

Minutes

of the

Little Missouri River Association

of

Free Will Baptists Proceedings

of the

2000-2001 Quarterly Meetings

and the

123rd 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 2000-2001 FISCAL YEAR

Daisy Church: *Faye Epperson*

Glenwood Church: *Hurley Plyler*
Ezra Vaught

Hatfield Church: *Raymond McCoy*

Lodi Church: *Kelsie Turner*

LITTLE MISSOURI RIVER ASSOCIATION

BOARD MEMBERS AND OFFICERS FOR THE 2001-2002 FISCAL YEAR

Credentials Board

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

General Board

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

Officers

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

LITTLE MISSOURI RIVER ASSOCIATION

CHURCHES, PASTORS, AND CLERKS

JUNE 30, 2001

<u>Church</u>	<u>Pastor</u>	<u>Clerk</u>
Arkadelphia	No Pastor	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	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
Heritage	Reverend Ron Parker 868 Melba Drive Shreveport, LA 71118 318-687-8637	Mike Birmingham 2129 Betty Street Shreveport, LA 71118 318-686-2077
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 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 14, 2000 QUARTERLY MEETING

AT THE GLENWOOD FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

Ten O'Clock Service

Our moderator, Brother Kenny Fant, welcomed everyone. The following individuals then made the prayer requests indicated.

- Brother Terrell Holland Jean Smith who has been in the hospital for nine weeks, families of sailors killed in Yemen
- Sister Phyllis Ary Charlee Morrison, a student at Ouachita Baptist University who is in critical condition
- Brother Kenny Fant Elderly lady in his church with cancer, Brenda's uncle, and his aunt
- Carolyn Reid Her daughter who may have lupus

There were several unspoken requests. Brother Kevin Jewell took the requests before the Lord in prayer.

It was reported as a praise item that DeLoy Jester was doing better.

Brother David Taylor led in the singing of "That Glad Reunion Day" and "Just Over in the Glory Land;" Sister Debe Taylor played the piano.

Brother Eddie, our Clerk, asked that pastors or church representatives pick up copies of the 1999-2000 Associational minutes for distribution to their church members. He indicated that 33 members were added to Associational churches, 13 members were lost, and 31 were baptized during the 1999-2000 reporting period, and that receipts from churches increased by over 13 percent.

Brother Eddie then read the church letters. All of our churches were represented except Hatfield, but its letter was received in the mail in the week following the quarterly meeting. The Lake Hills church requested that the license of Brother James Mitchell be transferred to the Association.

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 "He Keeps Me Singing" was sung.

Brother Kenny asked Emogene Reid to serve as chairperson of the Resolutions Committee. He requested that Sister Lisa Miller and Sister Tina Shaw also serve on the committee.

Brother Kevin Jewell, a member of the A.C.T.S. 1:8 Task Force, reported that receipts were falling short of the goal set for the year. He encouraged individuals, churches, and the Association to rally in giving during the last three months of the year.

Brother Bob Thompson, State Youth Director, stressed that a little in man's sight can be made much by God. He cited the example of a Scottish evangelist who preached a revival in which only one

ten year old boy was saved, but that boy was David Livingston! Brother Bob indicated that four years ago five teens answered the call to preach; four are at our Bible colleges now. He indicated that the bath houses at Camp Beaverfork had been finished. Brother Bob thanked the Association for the financial support given by the Association to his two sons who are attending Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College, and urged the Association to continue to invest in the lives of young people.

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

Eleven O'Clock Service

Brother David Taylor led in the singing of "Look and Live" and "What A Day That Will Be" while Sister Debe Taylor played the piano. There were 44 present for the worship service.

Brother Jimmy Tolleson brought a special, "There Is Power In The Blood," to a tape accompaniment.

Brother Kerry Gandy, who has started his third year as missionary to the Maumelle Church, thanked the Association for its prayers and financial support. He also expressed his appreciation to Brother Lew and Sister Carolyn Reid who have moved into the Maumelle area and have been active in his church.

Brother Kerry reported that the Maumelle Church had 83 in its worship service last Sunday. The church has 50 in Sunday School, and runs in the 40s on Wednesday night. The church supports A.C.T.S. 1:8 and the coop plan.

A faithful family who was involved in the music program at the Maumelle Church began to teach a doctrine contrary to Free Will Baptists. Brother Kerry confronted the family and they have left the church. However, a family of four came to the church last Sunday seeking to get their lives right and join a church.

Brother Kerry brought a message entitled "When the Going Gets Tough" based on II Timothy 4: 6-8, 16-18. After reading the scripture, Brother Kerry asked Brother David Taylor to lead in prayer. Brother Kerry then related a story of Zeke and Zeb who built a bungee jumping tower. When they opened for business, a crowd gathered but no one bought any tickets. Zeb decided to demonstrate. The first time he came back with his clothes torn. The second time he was bloody. The third time he had cuts and contusions. Zeke asked Zeb, "What's wrong?" Zeb replied, "I don't know, but what's a pinata?"

Paul, like Zeb, was a human pinata. Paul had been through many trials and adverse circumstances, but in spite of his weariness, there was hope in his voice. He wanted as many people as possible to hear the gospel. Paul knew that God would stick by him all the way, and that his lifetime of faithfulness would be rewarded.

Sometimes we give way to fatalism and despair. God wants us to look past the hurt and look at the

big picture. God did not promise that we would be leading at the half but that we would ultimately win.

Brother Kerry closed his message in prayer.

It was announced that the Auxiliary would meet during the lunch hour. The Credentials and General Boards will also meet. Brother Joe Ray dismissed us in prayer and asked the blessing on the noon meal.

Saturday Afternoon

Brother James Mitchell led in the singing of "The Lily of the Valley;" Sister Debe Taylor played the piano.

Brother David Taylor brought a devotion based on Ecclesiastes 5:1. He pointed out that often we go to church out of habit. Sometimes we go to church because it is a security blanket—it makes us feel better. Other times we go to see what we can do for God.

We should go to church to hear God. True hearing comes from the heart, and requires that we give God our attention, our affection, and our affirmation. Exodus 3:5 was cited during the devotion.

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 we give the host church a rising vote of thanks for the good noon meal." Those in favor stood to their feet and the motion carried.

Sister Phyllis Ary, Secretary of the General Board, reported the following fund balances as of September 30, 2000.

• General Fund	\$3,757.54
• Missions Fund	697.52
• Christian Education Fund—Education Fund	4,717.58
• Christian Education Fund—General Fund	367.95

The General Board recommended that \$1,000 be given to the A.C.T.S. 1:8 Plan from the General Fund, and that Brother Terrell Holland be the speaker at the January meeting.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the report of the General Board and act on it item by item. The recommendation to give \$1,000 from the General Fund to A.C.T.S. 1:8 was voted and carried, as was the recommendation that Brother Terrell be the speaker at the January meeting.

Brother Joe Ray Short, Chairperson of the Credentials Board, reported that the Board had examined Brother James Mitchell and recommended that he be accepted as a licensed minister of the Little Missouri River Association. The Board also recommended that the eight months from February to October of the Year 2000 be counted as time served by Brother James.

A motion was made to accept the report of the Credentials Board. The motion was seconded and carried.

Brother Joe Ray suggested that the Association have a pie supper to raise money to support the A.C.T.S. 1:8 Plan, and that a committee be formed to oversee it. A motion to that effect was made and seconded, and the motion carried. Brother Joe Ray Short, Brother Kevin Jewell, Sister Lisa Miller, and Sister Loretta Reid were named to the committee to oversee plans for the pie supper.

Brother Bob Blake asked everyone to pray for the gambling issue on the state ballot; he encouraged everyone to go and vote. The following announcements were then made.

- On October 24 at 6:00 p.m., a drama, "Tears Touched by Jesus," will be presented by the ladies of the Nashville Free Will Baptist Church.
- The Lakes Hills Church will sponsor a Harvest Carnival from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. on October 28. The church will be in revival each night at 7:00 p.m. from November 12-15; Brother Wade Jernigan will be the evangelist.
- Tickets for the "2000 Woman" in Little Rock are available.

Prayer was requested for Brother Rufus Pixley who has cancer of the bone. Prayer was asked for the Capitol City Free Will Baptist Church in Little Rock; Brother R. H. McCuin will be the new pastor of the church.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn. The motion carried. Brother John Plyler dismissed us in prayer.

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 13, 2001 MEETING

AT THE DAISY FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

Ten O'Clock Service

Brother Kenny Fant, our moderator, welcomed everyone and asked for prayer requests. The following requests were mentioned:

Charles Jameson—artery surgery yesterday

Sherri Jewell's Dad—heart attack

Kevin Jewell's Mom—undergoing tests

Families of J. W. Blanks, Hurley Plyler, Ezra Vaught, and DeLoy Jester—Deaths

Ian Cosh (employee of Ouachita Baptist University)—large tumor removed; waiting to determine whether it was malignant or benign.

Prayer was also requested for all the Associational churches. Brother James Mitchell brought the requests before the Lord in prayer.

Brother David Taylor led in the singing of "Blessed Assurance" and "Count Your Blessings;" Sister Karen Kirkpatrick played the piano.

Brother Eddie Ary read the church letters. All our churches were represented by letter except Glenwood (its letter was received and read later in the service). Brother Terrell Holland indicated that Sister Loretta Reid, Sister Emogene Reid, Sister Edith Small, Brother Bill Brewer, and Brother Verlin Price would serve as Glenwood Church delegates.

A motion was made to receive the church letters and seat the delegates. The motion was seconded and carried. "Victory in Jesus" was sung as delegates were given the right hand of fellowship.

Brother Kenny asked Sister Emogene Reid, Sister Lisa Miller, and Sister Loretta Reid to serve on the Resolutions Committee.

Brother Kevin Jewell, a member of the A.C.T.S. 1:8 Task Force, asked the churches of the Association to do what they could to support A.C.T.S. 1:8. He remarked, "We're talking souls, not money." He thanked the members of the Association for what had been done in 2000, and asked the pastor or other representative of each church to pick up some brochures about the A.C.T.S. 1:8 Plan for sharing with their members. He indicated that "we must work while it is day, for the night cometh when no man can work."

Brother Hursel Parker dismissed us in prayer for a brief recess before the morning worship service.

11:00 O'Clock Service

Brother Kevin Jewell asked that Sister Kandy Turner and Brother Matt Turner, who had just arrived at the meeting, be allowed to serve as delegates for the Daisy Church.

"Because He Lives" and "Sunlight" were led by Brother David Taylor as Sister Karen Kirkpatrick played the piano. There were approximately 40 present for the service.

Sisters Loretta and Emogene Reid brought a special, "The Family of God;" Sister Judy Short accompanied them on the piano.

At the completion of the song service, the Glenwood Church letter, which had arrived during the singing, was read by Brother Eddie Ary.

Brother Terrell Holland, Pastor of the Glenwood Church, read Romans 10:1-13 and brought a message entitled, "Paul's Passion for Souls." He emphasized that as Christ came to seek and save the lost, so must we. As a Christian, we are a "small Christ." We must share Christ with everyone, regardless of the color of their skin. Paul had a great desire that the Jews would be saved, but he ministered to others as well. We like Paul (and David) need to have such a compassion for lost souls that we weep over them. If we are ashamed to confess Christ before others, He will not confess us before His Father. Brother Terrell closed his message by encouraging us to have the passion of Paul for souls.

Scriptures cited during the message were Luke 19:10, John 20:21, John 4:4, Acts 20:31, Psalm 126:5-6, John 3:1-3, Acts 22:1-4, Galatians 3:24, John 3:30, John 1:29, Phillipians 4:13, Matthew 10:31-33, Ephesians 2:8-9, Romans 16:1, John 3:16, Revelation 3:5, Matthew 11:20-30, John 1:12, and Revelation 3:20.

It was announced that the General Board needed to meet during the lunch hour. Brother Joe Ray Short then dismissed us in prayer and asked the blessing on the noon meal.

Saturday Afternoon

Brother David Taylor led the congregation in the singing of "When I See the Blood" and "Tell Me the Story of Jesus." Sister Karen Kirkpatrick played the piano.

Brother Cecil Fant brought the afternoon devotion. He read Matthew 7:7-11 and emphasized that we must call on the Lord for the things we need. If we don't call, we won't receive. All good things we get come from God. Often we don't appreciate what God has given us, so he takes things away from us; the loss of electrical power during the recent ice storm was cited as an example. Brother Cecil closed by thanking God for the many blessings God had given him.

Business Session

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

Sister Emogene Reid, Chairperson of the Resolutions Committee, presented a resolution thanking the Daisy Church for its hospitality and the good noon meal. She encouraged us to invite those in our church who don't attend the quarterly meetings.

A motion was made and seconded to receive the report of the Resolutions Committee. Those in favor stood to their feet and the motion carried.

Sister Phyllis Ary, Secretary of the General Board, reported the following fund balances as of December 31, 2000.

General Fund	\$3,501.38
Missions Fund	956.23
Christian Education--Education Fund	3,831.37
Christian Education--General Fund	<u>451.95</u>
Total	<u>\$8,740.93</u>

Sister Phyllis presented two General Board recommendations:

1. The Board recommends that each Associational church raise money for the Maumelle Mission and bring the funds to the April quarterly meeting.
2. The Board recommends that the April quarterly meeting be held as scheduled on April 14, even though that weekend is Easter.

As points of information, Sister Phyllis indicated that Brother Hursel Parker reported to the Board that the State Missions Board is looking for a place to locate a mission church, and that Brother James Mitchell would be the speaker at the April quarterly meeting.

A motion was made to receive the recommendations of the General Board and act on them item by item. The motion was seconded and carried. Each of the two recommendations was voted and carried.

Sister Karen Kirkpatrick asked prayer for the Arkadelphia Church which is without a pastor.

It was announced that the funeral of J. W. Blanks would be on Monday, January 15, at 11:00 a.m. in Batesville.

The Lake Hills Church will be having a revival April 8-11. Reverend Melvin Worthington will be the evangelist.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn; those in favor stood to their feet and the motion carried. The meeting was concluded with prayer.

MINUTES OF THE APRIL 14, 2001

QUARTERLY MEETING AT THE ARKADELPHIA FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

10:00 O'Clock Service

Brother Kenny Fant welcomed everyone to the meeting, and asked for prayer requests. Prayer was asked for the following individuals:

Kevin Jewell who is suffering from a kidney stone,
Miranda Story who had a malignant knot in her neck and will be undergoing surgery
Monday, April 16, to remove the rest of her thyroid,
The sister of a friend of Brother and Sister Taylor; the sister is steeped in drugs,
Wanda Shirley who has lung cancer,
Sonny Dunn's friend who has MS.

Brother Sonny Dunn brought the requests to the Lord in prayer.

Brother David Taylor led in the singing of "At the Cross" and "Since Jesus Came Into My Heart" as Sister Leah Kirkpatrick played the piano.

Brother Eddie Ary, our Clerk, read the church letters. All our churches were represented except the Hatfield Church (its letter was received in the mail during the week following the quarterly meeting). A letter from the Heritage Free Will Baptist Church of Shreveport, Louisiana requesting that the church be examined for membership in the Association was also read.

A motion was made and seconded to receive the church letters and seat the delegates. The motion carried. Delegates were given the right hand of fellowship as "Bring Them In" was sung.

Brother Kenny asked that Sister Emogene Reid serve as chairperson of the Resolutions Committee. He requested that Sister Beth Shaw and Sister Leah Wright also serve on the committee.

Brother Ron Parker, Pastor of the Heritage Free Will Baptist Church, thanked the Association for helping financially when the mission was raising money to pave its parking lot, as well as the regular contributions made to his account.

He reported that the Shreveport Mission had gone self-supporting in October, and has been able to pay its bills. On March 24, 2001, the mission was organized as a Free Will Baptist church (the mission church had held its first service on March 24, 1991). The church had a record attendance of 211 on March 25, 2001, Roll Call Sunday.

Brother Ron indicated that if the church ceased to exist, its assets would revert to Free Will Baptist National Home Missions. He closed by introducing his family who had accompanied him to the meeting.

Brother Kenny expressed his pleasure at having Brother Ron and his family in the service. He stressed that the organizational service of the Heritage Free Will Baptist Church was a great service as the Spirit of God was present.

Brother Kenny announced that due to the fact he was performing a wedding for Brother Kevin Jewell (who is sick), Brother Joe Ray Short would be moderating the afternoon service, since Assistant Moderator Larry Denton was not present.

To familiarize everyone with the procedure for admitting new churches to the Association, Brother Joe Ray read Article VII, as well as Article IV, Section 1 of the Association constitution. The Heritage Free Will Baptist Church was then allowed to appoint five delegates to our meeting.

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

11:00 O'Clock Service

Our service began with the singing of "I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me" and "I Am Thine O Lord," led by Brother David Taylor; Sister Leah Wright played the piano. There were approximately 50 present for the service.

Sister Elaine Parker and Sister Sandie Crosson from the Heritage Free Will Baptist Church brought a special "Jesus Rescued Me;" Sister Elaine played the piano.

Sister Debe Taylor and Brother David Taylor sang "We Shall See Jesus" as Sister Debe played the piano.

Brother James Mitchell, Youth Pastor of the Lake Hills Free Will Baptist Church, brought the morning message based on I Corinthians 2:1-5. After praying, Brother James indicated that he had attended Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College. He asked that we pray for his ministry at the Lake Hills Church.

Brother James related how while playing paint ball, sweat caused his safety glasses to fog up. As a result, he lost his focus and began to shoot members of his own team. Often we as Christians lose our focus. Paul was focused on servanthood and displayed the following characteristics.

1. Determination (verse 2). A baseball player, who had to get up at 5:00 a.m. and run, focused on something in the distance to help him keep going. Paul focused on Jesus Christ, and made up his mind to stay focused.
2. Dedication (verse 3). Paul trusted and relied on God. God knows our weaknesses, and can use them to allow others to see God's hand moving in our lives. Peter, Abraham, Moses, Thomas, and Gideon all had weaknesses but were used mightily by God.
3. Demonstration (verses 4-5). Paul served Christ to see lives changed and bring glory to God. Today our focus must be on Jesus Christ, rather than programs. We can't save people, only the movement of God's Spirit can.

We must be willing to serve even when we're not seen. We must humble ourselves and focus on being effective servants of Jesus Christ.

Brother James closed his message with prayer. Scriptures cited during the message were Psalm 2:11-12 and Phillipians 2:5-11.

It was announced that the Ladies Auxiliary, Credentials Board, and General Board needed to meet during the lunch hour. Brother Ron Parker dismissed us in prayer and asked the blessing on the noon meal.

Saturday Afternoon

Brother David Taylor led in the singing of "In My Heart There Rings a Melody" and "Beulah Land" as Sister Leah Kirkpatrick played the piano.

Brother Eddie Ary read a humorous passage describing the perfect pastor. For the afternoon devotion, he read a true story about a man, his son, and his son's friend who were sailing off the Pacific Coast. A storm prevented them from getting back to shore; in fact, it got so bad that their boat was capsized. The father managed to grab a rescue line, and realizing that he could not save both his son and his son's friend, had to make an excruciating decision. The father knew his son was a Christian, and that his son's friend was not. He yelled to his son, "I love you," as he threw the lifeline to his son's friend. The son's body was never recovered. The son's friend later became a Christian and accepted the call to be a pastor.

Like the father in this story, God sacrificed his Son, but not for just one person; He was willing to let His Son die so that everyone who has ever lived on the earth could have the opportunity to be saved. God's love is so great that we can't comprehend it. He stands with a life line ready to rescue all of us. All we have to do is take hold of the life line and commit our lives to Him.

Business Session

Brother Joe Ray Short declared us in conference for the transaction of business. Brother Dwight Kirkpatrick led in a prayer asking God's blessing on the business meeting.

Sister Emogene Reid, Chairperson of the Resolutions Committee, presented one resolution: "Be it resolved, that the Arkadelphia Church be given a rising vote of thanks for the good food and fellowship."

A motion was made and seconded to receive the report of the Resolutions Committee. Those in favor stood to their feet and the motion carried.

Sister Phyllis Ary, reporting for both the Credentials Board and the Executive Board, indicated that the Heritage Free Will Baptist Church of Shreveport, Louisiana had been examined during a joint meeting of the boards. The boards enthusiastically moved that the church be received in full

fellowship with the Association, and that the credentials of Brother Ron Parker also be received. The motion was seconded and carried. Those present from the Heritage Free Will Baptist Church were given a welcoming hand shake into the Association.

Sister Phyllis reported the following fund balances as of March 31, 2001.

General Fund	\$4,447.51
Missions Fund	1,121.91
Christian Education--Education Fund	4,494.06
Christian Education--General Fund	<u>482.65</u>
Total Fund Balances	<u>\$10,546.13</u>

Sister Phyllis presented the following recommendations of the General Board.

- Give \$1,000 from the Christian Education--Education Fund to the Oasis Campus Ministry at Arkansas Tech in Russelville.
- Give \$1,000.80 from the General Fund to bring the total offering to the Maumelle Mission to \$3,075. (Associational churches gave a total of \$2,074.20)
- Designate Brother Ron Parker as the speaker at the annual meeting in July.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the report of the General Board and act on it item by item. A vote was taken on each recommendation, and all carried.

Brother Ron mentioned that due to attendance at the annual meeting of the National Association of Free Will Baptists, he would be unable to be present at the July 14 Annual Associational Meeting. A few others indicated that they were in the same situation. A motion was made to change the date of the annual meeting from July 14 to July 7. The motion was seconded and carried.

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

The following revivals were announced.

- Daisy--April 23-27
- Glenwood--April 23-26
- Pleasant Grove--June 11-15

Brother Hursel Parker dismissed our meeting in prayer.

MINUTES OF THE JULY 7, 2001

ANNUAL MEETING AT THE LAKE HILLS FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

10:00 O'Clock Service

Brother Kenny Fant welcomed everyone to the service. The following prayer requests were mentioned:

- Our churches—that they will grow and experience revival.
- Sister Jo Ann Holland's great nephew who is having seizures.

Brother Kevin Jewell took the requests to the Lord in prayer.

Brother Allen Michau led in the singing of "I'll Fly Away;" Sister Elwen McLean played the piano.

Brother Eddie Ary indicated that a letter had been received from Free Will Baptist Bible College thanking the Association for its support. He also mentioned a letter received from the State Executive Board of the Arkansas State Association of Free Will Baptists announcing that a retirement gift was going to be presented to Brother David Joslin during the state meeting in August. Churches, associations, and individuals are invited to make monetary contributions.

Brother Eddie then read a letter from Brother Bradley Taylor thanking the Association for the financial support provided the last two years while he was attending Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College. Brother Bradley apologized for his lower grade point average during the spring, 2001 semester, explaining that he had a heavier course load and attempted to work four part time jobs. He closed by requesting that the Association continue to provide the tuition scholarship during the coming school year. Brother Bradley is currently serving as children's pastor at the Calvary Free Will Baptist Church in Norman, Oklahoma.

Brother Eddie then read the church letters. All our churches were represented by letter. The following churches indicated delegates to the state meeting on August 7-8: Daisy—Lisa Miller, Glenwood—Jo Ann Holland, and Lake Hills—David Taylor.

A motion was made and seconded to receive the church letters and seat the delegates. The motion carried. The delegates were given the right hand of fellowship as "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" was sung.

Brother Kenny appointed the following individuals to the committee indicated.

Resolutions Committee:

Sister Emogene Reid, Chairperson
Sister Nancy Shelton
Sister Charlotte Jones

Obituary Committee:

Sister Carolyn Monroe, Chairperson
Sister Phyllis Ary
Sister Vennis Parker

Sunday School Committee:

Sister Brenda Fant, Chairperson
Sister Vicki Belcher
Sister Linda Denton

Temperance Committee:

Brother Sonny Dunn, Chairperson
Brother Jim McClain
Brother Larry Denton

Digest Committee:

Sister Lisa Miller, Chairperson
Sister Debe Taylor
Sister Catherine Smiley

Brother Kenny read a letter from the Daisy Church concerning a youth event called "One Day," which will be held at the church beginning at 7:00 p.m. on August 10 and ending at 7:00 p.m. on August 11. Youth in grades 7-12 are invited to come and focus on Christ for 24 hours. On August 11 a yard sale is scheduled, with the money raised going to the A.C.T.S. 1:8 Plan.

Brother Sonny Dunn dismissed us in prayer for a brief recess before the morning worship service.

Eleven O'Clock Service

Our worship service began with the singing of "Since Jesus Came Into My Heart," led by Brother Allen; Sister Elwen played the piano. There were 61 present for the service.

The Lake Hills choir sang a medley consisting of "I Will Arise and Go to Jesus," "It's Shouting Time in Heaven," and "Come, Ye Sinner." Sister Elwen played the piano.

The congregation then sang happy birthday to Brother Hursel Parker, who celebrated his 81st birthday recently.

Sister Nancy Shelton sang a special "I Will Glory in the Cross" with a tape accompaniment.

Brother Kenny expressed appreciation to the Lake Hills Church for the beautiful music, and turned the service over to Brother Ron Parker, the morning speaker.

Brother Ron read I Samuel 17:1-11, and led in prayer prior to his message. He stressed that David had a giant in his life, and so have we. We will more than likely have more giants in the future since the Devil uses them to keep us from effectively serving God.

David fought the giant in his life in the following eight ways.

1. David looked for a solution. He did not let the giant discourage him.
2. He got rid of the "I can't do it attitude." God doesn't call the qualified, He calls the willing, and then qualifies them.
3. David was strengthened by the Spirit of God. Just as it did David, the Holy Spirit will enable us to fight anything the Devil throws at us.
4. David was strengthened by his past experience. He had faced some giant size enemies before, and God had delivered him.
5. David was strengthened by God's Word. He loved God's Word and hid it in his heart.
6. David ventured something great for God. Brother Ron related the story of a lady confined to a wheel chair who started a Sunday School class with only two children, and because of her faith and boldness for God wound up with 40 to 50 bus loads of children.
7. David called the problem dead. He came to the giant in the power of the Lord, and thus knew the giant was defeated.
8. David cut off the giant's head. As David did, we must get completely rid of our giant (problem).

Scriptures cited during the message were I Samuel 17:33, Phillipians 4:13, Acts 1:8, I Samuel 17:32-37 and 45-47, and Psalm 119:11, 28.

Brother Ron closed by asking all those present to bow their heads and close their eyes. He asked those with giants in their lives to raise their hands. Brother Ron prayed a prayer of victory on behalf of those who had raised their hands.

Brother Kenny stressed the importance of responding to the Spirit of God like David did. He related how he had been called to visit a survivalist who had an operation. Brother Kenny didn't go when

first asked, but called the family the next day and indicated that he would come for a visit. During the visit with the man, Brother Kenny was able to win him to Christ.

Brother Doyle Hammock dismissed us in prayer and asked the blessing on the noon meal.

Saturday Afternoon

Brother Allen led in the singing of "I Am Resolved" and "Look and Live" as Sister Elwen played the piano.

Brother David Taylor brought the afternoon devotion based on Proverbs 4:1-13. He emphasized that James 1:5 instructs us to ask God for wisdom. Brother Taylor listed seven benefits we receive when we embrace wisdom.

1. Wisdom will preserve us (verse 6).
2. Wisdom will keep (or protect) us (verse 6).
3. Wisdom will promote us (verse 8).
4. Wisdom will bring honor to us (verse 8).
5. Wisdom will put us in a well-favored position (verse 9).
6. Wisdom will be a crown of glory to us (verse 9).
7. Wisdom will provide power for life (verse 13).

Brother David closed his devotion with prayer.

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 noon meal, and the hospitality extended to us."

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: Faye Epperson of the Daisy Church, Hurley Plyler and Ezra Vaught of the Glenwood Church, Raymond McCoy of the Hatfield Church, and Kelsie Turner of the

Lodi Church. No deaths were reported by the Arkadelphia, Heritage, Lake Hills, Mt. Joy, and Pleasant Grove churches.

A motion to receive the report and dismiss the committee was made. The motion was seconded and carried. Brother Kevin Jewell lead in a prayer of remembrance of the deceased.

Sunday School Committee—

Sister Brenda Fant, Chairperson of the Sunday School Committee, indicated that the nine churches of the Association had a Sunday School enrollment of 432 compared to 396 last year (when there were only eight churches), a 9 percent increase. (Excluding the Sunday School enrollment of Heritage, the new member of the Association, the other eight churches of the Association had an enrollment of 382 compared to 396 last year, a 3.5 percent decrease.)

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

Temperance Committee—

Brother Sonny Dunn, 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 Lisa Miller, Chairperson of the Digest Committee, reported the following statistics for the July 1, 2000 to June 30, 2001 fiscal year.

Churches	9
Church Membership	837
Sunday School Enrollment	432
C.T.S. Enrollment	125
Woman's Auxiliary Enrollment	75
Master's Men Enrollment	0
Ordained Ministers	9
Licensed Ministers	2
Value of Property	\$2,825,000.00
Total Members Added	40
Total Members Lost	13
Total Members Baptized	13
Full-Time Pastors	4
Part-Time Pastors	4

No Pastor Currently	1
Churches—City	5
Churches—Rural	4
Total Income.....	\$449,715.03
Number of Ordained Deacons	23
Number of Churches with Parsonages.....	6
Number of Churches without Parsonages	3

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

General Board—

Sister Phyllis Ary, Secretary of the General Board, indicated that the balances of the various funds of the Association were as follows as of June 30, 2001.

• General Fund	\$4,274.81
• Missions Fund	1,141.58
• Christian Education—Education Fund	3,093.78
• Christian Education—General Fund.....	<u>521.65</u>
Total Fund Balances.....	<u>\$9,031.82</u>

She then presented the following recommendations of the Board.

1. Recommended members of the Credentials Board: Brother David Taylor—five year position; Brother Ron Parker—four year position.
2. Recommended officers for the coming fiscal year: Brother Kenny Fant—Moderator, Brother Larry Denton—Assistant Moderator, Sister Judy Short—Clerk, and Brother Eddie Ary—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—7.5 percent, Maumelle Mission—10 percent, Norman Richards—5 percent, Missions Fund—2.5 percent.
4. Recommended donation of \$1,500 from the General Fund to Hillsdale Free Will Baptist Bible College, \$100 of which is to be contributed to the “Buy a Brick Campaign.” The General Board encourages the churches of the Association to become involved in the campaign.
5. Recommended disbursements from the Christian Education—Education Fund: Provide a tuition scholarship to Brother Bradley Taylor in an amount equal to \$100 per semester hour completed at Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College.

6. Recommended providing \$680 from the General Fund toward the finishing work on the bookshelves Brother Hursel Parker is preparing as a gift for Brother David Joslin.
7. Recommended that Brother Kenny Fant be the speaker at the October quarterly meeting.

Sister Phyllis reported that the composition, as well as the officers of the General Board, would stay the same during the new fiscal year.

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 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 officers. 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 \$1,500 donation from the General Fund to Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College, with \$100 of the donation to be contributed to the "Buy a Brick Campaign." The motion carried.
- Item 5 A motion was made to accept the Board's recommendation of a \$100 per hour scholarship for Brother Bradley Taylor. The motion was seconded and carried.
- Item 6 A motion was made to accept the Board's recommendation that the Association as its retirement gift to Brother David Joslin pay \$680 from the General Fund for the cost of the finishing work on the bookshelves that Brother Hursel Parker is preparing for him. The motion was seconded and carried.
- Item 7 A motion was made and seconded to accept the Board's recommendation of Brother Kenny Fant as the speaker for the October quarterly meeting. The motion carried.

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 13	Shreveport
January 12	Glenwood
April 13	Lodi
July 13	Daisy

Brother James Mitchell, Brother Mike Birmingham, Sister Billie Ruth Fant, Sister Vennis Parker, and Sister Catherine Smiley volunteered to be the Association's delegates to the state meeting on August 7-8 in Conway.

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

The following announcements and prayer requests were made.

- Brother Bob Thompson will be leaving his position at the Youth Camp to work at Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College.
- The youth meeting, "One Day," will be at the Daisy Church on August 10-11.
- The Daisy Church will be having Vacation Bible School July 9-13.
- Pray for the Barnes Family in Mena; the family has a two year old girl and a three year old boy, both of whom have stomach cancer.
- Pray for the physical and spiritual condition of Lorraine Tilley, who has breast and bone cancer.
- Pray for Mark and Tracey Thrash whose 20 month old child drown.

Brother James Mitchell brought the requests to the Lord and dismissed us in prayer.

LITTLE MISSOURI RIVER ASSOCIATION

RECEIPTS (OF ALL FUNDS) BY TYPE

FOR PERIOD JULY 1, 2000 TO JUNE 30, 2001

Coop Tithes.	\$23,584.82
State Missions (Includes Oasis Campus Ministries).	2,958.27
Home Missions.	3,170.97
Foreign Missions	7,344.35
Free Will Baptist Bible College.	767.84
Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College.	420.00
Fees	1,025.00
Offerings--Quarterly Meetings.	237.70
Interest Earned.	<u>243.07</u>
Total Receipts	<u>\$39,752.02</u>
Total Receipts, July 1, 1999 to June 30, 2000.	<u>\$36,607.17</u>
Percentage Increase.	<u>8.59%</u>

LITTLE MISSOURI RIVER ASSOCIATION

RECEIPTS BY CHURCHES

FOR PERIOD JULY 1, 2000 TO JUNE 30, 2001

	<u>Coop</u>	<u>FM</u>	<u>HM</u>	<u>SM</u>	<u>FWBBC</u>	<u>HFWBC</u>	<u>Fees</u>	<u>Total</u>
Arkadelphia	\$ 1,787.00	\$1,186.00	\$ 530.00	\$ 645.00	\$ 370.00	\$320.00	\$ 135.00	\$ 4,973.00
Daisy	11,003.00	4,304.44	980.00	577.80			135.00	17,000.24
Glenwood	4,927.97	1,016.91		692.40	397.84	100.00	80.00	7,215.12
Hatfield	1,089.48			500.00			135.00	1,724.48
Lake Hills				10.00			135.00	145.00
Lodi	1,628.49	37.00	347.57	333.07			135.00	2,481.13
Mt. Joy			1,313.40				135.00	1,448.40
Pleasant Grove	<u>3,148.88</u>	<u>800.00</u>		<u>200.00</u>			<u>135.00</u>	<u>4,283.88</u>
Totals	<u>\$23,584.82</u>	<u>\$7,344.35</u>	<u>\$3,170.97</u>	<u>\$2,958.27</u>	<u>\$ 767.84</u>	<u>\$420.00</u>	<u>\$1,025.00</u>	<u>\$39,271.25</u>
Receipts from Churches, July 1, 1999 to June 30, 2000								<u>\$36,058.35</u>
Percentage Increase								<u>8.91%</u>

FM = Foreign Missions

HM = Home Missions

SM = State Missions

FWBBC = Free Will Baptist Bible College

HFWBC = Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College

LITTLE MISSOURI RIVER ASSOCIATION
 BREAKDOWN OF CHURCH FOREIGN MISSIONS GIVING
 FOR PERIOD JULY 1, 2000 TO JUNE 30, 2001

A.C.T.S. 1:8 Plan.	\$6,405.35
J. Combs	270.00
Haiti.	249.00
Nichols.	135.00
J. Banks	125.00
Midgett.	110.00
Deeds.	<u>50.00</u>
Total.	<u>\$7,344.35</u>

LITTLE MISSOURI RIVER ASSOCIATION
 BREAKDOWN OF CHURCH HOME MISSIONS GIVING
 FOR PERIOD JULY 1, 2000 TO JUNE 30, 2001

Parker	\$1,194.27
Parker (Church Debt)	50.00
N. Richards.	1,076.70
Doggett.	240.00
Reynolds	120.00
Harvey	90.00
Harvey Land Fund	10.00
Crosby	60.00
Mertz.	30.00
Benjamin Randall Offering.	<u>300.00</u>
Total.	<u>\$3,170.97</u>

LITTLE MISSOURI RIVER ASSOCIATION
 BREAKDOWN OF CHURCH STATE MISSIONS GIVING
 FOR PERIOD JULY 1, 2000 TO JUNE 30, 2001

Maumelle Mission	\$2,713.27
Maumelle Payoff Project.	120.00
Oasis Campus Ministries.	<u>125.00</u>
Total.	<u>\$2,958.27</u>

LITTLE MISSOURI RIVER ASSOCIATION

DISBURSEMENTS (FROM ALL FUNDS)

FOR PERIOD JULY 1, 2000 TO JUNE 30, 2001

<u>Disbursement</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Coop	Arkansas Free Will Baptists (40% of Coop Tithe Receipts of \$23,584.82)	\$ 9,433.93
State Missions	State Missions (10% of Coop Tithe Receipts of \$23,584.82 donated to the Maumelle Mission, plus \$1,000.80 donated to the Maumelle Mission from the General Fund, plus \$1,000 donated to Oasis Campus Ministries from the Christian Education-Education Fund, plus \$2,958.27 received from churches)	7,317.55
Home Missions	Arkansas Free Will Baptists (5% of Coop Tithe Receipts of \$23,584.82 donated to Norman Richards, plus \$3,170.97 received from churches)	4,350.21
Foreign Missions	Arkansas Free Will Baptists (7.5% of Coop Tithe Receipts of \$23,584.82 donated to the A.C.T.S. 1:8 Plan, plus \$1,000 donated to the A.C.T.S. 1:8 Plan from the General Fund, plus \$7,344.35 received from churches)	10,113.21
Bible College	Arkansas Free Will Baptists (10% of Coop Tithe Receipts of \$23,584.82 plus \$767.84 received from churches)	3,126.32

DISBURSEMENTS (FROM ALL FUNDS) (CONTINUED)

Hillsdale	Arkansas Free Will Baptists (\$1,000 donated from the Christian Education-Education Fund and \$420 received from churches)	1,420.00
State Dues	Arkansas Free Will Baptists	640.00
Clerk Services	Eddie Ary	900.00
Printing of Minutes	S & H Printing	211.12
Tuition Scholarship— Bradley Taylor	Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College	2,400.00
Donation for Tuition at Hillsdale— Cory Thompson	Arkansas Free Will Baptists	1,000.00
Donation for Tuition at Hillsdale— Craig Thompson	Arkansas Free Will Baptists	1,000.00
Donation to Heritage Free Will Baptist Church of Shreve- port for Tracts Distributed During Operation Saturation	Arkansas Free Will Baptists	<u>400.00</u>
Total Disbursements		<u><u>\$42,312.34</u></u>

LITTLE MISSOURI RIVER ASSOCIATION
COMPARISON OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS (OF ALL FUNDS)
FOR FISCAL YEARS 1990-91 TO 2000-2001

	<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	36,607.17	38,886.68	(2,279.51)
2000-01	<u>39,752.02</u>	<u>42,312.34</u>	<u>(2,560.32)</u>
Totals	<u>\$286,060.91</u>	<u>\$285,004.26</u>	<u>\$ 1,056.65</u>

LITTLE MISSOURI RIVER ASSOCIATION

SUMMARY OF GENERAL FUND

FOR PERIOD JULY 1, 2000 TO JUNE 30, 2001

General Fund Balance, July 1, 2000 \$ 5,620.93

Receipts:

Coop Tithes \$23,584.82
State Missions (Includes \$125 for
Oasis Campus Ministries) 2,958.27
Home Missions 3,170.97
Foreign Missions. 7,344.35
Free Will Baptist Bible College 767.84
Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College 420.00
Fees. 1,025.00
Interest Earned 243.07

Total Receipts 39,514.32

Subtotal 45,135.25

Disbursements:

Coop--State \$9,433.93
State Missions-Maumelle Mission
(Receipts from Churches) 2,833.27
State Missions-Oasis Campus Ministries
(Receipts from Churches) 125.00
State Missions-Maumelle Mission
(Monthly allocations equal to 10%
of Coop Tithes of \$23,584.82). 2,358.48
State Missions-Maumelle Mission
(Donation from General Fund) 1,000.80
Home Missions (Receipts from
Churches). 3,170.97
Home Missions (Monthly allocations to
Norman Richards equal to 5% of
Coop Tithes of \$23,584.82) 1,179.24
Foreign Missions (Receipts from
Churches) 7,344.35
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
7.5% of Coop Tithes of
\$23,584.82). 1,768.86

SUMMARY OF GENERAL FUND (CONTINUED)

Free Will Baptist Bible College (Receipts from Churches)	767.84
Free Will Baptist Bible College (Monthly allocations equal to 10% of Coop Tithes of \$23,584.82)	2,358.48
Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College (Receipts from Churches)	420.00
State Dues	640.00
Clerk Services--Eddie Ary	900.00
Printing of Minutes	211.12
Donation for Tuition at Hillsdale- Cory Thompson	1,000.00
Donation for Tuition at Hillsdale- Craig Thompson	1,000.00
Tracts During Operation Saturation- Heritage Free Will Baptist Church of Shreveport	<u>400.00</u>
Total Disbursements	<u>37,912.34</u>
Subtotal	7,222.91
Transfers to Other Funds:	
Missions Fund (2.5% of Coop Tithes of \$23,584.82)	\$ 589.62
Christian Education--Education Fund (10% of Coop Tithes of \$23,584.82)	<u>2,358.48</u>
Total Transfers	<u>2,948.10</u>
General Fund Balance, June 30, 2001.	<u>\$4,274.81</u>

LITTLE MISSOURI RIVER ASSOCIATION

SUMMARY OF MISSIONS FUND

FOR PERIOD JULY 1, 2000 TO JUNE 30, 2001

Missions Fund Balance, July 1, 2000	\$ 551.96
Transfer from General Fund (2.5% of Coop Tithes of \$23,584.82).	<u>589.62</u>
Missions Fund Balance, June 30, 2001	<u>\$1,141.58</u>

LITTLE MISSOURI RIVER ASSOCIATION

SUMMARY OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION--EDUCATION FUND

FOR PERIOD JULY 1, 2000 TO JUNE 30, 2001

Education Fund Balance, July 1, 2000.	\$5,135.30
Transfer from General Fund (10% of Coop Tithes of \$23,584.82).	<u>2,358.48</u>
Subtotal.	7,493.78

Disbursements:

Tuition Scholarship for Bradley Taylor for the Fall Semester of 2000 and the Spring Semester of 2001 at Hills- dale Free Will Baptist College	\$2,400.00
Donation to Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College.	1,000.00
Donation to Oasis Campus Ministries	<u>1,000.00</u>

Total Disbursements	<u>4,400.00</u>
Education Fund Balance, June 30, 2001	<u>\$3,093.78</u>

LITTLE MISSOURI RIVER ASSOCIATION
SUMMARY OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION--GENERAL FUND
FOR PERIOD JULY 1, 2000 TO JUNE 30, 2001

Christian Education--General Fund Balance, July 1, 2000. .\$. 283.95

Receipts:

Offerings--Quarterly Meetings 237.70

Christian Education--General Fund Balance, June 30, 2001 .\$ 521.65

LITTLE MISSOURI RIVER ASSOCIATION

FUND BALANCES

JUNE 30, 2001

General Fund\$4,274.81
Missions Fund.	1,141.58
Christian Education--Education Fund.	3,093.78
Christian Education--General Fund.	<u>521.65</u>
Total Fund Balances, June 30, 2001	<u>\$9,031.82</u>
Decrease in Fund Balances During the Fiscal Year	<u>\$ 2,560.32</u>

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.