson
Brother Pierre Davis
Brother Verlin Price

Digest Committee:

Sister Terri Frost, Chairperson
Sister Sandra Dunn
Sister Gail Parker

Brother Kenny expressed appreciation to Brother Ron Parker, Missionary to Shreveport, Louisiana, for being in the service, and asked him to give a report. Brother Ron introduced Brother Tim Ketchum, and his son, Brother John Ketchum, from the Shreveport Church. Brother John works with the youth of the church. Several young people have been saved in recent weeks.

Brother Ron announced that the Shreveport Church would go self-supporting this fall. He thanked the Association for its support.

A special service will be held at the Shreveport Church tomorrow. About a year ago, Brother Thomas Brown was working in a Pennzoil plant when an explosion occurred. Brother Thomas suffered third and fourth degree burns over 86 percent of his body. Tomorrow he will be sharing what God has done for him. Brother Ron anticipates some first time visitors. The news media will also be present. Brother Ron asked each pastor to have their congregations pray for Brother Thomas tomorrow.

On September 30, Operation Saturation has been scheduled. The Home Missions Board has asked mission churches to try to get the gospel out to 1,000,000 people on that day. Each mission church will be hanging a packet prepared by the Home Mission Board on doors in its city. The Shreveport Church will be trying to get the packets to 2,000 homes. The packets will cost the Shreveport Church \$400. Brother Ron asked us to come and help with Operation Saturation for two to three hours on September 30. He indicated that his church members still talk about the Daisy Youth who came to his church.

Brother Kevin Jewell announced that Sister Andrea Linville was back from Brazil. He thanked the Association for helping her, and indicated that she would probably give a testimony at the October quarterly meeting. After Brother Kevin's report, Brother Pierre Davis dismissed us in prayer for a brief recess before the morning worship service.

Eleven O'Clock Service

Sister Phyllis Ary led the congregation in the singing of "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms" and "O How I Love Jesus" with Sister Terri Frost accompanying on the piano. There were 41 present for the service.

Brother David Taylor, Sister Debe Taylor, and their daughter, Sister Amy Head, sang "I'm Glad I Know Who Jesus Is." Sister Nancy Shelton sang "Shepherd Boy" with a tape accompaniment.

Brother David Taylor brought our morning message, "The Grace of God." He read I Corinthians 15: 9-11, and led in prayer. Brother David expressed five principles about the grace of God

1. By the grace of God, I know that I am saved. We know we are saved because we have admitted that we were a sinner, believed Jesus Christ is everything that he said He is, and confessed our sins to Jesus.
2. By the grace of God, I am satisfied. The Word of Life satisfies us, as does the Living Water, and the way of eternal life. Worshiping God in spirit and truth satisfies.
3. By the grace of God, I am strengthened. Christ strengthens us in the hour of trial and temptation. God can accomplish more from our weaknesses than our strengths. He gives us the strength to live a faithful testimony every day of our life.
4. By the grace of God, I am a servant. Being a servant is difficult for most of us, but Christ has called us to be His servants—to worship Him and witness for Him.
5. By the grace of God, I am a soul winner. We are soul winners by our appearance, our associations, our attitudes, and by the answers we give.

Scriptures cited during the message were Ephesians 2:8, I John 1:9, John 6:68, Phillipians 4:13, and John 4:23-24.

Brother David closed his message in prayer.

It was announced that the General Board and the Credentials Board would meet during the lunch hour. Brother Sonny Dunn asked the blessing on the noon meal.

Saturday Afternoon

The congregation sang "In My Heart There Rings a Melody," led by Sister Phyllis Ary with Sister Terri Frost at the piano.

Brother Kevin Jewell led in a prayer for God's guidance during the business session.

Brother Pierre Davis brought a devotion based on II Corinthians 4:16. He told of Brother Paul Young who attended the Daisy Church. Brother Paul was a very enthusiastic Christian in spite of suffering with cancer for many years. He died about six months ago. Brother Pierre stressed that the way we feel should not have anything to do with our behavior. He cited II Corinthians 5:1, stressing

that this body is just a tent. Brother Pierre asked, "Is your tent drooping?" He closed by emphasizing that no matter what's happening on the outside, a Christian can say, "I'm just wonderful!"

Business Session

Brother Kenny declared us in conference for the transaction of business and read the Rules of Order. He asked for reports from committees.

Resolutions Committee--

Sister Emogene Reid, Chairperson of the Resolutions Committee, presented one resolution: "Be it resolved that we give the host church a rising vote of thanks for the good meal." Sister Emogene emphasized the need to get more members to attend the Associational meetings; she cited Matthew 6:21.

A motion was made and seconded to receive the report and dismiss the committee. Those in favor stood to their feet and the motion carried.

Obituary Committee--

Sister Carolyn Monroe, Chairperson of the Obituary Committee, reported the following deaths of church members in the Association: Paul Young of the Daisy Church, Bonnie Rhodes of the Hatfield Church, Pam Deaton and Bonnie Whisenhunt of the Pleasant Grove Church. No deaths were reported by the Arkadelphia, Glenwood, Lake Hills, Lodi, and Mt. Joy churches.

A motion to receive the report and dismiss the committee was made. The motion was seconded and carried. The congregation stood for a moment of silent prayer in remembrance of the deceased.

Sunday School Committee--

Sister Brenda Fant, Chairperson of the Sunday School Committee, indicated that the eight churches of the Association had a Sunday School enrollment of 396 compared to 409 last year, a 3 percent decrease.

A motion was made and seconded to receive the report and dismiss the committee. The motion carried.

Temperance Committee--

Brother Bob Blake, Chairperson of the Temperance Committee, presented the report of the committee: "We recommend that all our churches continue to encourage the teaching and practice of temperance as set forth by the Scriptures."

A motion was made to receive the report and dismiss the committee. The motion was seconded and carried.

Digest Committee—

Sister Terri Frost, Chairperson of the Digest Committee, reported the following statistics for the July 1, 1999 to June 30, 2000 fiscal year.

Churches	8
Church Membership	762
Sunday School Enrollment	396
C.T.S. Enrollment	107
Woman's Auxiliary Enrollment.	78
Master's Men Enrollment	0
Ordained Ministers	9
Licensed Ministers	1
Value of Property	\$1,975,000
Total Members Added	33
Total Members Lost	13
Total Members Baptized.	31
Full-Time Pastors	3
Part-Time Pastors.	5
Churches—City.	4
Churches—Rural.	4
Total Income	\$401,852.38
Number of Ordained Deacons	24
Number of Churches with Parsonages	6
Number of Churches without Parsonages.	2

A motion was made and seconded to receive the report and dismiss the committee. The motion carried.

Credentials Board—

Brother Kevin Jewell, Chairman of the Credentials Board, recommended that the following letter be sent to the Central Association:

“We are in receipt of your letter of April 24, 2000 requesting a letter of recommendation for Brother Oscar Walling.

Please note that Brother Walling has not been an active member of the Little Missouri River Association for approximately seven years.

We will remove Brother Walling’s name from our records, and consider his credentials held by the Central Association as of this letter.”

(The time period of seven years was determined by the Associational clerk after the annual meeting and inserted into the letter.)

A motion was made and seconded to accept the recommendation of the Credentials Board; the motion carried.

General Board—

Sister Phyllis Ary, Secretary of the General Board, presented the following recommendations of the Board.

1. Recommended member of the Credentials Board: Brother Rob Gerst—5 year position.
2. Recommended officers for the coming fiscal year: Brother Kenny Fant—Moderator, Brother Larry Denton—Assistant Moderator, Brother Eddie Ary—Clerk, and Sister Judy Short—Assistant Clerk.
3. Recommended allocation of the budget: Coop—40 percent, General Fund—15 percent, Educational Fund—10 percent, Free Will Baptist Bible College—10 percent, A.C.T.S. 1:8 Plan—7 ½ percent, Maumelle Mission—10 percent, Norman Richards—5 percent, Missions Fund—2 ½ percent.
4. Recommended donation of \$1,000 to Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College from the General Fund.
5. Recommended disbursements from the Christian Education—Education Fund: Provide a tuition scholarship to Bradley Taylor in an amount equal to \$100 per semester hour completed at Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College. Give a one time gift of \$1,000 each to Cory and Craig Thompson toward their expenses at Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College.
6. Recommended donation of \$400 from the General Fund for the tracts to be distributed by the Shreveport Church during Operation Saturation.
7. Recommended that Brother Kerry Gandy be the speaker at the October quarterly meeting, and that Brother Terrell Holland speak if Brother Kerry can't come.

A motion was made to receive the report of the General Board and act on it item by item. The motion was seconded and carried.

Item 1 Brother Kenny gave the congregation the opportunity to make nominations for the position on the Credentials Board. After no nominations were made, a motion was made and seconded to receive the Board's recommendation. The motion carried.

Item 2 Brother Larry Denton handled the election of the moderator; Brother Kenny conducted the elections for the other three positions. As the election of each officer

took place, there were no other nominations so a motion was made and seconded to accept the Board's recommendation; in each case the motion carried.

Item 3 A motion was made to adopt the budget as presented. The motion was seconded and carried.

Item 4 A motion was made and seconded to accept the Board's recommendation of a \$1,000 donation to Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College. The motion carried.

Item 5 A motion was made to accept the Board's recommendation of a \$100 per hour tuition scholarship for Bradley Taylor, and the giving of \$1,000 each to Cory and Craig Thompson. The motion was seconded and carried.

Item 6 A motion was made and seconded to adopt the Board's recommendation of a \$400 donation for the tracts for Operation Saturation.

Item 7 A motion was made to accept the Board's recommendation of Brother Kerry Gandy as the speaker for the October quarterly meeting, and Brother Terrell Holland if Brother Kerry cannot speak.

The scheduling of the quarterly meetings during the new fiscal year was the next item of business. The following churches volunteered for the meetings.

October 14	Glenwood
January 13	Daisy
April 14	Arkadelphia
July 14	Lake Hills

Sister Vennis Parker, Sister Jo Ann Holland, and Sister Debe Taylor volunteered to be the Association's delegates to the state meeting on August 8-9 in Jonesboro.

Brother David Taylor announced that the Lake Hills Church was going to celebrate becoming self supporting on September 9-10. He invited us to attend the celebration and thanked the Association for its support of the Lake Hills Mission. Brother David also indicated that Brother James Mitchell was the new youth minister at Lake Hills.

Brother Larry Denton invited everyone to a singing at the Hatfield Church on July 22 at 7:00 p.m.

Brother Ron Parker expressed appreciation to the Association for underwriting the tracts, and for all of the support provided over the years.

Prayer was requested for Brother Ben Scott who has had a blood clot in his leg. Brother Ron Parker dismissed us in prayer, and brought the request before the Lord.

LITTLE MISSOURI RIVER ASSOCIATION

RECEIPTS (OF ALL FUNDS) BY TYPE

FOR PERIOD JULY 1, 1999 TO JUNE 30, 2000

Coop Tithes.	\$20,847.32
State Missions	1,880.85
Home Missions (Includes \$133.26 for Free Will Baptist Home for Children).	4,405.28
Foreign Missions	7,429.30
Free Will Baptist Bible College.	360.60
Fees	1,135.00
Offerings--Quarterly Meetings.	243.40
Interest Earned.	<u>305.42</u>
Total Receipts	<u>\$36,607.17</u>
Total Receipts, July 1, 1998 to June 30, 1999.	<u>\$32,366.49</u>
Percentage Increase.	<u>13.10%</u>

LITTLE MISSOURI RIVER ASSOCIATION

RECEIPTS BY CHURCHES

FOR PERIOD JULY 1, 1999 TO JUNE 30, 2000

	<u>Coop</u>	<u>FM</u>	<u>HM</u>	<u>SM</u>	<u>FWBBC</u>	<u>Fees</u>	<u>Total</u>
Arkadelphia	\$ 1,829.00	\$ 582.00	\$1,085.00	\$ 620.00	\$ 120.00	\$ 135.00	\$ 4,371.00
Daisy	10,331.50	4,258.51	1,058.26	510.85		135.00	16,294.12
Glenwood	4,272.00	1,788.79	623.65		240.60	190.00	7,115.04
Hatfield	1,007.91			250.00		135.00	1,392.91
Lake Hills						135.00	135.00
Lodi	1,124.87		582.05	200.00		135.00	2,041.92
Mt. Joy			1,056.32			135.00	1,191.32
Pleasant Grove	<u>2,282.04</u>	<u>800.00</u>		<u>300.00</u>		<u>135.00</u>	<u>3,517.04</u>
Totals	<u>\$20,847.32</u>	<u>\$7,429.30</u>	<u>\$4,405.28</u>	<u>\$1,880.85</u>	<u>\$ 360.60</u>	<u>\$1,135.00</u>	<u>\$36,058.35</u>
Receipts from Churches, July 1, 1998 to June 30, 1999							<u>\$31,825.72</u>
Percentage Increase							<u>13.30%</u>

FM = Foreign Missions

HM = Home Missions

SM = State Missions

FWBBC = Free Will Baptist Bible College

LITTLE MISSOURI RIVER ASSOCIATION

BREAKDOWN OF CHURCH FOREIGN MISSIONS GIVING

FOR PERIOD JULY 1, 1999 TO JUNE 30, 2000

A.C.T.S. 1:8 Plan.\$6,662.30
J. Combs	287.00
Nichols.	160.00
Midgett.	120.00
Deeds.	120.00
J. Banks	<u>80.00</u>
Total.	<u>.\$7,429.30</u>

LITTLE MISSOURI RIVER ASSOCIATION

BREAKDOWN OF CHURCH HOME MISSIONS GIVING

FOR PERIOD JULY 1, 1999 TO JUNE 30, 2000

Parker\$1,655.21
Parker (Church Debt)	120.00
N. Richards.	928.16
Mexico	553.65
Harvey	415.00
Doggett.	240.00
Reynolds	120.00
Crosby	60.00
Mertz.	60.00
Free Will Baptist Home for Children.	133.26
Benjamin Randall Offering.	<u>120.00</u>
Total.	<u>.\$4,405.28</u>

LITTLE MISSOURI RIVER ASSOCIATION

BREAKDOWN OF CHURCH STATE MISSIONS GIVING

FOR PERIOD JULY 1, 1999 TO JUNE 30, 2000

Maumelle Mission\$1,705.85
Maumelle Payoff Project.	120.00
Lake Hills Mission	<u>55.00</u>
Total.	<u>.\$1,880.85</u>

LITTLE MISSOURI RIVER ASSOCIATION

DISBURSEMENTS (FROM ALL FUNDS)

FOR PERIOD JULY 1, 1999 TO JUNE 30, 2000

<u>Disbursement</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Coop	Arkansas Free Will Baptists (40% of Coop Tithe Receipts of \$20,847.32)	\$ 8,338.93
State Missions	State Missions	3,762.37
Home Missions	Arkansas Free Will Baptists	6,356.76
Foreign Missions	Arkansas Free Will Baptists	10,992.85
Bible College	Arkansas Free Will Baptists (10% of Coop Tithe Receipts of \$20,847.32 plus \$360.60 offering from churches)	2,445.33
Hillsdale	Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College	1,000.00
Free Will Baptist Home for Children	Arkansas Free Will Baptists	133.26
State Dues	Arkansas Free Will Baptists	640.00
Clerk Services	Eddie Ary	900.00
Printing of Minutes	S & H Printing	202.59
Printing of Checks	Clark American	14.59
Tuition Scholarship-- Bradley Taylor	Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College	3,000.00
Brazil 2000-Andrea Linville	Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions	<u>1,100.00</u>
Total Disbursements		<u>\$38,886.68</u>

LITTLE MISSOURI RIVER ASSOCIATION
COMPARISON OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS (OF ALL FUNDS)
FOR FISCAL YEARS 1990-91 TO 1999-2000

	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Disbursements</u>	<u>Increase (Decrease) in Fund Balances</u>
1990-91	\$ 18,467.65	\$ 18,474.70	(\$ 7.05)
1991-92	17,685.05	19,457.40	(1,772.35)
1992-93	21,354.36	20,694.57	659.79
1993-94	22,775.39	23,001.88	(226.49)
1994-95	23,280.44	20,535.08	2,745.36
1995-96	22,700.35	19,400.01	3,300.34
1996-97	23,183.26	19,809.99	3,373.27
1997-98	27,888.73	25,837.73	2,051.00
1998-99	32,366.49	36,593.88	(4,227.39)
1999-00	<u>36,607.17</u>	<u>38,886.68</u>	<u>(2,279.51)</u>
Totals	<u>\$246,308.89</u>	<u>\$242,691.92</u>	<u>\$ 3,616.97</u>

LITTLE MISSOURI RIVER ASSOCIATION

SUMMARY OF GENERAL FUND

FOR PERIOD JULY 1, 1999 TO JUNE 30, 2000

General Fund Balance, July 1, 1999 \$ 4,810.60

Receipts:

Coop Tithes	\$20,847.32
State Missions.	1,880.85
Home Missions (Includes \$133.26 for Free Will Baptist Home for Children).	4,405.28
Foreign Missions.	7,429.30
Free Will Baptist Bible College	360.60
Fees.	1,135.00
Interest Earned	<u>305.42</u>

Total Receipts 36,363.77

Subtotal 41,174.37

Disbursements:

Coop--State	\$8,338.93
State Missions (Receipts from Churches)	1,880.85
State Missions-Maumelle Mission (Monthly Allocations equal to 5% of Coop Tithes of \$20,847.32).	1,042.37
Home Missions (Receipts from Churches) (Includes \$133.26 donated for Free Will Baptist Home for Children).	4,405.28
Home Missions (Monthly Allocations to Norman Richards equal to 5% of Coop Tithes of \$20,847.32)	1,042.37
Home Missions (Monthly Allocations to Ron Parker equal to 5% of Coop Tithes of \$20,847.32).	1,042.37

SUMMARY OF GENERAL FUND (CONTINUED)

Foreign Missions (Receipts from Churches	7,429.30
Foreign Missions (Donation to A.C.T.S. 1:8 Plan from General Fund)	1,000.00
Foreign Missions (Monthly Allocations to A.C.T.S. 1:8 Plan equal to 7 ½ percent of Coop Tithes of \$20,847.32)	1,563.55
Free Will Baptist Bible College (Receipts from Churches)	360.60
Free Will Baptist Bible College (Monthly Allocations equal to 10% of Coop Tithes of (\$20,847.32)	2,084.73
Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College	1,000.00
State Dues	640.00
Clerk Services--Eddie Ary	900.00
Printing of Minutes	202.59
Printing of Checks	<u>14.59</u>
Total Disbursements	<u>32,947.53</u>
Subtotal	8,226.84
Transfers to Other Funds:	
Missions Fund (2.5% of Coop Tithes of \$20,847.32)	\$ 521.18
Christian Education--Education Fund (10% of Coop Tithes of \$20,847.32)	<u>2,084.73</u>
Total Transfers	<u>2,605.91</u>
General Fund Balance, June 30, 2000	<u><u>\$5,620.93</u></u>

LITTLE MISSOURI RIVER ASSOCIATION

SUMMARY OF MISSIONS FUND

FOR PERIOD JULY 1, 1999 TO JUNE 30, 2000

Missions Fund Balance, July 1, 1999	\$1,869.93
Transfer from General Fund (2.5% of Coop Tithes of \$20,847.32)	<u>521.18</u>
Subtotal.	2,391.11
Disbursements:	
A.C.T.S. 1:8 Plan.	\$1,000.00
Maumelle Mission	<u>839.15</u>
Total Disbursements	<u>1,839.15</u>
Missions Fund Balance, June 30, 2000.	<u>\$ 551.96</u>

LITTLE MISSOURI RIVER ASSOCIATION

SUMMARY OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION--EDUCATION FUND

FOR PERIOD JULY 1, 1999 TO JUNE 30, 2000

Education Fund Balance, July 1, 1999.	\$6,050.57
Transfer from General Fund (10% of Coop Tithes of \$20,847.32)	<u>2,084.73</u>
Subtotal.	8,135.30
Disbursements:	
Tuition Scholarship for Bradley Taylor for the Fall Semester of 1999 and the Spring Semester of 2000 at Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College	<u>3,000.00</u>
Education Fund Balance, June 30, 2000	<u>\$5,135.30</u>

LITTLE MISSOURI RIVER ASSOCIATION
SUMMARY OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION--GENERAL FUND
FOR PERIOD JULY 1, 1999 TO JUNE 30, 2000

Christian Education--General Fund Balance, July 1, 1999. . \$1,140.55

Receipts:

Offerings--Quarterly Meetings 243.40

Subtotal 1,383.95

Disbursement:

Team Brazil 2000-Andrea Linville. 1,100.00

Christian Education--General Fund Balance, June 30, 2000 . \$ 283.95

LITTLE MISSOURI RIVER ASSOCIATION

FUND BALANCES

JUNE 30, 2000

General Fund \$ 5,620.93

Missions Fund. 551.96

Christian Education--Education Fund. 5,135.30

Christian Education--General Fund. 283.95

Total Fund Balances, June 30, 2000 \$11,592.14

Decrease in Fund Balances During the Fiscal Year \$ 2,279.51

CONSTITUTION

Preamble

From long experience, we the members of the Church of God denominated Free Will Baptist, having been baptized upon profession of our faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, and being convicted of the necessity of a combination of churches to perpetuate a union among us, and to preserve our denominational distinction and maintain correspondence with each other, do therefore ordain this Constitution for our better church government.

Article I--Name

The organization shall be known as the Little Missouri River Association of Free Will Baptists, affiliated with the Arkansas Association of Free Will Baptists.

Article II--Purpose

The purpose of the Association shall be to unify the work of the churches composing this association so that they might accomplish what they cannot do individually, and to edify and inspire the membership of this union.

Article III--Membership

The Association shall be composed of such well regulated Free Will Baptist churches and missions maintaining gospel order, agreeing with the denominational doctrine and practices, and favoring the enterprises that have been endorsed by this Association.

Article IV--Representation

Section 1. The standing delegates of this body shall consist of all ordained ministers and ordained deacons, examined and accepted by the Association and holding membership in a church in good standing with the Association, the wives of ordained ministers and ordained deacons, church clerks, the Association clerk, and General Board members.

Section 2. Each church is entitled to five (5) delegates.

Section 3. This Association will recognize the vote of the pastor and one (1) lay delegate from all mission churches holding membership in this Association.

Section 4. The Association shall meet the second Saturday of

October, January, April, and July. The General Board shall be the program committee.

Article V--Officers

This Association is to have a moderator, assistant moderator, clerk, and assistant clerk. Officers are to be elected at each annual meeting. The moderator and clerk of this Association shall both serve as ex-officio members of all boards. The moderator may be paid a stipend to help cover his expenses in attending the meeting of the state association, or any other meeting deemed appropriate by the Association. If the moderator is unable to attend such meetings, the assistant moderator will be paid the stipend if he attends. The Clerk will be compensated on a monthly basis.

Article VI--Boards

This Association shall have a Credentials Board and a General Board. Each board member shall hold membership in a church in this Association.

Section 1. The Credentials Board shall be composed of five ordained ministers. It shall be the duty of the Credentials Board to examine all ministers to be licensed or ordained, or petitioning the Association for membership. It shall also examine all ordained deacons petitioning for standing vote in this Association. With the assistance of the General Board, the Credentials Board shall examine churches requesting membership in the Association. At the annual meeting each July, a minister shall be elected to serve for five years on the Credentials Board.

A. Licensing of Ministers. Any layman of a church who feels divinely called to the ministry and makes a report of same to his church shall be examined by the Credentials Board upon request of the local church. The Credentials Board shall ascertain whether he is qualified, according to the Scriptures, namely, I Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9, and the following position interpretations:

1. That Paul's statements in I Timothy 3:2-12 and Titus 1:6, namely, "The husband of one wife," be looked upon as making ineligible for ministers or deacons anyone who has been divorced and remarried or who has married a divorcee, regardless of the cause of the divorce or the guilt or innocence of the other partner. That said person, whose marital status disqualifies them to be elders or deacons, not be discouraged in their Christian service or Christian lives, but that they be encouraged to live faithfully for Christ and serve Him in education, music, youth or any other department or activity of the local church.

2. Glossalgia--"Speaking in Tongues." Free Will Baptists

understand the Bible teaches the following facts: On the day of Pentecost, believers spoke in different foreign languages which were readily understood by the nationalists present. Tongues were given as a special gift to the early church as only one sign which confirmed the witness of the Gospel to unbelievers.

While tongues were bestowed by the sovereign will of God on some believers, all did not speak with tongues. When this gift was abused, it became a source of disturbance in the congregational meetings. To eliminate confusion and correct the error, Paul set particular guidelines for the Christian church to follow. The gift of tongues was neither an evidence of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit nor does it bring about sanctification.

We believe that speaking in tongues as a visible sign of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is an erroneous doctrine to be rejected. Any implication of a "Second Work of Grace" has never been tolerated or permitted in our fellowship of churches.

We teach and preach the fullness of the Holy Spirit and heed the Scriptural admonition, "Be filled with the Spirit; speaking to yourselves in Psalms, and Hymns, and Spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your hearts to the Lord; giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." Acts 2:5, 8, 11; I Corinthians 14:1-40; Hebrews 2:4; I Corinthians 12:19-30; I Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 5:18-20.

The Board, after examining the candidate, will then recommend that the church issue him a one year license signed by the pastor and church clerk. The license should not be renewed more than three (3) consecutive years.

B. **Ordaining.** When a licensee has proven himself to be worthy and called to a definite work in the service of the Lord, his church will then request by letter that he be examined for ordination by the Credentials Board of the Association. The examination will consist of questions taken from the National Association of Free Will Baptists Treatise concerning Free Will Baptist history, doctrine, practices, and church administration. If upon examination the applicant is found to be qualified to be an ordained Free Will Baptist minister, the Board will recommend that his home church conduct an ordination service at its convenience with at least one member of the Credentials Board participating.

C. We believe that in accordance with the teaching as found in the Scriptures that only men (males) will be licensed or ordained to the ministry of the church. I Timothy 2:12; I Timothy 3:1-2; Titus 1:6.

D. A minister from another denomination wishing to unite with this Association must first unite with a local church, and will be subject to the same examination procedures as required for ordination. He can expect to be examined closely on Free Will Baptist Doctrinal Beliefs and Practices as found in the National

Association of Free Will Baptists Treatise.

E. A minister moving into our union of churches from another Free Will Baptist Association belonging to the National Association of Free Will Baptists must be recommended by a letter of good standing from his former association. The church of which he has become a member and is pastoring must request by letter that he be examined by the Credentials Board. When the Association approves a recommendation from the Credentials Board that the brother be accepted in full fellowship as an ordained minister pending receipt of a letter of good standing from his former association, the clerk of the Association will request the letter.

F. From an ethical viewpoint, a licensed or ordained minister leaving the denomination to pastor a church in another denomination or an independent church must immediately surrender his Free Will Baptist papers to the Free Will Baptist Church of which he is a member. This is not to say that he cannot preach in another church of another faith while retaining his Free Will Baptist papers but he cannot be a pastor or hold membership in a church of another denomination and remain a Free Will Baptist Minister. If he fails to surrender his papers to the local church, then the Credentials Board will ask for his papers.

G. Reporting. All licensed or ordained ministers and deacons must be active members of a church in our union and have their names reported in the annual church letter to the Association at its July meeting. Ministers or deacons who are members of our churches but no longer active should also be reported in this letter.

H. Training and Preparation. It is recommended that ministers avail themselves of the best training possible to improve their natural abilities.

Section 2. The General Board shall be composed of a representative from each church which is a member of the Association. Each church shall appoint its representative; the representative can be a layperson or pastor. The name of the church representative shall be included in the annual church letter. Each representative shall serve for at least one year. The General Board shall choose its chairman and secretary.

The responsibilities of the General Board include the following:

A. Promoting peace and harmony among the ministers and churches belonging to the Association.

B. Carrying out the program of the Association between meetings.

C. Assisting the Credentials Board in examining churches requesting membership in the Association.

D. Selecting a speaker for each meeting of the Association.

E. Promoting an active missions program within the Association and working with the state board to promote state, national, and foreign missions.

F. Promoting Sunday School and C.T.S. through the Association.

H. Planning and promoting activities to actively involve youth at the local church, Association, state, and national levels.

I. Encouraging youth of the Association to seek God's guidance in selecting a vocation and promoting Free Will Baptist colleges as institutions of higher education.

J. Recommending Free Will Baptist Bible College or Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College students to receive tuition scholarships when there are no students from our Association attending those institutions.

K. Preparing and making recommendations at the annual meeting concerning appointments to the Credentials Board, officers of the Association, and budget allocation.

Section 3. Each board shall meet at least once each quarter. Any member absenting himself from all meetings for one year, except he be providentially hindered, shall be replaced at the annual meeting.

Article VII--New Churches

Newly constituted churches or missions wishing to be admitted to the Association should send delegates to a regularly scheduled meeting of the Association and petition by letter. If upon examination by the Credentials and General Boards the church or mission is found to be orthodox and orderly, the Boards will make a recommendation that it be received into the Association. Upon approval of the recommendation by those present at the meeting having the power to vote, the pastor and delegates of the church or mission will be welcomed into the Association by the right hand of fellowship.

Article VIII--Questions

No questions from any church shall come under the consideration of the Association unless it has been first considered by the church itself. The Association having no power to lord it over God's heritage, nor having any ecclesiastical power over the churches, reserves the right to withdraw from any church becoming disorderly.

Article IX--Motions

Every motion made and seconded shall come under the consideration of the Association except it be withdrawn by the member who made it.

Article X--Minutes

The Clerk shall record minutes of the October, January, April, and July meetings, prepare annual financial statements covering the fiscal year of the Association (July 1 of one year to June 30 of the following year), and have these and other relevant information printed and bound in a booklet to be distributed to the churches at the October quarterly meeting. Any corrections or additions found in the minutes should be reported to the Clerk who will then be responsible for promptly reporting them to the Association.

Article XI--Amendments

This constitution may be amended at any regular session of the Association by a two-thirds majority of those entitled to vote, providing proposed amendment is presented one quarterly meeting in advance.

(This constitution was adopted by the Little Missouri River Association on July 11, 1998.)

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.--John 1:1; I Corinthians 8:6; 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; John 1:14; Luke 1:26-27; Matthew 14:15; Mark 19:9-16; Luke 24:53; 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; John 16:8-14; Isaiah 63:10-12; Ephesians 4:30; Acts 8:17; Ezekiel 36:27; Joel 2:28.

4. **The Bible.** We believe the Bible which is composed of the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament, was given by inspiration of God, is our way bill from earth to Heaven and the one infallible rule of faith and practice.--II Peter 1:19-21; II Timothy 3:14-17; Daniel 10:21; Acts 1:16-17; Matthew 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 the 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.--Genesis 1:27; 2:16-17; Psalms 51:3; Genesis 6:5; Romans 5:17-19; John 3:6; Ephesians 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 inheritance into the glorified Kingdom above.--Hebrews 9:12; Galatians 3:12: 4:4-5; Titus 2:14; Hebrews 1:14; 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 laws 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 3; Matthew 19:13; I Corinthians 7:10; Luke 18:16; John 4:16; Psalm 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.--Matthew 3:14-16; 3:5-6; I Peter 3:21; John 2:23; Acts 10:47; Matthew 28:19.

10. **Communion and Feet Washing.** We believe that the Lord's Supper and 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; I Corinthians 11:20-29; John 13:1-17; Matthew 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; 21:12-18; Deuteronomy 5:12; Ezekiel 20:12; Matthew 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 purpose.--Jonah 1:1; Jeremiah 1:5; Mark 3:14; Acts 1:2-26; Matthew 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.--Ephesians 3:16-21; Hebrews 12:12-23; I Peter 2:5; Ephesians 2:20; Acts 2:47; Matthew 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 Thessalonians 1:1; Acts 1:11; John 7:10; Matthew 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 willfully refuse or neglect to perform their duty would backslide, if persistently continued, would be eternally lost.--II Peter 1:2; I Corinthians 9:12; II Peter 1:2; II Corinthians 9:12; II Peter 1:4-8; II Peter 2:2; Romans 9:35-39; Apostasy--II Peter 1:8-9; I Corinthians 10; Hebrews 12:15-17; I John 5:16; Hebrews 6:1-6; I Timothy 4:12; Hebrews 3:12; John 15:1-7; Matthew 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 is with the body.--Colossians 1:18-19; Matthew 16:18; Hebrews 12:23; Matthew 21:51; Ephesians 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 knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.--I Corinthians 6:11; II Thessalonians 2:13; Hebrews 12:14; Philippians 3:21; II Thessalonians 5:19-23; John 17:17-19; II Timothy 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 forever but the wicked shall go away into everlasting punishment.--Matthew 28:6; John 5:28-29; I Corinthians 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.--Philippians 1:23; Luke 24:23; Revelation 6:9; Luke 16:19-25; Matthew 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 Thessalonians 1:4-9; Revelation 14:9-13; Luke 16:23; Revelation 2:8; II Corinthians 5:10; Matthew 12:36-37; Revelation 20:13; Acts 17:31.

FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH COVENANT

Having given ourselves to God, by faith in Jesus 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 faithfully to discharge our obligations in reference to 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 in 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.

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.

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 the world.

And may the God of peace sanctify us wholly, and preserve us blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

RULES OF ORDER

1. At every sitting of the Association, business shall be opened and concluded by prayer by the Moderator or whomever he may request.

2. Ministers and their wives, deacons and their wives, church clerks, the Association clerk, and General Board members present are invited to seat, allowed to take part in debate 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 permission of the Moderator.

9. All questions shall be decided by a majority vote of all members present with exception to the Constitutional change.

10. No member shall absent himself without permission of the Moderator.

11. Before the end of each session of the Association, the General Board shall announce the speaker for the morning worship service of the next meeting. The host church shall be responsible for selecting an individual to give a devotion during the afternoon service of the meeting.

12. At any session of the Association during which a vote is to be taken on an amendment to the constitution, a count of all those present entitled to vote shall be taken in order to determine the number needed for a two-thirds majority.

13. The Moderator may read these Rules of Order before the business session at any regularly scheduled meeting, but should always read them before conducting business at the annual meeting held in July.