

Gilmore Polk Kisson

Minutes
Of The
Polk Bayou Association
Of
Free Will Baptists

Held With
Ballew's Chapel Church
Near Grubbs, Jackson County, Arkansas

SEPTEMBER 6, 7, 8, 1957

The next session of the Association will be held with Blackland Chapel Church near Oil Trough, Independence County, Arkansas, at 7:30 p. m. Friday before the second Sunday in September, 1958.

Rev. Obie Eagan will be the introductory speaker, with Rev. J. W. Blanks, alternate.

OFFICERS

Moderator_____Rev. Clarence Burton, Grubbs
Ass't. Moderator_____Rev. Henry Doyle, Newport
Clerk and Treasurer_____Mrs. M. B. Williams, Strawberry
Ass't. Clerk_____Mr. Harold Howard, Saffell

PROCEEDINGS.

On September 6, 1957, the annual session of the Polk Bayou Association of Free Will Baptists convened with Ballew's Chapel Church as the host church. Oakland Church near Bradford joined the Association this year, making a total of 15. All were represented by letter and 11 had a delegation present. The voting body was composed of 9 ministers, 9 deacons, 3 church clerks, and 28 delegates.

Friday A. M.

The session was opened with congregational singing, directed by Horace Doyle, with Rev. Austin Mullen, pianist. Moderator Clarence Burton read Matthew 28 and Acts 1:1-9, followed with prayer by Rev. Henry Doyle.

After remarks by Moderator and prayer by Bro. A. T. Blanks, the speaker, Rev. Austin Mullen, was introduced by the Moderator.

After reading scripture from Rev. 22 and Gen. 3, followed by song "Ready", Rev. Mullen brought the message "God's Call to Man." After the placement of visitors the benediction was given by Rev. Ray Watkins.

Friday 2:00 P. M.

The assembly was called together by singing, followed with prayer by Bro. W. N. McCoy. Assistant Moderator Rev. Henry Doyle read scripture from St. Luke.

Ministers and deacons were enrolled. Letters were read and received by the body. Delegates and church clerks were seated by the right hand of fellowship.

Roll call.

Election of Officers

Moderator, Clarence Burton.

Ass't. Moderator Henry Doyle and Clerk and Treasurer Mrs. M. B. Williams, were all re-elected by acclamation.

Rev. Burton, Moderator, read by-laws and the church covenant, then appointed the following committees:

DIVINE SERVICE—Preston Coles, Earl Morgan, and Floyd Huskey.

FINANCE—Horace Doyle, W. N. McCoy, and Ralph Webb.

RESOLUTIONS—Austin Mullen, A. T. Blanks, and Charles Tucker.

TEMPERANCE—Obie Eagan, Gilmore Adkisson, and Joe Woodruff.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS—Merle Coles, Iva Adkisson, and Elaine Odglen.

OBITUARY—Ralph Welch, Virgil Odglen, and Lon Coleman.

ORDINATION—Standing Committee—Rev. H. A. Lewis, Rev. Obie Eagan, and Rev. Owen Harvell.

Adjournment.

Benediction by Floyd Huskey.

Friday Night, Divine Service

Congregational singing, prayer by Bro. Earl Morgan. Specials, two numbers by a quartet from the host church.

Scripture, Acts 26:28, and message by Rev. Ray Watkins. Subject: "What Is Christianity?" Benediction by Howard Whybrew.

Saturday 9:00 A. M.

Called together by congregational singing. Prayer by Rev. Obie Eagan, and Rev. Henry Doyle. Scripture, Philippians 1:21, 2:5, 3:14, and 4:19, by Moderator.

Prayer by A. T. Blanks.

Tardy letters read and delegates seated.

Prayer by Bro. Joe Woodruff and Rev. Charles Tucker.

The motion that was passed in 1956 in regard to the amount of money each church would pay for the printing of minutes, and to the state meeting, was amended to read as follows: Each church pay \$6.00 as has been the custom, then the churches with larger membership pay more. No maximum was named. Song by congregation, prayer by Millard Williams.

Recess

Saturday 11 A. M.

Rev. H. A. Lewis read Hebrew 11:8-16. Prayer by Rev. Obie Eagan. Rex. Lewis brought the memorial message, subject, "The City Whose Builders and Maker Is God."

After Christian handshake and remarks by Rev. Obie Eagan, the benediction was given by Rev. Lonnie Clark. Lunch was served on the church ground with thanks expressed by Rev. Ray Watkins.

Saturday 1:30 P. M.

Singing.

23rd Psalm and prayer by Rev. Henry Doyle.

Reports of committees received. Reports of ministers received. All reports found elsewhere in this minute.

Delegates and alternates to the Arkansas State Association were elected as follows:

DELEGATES—Bro. Leroy Scudder, Bro. Earl Crotts, Bro. Floyd Huskey, Bro. Oscar Riley, Sister Winnie Grace Coles.

ALTERNATES—Sisters Olene Huskey, Jean Clark, Luella Scudder, Gertie Doyle, and Sister Crotts.

Motion sustained to begin the Association on Friday night instead of Friday morning before the second Sunday in September, 1958, and to continue through Saturday, beginning promptly at 9 a. m. on Saturday.

Motion carried that those who represented the different churches go back and discuss with the church, the Union Revival, then have them vote on it and send the report of results to the next quarterly meeting.

Rev. H. A. Lewis, member of the Executive Board whose term had expired, was re-elected by acclamation.

Executive Board

Rev. H. A. Lewis.....	1957-1962
Rev. J. W. Blanks.....	1956-1961
Rev. Owen Harvell.....	1955-1960
Rev. Obie Eagan.....	1954-1959
Bro. Millard Williams.....	1953-1958

Blackland Chapel Church was chosen as the host church for the Association in 1958. Rev. Obie Eagan will be the introductory speaker on Friday night, Rev. J. W. Blanks is alternate.

Rev. Ray Watkins will be the speaker for the Memorial Service on Saturday and Rev. Henry Doyle, alternate.

Conference was adjourned and a large part of the delegation returned to their homes on Saturday afternoon.

Rev. Charles Tucker preached on Saturday night.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

DIVINE SERVICE—We your committee, report as follows: Ministers will fill the stand in order named here, Friday 11 a. m., Rev. Austin Mullen, introductory. Friday night, Rev. Ray Watkins. Saturday 11 a. m., Rev. H. A. Lewis, memorial. Saturday night, Rev. Charles Tucker.

FINANCE—We the committee wish to submit the following report: We received \$80.75 from 13 of the churches represented. Two churches promised to send \$6.00 each to the treasurer later.

TEMPERANCE—We your temperance committee, wish to make the following report: We urge that all ministers admonish their subjects to abstain from strong drink and be temperate in all things and that all ministers practice what they preach.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS—We the committee are happy to report as follows: We find 928 Sunday School pupils in Sunday School from the 13 churches reporting Sunday Schools. This is an increase of 154 since last year. Two churches reported no Sunday School. We believe the Sunday Schools Convention has helped very much and encourage more leaders to attend our conventions. Also we urge more parents to take their children to Sunday School.

OBITUARIES—We, the committee, make the following report: We find 11 of our members have been claimed by death but are sure our loss is Heaven's gain. Allen's Chapel, Bro. Charles Webster, Bro. Clyde Owens, and Mrs. J. R. Richardson. Bethel, Rev. J. H. Tinkle. Ballew's Chapel, Sister Patricia Clark and 2 others. Mt. Harmony, Bro. Wash Huskey, Bro. Elvie Crafton. New Home No. 2, Mrs. J. C. Route. Pool's Chapel, Bro. Dean Haigwood.

REPORT OF TREASURER

The Finance Committee gave me	\$80.75
New Home and Weaver's Chapel sent me.....	\$12.00
Making a total of	\$92.75
Balance from last year	\$12.48
TOTAL	\$105.23
Paid to State Association	\$40.00
Balance in Treasury.....	\$65.23

MINISTERS REPORTS

J. W. BLANKS—Pastored 2 churches, helped in 3 revivals, held 3 funerals, married 4 couples, preached 101 sermons, received 21 into membership, baptized 21. Money received \$1,343.00.

LONNIE J. CLARK—Pastored 3 churches, preached 90 sermons, helped in 4 revivals, witnessed 5 conversions, baptized 10, helped hold 5 funerals, married 2 couples. Money received \$526.50.

OBIE EAGAN—Pastored 1 church, preached 70 sermons, held 9 funerals, held 1 revival, witnessed 1 conversion, baptized 1. Money received \$597.24.

AUSTIN MULLEN—Pastored 2 churches, preached 130 sermons, witnessed 25 confessions, baptized 10, received 9 into membership, money received \$175.00, helped in 2 revivals, made several appearances with quartet, wrote 6 songs, sold several Bibles and religious books, and wrote and delivered several tracts. I desire your prayers that I may faithfully perform the work God has called me into.

Ministers Present

Henry Doyle, Newport; Clarence Burton, Grubbs; Austin Mullen, Newport Rt., Batesville; Ray Watkins, Newport; Bee Woodruff, Newport; Obie Eagan, Saffell; Charles Tucker, Newport; H. A. Lewis, Newport Rt., Batesville; Lonnie Clark, Mt. Pleasant.

Ministers Absent

Edgar Phillips, Guion; Ernest Elms, Batesville; Coy Staggs, Batesville; Othaniel Safirt, Newport; Owen Harvell, Melbourne; D. W. Pinkston, Hoxie; Henry Obarts, Hoxie; Archie Warnick, Mt. Pleasant; Jimmy Richardson, Batesville; J. W. Blanks, Newport; John Riggs, Batesville Rt 2; W. C. Keylon, Union; M. A. Wolfe; H. H. Ring.

Deacons Present

A. T. Blanks, Horace Doyle, Virgil, Ogdlen, Joe Woodruff, W. N. McCoy, Gerphus Huskey, Vick Rutledge, Millard Williams, Laman Hastings.

Church Clerks

Floyd Coleman, Iva Adkisson, Dennis Scudder.

DELEGATES

ALLEN'S CHAPEL—Preston Coles, Merle Coles, and Bob Henly.

BALLEW'S CHAPEL—Ralph Welch, Earl Morgan, and Elaine Ogdlen.

BETHEL—Gilmore Adkisson.

BLACKLAND CHAPEL—Mrs. Robbie Snellgrove, Jackie Tucker, and Dessie Huckaba.

COFFMAN—R. F. Townsley and Leroy Scudder.

FIRST FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH OF NEWPORT—Gertie Doyle, Maude Fletcher and Imogene Mantooth.

ISLAND—Lon Coleman, Howard Walker and Mrs. Howard Walker.

MT. HARMONY—Lewis Croom, Mabel Croom, and Floyd Huskey.

OAK GROVE—C. L. Davis, Mrs. C. L. Davis, and Cora Campbell.

PINE HILL—Jean Clark.

POOL'S CHAPEL—Winnie Grace Coles, Conway Coles, and Velva Coles.

**CHURCHES WITH PASTORS' AND 'CLERKS' NAMES
AND ADDRESSES**

ALLEN'S CHAPEL—Rev. J. W. Blanks, Newport; Mrs. Opal Sturch, Batesville Rt., Salado.

BALLEW'S CHAPEL—Rev. Clarence Burton, Grubbs; Mr. Floyd Coleman, Newport.

BETHEL—Rev. H. A. Lewis, Newport Rt., Batesville; Mrs. Iva Adkisson, Guion.

BLACKLAND CHAPEL—Rev. Lonnie Clark, Mt. Pleasant; Mrs. Mabel Huckaba, Oil Trough.

COFFMAN—Mr. Dennis Scudder, Rt. 1, Box 250-B, Hoxie.

FIRST FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH OF NEWPORT—Rev. J. W. Blanks, Newport; Miss Ethel Doyle, 1005 McLain, Newport.

ISLAND—Rev. Lonnie Clark, Mt. Pleasant; Mrs. Eva Miller, Rt. 4, Box 318, Newport.

MACEDONIA—Rev. Austin Mullen, Newport Rt., Batesville; Mrs. Myrl Anderson, Mt. Pleasant.

MT. HARMONY—Rev. Ray Watkins, Newport; Mrs. Billie Saffell, Saffell.

NEW HOME No. 2—Rev. Owen Harvell, Melbourne; Mrs. Earle Sims, Mt. Pleasant.

OAK GROVE—Winford Davis, Black Rock.

OAKLAND—Rev. W. F. Prickett, Mrs. J. D. Burrow, Rt. 1, Bradford.

PINE HILL—Rev. H. A. Lewis, Newport Rt., Batesville; Mr. Roy McTigue, Rt. 1, Batesville.

POOL'S CHAPEL—Rev. Owen Harvell, Melbourne; Mr. Laman Roach, Rt. 2, Cave City.

WEAVER'S CHAPEL—Rev. Austin Mullen, Newport Route, Batesville; Mrs. Alene Milligan, Rt. 2, Batesville.

BY-LAWS

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 rise 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 then 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.

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 ASSOCIATION

1. Convene on the Friday Morning before the second Sunday in September.

2. Scripture 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 call the roll.
13. Elect a moderator.
14. Elect an assistant moderator.
15. Invite all visiting ministers and deacons to enroll.
16. Invite all Christians to take a seat in council.
17. Read the Constitution and By-Laws.
18. Appointment of the following committees: (a) Divine Service, (b) Resolutions, (c) Finance, (d) Temperance, (e) Sunday School, (f) Obituary, (g) Ordination.
19. Call for report of outstanding committees.
20. Call for unfinished business.
21. Call for appeals from quarterly meetings and churches.
22. Call for ordination of ministers and deacons.
23. Call for Ministers' written reports.
24. Elect delegates to the State Association.
25. Call for report of different committees.
26. Call for someone to preach the introductory sermon at the next session.
27. Discharge all committees chosen for this session.
28. Adjourn with prayer.

CHURCH COVENANT

Having given ourselves to God by faith in Christ, and adopted the Word of God as our rule of faith and practice, we now give ourselves to one another by the will of God in this solemn covenant. We promise by His grave to love and obey Him in all things, to avoid the appearance of evil, to abstain from all sinful amusements and unholy conformity to the World; from all sanction of the use and sale of intoxicating beverages, and to "provide things honest in the sight of all men."

We agree to accept Christian admonition and reproof with meekness, and to watch over one another in love, endeavoring to "keep the unity of Spirit," in bonds of peace, to be careful of one another's happiness and reputation, and seek to strengthen the weak, encourage the afflicted, admonish the erring, and as far as we are able, promote the success of the Church and of the Gospel.

We will everywhere hold Christian principle sacred and Christian obligations and enterprises supreme; counting it our chief business in life to extend the influence of Christ in society; constantly praying and toiling that the Kingdom of God may come, and His will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

We agree faithfully to discharge our obligations in reference and social worship; and by self-denial, faith and good works to the study of the Scripture, secret prayer, family devotions, endeavor to "grow in grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." We will not forget the assembling of ourselves together for church conferences, public worship, and the observance of the ordinance of the Gospel, nor fail to pay according to our ability for the support of the Church, of its poor, and all its benevolent work.

To this end we agree to labor for the promotion of educational and denominational enterprises, the support of missions, the success of Sunday Schools, and evangelistic efforts for the salvation of souls and the conversion of the world. And may the God of peace sanctify us wholly and preserve us blameless unto the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

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; John 5:7; I Cor. 8:6; John 10:30.

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

3. We believe that God created man good and gave him his 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; 3:16-17; 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 beside me there is none else." Rom. 5:6-21; Matt. 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; 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 babies require food for bodily development, so the new born babe in Christ requires spiritual food, that he may develop by gradual growth into full stature of Christian manhood. John 3:3; Ez. 36:26-27; Titus 3:5; Gal. 5:21; Eph. 2:10; John 1:12; Matt. 13:31; Mark 4:36; I 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 of 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 his corruptible body shall put on incorruption. I Cor. 6:11; Rom. 7:7-25; Phil. 3:21; I 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." I Cor. 10:12-13; Rev. 22:14; Rom. 11:20-21; Hebrews 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 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; Acts 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 contained 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; I 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; II Thes. 1:8-9; Rev. 14:11; 21-18; Luke 16:23; II Cor. 5:10.

17. We believe that God in His goodness displays power of grace in a great degree in calling and qualifying His servants by teaching of the Holy Ghost and by instruction of His blessed word to go forth and proclaim life and salvation without price. He bids us freely to come and nothing prevents the salvation of anyone but his own stubborn and sinful refusal to come. Acts 9:15; I Tim. 1:15-16; I Cor. 1:23.

18. We believe in a divine call to the ministry; that the minister shall heed the admonition of Paul to Timothy to study the Scriptures that the church donate of their substance as the Lord prospers them to the support of their pastors, that said ministers may have better opportunities to store their minds with spiritual food that is necessary to Christian development. To this end we recommend that each church have a finance committee of three to consist of two deacons and a clerk to collect and store such funds. II Tim. 2:15; I Cor. 16:1-2.