

*Almore Allison*

# MINUTES

OF THE

*Polk Bayou Association*

OF

*Free Will Baptists*

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Held With

BLACKLAND CHAPEL CHURCH

Near Oil Trough,

Independence County, Arkansas

September 8, 9, 10, 1944

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## OFFICERS

Moderator—Elder Henry Doyle, Newport.

Asst. Moderator—Elder Lonnie Palmer, Pfiefer.

Clerk and Treasurer—Mrs. M. B. Williams, Strawberry.

Asst. Clerk—Elder Ray Watkins, Newport.

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The next annual session of the Association will convene with Love Divine Church near Hoxie, Lawrence County, Ark., on Friday morning before the Second Sunday in September, 1945.

Elder H. A. Lewis to preach the introductory sermon, with Elder Carl Davis as alternate.

# 1944 MINUTES of the POLK BAYOU ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

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## PROCEEDINGS

### FRIDAY, 11 A. M. SESSION

The ministers, deacons and messengers of that part of God's family, known as Free Will Baptists, met with Blackland Chapel Church, near Oil Trough, Independence County, Arkansas, on September 8, 1944. In the absence of the moderator, the assistant moderator, Elder M. G. King, took charge and read 1st chapter of Psalms. Prayer by Bro. E. M. Phillips, a song by the congregation and Christian handshake.

Eld. M. G. King preached the introductory sermon after reading Scripture from Romans 12, 9-21. Prayer by Eld. King. Text: "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus." After the good message and the benediction, dinner was served at the church with expressions of thanks by Eld. H. A. Lewis.

### FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Called together by song. Scripture lesson Psalm 123 by Moderator Eld. Ray Watkins. Prayer by Eld. Lonnie Palmer. The clerk being absent, Bro. H. B. Doyle was elected clerk protem. Ministers, Deacons and Delegates enrolled:

#### Ministers

M. G. King, Powhatan  
L. C. Doyle, Newport  
H. A. Lewis, Sage  
W. A. Sneed, Jonesboro  
E. M. Phillips, Batesville  
Ray Watkins, Newport

Henry Doyle, Newport  
Lonnie Palmer, Pfiefer  
Obie Eagan, Saffell  
Austin Mullen, Strawberry  
B. Woodruff, Newport  
M. A. Wolfe, Batesville

#### Ministers Belonging But Not Present

J. D. Doyle, Walnut Ridge  
Jeff Weaver, Batesville  
W. M. Padgett, Lynn  
O. Safirt, Newport  
Earl Doyle, Hoxie  
W. B. Hardin, Hoxie  
R. G. Sims, Gid

Henry Obart, Walnut Ridge  
Lyle Cartright, Batesville  
Coy Staggs, Richmond, Calif.  
J. H. Tinkle, McDougal  
John Riggs, Batesville  
Owen Harvell, Lunenburg

### Visiting Ministers

Carl Davis, Elizabeth.

W. C. Hudson, Jonesboro.

### Deacons Present

J. T. Doyle

J. H. Sides

Alfred Martin

R. L. C. Walker

B. A. Gibson

W. N. McCoy

Letters from the different churches were read and received and their delegates seated in conference.

### Churches and Delegates

Ballew's Chapel—Arden Watkins, J. W. Blanks, Elton Vines and Donnie Woodruff.

Jonesboro—W. A. Sneed and Mrs. W. A. Sneed.

Love Divine—T. H. Oldham, Lola Helms and J. T. Doyle.

Oak Grove—M. G. King and Mrs. M. G. King.

Weaver's Chapel—Mrs. Zedmon Goforth.

Bethel—Troy Sims and Earnie Lewis.

New Home No. 2—Abbie Adkisson, Francis Lewis and Louis Adkisson.

Allen's Chapel—Bro. and Sister Milligan.

Pool's Chapel—A. L. Hastings and Ethel Hastings.

Mt. Harmony—Ottis Gray, Mrs. Ottis Gray and Mrs. M. B. Williams.

Blackland Chapel—Carl Turner and Durwood Huckaba.

Macedonia—Sister Smith and Mrs. S. W. Brown.

### Election of Officers

Elder Henry Doyle was elected moderator and Elder Lonnie Palmer, assistant moderator. Mrs. M. B. Williams was elected clerk and Elder Ray Watkins assistant clerk.

### Committees Appointed by New Moderator

Divine Service—Sister Goforth, Bros. T. H. Oldham and B. A. Gibson.

Resolutions—Elders L. C. Doyle, H. A. Lewis and B. Woodruff.

Finance—Bros. J. T. Doyle, H. B. Doyle and W. N. McCoy.

Temperance—Elder M. G. King, Bro. J. H. Sides and Mrs. H. A. Lewis.

Sunday School—Bros. Ottis Gray, E. M. Phillips and Mrs. Alfred Martin.

Obituary—Elder Austin Mullen, Mrs. W. A. Sneed and Sister Smith.

Ordination—Elders L. C. Doyle, H. A. Lewis and M. G. King.

Final Resolutions—Bros. R. L. C. Walker and Hollie Hardin and Mrs. M. G. King.

Motion carried that we erase from order of business the Final Resolutions committee, as the Resolutions committee can do the work of both.

A song was directed by H. B. Doyle and one by Ottis Gray after which the moderator appointed Eld. Lonnie Palmer to make a talk. He made a very interesting talk on "Ye Must Be Born Again," using Scripture from St. John, 3rd chapter.

Conference was adjourned until 9 a. m. Saturday. A song was directed by Eld. Austin Mullen and benediction by Bro. J. W. Blanks.

### FRIDAY NIGHT DIVINE SERVICE

Opened by congregational singing. The Ware twins, small girls, sang a very beautiful number, "The Stone That Was Hewn Out of the Wilderness." A quartet number was also rendered, "I Can Tell You Now The Time." Prayer by Elder M. G. King. Devotional service conducted by Bro. J. W. Blanks. Quartet sang, "I'm A Millionaire."

Scripture lesson from Matt. 5th chapter. Theme, courage, and the message by Elder W. C. Hudson of Jonesboro. Song, "God Be With You 'Til We Meet Again," and Christian handshake. Dismissed with prayer by Elder Ray Watkins.

### SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

Called together by singing directed by Eld. Lonnie Palmer, H. B. Doyle, Alfred Martin and Eld. Austin Mullen.

Lesson read by assistant moderator from Gal. 6th chapter. Prayer by Bro. R. L. C. Walker. Call for ministers' reports. Several received. Conference adjourned to meet back at 1:30.

Recess.

Opened by singing. Scripture lesson from Job, 14th chapter and the memorial sermon was by Eld. Obie Eagan. Prayer by Elder L. C. Doyle. Song and handshake. Prayer of benediction by Eld. Carl Davis. At the noon hour another splendid dinner was served at the church. Thanks expressed by Eld. L. C. Doyle.

### SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Called together by quartet from Mt. Harmony singing, "Don't Forget To Pray For Me." Moderator read 19th Psalms. Prayer by Eld. H. A. Lewis.

The committee on Divine Service reported that Elders L. C. Doyle and H. A. Lewis would preach Saturday night and Eld. Lonnie Palmer on Sunday at 11 a. m.

Ministers read their reports as follows:

M. G. KING—Pastored no churches; preached locally at nine places; helped in two revivals; witnessed three conversions; preached 47 sermons; held 14 funerals; married quite a number of couples; received \$158.86.



OBIE EAGAN—Pastored 3 churches; preached 67 sermons; held 1 revival and helped in 1; received 1 into church; held 3 funerals; married 3 couples; received \$294.23.

LONNIE PALMER—Pastored 3 churches; preached 80 sermons; held 3 funerals; 4 revivals; reinstated 1 church; conversions witnessed 26; received into church 23; Baptized 12; received \$277.55.

HENRY DOYLE—No report.

M. A. WOLFE—No report.

H. A. LEWIS—Pastored 3 churches, 1 church with half-time; preached 170 sermons; helped in 8 revivals; witnessed 46 conversions; received 2 into church; received \$630.00.

RAY WATKINS—Pastored 1 church; preached 78 sermons; 3 funerals; married 2 couples; helped in 4 revivals; witnessed 10 conversions; Baptized 6; received \$296.65.

L. C. DOYLE—Pastored no church; had 1 open appointment; held 1 revival; witnessed 8 conversions; 7 joined church at Ballew's Chapel; married 6 couples; preached a lot of funerals; preached 24 sermons; attended 1 grave yard working; money received, I don't know; this will look like I have quit but I haven't.

AUSTIN MULLEN—Conducted 35 prayer meetings, result: 5 conversions during winter; preached 61 sermons; assisted in 4 revivals; witnessed 7 conversions; taught 2 singing schools.

B. WOODRUFF—Sermons preached unknown; held 1 revival and helped in 2 others; witnessed 2 conversions; preached 2 funerals; received \$18.00.

CARL DAVIS—Pastored 8 churches; preached 275 sermons; 4 funerals; received 50 into church; Baptized 16; made 10 Sunday school lectures; 20 exhortations; received \$604.89.

The Ordaining Council ordained Bro. Ira V. Moss of Blackland Chapel Church as deacon.

Moderator called for report of committees, all reported as follows and were discharged:

SUNDAY SCHOOL—We, the Sunday School Committee wish to report: that churches which have Sunday School seem to remain more active, so we recommend that all churches maintain a Sunday School and use Free Will Baptist literature as far as is possible. We believe that all children should be in Sunday School each Sunday, as soon as they are large enough to understand the Bible pictures.

TEMPERANCE—We, your committee on Temperance, beg leave to submit the following: that since the repeal of the 18th Amendment revelry and drunkenness has increased with leaps and bounds, both among men and women, also among the young. Sins, which go with drinking, road houses, and other places of ill fame, have increased in number. Therefore be it resolved by this body, that we ask our members to stand firm against the liquor traffic in all its kindred devices.

OBITUARY—We find there has been 8 deaths in our association the past year. Sister Pet Williams of Mt. Harmony, Sister Oscar Baker of Oak Grove, Bro. Clint Ashlock and Sister M. E.

## BY-LAWS

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

2. At every sitting of the Association, business shall be opened by reading a portion of the Bible and prayer and closed by prayer.

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

4. All motions made and seconded shall be open for discussion, but debate may be stopped at any time by a majority vote of the members present.

5. If any proposition or motion under debate contains two or more points, it shall be divided at the request of any member and the vote taken separately.

6. Motions made and lost shall not be recorded.

7. No one shall speak more than twice on the same subject without special leave of the body.

8. All questions shall be decided by a majority vote of the members present.

9. No member shall absent himself without leave of the moderator.

10. Arrangements shall be made to insure at least two sermons each day of each session of the Association.

11. The moderator shall announce just before adjournment who shall preach at the next meeting.

12. Changes may be made in these By-Laws at any regular Session of the Association by a majority vote of members present.

## ORDER OF BUSINESS OF THE ASSOCIATION

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1. Convene on the Thursday night before the second Sunday in September.
2. Scriptural reading and prayer.
3. Association called to order by the moderator or assistant moderator, in their absence the clerk.
4. Moderator calls for introductory sermon.
5. Introductory sermon.
6. Enrollment of ministers and deacons.
7. Call for letters from quarterly meetings belonging to the Association.
8. Call for letters from churches belonging to the Association.
9. Call for petitionary letter.
10. Letters read, received and delegates and church clerks given the right hand of fellowship.
11. Enrollment of delegates and clerks.
12. Clerk calls the roll.
13. Elect a moderator.
14. Elect an assistant moderator.
15. Elect assistant clerk.
16. Invite all visiting ministers and deacons to enroll.
17. Invite all Christians to take a seat in council.
18. Read the Constitution and By-Laws.
19. Appointment of the following committees: (a) Divine Service, (b) Resolutions, (c) Finance, (d) Temperance, (e) Sunday school, (f) Obituaries, (g) Ordination, (h) Business.
20. Call for report of outstanding committees.
21. Call for unfinished business.
22. Call for appeals from quarterly meetings and churches.
23. Call for ordination of ministers and deacons.
24. Call for ministers' written reports.
25. Elect delegates to the State Association.
26. Call for reports of different committees.
27. Call for someone to preach the introductory sermon at the next session.
28. Discharge all committees chosen for this session.
29. Adjourn with prayer.

## ARTICLES OF FAITH

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1. We believe in one true and living God—the Father, Son and Holy Ghost—and these three are equal in divine essence, power and glory. John 1:1; 1 John 5:7; 1 Cor. 8:6; John 10:30.

2. We believe that the scriptures in the Old and New Testaments are the words of God, and the only infallible rule of faith and practice. 2 Timothy 4:2; 3:16.

3. We believe that God created man good and gave him holy commandments, whereby he should live holy, but man voluntarily transgressed the law and fell under the just condemnation of the same, whereby all men are sinners, not by constraint, but by choice, being partakers of the sinful nature attained by the fall. But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory; that He, by the grace of God should taste death for every man. Gen. 1:27; 2:16-17; 3:6; John 3:16-17; Heb. 2:9.

4. We believe that Christ, by His Death, burial and resurrection purchased our pardon and offers it freely to all upon the principles of repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. He now commands all men everywhere to repent, "Therefore look ye unto me all ye ends of the earth, for I am God, and besides me there is none else." Rom. 5:6-21; Mt. 4:7; Isa. 45:22; Heb. 11:16.

5. We believe that all adult persons must be regenerated and born of the Spirit of God if they inherit eternal life. John 1:6-14; Titus 3:5; John 3:1-12; Rom. 8:9.

6. We believe that regeneration is an instantaneous renewal of the heart by the Holy Ghost whereby the penitent sinner receives a new life, becomes a child of God and is disposed to serve Him. As babes require food for bodily development, so the new born babe in Christ requires spiritual food, that he may develop by a gradual growth into full stature of Christian manhood. John 3:3; Ezek. 36:26-27; Titus 3:5; Gal. 5:1-21; Eph. 2:10; John 1-12; Matt. 13:31; Mark 4:26; 1 Peter 2:3.

7. We believe that the doctrine of sanctification or holiness in this life as taught in the Bible is applicable to the soul or inner man, and to it alone, and that the sanctification of the body will not take place until the resurrection of the dead, when this mortal shall put on immortality and this corruptible body shall put on incorruption. 1 Cor. 6:11; Rom. 7:7-25; Phil. 3:21; 1 Cor. 15:44.



8. We believe that all Christians should preserve 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 a right to the tree of life and enter in through the gates into the city." 1 Cor. 10:12-13; Rev. 22:14; Rom. 11:20-21; Heb. 10:26; John 15:2-6.

9. We believe that a visible church of Christ is a congregation of men and women who have obtained fellowship with each other and given themselves to the Lord, and one another, having agreed to keep up Godly discipline according to the rules of the Gospel. Matt. 18:16-20.

10. We believe that the invisible church is the family of God; composed in the aggregate of all redeemed from righteous Abel to the restitution of all things from every nation, kindred and tongue. Matt. 16:18; Acts 2:47; Heb. 12:33; Acts 10:34-35; Eph. 1:22.

11. We believe that Jesus Christ is the great head of the church and that the government thereof is within the body. Eph. 2:23; Col. 1:18-21; Matt. 18-17.

12. We believe that baptism by immersion is the apostolic mode, even the burial of a believer in water, and that Christ, who is the new life, showed this example to His children and bade them walk therein. Matt. 3:5-16; 28:19-20; Mark 1:8-11; Act. 8:38; Rom. 6:16.

13. We believe that baptism, the Lord's Supper and the Washing of the saints' feet are ordinances of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to be continued until His second coming. Matt. 28:19; Luke 22:19-20; John 13:5.

14. We believe that only those who have obtained a living hope in the Lord Jesus Christ have a right to baptism, and only those who have been called of God and have come under the Presbytery of elders have a right to administer the same. Titus 1:16; Mark 16:16; Matt. 3:8-9; Acts 10:47; 1 Tim. 4:14-16.

15. We believe that the soul is immortal, hence does not die, but immediately after death enters into a conscious state of happiness or misery, according to the spiritual character here possessed. Phil. 1:23; Luke 23:43; Rev. 6:9.

16. We believe that there will be a general universal judgment when all men shall be judged according to the deeds done in the body, whether good or bad, and that immediately thereafter the wicked shall enter into everlasting punishment and the righteous into everlasting happiness. Eccl. 1:14; Matt. 12:36-37; 2 Thes. 1:8-9; Rev. 14:11, 21:8; Luke 16:23; 2 Cor. 5:10