

Free Will Baptists
MINUTES

OF THE

Eighty-Seventh Annual Session

OF THE

OLD MT. ZION ASSOCIATION

OF

FREE WILL BAPTISTS

Held With Christian Home Church

August 10 and 11, 1928

OFFICERS

Eld. George Been, Moderator..... **Spring Valley, Ark.**

Dow Boydston, Clerk..... **LaRue, Ark.**

The next session of this Association will meet with Clifty Church, beginning at 10 a. m. on second Friday in August, 1929. Eld. G. C. Bland was chosen to preach the introductory sermon, and Eld. Geo. Been, alternate.

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Herald Print, Bentonville, Ark.

PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of the Eighty-seventh Annual Session of Old Mt. Zion Association, held with Christian Home Church, August 10 and 11, 1928.

Association was called to order by Moderator, Eld. G. C. Bland.

In absence of Eld. J. H. Roberts, who was to preach the introductory, the Association elected Eld. G. C. Bland to fill the vacancy, the same being delivered from Mark 16:15-16.

In absence of clerk, Moderator called Dow Boydston to act as clerk pro tem.

Horace Knox was called to stand as reading clerk.

Letters were called for and the following churches were represented by letter and delegates:

Mt. Zion—M. M. Puryear, Harlin Phillips, Berry Puryear.

New Hope—Horace Knox, Mildred Bland, Dow Boydston.

Hickory Grove—E. H. Watson, J. M. Watson, Alvin Cook.

Christian Home—Hugh Becker, Molly Coger, Mary Gosvenor.

Clifty—T. B. Smith, Geo. Van Hook, Maggie Van Hook,

Pilgrim's Rest—By letter.

Cottage Hill—John Miles, Elsie Miles, Bertie Roles.

Sugar Creek—

Antioch—By letter.

Rose Hill—

Letters were then called for from sister associations and following responded:

Union Association—J. H. Hudson.

Cherokee Home Association (Okla.)—Not represented.

The letters being read, the delegates were invited to seats.

The body then elected Eld. Geo. Been, Moderator, and Dow Boydston, clerk, for the ensuing year.

Rules of order of business were read by Moderator.

The following committees were appointed:

DIVINE SERVICE—Alvin Cook, Hugh Becker, Harlan Phillips.

RESOLUTIONS—G. C. Bland, J. H. Hudson, T. B. Smith.

FINANCE—Horace Knox, Geo. Van Hook, Perry Puryear.

TEMPERANCE—J. G. Wilson, E. H. Watson, Maggie Van Hook.

SUNDAY SCHOOL—Molly Coger, J. M. Watson, Mildred Bland.

Committee on Divine Service announced Bro.'s J. G. Wilson and Sam Garvin to preach Friday night.

Motion made we adjourn until 3:30 p. m.

Dismissed with prayer by Eld. G. C. Bland.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Association called to order by singing. After reading part of fifteenth chapter of Acts, prayer by Moderator.

Appointed following committees:

OBITUARIES—Bertie Roles, Elsie Miles, Mary Gosvenor.

NON-REPRESENTED CHURCHES—G. C. Bland, Loy Archer, John Miles.

UNION OF CHURCHES—J. G. Wilson, Geo. Van Hook, Sam Garvin.

Report of Committee on Resolutions partially received and committee retained.

Resolved, We keep up the memorial of our dead.

Resolved, We have 500 copies of our minutes printed and reserve 50 copies for each of our sister associations.

Resolved, The clerk, assisted by Horace Knox, superintend printing and distributing the minutes.

Resolved, We keep up the correspondence with our sister associations.

Eld. G. C. Bland volunteered to write and bear letter to Union Association.

Resolved, That we correspond with Cherokee Home Association (Oklahoma) by letter.

Resolved, That we correspond with State Association by letter.

Resolved, That we denounce evolution and forbid the theory being taught in our public schools.

Motion made we adjourn until 8 o'clock Saturday morning.

Prayer by J. G. Wilson.

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

The association was called to order by singing.

Prayer by Moderator.

Report of Committee on Union of Churches received and committee discharged.

Report of Committee on Sunday Schools received and committee discharged.

Report of Committee on Temperance received and committee discharged.

Report of Committee on Resolutions received and committee discharged.

Resolved, We retain our Home Mission Board.

Report of Committee on Non-Represented Churches received and committee discharged.

Committee on Divine Service announced Eld. Geo. Been conducted memorial service Saturday at 11 o'clock.

Motion made association adjourn until 3:30 p. m.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Association called to order by singing. Prayer by Bro. J. G. Wilson.

Report of Committee on Obituaries received and committee discharged.

The following ministers gave a written report of their year's work: J. W. Allred, W. E. Bland.

The following gave a verbal report: G. C. Bland, Geo. Been, Samuel Garvin, J. G. Wilson.

Report of Committee on Finance received and committee discharged.

Resolved, The next association be held with Clifty Church. Eld. G. C. Bland to preach the Introductory Sermon, and Eld. Geo. Been, alternate.

Committee on Divine Service reports Eld. J. H. Hudson preach Saturday night and Eld. G. C. Bland Sunday at 11:00 o'clock.

Resolved, We extend to Christian Home Church and community our heartfelt thanks for their kindness and hospitality shown us during our stay among them.

ELD. GEO. BEEN, Moderator.

DOW BOYDSTUN, Clerk.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

TEMPERANCE

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

Being aware of the existing conditions in our Nation, we are fully persuaded that it is the duty of every citizen, and especially of every child of God, to fully endorse and assist in the enforcement of the 18th Amendment, or Volstead Act, of putting down intoxicating liquors for the advancement of Christ

and His Kingdom, and to teach our children of the evil of intoxicating drinks; and believe we should be temperate in all things.
—Maggie Van Hook, J. G. Wilson, E. H. Watson,, Committee.

NON-REPRESENTED CHURCHES

We, your Committee on Non-Represented Churches, find Pilgrim Rest Church in good working condition, with delegates elected to the association, but for some unknown cause are not present.

Have no report from Sugar Creek.

We think Coal Gap and Shady Grove have no preaching and held no church meetings, and we consider them dead.

No report from Rose Hill.—John Miles, Loy Archer, G. C. Bland, Committee.

UNION OF CHURCHES

We, your Committee, beg leave to report that as far as we are able to learn, the churches represented in the association are working in harmony. We further believe that this Union should exist in each of our hearts and homes.—Geo. Van Hook, Samuel Garvin, J. G. Wilson, Committee.

FINANCE

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

Mt. Zion	\$4.50
New Hope	5.70
Hickory Grove	2.67
Christian Home	5.52
Clifty	3.35
Pilgrim's Rest	2.63
Cottage Hill	1.25
Antioch50
Public donation	2.43
	<hr/>
	\$28.75

—Horace Knox, Berry Puryear, Geo. Van Hook, Committee.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS

We, your Committee on Sunday Schools, submit the following:

Since we believe in remembering our Creator in the days of our youth when the evil days come not, we endorse Sunday School as a part of our religious worship in which our minds may be started with the teachings of God's Word.

We pray that the Christians of our Sunday Schools may awake to a higher sense of their duty, that a more careful selection of Christians for officers and teachers may be made, and that a greater interest in Sunday Schools may be manifested in all our churches.—Mildred Bland, J. M. Watson, Molly Coger, Committee.

LIST OF MINISTERS

ORDAINED MINISTERS

Name	Age	Post Office
J. G. Wilson	88	Huntsville, Ark.
G. C. Bland	70	LaRue, Ark.
J. H. Roberts	—	Spring Valley, Ark.
J. S. Smith	59	Marble, Ark.
R. A. Smith	62	Marble, Ark.
Geo. Been	47	Spring Valley, Ark.
J. W. Allred	61	LaRue, Ark.
W. E. Bland	26	Springfield, Colo.
Samuel Garvin	70	Spring Valley, Ark.

LICENSED MINISTERS

Elmer Lawson	Spring Valley, Ark.
R. I. Arnold	Clifty, Ark.

NOTE:—Rev. W. E. Bland sent \$1.00 to the association, which shows he still has an interest here.

OBITUARIES

We, the Committee on Obituaries, find that the following brothers and sisters have been called from labor to reward: Bro. Jessie Roles, Uncle Billie Carlock, Sister Julia McGinnis, Sister Ellen McCollum, Sister Birchfield and Aunt Ellen Ellis.

Sister Birchfield, as we understand, was a member of Clifty Church, and was a faithful member until death. We cannot give the exact time of her death.—Elsie Miles, Birtie Roles, Mary Goseam, Committee.

BROTHER JESSIE ROLES

Jessie Roles was a member of Old Mt. Zion Church, being a member about 45 years. He leaves a wife, two daughters, seven boys and a host of relatives and friends to mourn his loss. We trust our loss is his gain. He died January 9, 1928, being about 71 years of age. He was a faithful member until death.

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

JULIA MCGINNIS

Julia McGinnis was born in Arkansas September 13, 1875, and was married to T. F. McGinnis December 22, 1892. To this union was born two boys, Roscoe and Ira.

She professed a hope in Christ in her early days and joined the Methodist Church and lived a number of years in that church until it was moved away to Hindsville, then she joined the Free Will Baptists at Christian Home and lived a true Christian till God saw fit to call her home April 1, 1928.

She leaves a husband and two children and a host of relatives and friends to mourn her loss.

We want to thank the neighbors and friends for the courtesy shown during her illness.

A precious one from us is gone, a voice we loved is still. A place is vacant in our home which never can be filled.

Till God in His wisdom saw fit to call her home, although the body slumbers here, the Spirit is in heaven.

Funeral services conducted by J. H. Roberts.

ELLEN ELLIS

Ellen Ellis was born in Ohio November 14, 1850, and came to Arkansas with her father and brother at about the age of 16 years. Not long after she was married to J. C. Ellis. To this union was born seven children, two boys and five girls.

She professed a hope in Christ in her early days and joined the Methodist Church, lived a number years in that church till it was moved to Hindsville, then she joined the Free Will Baptist Church at Christian Home about August 27th, 1915, where she lived a faithful Christian till God saw fit to call her home October 27th, 1927.

The children and relatives wish to thank the good people for kindness and sympathy during her sickness.

A precious one from us is gone, a voice we loved is still. A place is vacant in our home which never can be filled. God in His wisdom has called her home. Although the body slumbers here, the soul is safe in heaven.

Funeral services conducted by George Been.

SISTER BELLE BURCHFIELD

Belle Stacy was born in Kentucky March 26, 1865. She was married to John D. Burchfield in the year of 1883. To this union was born six children, four of them living.

Sister Burchfield joined the Free Will Baptists at Clifty Church about the third Sunday in October, 1910. She lived a devoted Christian the rest of her life. Then God saw fit to call her to her end March 28, 1928.

CARLOCK

Bro. William Carlock departed this life on Tuesday, March 13, 1928, at the age of 94 years. And interment was made in Burks Shed Cemetery. Funeral services were conducted by Rev. Clark Bland. The burial was under the auspices of the Masonic Order, of which he was a member.

Bro. Carlock had been for a number of years a faithful and devoted member of Mt Zion Church. He was very attentive to its services and support as long as health and opportunity would permit. Always standing firm, defending his faith in Christ and his Church.

We feel our loss is his gain. But Mt. Zion Church and the Masonic Order both feel the loss of one of their most firm and devoted trustworthy members of their fellowship.

Bro. Carlock contributed his long life to his obedience to the first commandment with promise. Ephesian 6-2; Exodus 20-12.

SISTER ELLEN McCOLLUM

Ellen McCollom departed this life on June 5, 1928, at the age of 66 years. Burial was made in Joyce Cemetery. Services conducted by Rev. Geo. Been. She leaves a broken-hearted husband, one son and four daughters, besides a large circle of friends.

Sister McCollom was converted in the fall of 1911 and united with the Hickory Flat Church of Free Will Baptists, but when it ceased to be active she united with the Pilgrim Rest Church of Free Will Baptists and remained in good fellowship until death, always proving herself to be a consistent Christian unto the end.

MARY EVANS

Mary Emma Gray was a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Chas. W. Gray. She was born in Canton, Stark County, Ohio, July 6, 1866, and died at the home of her son, Frank, in Syracuse, Kansas, August 7, 1928, aged 62 years one month and one day.

In 1867 the family moved to Dade County, Missouri, where she grew to womanhood.

She was united in marriage to J. W. Evans May 22, 1884. To this union was born eleven children, five daughters and six sons, three having preceded the mother to her eternal reward. Sister Evens is survived by her husband and eight children, three daughters and five sons; also three brothers, one sister and twenty grandchildren and a large circle of friends—"for to know her meant to love her."

In early life Sister Evans was converted and united with the United Brethren Church, in which relationship she remained until July, 1921, when she united with the Free Will Baptist Church at Pilgrim's Rest, of which she was a devoted member until death.

Previous to the time of her departure she had said she was ready to go, but like Paul in Philippians 1-23, "For I am in a straight betwixt two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better."

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) Resolutions, (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.—Jno. 3:22; Matt. 3:16; Rom. 6:2-5; 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 wordly 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 presbytery

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; 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 and deacons 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 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 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 Post Office	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mt. Zion.....	1866	J. W. Allred.....	Geo. Been.....	Elmer Lawson.....	Spring Valley, Ark.....	0	0	0	2	0	2	---
New Hope.....	1886	J. W. Allred.....	O. T. Allred.....	Pearl Neely.....	LaRue, Ark.....	11	0	0	0	0	0	58
Hickory Grove.....	1882	Geo. Been.....	Geo. Been.....	Gladys Lynch.....	Clifty, Ark.....	2	1	0	0	0	0	63
Christian Home.....	1892	J. H. Roberts.....	J. H. Roberts.....	T. F. McGinnis.....	Hindsville, Ark.....	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Clifty.....	1896	J. W. Allred.....	-----	Laurence Capps.....	Mundell, Ark.....	0	0	0	0	0	1	59
Antioch.....	1910	-----	Bob Whitley.....	Jane Foster.....	Marble, Ark.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	31
Pilgrim Rest.....	1911	J. H. Roberts.....	Geo. Been.....	Hettie Gibson.....	Spring Valley, Ark.....	3	3	0	0	0	2	76
TOTALS.....						17	6	3	6	5	11	287

Col. No. 1, Exp. and Baptism.....17

Col. No. 2, Recommendation.....6

Col. No. 3, Rec. by Letter.....3

Col. No. 4, Dismissed by Letter.....6

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

Col. No. 6, Died.....11

Col. No. 7, Total Membership.....287