

**MINUTES**  
OF THE  
**Eighty-fifth Annual Session**  
OF THE  
**OLD MT. ZION ASSOCIATION**  
OF  
**Free Will Baptists**

Held with Pilgrim's Rest Church,  
August 6 & 7, 1926. —

---

**OFFICERS**

Eld. G. C. Bland, Moderator,  
Isaac T. Lynch, Clerk,

Larue, Ark.  
Clifty, Ark.

---

The next session of this Association will meet with Mount Zion Church, beginning at ten o'clock a. m. on the second Friday in August, 1927. Eld. Geo. Been was chosen to preach the introductory sermon, and Eld. G. C. Bland, alternate.

## PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of the Eighty-fifth Annual Sesaion of Old Mt. Zion Association, held with Pilgrim's Rest church on August 6 & 7, 1926

The association was called together by Moderator, Eld. G C Bland. Scripture reading, 90th Psalm, followed by prayer by Moderator.

Introductory sermon was delivered by Eld. O T Allred. Text, "Be strong and show thyself a man." Eld. Allred belongs in Union Association and lives at Springfield, Mo.

H R Neely was called to the stand as reading clerk. Letters from the different churches were called for; and the following churches were represented by letter and delegates :

Mt. Zion { Jessie Roles  
Robt. Puryear  
Mrs. Maggie Lawson

New Hope { A L Webb  
H R Neely  
Dow Boydstum

Hickory Grove { B F Lynch  
Alvin Cook  
J M Watson

Christian Home { Hugh Becker  
Atlas Gosvenor  
Annie Gosvenor

Clifty { W. J. Nelson  
T. B. Smith  
G. C. Vanhook

Pilgrim's Rest { John Smith  
Houston Scott  
W. H. Reynolds

Cottage Hill { John Miles  
Bertie Roles  
Sam Garvin

Sugar Creek { E. C. Ruddick  
Mrs. E. C. Ruddick  
Phoebe Ruddick

Antioch { T. A. Smith  
Alford Foster  
A. A. Smith

Rose Hill { L. F. Tacker  
Artis Howard  
Velma Tacker

Letters were then called for from sister associations. Union and Cherokee Home (Okla.) Associations responded with letter and delegates as follows:

Union Association—J M White, Mrs. J M White, and W W White.

Cherokee Home Association—Eld. J B Johnson and B G Phipps.

The letters being read the delegates were invited to seats.

The body then retained their present moderator, Eld. G C Bland, and clerk, I T Lynch, by acclamation for the ensuing year.

"Rules of Order of Business" were read by moderator Eld G C Bland.

The following committees were appointed:

RESOLUTION—Elds. Geo. Been, J W Allred and J B Johnson.

DIVINE SERVICE—B E Lynch, Houston Scott and A L Webb.

FINANCE—Dow Boydstun, Robert Puryear and John Miles.

TEMPERANCE—Mrs. J M White, Mrs. J M Watson and Mrs. W E Lynch

SUNDAY SCHOOLS—J H Roberts, T B Smith, and J S Smith.

OBITUARIES—O T Allred, B G Phipps and Elmer Lawson.

NON-REPRESENTED CHURCHES—Maggie Lawson H R Neely and W H Reynolds.



UNION OF CHURCHES—J G Wilson, Sam Garvin and J M Watson.

The committee on Divine Service reported Elds. O T Allred and G C Bland to preach Friday night.

The Association then adjourned to meet at 3:30, and was dismissed by prayer by Eld. J H Roberts.

### FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

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

Report of committee on Union of Churches was read and committee discharged.

The following ministers gave a verbal report of their year's work: J G Wilson, Sam Garvin, J S Smith, J W Roberts, G C Bland and Geo. Been. We also received a written report from J W Allred, of his ministerial work for the year.

Report of committee on Temperance was received, and committee discharged.

A partial report of committee on Resolutions was given and the committee was retained.

Motion carried that we adjourn to meet at eight o'clock Saturday morning. Prayer by Eld. J. S. Smith. Preaching Friday night by Elds. O. T. Allred and G. C. Bland.

### SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

Opened at 8:20 a. m. The 46th Psalm was read by the moderator. Song by the congregation. Prayer by Eld. B. A Myles of Oklahoma.

Report of committee on Obituary was received, and committee discharged.

### RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

Whereas, seeing the great need of more active and wide awake God-called ministers for the advancement of the kingdom of Christ and church of God, therefore, be it

Resolved, That we urge and insist upon our churches to co-operate with our Home Mission Board, and Co-operative Committee on supporting our evangelists and pastors so they may better discharge the duties God has asked of them.

We resolved to amend Section one of Constitution to read as follows: "Ministers and Deacons," thereby making both ministers and deacons standing delegates by virtue of their office.

Resolved, That we extend our leniency in patronage and support to our College and paper at Tecumseh, Okla.

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

Report of committee on Non-represented Churches was received and committee discharged

Motion carried that we take recess until two o'clock p. m. Saturday.

A Memorial service was conducted Saturday morning at eleven o'clock by Elds. B. A. Myles and B. G. Phipps.

### SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Opened by singing. Prayer by Eld. Geo. Been.

Report of committee on Finance was received and committee discharged.

The moderator appointed Eld. J. H. Roberts, with the assistance of Elmer Lawson and H. R. Neely, to inspect the condition of the following churches: Hickory Flat, Coal Gap and Shady Grove.

Committee on Divine Service reported that Eld. George Been and Eld. J. G. Wilson will preach Sunday at 11 a. m.

### OLD RESOLUTIONS

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

Resolved That we keep up correspondence with our sister associations.

A. L. Webb, W. E. Lynch and Robert Puryear volunteered to write and bear the corresponding letter to Old Union Association. E. H. Watson and Loy Archer alternates.

Resolved, That we represent in the Cherokee Home Association, Okla., and that Eld. and Mrs. J. H. Roberts write and bear the corresponding letter, and Sarah Reynolds alternate.

Resolved, that we represent in the State Association and that Elder Geo. Been and Bro. Dow Boydston write and bear the corresponding letter.

Eld. Geo. Been was elected by the association to draw up and present to the State Legislature of Arkansas, a petition to prevent or prohibit the teaching of Evolution in our Public schools, Sabbath Schools or churches.

Resolved, That we have 500 copies of our minutes printed.

Resolved, that I. T. Lynch, with the assistance of Robert E. Arnold, superintend the printing and distribution of our minutes.

Resolved, That our next association be held with Mount Zion church on the 2nd Friday and Saturday in Aug. 1927 beginning at ten o'clock a. m, on Friday. Eld. Geo. Been was chosen to preach the introductory sermon, and Eld. G. C. Bland, alternate.

Be it resolved, that we extend our heartfelt thanks to Pilgrim's Rest Church, and the good people of its vicinity for their kindness, and the hospitality shown us during our stay among them.

Eld. J. H. Roberts preached Saturday night, Eld. J. B. Johnson concluding, taking charge of the Lord's Supper which was largely partaken of.

Eld. G. C. Bland, Moderator, Larue, Ark.

Bro. I. T. Lynch, Clerk, Clifty, Ark.

## Committee Reports

### TEMPERANCE

We, your committee on Temperance believe: that all true Christians and true American citizens should strive to abolish all intoxicating drinks, and do the Master's will. "Every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things." Therefore, we believe it to be wrong for a true follower of the Master to indulge in strong drinks, or even a true American citizen. "In virtue, knowledge, patience, charity, brotherly kindness, we must be temperate.

Remember Paul says, "Touch not, taste not handle not."

Committee { Mrs. Mary Watson  
Mrs. J. M. White  
Mrs. Beulah Lynch

### 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 { J G Wilson  
Sam Garvin  
J M Watson

### NON-REPRESENTED CHURCHES

We, your committee on Non-represented churches, beg to submit the following report: We find that Coal Gap, Shady Grove, and Hickory Flat are not represented in the association and from the best information we have, Coal Gap and Hickory Flat are almost spiritually dead, and that Shady Grove is not in a very active condition, with a very small membership. We pray God that they may revive to action for the cause of Christ.

Committee { W H Reynolds  
Mrs. Maggie Lawson  
H R Neely

### FINANCE

We find that the churches have sent, through the hands of the delegates, finance as follows:

To print Old Mt. Zion minutes,.....	\$29.60
To print State Minutes,.....	4.00
Total,.....	\$33.60
Paid for Old Mt. Zion Minutes.....	\$27.20
Paid for State Minutes.....	4.00
Total paid for Minutes,.....	\$31.20
Amount remaining,.....	2.40

Committee { Dow Boydston  
Robert Puryear  
John Miles

NOTE—Sister L. P. Rackley sent \$1.00 from Modesta, California for the Association, which shows that she still has an interest here.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

We, your committee on Sunday School, beg leave to submit the following: Believing that Christ, the head of the church, commissioned the church to teach all nations.

We believe that the Bible should be taught from the pulpit and in the Sunday School, and by using such literature as is scriptural. And we request that each church in Old Mt. Zion Association maintain a live, Christ-like Sunday School in each church within our boundry.

Committee { J H Roberts  
T B Smith  
J S Smith

## LIST OF MINISTERS

### ORDAINED MINISTERS

Name	Age	Postoffice
J G Wilson	86	Huntsville, Ark.
G C Bland	68	Larue, Ark.
J H Roberts		Springvalley, Ark.
J S Smith	57	Marble, Ark.
George Been	45	Springvalley, Ark.
J W Allred	59	Larue, Ark.
Everett Bland		
Samuel Garvin		Springvalley, Ark.

### LICENSED MINISTERS

W H Elkins		Siloam Springs, Ark.
Elmer Lawson		Springvalley, Ark.
R I Arnold	21	Clifty, Ark.



## Obituaries

We, your committee on obituaries, find the following brothers and sisters have fallen asleep in Jesus since our last Association: Elizabeth Smith, Susan Ellis, Jeff Bowlin, Billie Hancock, Cassie Capps, Inez Jennings, France Claridy, and Peggie Brown. 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 out to meet our reward, whether it be life eternal, or eternal death.

### Elizabeth Smith

Sister Elizabeth Smith was born Dec. 4, 1845. She professed a hope in Christ and joined the Primitive Baptist Church, and joined the Free Will Baptist Church at Antioch in 1910. She lived a devoted Christian life till God, the Father, called her, Nov. 6, 1925. She leaves nine children, thirty-nine grandchildren, and a host of friends to mourn their loss.

God, in His wisdom, saw need of our loved one. We do not think of her as dead, only resting from her labors. 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 on the road. Hearts and homes are broken; but look beyond, where the gates are of pearl; where there is no sickness nor sorrow, and where no parting comes.

### Cassie Capps

Mary Catherine Turney was born June 22, 1850. She was married in her young days to Jack Stugill, who died, leaving her a widow. She lived a widow for twenty years, taking care of her mother till she died and left her alone again. In January, 1901 she married Marshall Capps, with whom she lived until death called him from her. After that she lived with his children, and with her brother, Clant Turney, with whom she lived when death called her Oct. 24, 1925. She joined the Free Will Baptist Church soon after her marriage to Bro. Capps, and lived a faithful life until death called her away.

## **Susan Ellis**

Sister Susan Ellis, daughter of Bro. Sammie and Sister Nannie Lane, was born Nov. 28, 1845. She was united in marriage to Hiram K. Ellis. To this union nine children were born, four boys and five girls. She professed a hope in Christ in 1871, and joined the Free Will Baptist Church, in which she lived a true and faithful member till death. To talk of God and His goodness was her greatest delight.

She was a true wife and a loving mother—to know her was to love her. The church has lost one its peace makers, for she always wanted to do right in all things. She was a Christian seven days of the week, 365 days of the year.

Sister Ellis departed this life Sept. 17, 1925. She leaves to mourn their loss, two brothers, two sisters, two sons, four daughters, and a host of relatives and friends.

We know our loss is her eternal gain. She is gone but not forgotten.

## **Jeff Bowlin**

Bro. Jeff Bowlin was born March 24, 1841, and died Febr. 28, 1926, at the age of 84 years 11 months and 4 days.

He professed a hope in Christ many years ago, joining the Missionary Baptist Church. Later transferred his membership to the Free Will Baptist Church at Cottage Hill, and lived a devoted Christian life till God called him home.

He leaves an aged companion, three sons, four daughters, and a host of friends to mourn his loss.

We trust our loss is his gain.

## **Billie Hancock**

Bro. Bill Hancock was born Nov. 21, 1855, and departed this life Jan 13, 1926. He professed a hope in Christ early in life. He was a member of Mt. Zion Church, and lived a devoted life until death.

He leaves a wife and five children to mourn his loss. We feel that our loss is his eternal gain.

A loved one from us is gone,  
A voice we loved is still,

A place is vacant in our home  
That never can be filled.

## Inez Jennings

Inez May Jennings was born in Anderson, Mo., January 5, 1903. She professed a hope in Christ at the age of 16, at Springdale, Ark. She was one the seven baptized by Everett Bland, the 4th Sunday in August, 1920, just after he was ordained as a minister.

She was married to Truman Jennings, March 11, 1925, by Eld. G C Bland. Died March 25, 1926.

## France Claridy

Bro. France Claridy was born Oct. 3, 1859, died March 18, 1926, aged 66 years, 5 months and 16 days.

He professed a hope in Christ in Aug., 1911, and about three years ago, he united with Pilgrim Rest Church, and lived a devoted Christian life until death.

Bro. France leaves a wife, two sons and four daughters. Our loss is his gain. He is gone but not forgotten.

A precious one from us is gone,  
A voice we loved is stilled,

A place is vacant in our home  
Which never can be filled.

God in His wisdom has recalled  
The boon His love had given,

And though the body slumbers here,  
The soul is safe in heaven.

## 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 of permanent officers.
8. Reading Constitution and Rules of Order by Moderator or Clerk.
9. Appointment of the following committees:  
(a) Resolution, (b) Finance, (c) Arrangements for preaching, (d) Temperance, (e) Sunday 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.

---

## 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 upon 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.

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.

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.

### **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 denominated Free Will Baptists), being composed of the sundry churches of "Old Mount Zion Association of Free Will Baptists," in the state of Ark., the Association having no power to lord it over God's heritage nor have any ecclesiastical power over the churches, reserving the right of withdrawing 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 Postoffice	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mt Zion .....	1866	George Been	-----	Elmer Lawson	Spr'gvalley, Ark	0	0	0	0	0	1	52
New Hope .....	1886	G C Bland	-----	Loyd Bland	Larue, Ark	4	0	0	0	3	1	98
Hickory Grove	1882	J W Allred	George Been	Emmit Watson	Clifty, Ark	0	0	1	0	0	0	67
Christan Home	1892	George Been	Rev Jenkins	Meda Lee	Hindville, Ark.	0	0	0	0	0	1	38
Coal Gap .....						0	0	0	0	0	0	00
Clifty .....	1896	J W Allred	J W Allred	Lawrence Capps	Mondell. Ark.	1	0	0	3	0	1	60
Hickory Flat	1911					0	0	0	0	0	0	00
Pilgrim Rest ..	1911	J B Johnson	J B Johnson	Hettie Gibson	Spr'gvalley. Ark	3	9	1	0	0	2	153
Cottage Hill	1912	J W Allred	-----	Bertie Roles	Wareagle, Ark.	0	0	0	0	0	1	43
Sugar Creek		George Been	-----	Alice Dart	Garfield, Ark.	0	0	1	0	0	0	25
Antioch .....	1910	R A Smith	R A Smith	A A Smith	Marble, Ark.	15	1	2	0	0	0	37
Shady Grove ..						0	0	0	0	0	0	00
Rose Hill .....		J S Smith	J S Smith	Grace Tacker	Marble, Ark.	5	0	0	0	2	0	24
Totals .....						28	10	53	57	597		

Col. No. 1. Exp. & Baptism.....28

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

Col. No. 3. Rec. by Letter.....5

Col. No. 7. Membership.....597

Col. No. 4. Dis. by Letter.....3

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

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