

**...MINUTES...**  
**—OF THE—**  
**EIGHTY-THIRD ANNUAL MEETING**  
**—OF THE—**  
**Old Mt. Zion Association**  
**—OF—**  
**FREEWILL BAPTISTS**



**HELD WITH**  
**HICKORY GROVE CHURCH**

**August 8th and 9th, 1924**

## MINUTES

Minutes of the Eighty-third Annual meeting of Old Mt. Zion Association held with Hickory Grove Church on August 8 and 9, 1924.

The Association was called to order by Moderator Rev. Geo. Been, and J. H. Roberts being absent the Introductory Sermon was delivered by Eld. G. C. Bland. His lesson was taken from John I, chapter 4, text, Luke 10:2.

At the close of the Introductory sermon, a challenge was offered by Moderator Geo. Been to know if God had laid the Hand of the Ministry upon any new laborers, and Bro. Truman Allred came forward and acknowledged a call to the ministry after which the preachers, delegates, and Christians extended to him the hand of congratulation bidding him Godspeed.

I. T. Lynch was then called to the stand as reading clerk. Letters from different churches were called for, the following responding, being represented by letters and delegates:

### CHURCHES AND DELEGATES

Mt. Zion—Elmer Lawson, M. M. Puryear, Loy Archer.

New Hope—A. J. Webb, Horace Knox, Miss Dottie Bland.

Hickory Grove—Alvin Cook, J. N. Stafford, W. H. Lynch.

Christian Home—Dick Sanders, Mrs. Dick Sanders, Bud Lee.

Clifty—Edd Parker, T. B. Smith.

Pilgrim Rest—J. R. Barnes, J. R. Wright, W. E. Barnes.

Cottage Hill—L. S. Bowlin, John Miles, P. Edmondson.

Sugar Creek—R. R. Bray.

Shady Grove—Clarence Woods, Bertha Forriestor, Velma Evans.

### SISTER ASSOCIATIONS

Letters were then called for from Sister Associations.

Union Association responded with letter and delegates as follows:

Mr. and Mrs. D. W. Briley. The letter being read, the delegates were invited to seats.

The body was then called upon to elect a Moderator and Clerk for the ensuing year. Eld G. C. Bland was elected Moderator and I. T. Lynch, Clerk after which rules of order and order of business was read by Moderator and the following committees were appointed:

Resolution—Revs. Geo. Been, J. W. Allred, J. H. P. Jones.

Divine Service—Dick Sanders, L. S. Bowlin, J. R. Wright.

Finance—A. L. Webb, Alvin Cook, John Miles.

Temperance—J. N. Stafford, D. W. Briley, O. T. Allred.

Sunday School—Mrs. D. W. Briley, Mrs. Dick Sanders, Mrs. J. B. Barnes.

Obituary—Elmer Lawson, R. R. Bray, W. H. Lynch.

Non-Represented Churches—M. M. Puryear, Edd Parker, P. Edmondson.

Union of Churches—Horace Knox, Mrs. Bertha Forristor, W. E. Barnes.

A committee was appointed to confer with Brother and Sister McAlvain.

Committee on Divine Services report that Rev. J. W. Allred and Rev. Joe Wilson preach Friday night.

Association then adjourned until 4 o'clock p. m. Prayer by Rev. J. W. Allred.

### Friday Evening

The Friday evening session was called to order by singing, Scriptural Lesson, Psalm 28. Prayer by Brother Sam Garvin.

### COMMITTEE TO CONFER WITH VISITING MINISTERS

Report of committee to confer with visiting ministers: We find Brother and Sister McAlvain, of Oklahoma, visiting with us, to be authorized Freewill Baptist Ministers bearing credentials of ordination to this confirmation, so as such we recommend that they be seated as visiting ministers, and invite them to council with us.

GEO. BEEN,  
J. W. ALLRED,  
J. H. P. JONES.

### HOME MISSION BOARD

We find Highland church and Coal Gap church in a dead condition, and Hickory Flatt in a dying condition. Furthermore, we, your Board, have been unable to do any Evangelistical work this year, being unable to secure the services of an Evangelist.

Report received and board discharged.

### RESOLUTIONS

Resolved, that we keep up the Memorial of our Dead.

Resolved, we have 500 copies of our minutes printed.

Resolved, that Eld. Geo. Been superintend the printing and distributing of our minutes.

Resolved, we print our minutes in regular form by themselves.

Resolved, that Highland church be dropped from minutes on account being abandoned.

### Rules of Order.

Each session shall be opened and closed by prayer.

Resolved, we represent in the State Association and that Elds. Geo. Been and G. C. Bland be chosen as delegates to be sent, and that this Association bear their expense.

Resolved, we keep up correspondence with Union Association and Eld. Geo. Been and Bros. Isaac Lynch and Charlie Moppin volunteered to write and bear the corresponding letters.

Motion and approved resolution report be received and committee retained for further action.

Preaching Friday night by Eld. J. W. Allred and conducted by Eld. Joe Wilson.

## Saturday Morning

Saturday morning session opened at 9 o'clock.

Song: Where He Leads Me I Will Follow, by choir.

Scripture reading by Moderator, Psalm 106.

Prayer by T. B. Smith.

Report of committee on non-represented churches received and committee discharged.

Report of committee on Union Churches received and committee discharged.

Bro. W. M. Lee was seated as delegate for Christian Home church.

Motion seconded and approved we take recess until 3 p. m..

Preaching Saturday 11 a. m., Memorial service by Bro. Truman Allred. Lesson, John 1, chapter 4.

Text, St. John 3:16.

Subject. Love.

Concluded by Eld. Geo. Been and reading obituaries and speaking of Love and our beloved ones.

## Saturday Afternoon Session

The Saturday afternoon Session was opened by prayer by Bro. Elmer Lawson.

The report of the finance committee was received and committee discharged.

The report of the committee in obituaries was received and committee was discharged.

The report of the committee on Sunday school was received and committee was discharged.

New Hope church was chosen as the place for holding our next association, beginning on Friday before the second Sunday in August, 1925, at 10 a. m.

Eld. George Been was chosen to preach the Introductory sermon, and J. H. P. Jones was chosen to be his alternate.

Be it resolved that we extend our heartfelt thanks to Hickory Grove church and to the good people of its vicinity, for their kindness and loyal hospitality shown us during our stay among them.

Evangelist McAlvain preached Saturday night and Eld. J. H. P. Jones was asked to take charge and conduct the Lord's supper service which was largely partaken of.

ELDER G. C. BLAND, Moderator,  
Larue, Arkansas.

BRO. ISAAC LYNCH, Clerk,  
Clifty, Arkansas.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Finance Committee

We find that the churches have sent by the hand of their delegates, the following finance:

To print Old Mt. Zion Minutes		\$23.49	
To print State Minutes		3.85	\$27.34
Public Contribution	\$16.28		
Church Contribution	9.45		
	<u>          </u>	\$25.73	
To pay expense of our delegates to the state association			
Report of said expense:			
Eld. Geo. Been's expense bill	\$10.53		
Bro. A. L. Webb's expense bill	11.07	\$21.60	
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	
Remainder of Expense Fund			\$ 4.13
Total on Hand			<u>\$31.47</u>
Paid for State Minutes		\$ 5.00	
Paid for printing Old Mt. Zion Min		\$26.40	\$31.40
		<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Amount remaining			\$ 0.07

### TEMPERANCE COMMITTEE

We, your Temperance Committee, beg to submit the following:

We fully believe every child of God should take a firm stand against the manufacturing or use and sale of all intoxicating liquors, and also to practice temperance in all things.

Signed: O. T. ALLRED,  
J. N. STAFFORD,  
D. W. BRILEY.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL COMMITTEE

We feel that we are about our Father's business when we teach or are taught the word in its purity and that the Sunday School is essential. We ask that every child of God within the bounds of Old Mt. Zion Association read daily the Word and ask God for Christ's sake to strengthen us in the inward man and to give us daily a message to some sin sick soul and a Christ like spirit in which to deliver it. Oh, may the prayers of Old Mt. Zion Association be as the prayer of one righteous man in behalf of the Sunday School.

SISTERS D. W. BRILEY,  
TANEY SANDERS,  
MAUD BARNES.



## UNION OF CHURCHES

Realizing the great need of all of Christ's followers working together in union and so far as we, your committee can find out, all the churches in this association are working in union and further believe that this Union should exist in each of our hearts and in our homes.

Signed: HORACE KNOX,  
BERTHA FORISTER,  
W. E. BARNES.

## OBITUARIES

We find that God in his wisdom has seen fit to call from our midst and fellowship the following Brethern and Sisters:

Rev. W. O. Johnson,  
Rev. John Garvin,  
Sister Margaret Miller,  
Sister Sarah Smith,  
Sister Mary Rambo,  
Sister Muncy Elizabeth Bray.

Also Sister (Aunt Sookey) Evans and Sister T. E. Brewer whose churches had gone down, but they had remained true to the Faith to death.

ELMER LAWSON,  
R. R. BRAY,  
W. H. LYNCH.

## OBITUARIES

### REV. W. O. JOHNSON

Rev. W. O. Johnson departed this life on May 11, 1924, at the home of his son Jim, on Round Mountain, with whom he had made his home.

Rev Johnson was born in Barry county, Missouri, June 15, 1844. (Bro. Johnson lived to the ripe old age of 79 years, 10 months, and 26 days). Bro. Johnson came to this state in early childhood with his parents and grew to manhood on the old Johnson farm near Head's ford on White river, where his sister, Mrs. Nancy Overton now resides.

When the Civil war broke out, he joined the 1st Arkansas Cavalry Company M and was slightly wounded, but served until peace was declared. He then returned to his old home in Missouri and was united in marriage to Margaret Davis. To this union nine children were born. His wife and three children died years ago. Deceased is survived by six children and four sisters and one brother, a host of other relatives and friends to mourn their loss.

Rev. Johnson was a Freewill Baptist preacher, serving as pastor in Missouri, Arkansas and Kansas for more than forty years. He was a member of Pilgrim's Rest church at the time of his death.

### REV. JOHN GARVIN

Rev. John Garvin was born January 23, 1849, and was married to Martha Lyall October 19, 1873. He professed a hope in Christ on December 27, 1882, and has preached about forty years.

Blessed are the dead that die in the Lord; from henceforth, yea, saith the Spirit, they cease their labour and their works will follow them.

Bro. Garvin was a member of Cottage Hill church.

### SISTER MARGARET MILLER

Sister Margaret Miller was born about 1844, professed a hope in Christ and united with the Missionary Baptist church at Spring Valley but on Sunday, October 1, 1911, she united with Pilgrim's Rest church of Freewill Baptists and remained a faithful member and constant Christian until death on March 1, 1924.

### SISTER SARAH SMITH

Sister Sarah Smith was a member of Christian Home church and departed this life in May 1924, at a ripe old age and before death, said, "I am ready to go." Her body was laid to rest in Clifty cemetery.

### SISTER MARY RAMBO

Sister Mary Rambo died in March 1924. She was a member of Hickory Grove church. She professed a hope in Christ about 33 years ago. She lived a true Christian until God saw fit to call her to rest. She leaves a husband and one son and one daughter and a host of other relatives to mourn their loss. May our loss be her gain.

A loved one from us has gone;  
One voice from us is stilled;  
One place among us is vacant  
That never can be filled.

### SISTER NANCY ELIZABETH BRAY

Sister Nancy Elizabeth Bray (nee Carter) was born September 11, 1885, in Benton county, Arkansas, near Old Liberty. She was married to R. R. Bray, November 9, 1902. To this union five children were born, one of whom died in infancy. A devoted husband, one daughter and three sons survive her. Sister Bray passed away on January 29, 1924, after a long illness which she bore with patience. She was converted when young and united with Sugar Creek Freewill Baptist church. Besides her immediate family, she leaves two sisters and a brother and a host of other relatives and friends to mourn their loss.

God in his wisdom saw need of our loved one and we, who are left, cannot look through the veil beyond, but do not think of her as dead only resting from her labors here. In a little while we will go to see Mother. If our lives have been what God wants them to be, a becoming hand that brings Heaven nearer to us, a guard to keep us in the right road, a broken home, broken hearts, but look beyond where the gates are of pearl; no sickness, no sorrow is there and no partings come.

### SISTER SUSAN EVANS

Sister Susan Evans, widow of the late Eld. Calvin Evans, was born November 25, 1832. She was a daughter of Daniel and Peggy Vaughan. In November 1849 she was united in marriage to Calvin Evans, and to this union were born six children, four sons and two daughters. The surviving children are: Isaac and Zenure Evans, of Hindsville, Arkansas, and Mrs. George Beavers, of Lincoln, Arkansas. There are also a number of grandchildren and great-grand children, and two great-great-grand children, besides a host of friends and relatives. When 14 years old, deceased professed a hope in Christ and

soon afterwards united with the Freewill Baptist church and remained true to the Faith until death which came August 24, 1923, at the age of 90 years, 9 months, and 29 days. Sister Evans, in earlier life, during the days of active life of her husband, Eld. Isaac Evans, was a devoted active worker. She held membership in a church on the old Fitch place, which finally went down. She and Bro. Evans probably then went to Mt. Zion church, but in her old and feeble days was deprived of the privilege of attending church but died in the Faith. Funeral services were conducted by Eld. Geo. Been. Interment made in her family cemetery.

### SISTER F. E. BREWER

Sister F. E. Brewer was born August 29, 1844, died July 20, 1924. Sister Brewer was born in Laclede county, Missouri, was married to G. F. Brewer in the year of 1867. To them were born eight children. She professed a hope in Christ when young. Sister Brewer was a member of old Willow Spring church, which went down, but she remained true to the faith.

### NON-REPRESENTED CHURCHES

We, your committee, are unable at this time to furnish any information in regard to these churches other than was given by the Home Mission Board, but we would recommend the Board take this work in charge and, if possible, send a man to hold at least a few days meeting at each church during the next year.

M. M. PURYEAR,  
EDD. PARKER,  
P. EDMONDSON.

### ORDAINED MINISTERS

Name	Age	Postoffice
J. G. Wilson,.....	82.....	Huntsville, Arkansas
S. G. Moses,.....	77.....	Oklahoma
G. C. Bland,.....	66.....	Larue, Arkansas
Everett Bland,.....	22.....	Vilas, Colorado
J. H. Roberts,.....	52.....	Spring Valley, Arkansas
J. S. Smith,.....	55.....	Marble, Arkansas
Sam Garvin,.....	67.....	Spring Valley, Arkansas
E. S. England,.....	56.....	Rhea, Arkansas
E. M. Houston,.....	—.....	—
Geo. Been,.....	43.....	Spring Valley, Arkansas
J. W. Allred,.....	54.....	Larue, Arkansas

### LICENSED PREACHERS

W. H. Elkins,.....	War Eagle, Arkansas
Elmer Lawson,.....	War Eagle, Arkansas
O. T. Allred,.....	Monett, Missouri



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## CONSTITUTION

From a long series of experiences, the Church of Jesus Christ, being regularly baptized upon the profession of our faith in Christ, are convinced of the necessity of a combination of churches to perpetuate union and communion amongst us and to preserve and maintain a correspondence with each other. We therefore purpose to keep order and rules of this Association, according to the following plan or form of government.

1. The Association shall be composed of members chosen by the different churches of our Union, not exceeding three messengers from each church, and upon producing letters they shall be entitled to seats. All ordained ministers of said Union shall be regular members when present by virtue of their office.

2. Letters from different churches are to express their number of fellowship, the number received by experience, letters or recommendation, dismissed or excluded, restored and those who have died since the last Association. The churches in sending their letters may send Obituaries of any members who have died during the year that we may keep up the Memorial of our Dead.

3. The members thus chosen and convinced to be denominated the "Old Mt. Zion Association of Freewill Baptists," to be composed of sundry churches in the state of Arkansas the Association having no power to lord it over God's heritage, nor to have ecclesiastical power over churches, reserving the right of withdrawing from any church acting disorderly.

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

5. New churches to be admitted into the Association are to petition by letter and delegates, and if, on examination, they are found to be orthodox and orderly, they may be received by the Association, the moderator giving the right hand of fellowship.

6. No question presented by the delegates of any church shall be discussed in the Association unless it has been thoroughly discussed in their own church.

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

8. The Association is to endeavor to furnish the churches with minutes of the Association in proportion to the members in each church the contributions being at the direction of the Association.

9. It shall be the duty of the Clerk to keep file of the minutes.

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

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

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

## RULES OF ORDER

1. At every sitting business shall be opened and closed by prayer by the Moderator or whoever he may require.
2. Ministers present invited to seats with us may debate on all questions but vote on none.
3. Those who speak shall arise and address the Moderator and personal reflections shall be avoided on all debates.
4. No motion shall be discussed without being seconded.
5. If, when a motion has been made and seconded and a member opposes its discussion, the Moderator shall put the question: "Shall this question be discussed?" Which, if negatived, shall be dismissed.
6. If any proposition or motion under debate contains two or more points it shall be divided at the request of a member and the vote taken separately.
7. Motion made and lost shall not be recorded on the minutes unless so ordered at the time.
8. No one shall speak twice on any subject without special leave from the Moderator.
9. All questions shall be decided by a majority of the members present.
10. No member shall absent himself without leave from the Moderator; if so, his name shall be left off the minutes.
11. The minutes shall be leisurely read and corrected before the rising of the Association.
12. That in the future sessions of this Association arrangements be made so as to insure two sermons or other devotional exercises which will be equivalent thereto, during each day of the session.
13. The Rules of Order shall be distinctly read from the chair immediately after the organization of the Association.
14. Alterations may be made in these rules at any regular session of the Association.

## ORDER OF BUSINESS

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

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

### ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. We believe in only one true and living God, the Father, the Word and the Holy Ghost. Isaiah 45:5; 1st Cor. 8:6; 1st John 5:7.
2. We believe that the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the word of God, and the gospel by Jesus Christ, the only rule of faith and practice. 2nd Peter 1:21; 2nd Tim. 3:16.
3. We believe in the fall of Adam and that by his transgressions all his posterity fell and were made sinners. Gen. 3:6; Rom. 3:19.
4. We believe in the corruptness of human nature and the inability of man to recover himself by his own free will and ability. Rom. 5:12; 1st Cor. 15:21:22.
5. We believe Jesus Christ by the grace of God tasted death for man and thru his mediatorial death the way of salvation is made possible for God to have mercy upon all who come to Him on gospel terms. Heb. 2:6-10; St. John 3:36.
6. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God by the righteousness of Christ imputed to them, and the good works are the works of faith and follow after justification. Eph. 2:5; 8; Rom. 5:1-16.
7. We believe that saints may preserve in grace and not be lost. Matt. 11:28; Rev. 22:11; 2:20; 1st Peter 3:18; 1st Thes. 5:23.
8. We believe there will be a resurrection of the dead and a general judgment, and the happiness of the righteous and the punishment of the wicked will be eternal. Matt 25:32-40; 2nd Cor. 5-10; Rev. 20:12; Acts 17:31.
9. We believe the visible Church of Christ is a congregation of faithful men and women, who have obtained fellowship with each other and given themselves to the Lord and to one another. Matt. 16:17-18; 1st Cor. 12:12; Rom. 12:4-5.
10. We believe that Jesus Christ is the great head of the church and that the government thereof is with the body. Eph. 2:20; Matt. 18:15-17.
11. We believe that Baptism and the Lord's Supper and the washing of feet are ordinances of the gospel of Jesus Christ and should be continued until the second coming. Matt. 28:19; John 3:5-16; Col. 2:12.
12. We believe that true believers are the only fit subjects for Baptism, and that immersion is the only true gospel mode. Matt 3:16-17; Acts 8:36-37; Rom. 4:6.
13. We believe that none but true believers are fit subjects to commune at the Lord's table. 1st Cor. 11:28 28-29; 2nd Cor. 13:5.
14. We believe that the Lord's Day ought to be observed and set apart for the worship of God, and that no work or worldly business ought to be transacted thereon, works of piety, mercy and necessity excepted. Ex. 20:8-9; Lev. 26:2; Luke 13:14-16; 14:5.

## STATISTICAL TABLE OF ASSOCIATION

CHURCH	Organized	Retiring Pastor	Pastor Elect	Clerk	Clerks P. O.	1.   2.   3.   4.   5.   6.   7.
Mt. Zion.....	.. 1866	Geo. Been.....	Geo. Been.....	Berry Puryear..	Spring Valley..	0   0   0   0   0   0   53
New Hope.....	.. 1886	J. W. Allred....	G. C. Bland....	Loyd Bland....	Larue, Ark....	1   0   0   4   0   0   98
Hickory Grove..	.. 1882	Geo. Been.....	Geo. Been.....	I. T. Lynch....	Clifty, Ark....	0   0   0   0   0   1   58
Christian Home	.. 1892	Geo. Been.....	Geo. Been.....	Della Evans....	Hindsville, Ark..	3   2   1   1   0   1   74
Coal Gap.....	.. ..	..... Not	Represented....	.....	.....	0   0   0   0   0   0   0
Clifty .....	.. 1896	G. C. Bland....	G. C. Bland....	Lawrence Capps	Mundell, Ark...	0   0   0   0   0   0   60
Hickory Flatt..	.. 1911	..... Not	Represented....	.....	.....	0   0   0   0   0   0   0
Pilgrims Rest..	.. 1911	J. B. Johnson...	J. B. Johnson...	Edna Reynolds..	Spring Valley..	7   7   0   0   8   2   90
Cottage Hill....	.. 1912	J. H. Roberts...	J. W. Allred....	Elsie Miles....	War Eagle, Ark.	0   0   0   0   0   1   48
Sugar Creek....	.. ..	Geo. Been.....	Geo. Been.....	R. R. Bray.....	Garfield, Ark...	2   1   0   0   0   1   23
Antioch .....	.. 1910	..... Not	Represented....	.....	.....	0   0   0   0   0   0   0
Shady Grove....	.. ..	G. C. Bland....	J. H. Roberts...	Rosa Webb.....	Sedalia, Ark...	0   0   0   0   0   0   24
Total .....						13   10   1   5   8   6   528

Col. No. 1. Exp and Baptism.....13

Col. No. 2. Recommendation.....10

Col. No. 3. Letter..... 1

Col. No. 7. Total.....528

Col. No. 4. By Letter..... 5

Col. No. 5. Excluded..... 8

Col. No. 6. Died..... 6