

**MINUTES**  
**OF THE**  
**New Hope Association**  
**OF**  
**FREE WILL BAPTISTS**

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**1968**

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**PROCEEDINGS OF THE**  
***EIGHTY - EIGHTH ANNUAL SESSION***

**CONVENED AT**  
**SOUTH HEIGHTS CHURCH**  
**304 West Lincoln, Searcy, Arkansas**  
**July 27, 1968**



## MINISTERS AND ADDRESSES

Rev. David Joslin ..... 39 Mohawk Drive, Searcy, Arkansas

Rev. Lawnie Coffman ..... 113 Highland Drive, Searcy, Arkansas

Rev. Ronnie Blanks ..... Route 1, Greenbrier, Arkansas

Rev. R. M. Moore ..... Rose Bud, Arkansas

Rev. J. E. Pratt ..... Rose Bud, Arkansas

Rev. R. E. Pruitt ..... Route 4, Searcy, Arkansas

Rev. Wayne Melton ..... Route 1, Box 206, Mabelvale, Arkansas

Rev. J. M. Holleman ..... Rose Bud, Arkansas

Rev. John Parks ..... Morrilton, Arkansas

Rev. Curtis Lybarger ..... Greenbrier, Arkansas

Rev. W. J. Bernard ..... Vilonia, Arkansas

Rev. Silveston Gwatney ..... Conway, Arkansas

Rev. Sidney Sawrie ..... Vilonia, Arkansas

Rev. Wilton Chastain ..... Springfield, Missouri

Rev. J. P. Rutherford ..... Heber Springs, Arkansas

Rev. Raymond Patrick ..... North Little Rock, Arkansas

Rev. Norman Richards ..... Mission Protestante, B. P. 20, Bouna,  
Republique de Cote D'Ivoire, Afrique

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**July 27, 1968**

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The next regular session will convene with Soda Valley Church, Greenbrier, Arkansas, beginning Saturday morning before the last Sunday in July, 1969.

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**O F F I C E R S**

**MODERATOR**

Rev. Lawnie Coffman ..... 113 Highland Drive, Searcy, Arkansas

**ASSISTANT MODERATOR**

Rev. Sidney Sawrie ..... Vilonia, Arkansas

**CLERK - TREASURER**

Kathleen Thacker ..... 116 Highland Drive, Searcy, Arkansas

**ASSISTANT CLERK - TREASURER**

Mildred M. Sowell ..... Vilonia, Arkansas

## P R O C E E D I N G S

The 1968 session of the New Hope Association of Free Will Baptists was held with the South Heights Church, Searcy, July 27, 1968 with 13 churches represented.

Opened by singing hymns, "At Calvary", and "There Shall Be Showers of Blessings", led by Marie Turner with Marshall D. Smith at the piano.

Prayer led by Rev. Lawnie Coffman.

The Moderator, Rev. R. M. Moore extended greetings to the congregation and read scripture from Phil. 2:1-11.

The Moderator recognized all the ministers, deacons and church clerks and charged them with the responsibility of the voting until the seating of the delegates.

The Moderator called for nominations for an Assistant Clerk in the absence of Donna Moon. Barbara Carter was elected to fill her position.

Church letters read and accepted and delegates seated. The right hand of Christian fellowship was extended to the delegates by Rev. Ronnie Blanks.

The Moderator recognized Rev. O. H. Doss from Santa Paula, California, he was seated in an advisory capacity.

Hymn, "Standing On The Promises", led by Rev. Sidney Sawrie with Marshall D. Smith at the piano.

Committee members appointed by Moderator: Obituary Committee, Iva Turner, Alene Coffman, and Shirley Sawrie. Business Committee, Rev. J. E. Pratt, Wayne Richards, and Frank Dallas.

Prayer led by Rev. Sidney Sawrie.

Intermission.

### 11:00 A. M. WORSHIP SERVICE

Called to worship by singing hymns, "Leaning On The Everlasting Arms", and "There Is Power In The Blood", lead by Artis Clay with Marshall D. Smith at the piano.

Prayer led by Rev. Curtis Lybarger.

Rev. John Parks brought the Memorial Message. He read his scripture from John 14:1-6.

Prayer led by Rev. David Joslin.

### AFTERNOON SESSION

Opened by singing hymn, "At The Cross", led by Artis Clay with Modene Johnston at the piano.

Prayer led by Rev. R. E. Pruitt.

Late letters read and accepted and delegates seated. The right hand of Christian fellowship was extended to the delegates by Rev. Sidney Sawrie.

The Moderator opened nominations for the five (5) delegates to the State Association representing our Association. Marshall Smith, Lorene Fawlkes, Edith C. Smith, Linda Blanks, and Shirley Sawrie. Alternates, Alene Coffman and Bessie Gray were nominated. Motion made to elect these by acclamation. Seconded. Carried.

The next Annual Session will convene with the Soda Valley Church, Greenbrier, on Saturday before the last Sunday in July 1969.

Election of speakers, Saturday morning Memorial Service, Rev. J. E. Pratt. Alternate speaker, Rev. Curtis Lybarger.

Executive Board member elected: Rev. R. E. Pruitt was elected to serve a five (5) year term.

Officers elected for 1969 (see page 1).

Motion made to accept the report of the Executive Board. Seconded. Carried.

Motion made to accept the report of the Obituary Committee. Seconded. Carried.

Motion made to accept the report of the Business Committee. Seconded. Carried.

Motion made to give a vote of thanks to Clerk, Kathleen Thacker, for her work in printing the minutes in book form. Seconded. Carried.

Hymn, "Sunlight", led by Marie Turner with Shirley Sawrie at the piano.

Report on the National Association by Rev. Lawnie Coffman.

Special song, "The Highest Hill", by the Sawrie family.

Testimony service conducted by Rev. O. H. Doss, he read scripture from Acts 3:1-9.

Hymn, "Amazing Grace", led by Marie Turner and Rev. Curtis Lybarger with Shirley Sawrie at the piano.

Benediction led by Lewis Sawrie.

### COMMITTEE AND BOARD REPORTS

Executive Board, we recommend that Rev. Sidney Sawrie who was licensed to preach one (1) year ago be ordained at the church and time of his choice, Center Point No. 2 Church, August 4, 1968.

Executive Board, we feel the need of having a date on our Association minutes, we recommend that we use the oldest date available to show the number of years New Hope Association has been organized.

Business Committee, we recommend that we give the host Church a rising vote of thanks for their hospitality throughout this session.

Obituary Committee, we find that seven (7) members have been called from our presence to their reward: Bro. David Hite from Gravel Hill Church, Bro. Robert Watts, Sis. Ida Murmett from Friendship Church, Bro. Arlie Furgerson, Sis. Nora Bishop, Sis. Clarsey McClarley from Center Point No. 2 Church, Sis. Sophia Holleman from Mt. Bethel Church.

CHURCHES	DELEGATES	REPRESENTATION FEE
Center Point No. 2 .....	Shirley Sawrie, Mrs. Frank Dallas, Lorene Fawkes.....	\$17.00
Friendship .....	None .....	17.00
Gravel Hill .....	Mrs. Artie Lawson, Marie Scott, Maude Burkett.....	17.00
Greenbrier.....	Linda Blanks, Shelby G. Sawrie, Mary Sawrie.....	17.00
Liberty Hill .....	None .....	13.00
Mt. Bethel .....	Barbara Carter, Iva Turner, Lonnie Barr .....	17.00
Mt. Carmel .....	Frank Tucker .....	17.00
New Hart .....	None .....	13.00
Sharon .....	None .....	17.00
Soda Valley .....	None .....	17.00
Searcy, First .....	Minnie Quattlebaum, Pauline Wilson, Mary K. Joslin .....	17.00
South Heights .....	Annie Richards, Bessie Gray, Alene Coffman .....	17.00
18th Street, N.L.R. ....	Mrs. John Parks, Marshall D. Smith, Edith C. Smith .....	17.00
		<hr/> \$213.00

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

Balance Brought Forward .....	\$154.45
Representation Fee .....	213.00
Total .....	\$367.45

**Expenditures**

Paid to State Association .....	\$169.00
Clerks Fee .....	20.00
Telephone Calls, Missions Director .....	3.55
Minutes .....	94.76
Total .....	\$287.31    287.31
Balance in Treasury .....	\$ 80.14

**QUARTERLY MEETING REPORT** — The first Quarterly meeting convened with Soda Valley Church, Greenbrier, October 25-26, 1968; there were 9 churches represented with 75 present. Monies received: representation fees with letters, \$293.31. Paid out: \$216.48, Cooperative Plan; \$20.00 Clerk's Fee, \$4.91, Minutes.

The second quarterly meeting convened with the New Hart Church, Rose Bud, January 24-25, 1969; there were 10 churches represented with 61 present. Monies received: representation fees with letters, \$132.27. Paid out: \$99.20, Cooperative Plan; \$20.00, Clerk's Fee; \$3.66, Minutes.

The third quarterly meeting convened with the Center Point No. 2 Church, Vilonia, April 25-26, 1969; there were 12 churches represented with 85 present. Monies received; representation fees with letters, \$171.91. Paid out: \$128.96; Co-operative Plan; \$20.00, Clerk's Fee; \$62.50 for one-half of expense of "The Promise," booklet, by Rev. Lawnie Coffman to be sent to Free Will Baptist, Service Boys; \$4.80, Minutes.

—Ladotta Barlow, Clerk-Treasurer

**NEW HOPE ASSOCIATION**

The following is taken from "Free Baptist Cyclopaedia" by Rev. G. A. Burgess, A. M. and Rev. J. T. Ward, A. M. published in 1889 — Page 22.

"ARKANSAS—The NEW HOPE, Q. M., located in the vicinity of White County, was reported in 1880, with four churches and seventy members. It is said now to have seven churches and two hundred members".

In His Service,  
Rev. Lonnie Rolen  
2913 E. Northdale  
Fresno, California



# STATISTICAL REPORT

CHURCHES	PASTORS	CLERKS	Membership	Members Received	Dismissed	Deceased	Ordained Ministers	Deacons	Sunday School	S. S. Enrollment	C. T. S.	C. T. S. Enrollment	Woman's Auxiliary	Auxiliary Membership	Prayer Meeting
Center Point No. 2.....	Sidney Sawrie.....	Mildred Sowell.....	110	5	3	3	2	3	1	85	1	45	0	0	1
Friendship.....	J. E. Pratt.....	Blanche Sumner.....	60	0	5	2	0	6	1	40	1	15	0	0	0
Gravel Hill.....	R. H. McCuin.....	Cloyl L. Stacy.....	34	0	5	1	0	2	1	35	0	0	0	0	0
Greenbrier.....	Ronnie Blanks.....	Erie Dempsey.....	83	7	7	0	2	6	1	60	1	26	1	12	1
Liberty Hill.....	Curtis Lybarger.....	Louise Pratt.....	68	0	0	0	1	3	1	35	1	15	0	0	0
Mt. Bethel.....	R. M. Moore.....	Janice Burlison.....	106	1	1	1	2	3	1	57	1	30	1	8	0
Mt. Carmel.....	J. E. Pratt.....	Helen Barnes.....	54	0	0	0	1	2	1	75	1	20	0	0	0
New Hart.....	Raymond Patrick.....	Violet Pettus.....	30	1	0	0	1	2	1	15	0	0	0	0	0
Sharon.....		Mrs. C. R. Bennett.....	44	4	2	0	0	3	1	30	1	15	0	0	0
Soda Valley.....	Curtis Lybarger.....	Marie Hall.....	73	1	0	0	1	3	1	42	0	0	0	0	0
Searcy, First.....	David Joslin.....	Kathleen Thacker.....	121	4	0	0	2	3	1	47	1	35	1	12	1
South Heights.....	Lawnie Coffman.....	Howard Johnston.....	104	12	3	0	2	5	1	70	1	40	1	16	1
18th St., N.L.R.....	John Parks.....	Ada Dickson.....	110	10	2	0	2	3	1	55	1	35	0	0	1
TOTALS			997	45	28	7	16	44	13	646	10	276	4	48	5

CHURCHES	Total Expenditures	Paid Pastors	Paid Evangelist	For Literature	For Building and Repairs	Foreign Missions	Home Missions	Other, Local and Outside Causes	Value of Church Property	Value of Parsonage Property
Center Point No. 2.....	\$ 4,322.70	\$ 1,270.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 212.30	\$ 279.75	\$ 681.10		\$1,729.55	\$ 5,500.00	
Friendship.....	2,150.57	750.73	209.70	182.25	389.47	348.00		270.42	4,000.00	
Gravel Hill.....	942.51	625.00	125.00	55.80				136.71	5,000.00	
Greenbrier.....	6,243.55	3,220.00	245.00	249.27	1,791.34	143.96		593.88	10,500.00	7,000.00
Liberty Hill.....	415.00	300.00		80.00				35.00	3,000.00	
Mt. Bethel.....	3,553.16	1,820.00	187.00	314.16	261.30	200.00	72.22	698.64	9,000.00	6,000.00
Mt. Carmel.....	772.00	560.00		80.00				132.00	8,000.00	
New Hart.....	1,742.49	1,065.00	250.00	48.60		27.41	30.00	321.48	5,000.00	
Sharon.....	950.76	470.00	121.00	57.20		145.00		150.56	3,000.00	
Soda Valley.....	2,686.28	530.00	285.00	125.71	808.97	120.00	50.00	226.60	8,000.00	
Searcy, First.....	4,990.14	1,920.00	125.00	245.31	1,220.46	107.00		1,374.37	45,000.00	
South Heights.....	10,027.23	3,645.00	243.70	342.39	2,184.50	733.48		2,878.16	35,000.00	15,000.00
18th St., N. L. R.....	2,995.31	2,160.00	132.50	166.30	342.26	50.00		144.25	14,000.00	
TOTALS	\$41,236.76	\$18,335.73	\$2,073.90	\$2,159.29	\$7,278.05	\$2,555.95	\$152.22	\$8,691.62	\$155,000.00	\$28,000.00

## CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE NEW HOPE ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS

**PREAMBLE:** From long experience, we, the members of the Free Will Baptist Churches of this district, having been baptized by immersion upon profession of our faith in Christ as Saviour and Lord, and realizing the necessity of a bond of union and fellowship among our churches, do, for the purpose of coordinating our efforts for the extension of the Kingdom of God, ordain this Constitution and its affixed By-laws for the betterment of our Association.

### ARTICLE I

**NAME:** This organization shall be called the New Hope Association of Free Will Baptists, affiliated with the State Association of Free Will Baptists of Arkansas.

### ARTICLE II

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this body shall be to unify the work of the churches composing said body in extending the Kingdom of God on earth.

### ARTICLE III

#### COMPOSITION AND REPRESENTATION

Section 1. The members of this body shall be all ordained ministers, deacons, church clerks and elected delegates who are in good standing with their respective churches.

Section 2. Each church shall be allowed to represent with three (3) elected delegates. A letter from each church will accompany said delegates. If only part of the elected delegates of a church are present, those present may fill vacancies with other members of their church who are present. Any delegation not having a letter from their church shall be allowed to prepare a letter and present it to the body for its approval.

Section 3. Churches desiring membership in our Association must come with recommendation from the Association to which they have held membership. New churches, when properly organized, shall be accepted by majority vote of the body providing they have complied with requirements of this Association.

Section 4. Ministers and deacons coming from another body must be examined and meet the requirements of our Association.

### ARTICLE IV

**DISCIPLINE:** See the National Treatise, Practices Division, chapter three (3), all parts listed there. This body believes in and practices *congregational government*.

### ARTICLE V

**FINANCE:** This Association shall be financed by offerings and four dollars (\$4.00) from each Church belonging to said Association, in addition to what that is required by the State Association for entertaining and minutes.

### ARTICLE VI

**OFFICERS:** The officers of this body shall be a Moderator, Assistant Moderator, Clerk-Treasurer, and Assistant Clerk-Treasurer to be elected annually.

### ARTICLE VII

#### BOARD AND COMMITTEES

Section 1. This body shall have an Executive Board as its only standing board. This board will help coordinate the work of the association and investigate any irregularity in the churches belonging to this body.

Section 2. Any committee needed shall be elected by the body.



## ARTICLE VIII

### ORDINATION

Section 1. Ministers who have been licensed for one year, and deacons who have been approved by their local church are sent to the conference by the church for examination before being ordained.

Section 2. Ministers to be licensed or ordained and deacons to be ordained shall have the privilege of being ordained in their local church, by a presbytery of their choice, said presbytery shall be members of the New Hope Association.

Section 3. No prospective minister, deacon or those already ordained coming from the churches of this body or other states, associations, or demoninations who has more than one living wife shall be ordained or approved by this board.

## ARTICLE IX

MEETING: This Association shall meet annually on Saturday before the last Sunday in July at the place elected by the body.

## ARTICLE X

RULES FOR CONDUCTING BUSINESS: The rules set forth in the State minutes and proper parliamentary procedure shall be used.

## ARTICLE XI

AMENDMENTS: This constitution may be amended or altered by a majority vote of members voting at any regular session of the body provided said amendments or alterations have been presented in writing at the last regular session of this body.

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## BY-LAWS

1. The clerk or assistant clerk, or in their absence, the senior minister in years shall call the Association into conference and if a quorum is present the moderator, or in his adsence the assistant moderator, shall take charge, and if neither of them is present the senior minister in years of service shall act as moderator.

2. No person shall be allowed to nominate more than one member of any one board, committee, or office, provided the person nominated be elected.

3. A majority of all votes cast on any subject or discussion shall be final.

4. The officers of this body shall be nominated from the floor.

5. A permanent file shall be kept by the clerk of all past minutes and this file shall be passed on to each succeeding clerk henceforth. The clerk shall be paid twenty dollars (\$20.00) for his or her services.

6. This body requests that all churches of this body require their pastors to be a member of the church he serves unless he pastors in two (2) associations or two (2) different churches. However, he can only hold membership in one church and one Association.

7. The speaker for the Memorial Service shall be elected during the regular business session of the Association.

8. These by-laws may be altered or amended at any regular session of the body by a majority (51%) of the members present who vote.

## CHURCH COVENANT

Having given ourselves to God, by faith in Christ, and adopted the Word of God as our rule of faith and practice, we now give ourselves to one another by the will of God in this solemn covenant.

We promise, by His grace, to love and obey Him in all things, to avoid all 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 the study of the Scripture, secret prayer, family devotions, and social worship; and by self-denial, faith and good works endeavor to "grow in grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ."

We will not forsake 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 and of the Gospel.

We will everywhere hold Christian principle sacred and Christian obligations and enterprises supreme; counting it our chief business in life to extend the influence of Christ in society; constantly praying and toiling that the Kingdom of God may come, and His will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

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.

STANDING BOARD AND COMMITTEES

EXECUTIVE BOARD TERM  
EXPIRES

Rev. R. E. Pruitt .....	1973
Rev. J. E. Pratt .....	1972
Rev. R. M. Moore .....	1971
Rev. Curtis Lybarger .....	1970
Rev. Lawnie Coffman .....	1969

MISSIONS DIRECTOR

Rev. Lawnie Coffman .....	1969
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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WOMAN'S AUXILIARY

Alene Coffman .....	1969
Shirley Sawrie .....	1969
Donna Moon .....	1969
Kathleen Thacker .....	1969
Bessie Gray .....	1969

BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Rev. J. E. Pratt .....	1968
Wayne Richards .....	1968
Frank Dallas .....	1968

OBITUARY COMMITTEE

Iva Turner .....	1968
Alene Coffman .....	1968
Shirley Sawrie .....	1968