

**MINUTES**  
OF THE  
**Eighty-fourth Annual Meeting**  
OF THE  
**Old Mt. Zion Association**  
OF  
**Free Will Baptists**

1925

HELD WITH  
**ROCKY BRANCH CHURCH**

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The next session of this Association will convene with Pilgrim Rest Church, beginning Friday morning before the second Sunday in August, 1926.

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Minutes of the Eighty-fourth Annual Session of Old Mt. Zion Association, held with Rocky Branch Church on August 7 8, 1925.

The Association was called together by Moderator Eld. G. C. Bland. Introductory sermon was delivered by Eld. George Been. Lesson II John, Text Eph. 5:32. Subject "The relationship between Christ and the church."

O. T. Allred was then called to the stand as Reading Clerk.

Letters from different churches were called for. The following churches were represented by letter and delegates:

Mt. Zion— Elmer Lawson, Leonard Morris, and Nina Morris.

New Hope— Dow Budstun, Will Knox, and W. E. Bland.

Hickory Grove— Alvin Cook, Mary E. Watson, and J. M. Watson.

Christian Home— J. D. Sanders, and Delaney Sanders.

Clifty— W. J. Nelson, T. B. Smith, and Maggie Van Hook.

Pilgrim Rest— Houston Scott, Tom Smith, and B. L. Homesly.

Cottage Hill— L. S. Bowlin, Elsie Miles, and John Miles.

Sugar Creek— No delegates.

Antioch— J. A. Smith, R. A. Smith, and Jane Foster.

Shady Grove— John Henson, Argie Henson, and Bertha Forrester.

Rose Hill— T. N. Davis, J. S. Smith, and Artis Howard.

Letters were then called for from Sister Associations. Union Association responded with letter and delegates as follows: Mr. and Mrs. D. W. Briley, and Noah Maxwell. 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. Elder G. C. Bland was elected Moderator, and I. T. Lynch, Clerk.

Rules of Order of business was read by I. T. Lynch.

The following Committees were appointed:

Committee on Resolutions— Elders J. H. Jones, George Been, and John Johnson.

Committee on Divine Service— Tom Smith, L. S. Bowlin, and Leonard Morris.

Committee on Finance— T. B. Smith, Dow Boydston, and John Miles.

Committee on Temperance— Mrs. D. W. Briley, J. W. Allred, and J. G. Wilson.

Committee on Sabbath Schools— Noah Maxwell, W. E. Bland, and Elmer Lawson.

Committee on Obituary— Mary E. Watson, Elsie Miles, and Houston Scott.

Non represented churches— D. W. Briley, O. T. Allred, and Bertha Forrister.

Union of churches— Alvin Cook, John Barnes, and M. M. Hagger.

Committee on Divine Service reported Elders J. H. P. Jones and J. G. Wilson to preach Friday night.

Association then adjourned until 4 o'clock p. m. Prayer by Elder M. M. Hagger.

#### FRIDAY AFTERNOON

Session was called together by singing, Prayer by Elmer Lawson.

The following ministers gave a verbal report of their year's work:- Elders G. C. Bland, George Been, Sam Garrin, R. A. Smith, J. W. Allred, and W. E. Bland.

Report of Committee on Sunday Schools was received and Committee discharged.

Motion carried that the body receive a partial report of the Committee on Resolutions.

Report of Committee on Non represented Churches was received and Committee discharged.

Association adjourned till 8 o'clock p. m. Saturday, prayer by Elder O. T. Allred.

Preaching Friday night by Elder J. H. P. Jones, followed by Elder J. G. Wilson.

## SATURDAY MORNING

Opened at 8 o'clock. Song by congregation. Scripture lesson Isa. 42, by the Moderator. Prayer by Elder J. W. Allred.

Resolved, that we keep up the memorial of our dead.

Resolved that we have 500 copies of our minutes printed

Resolved, that I, T. Lynch superintend the printing and distribution of our minutes.

Resolved, that we keep up correspondence with Union Association. Elder J. W. Wilson volunteered to write and bear the corresponding letter.

Resolved, that T. N. Davis represent us in New Mt. Zion Association.

Report of Committee on Temperance was received and Committee discharged.

Resolved, that we represent at Union Association in Wright county Mo., 4 miles west of Hartvill. Bro. Daw Boydston volunteered to write and bear the corresponding letter.

Report of Committee on Resolutions was received and Committee discharged.

Report of Committee on Non-represented Churches was received and Committee discharged.

Motion carried to take recess till 2 p. m.

Memorial service was conducted at 11 o'clock a. m. by Eld. O. T. Allred, followed by M. M. Hagger

## SATURDAY AFTERNOON

Session opened by singing.

Bro. J. D. Sanders, and Sister Delaney Sanders, were seated as delegates from Christian Home church.

Sister Maggie Van Hook was seated as delegate from Clifty church.

Report of Committee on Obituaries was received and Committee discharged.

Report of Committee on Finance was received and Committee discharged.

Resolved, that we represent in the State Association, and that Elders George Beem, G. C. Bland, and Bro. Isaac Lynch write and bear the corresponding letter.

Resolved, that we denounce evolution and forbid its being taught in our public schools, our Sunday Schools, and our churches.

Resolved that we amend Constitution No. 12 to read, "Shall inquire into the cause."

Resolved, that we represent in Cherokee Home Ass'n.

Pilgrim Rest church as the place to hold our next Association, beginning Friday morning before the second Sunday in August, 1926. Elder O. T. Allred was chosen to preach the Introductory sermon, G. C. Bland to follow.

Be it resolved, that we extend our heart-felt thanks to Rocky Branch church and the good people of its vicinity for their kindness and hospitality shown us during our stay among them.

Elder J. B. Johnson preached Saturday night, and Evangelist Gearing concluded, taking charge of the Lord's Supper, which was largely partaken of.

Eld. G. C. Bland, Moderator, Lame, Ark.  
Bro. Isaac T. Lynch, Clerk Clifty, Ark.

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## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### TEMPERANCE

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

We point with pride at the steady growth of temperance in our State as well as the United States. We, as Free Will Baptists, heartily endorse the national move to put intoxicating liquor out of our nation.

And furthermore, we believe that a child of God should not be drunk with wine, wherein is excess, but be filled with the Spirit and be a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy temperate, and sound in the faith. Add to your knowledge temperance, and to temperance patience, and to patience Godliness, and to Godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness charity, For if these things be in you and abound, they make you that ye shall be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For every one that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things.

Committee— Mrs. D. W. Briley, J. W. Allred, and J. G. Wilson.

### UNION OF CHURCHES

We, your Committee, beg to report as follows:

As far as we are able to learn, the churches represented in this Association are working in union. We further believe that this union should exist in each of our hearts, and in our homes.

Committee— M. M. Haggard, Alvin Cook, and John Barns.

### NON REPRESENTED CHURCHES

We, your Committee on Non Represented Churches, find Coal Gap, Sugar Creek, Christian Home, and Hickory Flat churches not represented. We find Sugar Creek, and Christian Home in fairly good conditions, both having elected a full delegation and a pastor for next year. We could find nothing favorable with Coal Gap or Hickory Flat.

Committee— O. T. Allred, D. W. Briley, and Bertha Forrester.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

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 to read daily the word of God, and ask God to strengthen us in the in-



ward man, and to give us daily a messege 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 Sunday Schools,

We pray that the Christians of our Sunday School may awake to a higher sense of their duty, that more life may be manifested, and that a more careful selection of officers and teachers be made, that all may be God fearing and God loving men and women.

Committee— W. E. Bland, Elmer Lawson, and Noah Maxwell.

### FINANCE

We find that the churches have sent through the hands of the delegates the following finance:

To print Old Mt. Zion Minutes,	\$29.00
To print State Minutes,	6.00
Total for Minutes,	35.00
Paid for State Minutes,	\$6.00
Paid for Old Mt. Zion Minutes,	21.00
Amount remaining,	8.00

Committee— T. B. Smith, John Miles, and Daw Boydston.

### OBITUARIES

We, your Committee on Obituaries, find that the following brothers and sisters have been called from labor to reward during the past year: Henry Savage, Charlie Foster, J. O. Hawthorne, P. Edmondson, Ollie Blackburn, and Saria Jane Fraisure.

As we read the report of our departed ones, we all solemnly remember that we too must soon quit the walks of life and go to meet our reward, whether it be life eternal or eternal death.

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### HENRY SAVAGE

Henry Savage, son of 'Squire J. D. and Mrs. Margaret Savage of Spring Valley, was born September 18 1870, and died March 13, 1925. He was united in marriage

December 27, 1891, to Miss Nancy Garrison, and to this union was born five children, three of whom, together with the heart-broken wife, survive him. The children are Florence Gammon of Bixby, Oklahoma, Mac Hamilton and Martin Savage of Spring Valley, all of whom were present when the end came.

Brother Savage was converted in 1900 and united with the church and baptized, living a devoted Christian life until his death. He had been a member of the Free Will Baptist Church at Pilgrim Rest for a number of years. Besides the widow and children, the deceased is survived by his aged father, eight grand-children, one brother, Calvin Salvage, two sisters, Mabel Johnson of Welling, Okla., and Melissa Been of Spring Valley, and a host of friends.

Funeral services were held at the home by Revs. J. B. Johnson, and George Been, brother-in-law of the deceased, Saturday evening, March 14, burial being in the Joyce Cemetery.

Bro. Savage is gone from us, but is not forgotten.

### OLLIE BLACKBURN

Sister Ollie Blackburn, daughter of Mr. Wesley and Mrs. Rebecca Wilson, was born June 24, 1894. She was converted when young and joined the Baptist Church at Spring Valley and was baptized by the pastor, Bro. Brown. She remained with that church until the Free Will Baptist Church at Pilgrim Rest was organized September 30, 1911, at which time she united with that church and remained a faithful servant until her death, December 24, 1924, after a long illness, which she bore with patience.

Sister Ollie was united in the holy bonds of matrimony December 24, 1920, to Ottie Blackburn of War Eagle Mills. She leaves behind to mourn her absence, her aged parents, four brothers, one sister, a broken hearted husband, and infant son, Elbert, besides a number of other relatives, and a host of friends.

Funeral services were conducted at War Eagle school house by Rev. George Been, interment being in Blackburn

Cemetery near by. We say to the weeping ones; weep not for her as those who have no hope, but look forward to the time and place where you can meet her again and where partings come no more.

### SARIA JANE FRASUIRE

Sister Saria Jane Frasure was born February 27, 1847. She professed a hope in Christ in an early day, and joined the Methodist church. In 1910 she joined the Free Will Baptist Church and lived a devoted Christian life till the Father called her home, March 1, 1924. She leaves one daughter, five grand-children and a host of friends to mourn her loss.

God in his wisdom saw need of our loved one. We 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 beckoning hand that brings us nearer Heaven, a guard to keep us in the right road. Broken hearts, broken homes, but look beyond where the gates are of pearl. No sickness nor sorrow is there and no partings come.

### J. O. HAWTHORN

J. O. Hawthorn was born November 27, 1834, in South Carolina, being more than ninety years at the time of his death. Bro. Hawthorn first cast his lot with Willow Spring Church after coming to this state, later transferred to New Hope Church, of which he was a faithful member and deacon until his death.

### P. EDMONDSON

Bro. P. Edmondson was born April 29, 1860, and died June 4, 1925. He was converted August 15, 1914, and was a faithful member of Cottage Hill Church. We feel Cottage Hill has lost a faithful member, and that he died truly in the faith.

He leaves a companion, one son, five daughters and a host of friends to mourn his death.

## CHARLIE FOSTER

Bro. Charlie Foster was born June 3, 1876, in Carroll County, Ark. He was married to Doria Foster in 1900. To this union seven children were born, three boys and four girls, one of whom died in infancy.

Bro. Charlie professed a hope in Christ in 1910, and joined the Free Will Baptist church at Antioch in 1911, living a devoted Christian life till God called for him, June 20, 1924.

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

Committee— Sisters Elsie Miles, Mary E. Watson, and Bro. Houston Scott.

## 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 seats.
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 Chairman 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.



## RULES OF ORDER

1. At every sitting business shall be opened and concluded by prayer by the Moderator or whomsoever he may request.

2. Ministers present, invited to seats, are allowed to take part in debate on all subjects, and to vote.

3. Those who speak shall rise and address the Moderator. Personal reflections shall be avoided in all debates.

4. No motion shall be discussed without being seconded.

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 a vote taken.

7. Motions made and lost shall not be recorded.

8. No one shall speak more than twice on any subject without special leave of the Moderator.

9. All questions decided by a majority of the members present.

10. No member shall absent himself without special leave of the Moderator.

11. Minutes shall be leisurely read and corrected before the close of the Association if necessary.

12. In the future meetings of the Association, arrangements shall be made to insure two or more sermons each day, or other equivalent devotional exercises.

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.

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## ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. We believe in one true and living God, Father, Son and Holy Ghost, and these three are one in Divine Essence, power and glory.—Rom. 1:20; John 1:1.

2. We believe that the Scriptures of the old and new Testament is the Word of God, and the only infallible rule of faith and practice.—II. Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:21.

3. We believe that God created man good, gave him holy commandments whereby he should live holy, but man voluntarily disobeyed the commandments of God, transgressed the law and fell under the just condemnation of the same, whereby all mankind are sinners, not by constraint but by choice; being partakers of the sinful nature attained by the fall, and that man is unable to save himself with his own power, but we see Jesus for the suffering of death crowned with glory that He, by the grace of God, tasted death for every man.—Gen. 1:31; Hebrew 2:9.

4. We believe that Christ by his death, burial and resurrection purchased our pardon and offered it freely to all mankind upon principles of repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. He now commands all men everywhere to repent; therefore he sayeth: "Look unto me and be saved all ye ends of the earth, for I am God and there is none else."—Matt. 4:17; Isa 45:22; Acts 20:21.

5. We believe that adult persons must be regenerated and born of the Spirit of God if they inherit eternal life.—John 3:3; Rom. 5:1-13.

6. We believe that infants and idiots are saved up on the merits of the Son of God.—Jonah 4:11; Mark 10:14; Luke 18:16.

7. We believe that all Christians should persevere in grace and be faithful to the end, if they inherit eternal life, for "blessed are they that do His commandments that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates of the city."—Rev. 22:14.

8. We believe that baptism by immersion is the apostolic mode, even the burial of the believer in water, and that Christ who is our life, showed this humble example to His children and bids us walk therein.—John 3:22; Matt. 3:16; Roman. 6:2-2-5; Matt. 28:19-20.

9. We believe that God in His Goodness displays His power of grace to a great degree in calling and qualifying His servants by the teaching of the Holy Ghost and the instruction of His word to go forth and proclaim life and salvation without price. He bids us freely come, and nothing prevents the salvation of any but their own stubborn rebellion and sinful refusal to come.—I. Cor. 12:3, Eph. 3:7; Rev. 22:17.

10. We believe that baptism and the Lord's Supper

and the washing of the saint's feet, and keeping of the Lord's Day holy and abstaining from worldly lusts are Gospel Ordinances and carnal cares, and to assemble ourselves together are ornaments which prepare and beautify the soldiers of the cross to march on in the army of the Lord.—Matt. 26:28; John 13:4-5.

11. We believe that none have a right to baptism only those who have obtained a living hope in the Lord Jesus, and none have the right to administer the same only those who are called of God and have come under the hands of the presbtery of the elders; and each church ought to have a pastor, deacons and clerk chosen by the church and continue in office during the good pleasure of the same; and in dealing with disorderly members, reference should be had to the 18th chapter of Matthew and other scriptures relative to dealing with disorderly members. In all cases a majority shall rule except in receiving members, which shall be unanimous.—Titus 1:5; Acts 14:23, II. Cor. 6:6.

13. We believe in the resurrection of the dead, both the just and the unjust. The resurrection of the just to glory and immortality in the presence of God; the unjust to everlasting shame and banishment from the presence of God.—Matt. 25:31; I. Cor. 15:42-45; II. Thess. 1:11; Job 19:2.

12. We believe it is the duty of each church to assemble themselves together once a month, and that it is the duty of the pastor of the church when setting forth the Lord's Supper and washing the saints' feet to let a man examine himself and so let him eat.—I. Cor. 11:17-

28; Hebrew 10:26.



## CONSTITUTION

From long experience we, the members of the Church of God (denominated Free Will Baptists), being regularly baptized upon a profession of our faith in Jesus Christ, and being convinced of the necessity of a combination of churches to perpetuate a union and communion amongst us, and to preserve and maintain correspondence with each other, do therefore ordain this Constitution for our better church 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. The members thus chosen and convened to be designated Free Will Baptists), being composed of the sundry churches of "Old Mt. Zion Association of Free Will Baptists," in the state of Arkansas, the Association having no power to lord it over God's heritage nor have any ecclesiastical power over the churches, reserving the right of expel from any church becoming disorderly.

3. Letters from different churches are to express their number in fellowship, the number received by experience, letters of 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.

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

5. Newly constituted churches may be admitted to the association, which are to petition by letter and delegates, and if upon examination they are found to be orthodox and orderly they may be received into the association, the Moderator giving the right hand of fellowship.

6. No question from any church shall come under the consideration of the Association unless it has been first discussed in its own church.

7. Every motion made and seconded shall come under the consideration of the Association, except 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 number of members in each church, the distribution to be at the discretion of the Association.

9. It shall be the duty of the Clerk to keep a regular file of the minutes of the Association on a book to be kept by the Association for this purpose.

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

11. Amendments to the Constitution may be made when necessary by a majority of the members present.

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



# Statistical Table of Association

CHURCHES	Organized	Retiring Pastor	Pastor Elect	Church Clerk	Clerk's Post Office	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mt. Zion .....	1866	George Been .....	Geo. Been .....	Elmer Lawson	Spr. Valley, Ark	0	0	0	0	0	0	53
New Hope .....	1886	G. C. Bland .....	G. C. Bland .....	Loyd Bland .....	Laure, Ark	0	0	0	0	0	1	98
Hickory Grove .....	1882	Geo. Been .....	J. W. Allred .....	Emmit Watson	Clifty, Ark	5	1	1	0	0	0	66
Christian Home .....	1892	Geo. Been .....	Geo. Been .....	Meda Lee .....	Hindsville, Ark	0	0	0	1	0	0	50
Coal Gap .....						0	0	0	0	0	0	00
Clifty .....	1896	G. C. Bland .....	J. W. Allred .....	Lawrence Capps	Mundell, Ark	0	0	0	0	0	0	60
Hickory Flat .....	1911					0	0	0	0	0	0	00
Pilgrim Rest .....	1911	J. B. Johnson .....	J. B. Johnson	Hettie Gibson .....	Spr. Valley, Ark	46	0	0	0	0	3	123
Cottage Hill .....	1912	J. W. Allred .....	J. W. Allred .....	Elsie Miles .....	Wareagle, Ark	0	0	0	0	1	1	44
Sugar Creek .....		Geo. Been .....	Geo. Been .....	R. R. Bray .....	Garfield, Ark	0	0	0	0	0	0	00
Antioch .....	1910		R. A. Smith .....	Jane Foster .....		0	1	3	0	0	2	28
Shady Grove .....		J. H. Roberts		Rosa Webb .....	Sedalia, Ark	0	0	0	0	0	0	24
Rose Hill .....			J. S. Smith .....	C. C. Davis .....	Marble, Ark	1	0	3	3	1	0	24
Totals .....						52	2	7	4	2	7	570

Col. No. 1. Exp. and Baptism ..... 52

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

Col. No. 3. Letter ..... 7

Col. No. 7. Membership ..... 570.

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

Col. No. 5. Excluded ..... 2

Col. No. 6. Died ..... 7