

# M I N U T E S

OF THE

## FORTY-NINTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF

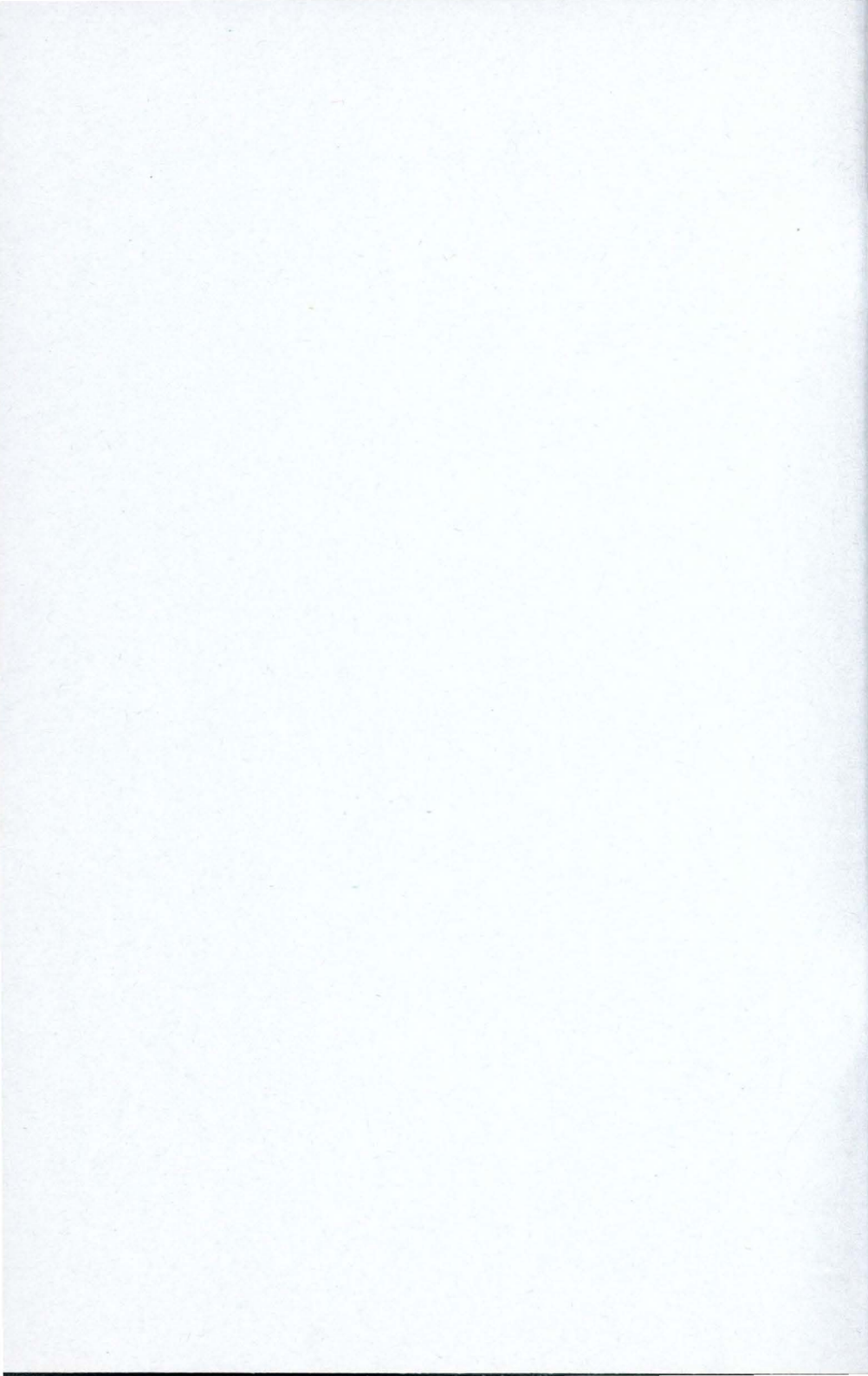
## RICH MOUNTAIN ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST



NEXT ASSOCIATION TO BE HELD WITH

MIDWAY  
FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH  
BOARD CAMP, ARK.

August 9-12, 1956



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## MINUTES OF THE FORTY-NINTH ANNUAL SESSION OF THE RICH MOUNTAIN ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH OF CHRIST

The forty-ninth annual session of the Rich Mountain Association of Free Will Baptist Church of Christ met with the Hatfield Church, Hatfield, Arkansas, August 18-21, 1955.

The association opened by singing, "Anywhere Is Home," and Rev. George Been led in prayer.

Rev. S. B. Metcalf preached the introductory sermon, using "Unity and Fellowship" as his subject.

Services were dismissed by Bro. A. A. Miller.

### FRIDAY SERVICES

Friday morning services came together by singing, "I'll Live On" and prayer led by Bro. George Hooper.

In the absence of the moderator, the assistant moderator, Bro. George Hooper, took charge and read Isaiah 35 for a lesson.

Church letters were called for and the following churches responded: Hatfield, Big Cedar, and Midway.

A motion was made and carried to receive the letters and seat the delegates.

The right hand of fellowship was given to two visiting ministers, Rev. George Been from the Old Mount Zion Association, and Rev. Walter Flickinger from the South Eastern Association.

The association went into permanent organization by electing Bro. George Hooper, Moderator; Rev. R. I. Cook, Assistant Moderator; Rev. S. B. Metcalf, Clerk-Treasurer; and Sister Barbara Griffin, Assistant Clerk.

The moderator took his seat by reading the rules of order and appointing the following committees:

Arrangements: Sister Beulah Hess, Bro. Ollin Kelsey, Bro. Nick Wilson, Bro. Arch Price, and Sister Annie Miller.

Sabbath School: Sister Lula Shults, Bro. Jodie McCulley, Rev. R. I. Cook, and Sister Barbara Griffin.

Resolutions: Bro. Herbert Hess, Bro. H. R. Simmons, Rev. Walter Flickinger, Bro. J. B. Cummings, Rev. Thomas Billy, and Bro. John Storey.

Finance: Bro. J. C. Davis, Bro. Ray Metcalf, Sister Violet Wilson, and Sister Onie Cook.

Obituaries: Sister Lula Shults, Sister Mary Medford, Sister Ovie Hooper, and Sister Beulah Hess.

Temperance: Rev. George Been, Bro. J. B. Cummings, Rev. Walter Flickinger, and Bro. J. C. Davis.

The clerk read his report and a motion was made to receive the report. (See reports).

Business was dismissed with an altar prayer.

The eleven o'clock services came together with singing and a devotional service led by Rev. R. I. Cook.

Rev. Walter Flickinger preached from Psalms 52:7.

Services were dismissed by Bro. A. A. Miller.

Friday afternoon services came together with singing "When the Redeemed Are Gathering In."

The moderator read 2 Peter 2 for a lesson and Rev. Thomas Billy led in prayer.

The Rich Mountain Quartet sang a special song, "I'll Be a Friend to Jesus," for us.

Business was called for and the clerk read a telegram from Bro. Martin Redding.



The moderator appointed Rev. S. B. Metcalf, Rev. R. I. Cook, Bro. J. E. Storey, and Bro. Herbert Hess to write a history of the Rich Mountain Association and report to the next association.

Business was dismissed by Bro. J. B. Cummings.

Friday night services came together with singing "The Unclouded Day" and an altar prayer.

We enjoyed two numbers by the Booster Band of the Big Cedar Church and two numbers by the Rich Mountain Quartet.

Rev. George Been preached from Ephesians 4, using verse 32 for his text.

Services were dismissed by Sister Neal.

### SATURDAY SERVICES

Saturday morning services came together with singing "How Beautiful Heaven Must Be." Prayer was led by Bro. J. C. Davis.

The moderator read Hebrews 4 for a lesson.

Business was called for and the Oak Grove Church presented a letter. The letter was read and the delegates were seated.

The committees on Sabbath School, Arrangements, Obituaries, and Finance reported. (See reports). The reports were accepted and the committees were dismissed.

Business was dismissed by Bro. John Storey.

The eleven o'clock service came together with singing. After a devotional, Rev. Thomas Billy preached from Matthew 27:22.

Services were dismissed by Bro. A. A. Miller.

Saturday afternoon services came together with singing "Anywhere Is Home." Prayer was led by Rev. S. B. Metcalf.

The moderator read 2 Timothy 2 for a lesson.

Committee reports were called for and the committees on Resolutions and Temperance reported. (See reports). The reports were accepted and the committees were dismissed.

By vote, our next association will convene with the Midway Church. It will begin on Thursday night before the second Sunday in August, 1956.

Brothers John Storey, Amer Yeaman, and Ollin Kelsey were elected to represent us in the State Association.

A vote of thanks was given to the Hatfield Church for their hospitality to the delegates during the association.

The moderator appointed Rev. Thomas Billy to preach the introductory sermon next year.

Business was dismissed by Bro. John Storey.

GEORGE HOOPER, Moderator.

S. B. METCALF, Clerk-Treasurer.

Saturday night services came together with singing "Some Day" and prayer led by Rev. George Been.

Rev. George Been read Exodus 12 for a lesson and preached from Matthew 26: 17-29, 1 Cor. 11:21-34, and John 13:1-17.

The Lord's Supper and Washing of the Saint's Feet were then partaken of.

Services were dismissed by singing a hymn.

### SUNDAY SERVICES

Sunday morning services came together with singing. The Big Cedar Church brought their Booster Band again and we enjoyed hearing them sing.

After Sunday School, Bro. LeRoy Billy read 2 Timothy 3:1-8 and preached from 1 John 2:15 and was followed by Rev. S. B. Metcalf.

## ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Introductory Sermon.
2. Association called to order by the moderator and in his absence, by the clerk.
3. Letters from churches composing the association called for, read, and the delegates seated.
4. Corresponding Associations.
5. Right hand of fellowship.
6. Call for letters from newly organized churches.
7. Election of Officers.
8. Reading Constitution and Rules of Order by moderator.
9. Appointment of Committees: (A) Arrangements, (B) Sunday School, (C) Resolutions, (D) Obituaries and (F) Temperance.
10. Report of Committees appointed at last association and other unfinished business.
11. Report of new committees.
12. New business.
13. Selecting place for next association.
14. Select the one to preach the introductory sermon the following year.
15. Vote of thanks to the Host Church for caring for the delegates to the association.
16. Selection of delegates to State Association.
17. Adjournment.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

We, your committee on Arrangements, submit the following report:  
Thursday evening: Sermon by Rev. S. B. Metcalf.

Friday 11 a. m.: Devotional service led by Rev. R. I. Cook and sermon by Rev. Walter Flickinger.

Friday evening: Devotional services led by Bro. Ollin Kelsey and sermon by Rev. George Been.

Saturday 11 a. m.: Devotional services led by Bro. A. A. Miller and sermon by Rev. Thomas Billy.

Saturday evening: Sermon by Rev. George Been followed by the Lord's Supper and Washing of the Saints' Feet.

Sunday 11 a. m.: Sermon by Bro. LeRoy Billy and followed by Rev. S. B. Metcalf.

BEULAH HESS  
NICK WILSON  
OLLIN KELSEY

We, your committee on Finance, submit the following report:

We find the sum of \$5.16 in the treasury and the churches have contributed \$51 to the minute fund, which makes a total of \$56.16 in the treasury.

We recommend that the churches make up the balance of money needed to print the minutes and represent in the State Association.

J. C. DAVIS  
VIOLET WILSON  
MRS. R. I. COOK  
RAY METCALF

We, your committee on Obituaries, submit the following report:

We find that God, in his infinite wisdom, has called from our midst during the past year: Bro. Ira Chaney, March 22, 1955, and Mrs. L. R. Burnett, July 16, 1955, from the Midway Church. Sister Lennie Tate August 12, 1954, and Sister Hazel Standridge, May 25,

1955, from the Oak Grove Church. Bro. Jerry Williams, December 13, 1954, from the Hatfield Free Will Baptist Church. And Bro. J. A. Peters from the Big Cedar Church.

They died in a true and living faith of an eternal God. Our loss is Heaven's gain.

LULA SHULTS  
BEULAH HESS  
OVIE HOOPER  
MARY MEDFORD  
DOLLIE STOREY

We, your committee on Sabbath Schools, submit the following report:

It is our opinion that each church should have a Sabbath School. We believe the Sabbath School is the life of the church. It is a training place for all, both children and adults, in God's work. Our Lord says, "Search the Scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life; and they are they which testify of me." St. John 5:39.

We found, by looking over our church letters, that the Big Cedar, Hatfield Free Will Baptist, and Midway Churches have good Sunday Schools. They all use Free Will Baptist Literature.

LULA SHULTS  
BARBARA GRIFFIN  
R. I. COOK  
JODIE McCULLEY

We, your committee on Temperance, submit the following report:

We feel, as Christians, that we should be temperate in all things and our lives should conform to God's requirements. As touching strong drink we should be total abstainers. Proverbs 20:1. We call your attention to the obligation in our church covenant, section 1.

For the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty; and drowsiness shall clothe a man with rags. Proverbs 23:21.

GEORGE BEEN  
J. C. DAVIS  
J. B. CUMMINGS

We, your committee on Resolutions, submit the following report: We recommend to leave the resolutions as they appear in the 1954 minutes with the following additions.

Resolution No. 15—Be it resolved, that we carry the names and addresses of our ordained and licensed ministers as appears in our 1950 minutes and include the name of Rev. Tom Billy, who has come into our association since that time.

Resolution No. 16—Be it resolved, that this association adopt an Order of Business similar to that of the Old Mount Zion Association.

H. E. HESS  
J. B. CUMMINGS  
J. E. STOREY  
THOMAS BILLY

### TREASURER'S REPORT

To the Rich Mountain Association of Free Will Baptist:

I, your clerk and treasurer, submit the following report:

Balance in treasury .....	\$18.36
Received for minutes .....	60.00
Received for Children's Home .....	10.00
Total in Treasury .....	88.36
Paid Children's Home .....	\$10.00



Paid State Association .....	12.00	
Paid for printing Minutes .....	61.20	
Total paid out .....		83.20
Balance in treasury .....		5.16

REV. S. B. METCALF

## FIFTH SUNDAY MEETINGS

1st—Midway .....	October 29-30, 1955
2nd—Hatfield Free Will Baptist .....	January 27-29, 1956
3rd—Big Cedar .....	April 28-30, 1956
4th—Oak Grove .....	July 28-30, 1956

## ORDAINED MINISTERS

Rev. T. H. Horton, Oak Grove Church .....	Route 2, Mena, Arkansas
Rev. J. C. Nichols .....	Yakima, Washington
Rev. S. B. Metcalf, Hatfield Church .....	Route 1, Hatfield, Arkansas
Rev. Bennie Fisher, Hatfield Church .....	Route 1, Hatfield, Arkansas
Rev. R. I. Cook, Oak Grove Church .....	Route 2, Mena, Arkansas
Rev. Thomas Billy, Big Cedar Church, Rt. 2, Box 116, Poteau, Okla.	
Bro. LeRoy Billy, Big Cedar Church, Rt. 2, Box 116, Poteau, Okla.	

## RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 1—Be it resolved, that our deacons be instructed to see after the support of their pastors and needy widows and orphans; in fact, all the needy Saints of Jerusalem.—Acts 6:1-7.

Resolution No. 2—Be it resolved, that God commanded tithes and offerings in the Old Testament; Jesus Christ indorsed it in the Gospel (Matthew 22:23), and the Apostle Paul said, "Upon the first day of the week, let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him."—I Cor. 16:2a.

Resolution No. 3—Be it resolved, that we, members of the Rich Mountain Association, do pledge ourselves to confirm to the requirements of God's words, insofar as our ability and circumstances affords us to do so, first by confessing our faults to one another, and praying one for another that ye may be healed.—James 5:16. That we will do, God being our helper. Moreover, we each one of us, will strive to keep the unity of the spirit in the bonds of peace by strictly observing that Holy Rule of Order laid down by our Lord and Christ, our great and loving redeemer, found in the 5th chapter of Matt. 23, 24, in which, reads as follows: "Therefore, if thou bring thy gift to the altar and there rememberest that thy brother hath aught against thee leave here thy gift before the altar and go thy way. First be reconciled to thy brother and then come and offer thy gift."—Matt. 5:23-24. Failure to observe these holy rules of order is the direct cause and only true reason why we are so often found out of fellowship and without a good report. Then in order that we may correct this hurtful evil and restore fellowship and peace among ourselves and make it safe for all coming time we are asking the hearty adoption and faithful observance of this resolution.

Resolution No. 4—Be it resolved, that the deacons and respective churches and their pastors shall fix the programs for the Fifth Sunday meeting when it convenes with their church.

Resolution No. 5—Be it resolved, that each church have a Pastor, Deacon, and Clerk, chosen by the church, to continue in office during the pleasure of the church.

Resolution No. 6—Be it resolved, that we, as Free Will Baptists, abstain from worldly amusements and keep ourselves unspotted from



the world, that our lives may be a shining light to those in sin.—Matt. 5:16.

Resolution No. 7—Be it resolved, that the church clerk, when writing letters to the association, use the form in back of the minutes.

Resolution No. 8—Be it resolved, that church clerks, when writing their letters to the association, list only the names of the ministers, who belong to their church by membership.

Resolution No. 9—Be it resolved, that a church does not recommend any one to be ordained for the ministry until they have preached at least one year with license.

Resolution No. 10—Be it resolved, that we ask each church of the association to commune and wash the saints' feet at least once a year.

Resolution No. 11—Be it resolved, that each church go into conference once each month and extend church privilege each meeting day.

Resolution No. 12—Be it resolved, that the moderator need only read the rules of order after organization and seating any new delegates.

Resolution No. 13—Be it resolved, that the Church Covenant be placed in the minutes so all of God's people may read it.

Resolution No. 14—Be it resolved, that each committee read their report to the association and that it be passed by the association before they turn it over to the clerk.

Resolution No. 15—Be it resolved, that we carry the names and addresses of our ordained and licensed ministers as appears in our 1950 minutes and include the name of Rev. Tom Billy, who has come into our association since that time.

Resolution No. 16—Be it resolved, that this association shall adopt a Order of Business similar to that of the Old Mount Zion Association.

## **CONSTITUTION OF RICH MOUNTAIN ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH OF CHRIST**

From long experience we, the members of the Free Will Baptist Church of Christ, being regularly baptized upon the confession of our faith in Jesus Christ, being convinced of the necessity of a combination of churches to perpetuate a union and communion among us, and to preserve and maintain a correspondence with each other, do adopt this constitution for our church government.

1. The Association shall be composed of Ordained Ministers, Deacons, Church Clerks, and members of the different Churches, chosen as delegates, and not to exceed five (5) from each Church. Delegates producing letters with sufficient Minute funds, from any Church in our Association, shall be entitled to a seat.

2. Letters from the different churches are to express their number in fellowship, the number received by experience, letters of recommendations, the number of dismissed, excluded, restored and those who have died since the last Association.

3. Delegates thus chosen are to be called the Rich Mountain Association of Free Will Baptists, being composed of churches in Western Arkansas and Eastern Oklahoma. The association is to have no power to lord it over God's heritage, nor to have ecclesiastical power over the churches; but reserves the right to withdraw from any church becoming disorderly. The association shall have the power, provided however it is for a good cause, to revoke the license or credentials of any minister licensed or ordained by any church within its jurisdiction. The association shall also have the power

to exclude any delegates from its sessions when they or their church are disorderly or fail to keep a good report.

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

5. Newly constituted churches may be admitted to the Association by petitioning by letter, and delegates if orderly and orthodox. The Association may receive them by giving the hand of fellowship.

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

7. Every motion made and seconded shall be considered by the Association, except it be withdrawn by the member who made it.

8. It shall be the duty of the Clerk to keep a regular file of the minutes of the Association in a book to be kept by the Association for that purpose.

9. When a minister of this Association shall be charged with preaching any doctrine, other than the Free Will doctrine, by any church or member of a church, the charge will be proven, or dropped within a period of two years.

10. Dealing with disorderly members—If I see my brother in a fault, I should go to him and try to restore him. But if he will not hear me, then I should take one or two others, and if he neglects to hear them also, then take him to the church, and let the church deal with him as a disorderly member. For Paul said that if a man be overtaken in a fault let him that is spiritual restore such one, in the spirit of meekness, considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.

Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.—Gal. 6:1-2; Matt. 18:15-18.

11. Be it resolved that our association and fifth Sunday meetings can organize with two (2) or more churches present.

## **RULES OF ORDINATION**

1. Do you believe in the total depravity of the human brain? Answer, no.

2. Do you believe that infants are saved while in a state of innocence? Answer, I do.

3. Do you believe in a full and free salvation to all who will accept it in Gospel terms? Answer, I do.

4. Do you believe in the burial of the believer with Christ in water after he has been baptized into Christ by the Holy Ghost? Answer, I do.

5. Do you believe that any man has a right in the Gospel to repeat baptism to such a subject? Answer, no.

6. Do you believe that communion, feet washing and baptism are Gospel ordinance and are to be taught and practiced until He comes again? Answer, I do.

7. Will you solemnly pledge yourself to preach and practice the same, God being your helper? Answer, I will by the help of God.

8. Do you believe that none will be finally saved but those who persevere in holiness to that end? Answer, I do.

## **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; I John 5:7.

2. We believe that the Scripture of the Old and New Testament



are the written and revealed Word of God, and the only infallible rule of faith and practice.—II Tim. 3:16-17.

3. We believe that God created man good, but man disobeyed God, transgressed the law and fell under just condemnation, 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 sufferings of death, crowned with glory, that He, by the grace of God, shall taste death for every man.—Heb. 2:9; Gen. 1:31; Gen. 3:6-7.

4. We believe that Christ, by his death, burial and resurrection, purchased our pardon and offered it freely to all mankind upon the principle of repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. He now commands all men everywhere to repent; therefore He saith, "Look unto me and be saved, all ye ends of the earth, for I am God and there is no one else." Isa. 45:22; Matt. 4:17; Acts 17:3, 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.

6. We believe that infants are saved by the merits of the Son of God.—Mark 10:14.

7. We believe that 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 a right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.—Matt. 24:14.

8. We believe that baptism by immersion is the apostolic mode, even the burial of the believer in water in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost; and that Christ, who is our life, showed this humble example to His children and bids us walk herein.—Matt. 28:19-20; John 3:33.

9. We believe that our ministers should be qualified according to instructions given by Paul to Timothy.—I Tim. 3:1-8; II Tim. 2:15.

10. We believe that God displays his power to grace to a great degree in calling and qualifying His servants. By the teaching of the Holy Ghost, and by the instruction of His blessed word to go forth and proclaim life and salvation. He bids us to 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; Isa. 55:1-5; Matt. 28:19-20.

11. We believe that Baptism and The Lord's Supper and the Washing of Saints' Feet to be Gospel ordinances.—St. John 13:3-5; I Corinthians 11:20, 34; St. Mark 16:15-18; and Matthew 28:18-20.

12. We believe the first day of the week to be the Lord's Day, and the apostles taught us to set it aside to worship God.—Romans 14:16; Romans 6:14-15; Romans 10:4; St. Mark 16:2; II Corinthians 16:2; and St. John 20:1, 19, 26.

13. We believe the assembling of ourselves together is an ornament which prepares and beautifies the soldier of the cross to march onward in the army of the Lord.—Hebrews 15:25; Acts. 2:42.

14. We believe that none have a right to baptism only those who have retained a living hope in the Lord Jesus Christ, and none have a right to administer the same except those who are called of God and have come under the hand of the Presbytery of Elders.—Titus 1:5; Acts 14:23.

15. We believe it to be 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 for the Lord's Supper and wash-



ing the saints' feet, to invite all Christians.—I Cor. 11:27-29.

16. 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 the everlasting shame and banishment from the presence of God.—Matt. 25:31-46; I Cor. 15:42-45; Rev. 20:10.

## **"THE LAW OF THE LORD'S SUPPER"**

(By Rev. William Mankin)

The Lord's Supper was instituted for God's people. They all have equal rights to the supper and the right is a birthright. "For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body."—I Cor. 12:13. This is not water baptism, but spiritual baptism. Again Christ says, I am the door, by me, if any man enter in, he shall be saved. John 10:9. Christ is not the water baptism. Yet he is "The Door." There is but one door and Christ says He is the Door, and he that cometh in at that door shall have full fellowship and equal rights with all other Christians. "Let a man examine himself, and let him eat of that bread and drink of that cup. For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily eateth and drinketh damnation to himself." Not to the church, but to himself. It is a personal matter in judging and eating.

The church that does judge and exclude any of God's people is not in keeping with the instruction given by the church of Corinth. To thus judge and exclude one of the children of God is to offend the child so judged and excluded. Now listen to Christ. "He that offends one of these little ones that believes in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea."—Matt. 18:6; I Cor. 10:30, and 13:22. It is contended that they of the same faith and order should be entitled to partake of the Lord's Supper.

I admit that Christ is the one true faith, and that His church is true order, and that faith is the means by which men belong to the true order. If this is meant by the same faith, we shall not object; we are agreed. But if sect is referred to, we object. As to order, if nothing but Gospel Order is meant, very well. But we do not believe that one child of God should dictate just what another should believe or what church he should belong to in order that he may be in the right church, for the visible church is but an organized body of Christians and placing your name on the church book of the best church on earth does not make you a Christian. The eunuch that believed and was baptized, what church did he join? Here is faith and here is order. Now ask if the eunuch were to wish to commune with some of the churches, would he be allowed the right? No, he is not the same faith and order. Yet he is admitted to heaven, but could not be admitted to a sectarian table. At the Lord's table all His people have a perfect right, be he who he may, and when the supper is set and all of God's people are not invited, it is not the Lord's but a sectarian table.

"So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another."—Rom. 12:5. And the way we become one body is by being baptized into that body. And, of course, this is spiritual baptism. He that gets in by water baptism, the same is a thief and a robber, and when any one gets into that body in a legal way he has a right to all the benefits and privileges of that body. "For we, being many, are one bread and one body, for we are all partakers of that one bread."—I Cor. 10:17.

By partaking we exhibit a oneness of that body. Who is meant

by "we?" It certainly means all Christians of all ages. "When you come together, tarry one for another, be of one mind." But let the word of God control that mind. If it had ever been intended by the Saviour that the supper should be guarded, as some attempt to guard it, God would have endowed judges with power to discern the pure from the impure. But the standpoint from which to judge is water baptism, and a legal administration of the same. So, if baptism by immersion, and a legal administration, this settles the matter, and Christian character is left out, by which some make a woeful mistake; for, after all this precaution, some have been found unworthy of the least of the privileges of the church.

To admit immersion to be the only mode of baptism and a true believer receiving it, is that not all right? Some would answer, "If by a legal administration, this is all that is wanted." It is not purely a personal matter? So it is the duty of the preacher to baptize, and the applicant to be baptized.

When this is done, each has performed a personal duty. If I had never been baptized and had to await until I found one whom I knew to be a legal administrator, I never would be baptized at all, as I cannot know the heart of man. Two acting in concert, one acting in good faith and the other not.

Every Christian is responsible for his own acts, and not for another. Simon the sorcerer believed and was baptized, and that by a legal administrator, and yet it was discovered that he was not a Christian.

So we see that baptism by legal administration does not confer any claim to Christian rights, as this proves to be a personal matter; For we clearly see that Apostle, inspired as he was, did not discover the evil of Simon's heart; neither can we know the heart of a man. When we do our duty, it is ours; when an applicant, it is his. So we find that in repentance, faith, baptism and Christian duties, all are personally accountable to God and not to man.

Various are the opinions of men; and the way we account for them is in the capacity of men; and if we use the capacity God has given us, we do not think that we should be eternally condemned for what we cannot help. The church of Christ is divided into many members but is one spiritual body and Christ the head, and they should have the same care for each other that the fleshly body has for its members.

Should Christians commune together at the Lord's table? "What God has joined together let no man put asunder." Christians do not feel alike if they do not think alike.

They can preach together, sing and love together, and should they not commune together?

Then a union and free communion is forced upon us.

Christ said He would drink no more of the fruit of the vine until He should drink it anew in His Kingdom.

So as assembled at God's table in Heaven, so should we be on earth.

## **RULES OF ORDER**

1. At every sitting business shall be opened and concluded by prayer.
2. Personal reflection shall be avoided in all debates.
3. Those who speak shall rise and address the Moderator.
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 not be discussed.

6. If a proposition or motion under debate contains two points, it shall be divided if requested, 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. In all cases a majority shall rule, except in receiving members, which shall be unanimous.

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

11. Arrangements shall be made so as to insure two or more sermons each day of the Association.

12. The Rules of Order shall be distinctly read from the chair immediately after the organization of the Association.

13. The churches should be more careful of their selection of delegates to the Association, as the Association is not composed of deacons and ministers alone, but by a delegation from the laity of the churches of the Association. Try to select delegates that will be present to represent you.—Hebrews 10:25.

14. Alterations may be made in these Rules at any regular session of the Association.

## **FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH COVENANT**

Having given ourselves to God, by faith, in Jesus 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 grace to love and obey Him in all things, to avoid all 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 faithfully to discharge our obligations in reference to study of the scriptures, secret prayer, family devotions, and social worship and by self-denial, faith, and good works endeavor to grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

We will not forsake the assembling of ourselves together for church conference, 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.

We agree to accept Christian admonition and reproof with meekness, and to watch over one another in love, endeavoring to "keep the unity of the Spirit" in the 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.

To this end we agree to labor for the promotion of education and denominational enterprises, the support of Missions, the suc-



cess of Sunday schools and evangelical efforts for the salvation of the World. And may the God of peace sanctify us wholly, and preserve us blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

### FORM OF LETTER OF DISMISSAL

This certifies that \_\_\_\_\_ is a member in good standing of the Free Will Baptist Church at \_\_\_\_\_, and as such we recommend \_\_\_\_\_ to the fellowship of God's people. Done in conference \_\_\_\_\_, 19\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_, Moderator  
\_\_\_\_\_, Clerk

### FORM OF DEACON'S LETTER

This is to certify that Bro. \_\_\_\_\_ is a worthy Deacon of our church and we recommend him as being worthy of his calling.

This \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 19\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_, Moderator  
\_\_\_\_\_, Clerk

## CHURCH REPORTS

### BIG CEDAR CHURCH

Pastor, Rev. Bennie Fisher; Deacons, Bros. H. R. Sirmon and J. C. Davis; Church Clerk, Mrs. Donnie Yeaman, Star Route, Page, Oklahoma; Delegates, Ollin Kelsey, Jodie McCulley, and Albert Simmons.

Meetings Days _____	Second and Fourth Sundays
Members received this year _____	2
Number deceased _____	1
Number of Resident Members _____	44
Number of Non-Resident Members _____	24
Total Membership _____	68
State of Religion _____	Good
Condition of Prayer Meeting _____	Good
Condition of Sunday School _____	Good
Average Attendance in Sunday School _____	28
Value of Church Property _____	\$2000.00
Amount Paid Pastor _____	\$ 133.60
Amount for Evangelistic Work _____	\$ 100.00
Amount for Children's Home _____	\$ 35.00
Amount Enclosed for Minutes _____	\$ 15.00

Pastor for the coming year, Rev. Thomas Billy.

### OAK GROVE CHURCH

Deacons, Bros. J. B. Cummings and W. P. Earnest; Clerk, Mrs. Holsom, Route 2, Mena, Arkansas; and Delegates, Bro. J. E. Storey and Sister Dollie Storey.

Meeting Days _____	First and Third Sundays
Number of Resident Members _____	9
Number of Non-Resident Members _____	32
Total Membership _____	41
Number Deceased _____	2
State of Religion _____	Good
Value of Church Property _____	\$500.00
Amount for Incidentals _____	\$ 25.00

Amount for Foreign Missions .....	\$ 8.00
Amount for Publications (S. S. Lit., etc.) .....	\$ 10.00
Amount Enclosed for Minutes .....	\$ 8.00

### HATFIELD FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor, Rev. S. B. Metcalf; Deacons, Bros. F. O. Hamilton, G. A. Hooper, and Roy Stinnett; Clerk, Ray Metcalf, Route 1, Hatfield, Arkansas; and Delegates, H. Attebery, Nick Wilson, Phillip Attebery, Violet Wilson, and Lula Shults.

Meetings Days .....	Every Sunday
Members received this year .....	3
Number Deceased .....	1
Number of Resident Members .....	19
Number of Non-Resident Members .....	23
Total Membership .....	42
State of Religion .....	Good
Condition of Prayer Meeting .....	Good
Condition of Sunday School .....	Good
Average Attendance in Sunday School .....	18
Value of Church Property .....	\$5000.00
Amount Paid Pastor .....	\$ 180.00
Amount for Evangelistic Work .....	\$ 56.40
Amount for Building and Repairs .....	\$ 150.00
Amount for Incidentals .....	\$ 45.09
Amount for Publications (S. S. Lit., etc.) .....	\$ 32.30
Amount Enclosed for Minutes .....	\$ 13.00
Amount for Children's Home .....	\$ 48.70

Pastor for the coming year, Rev. Bennie Fisher.

### MIDWAY CHURCH

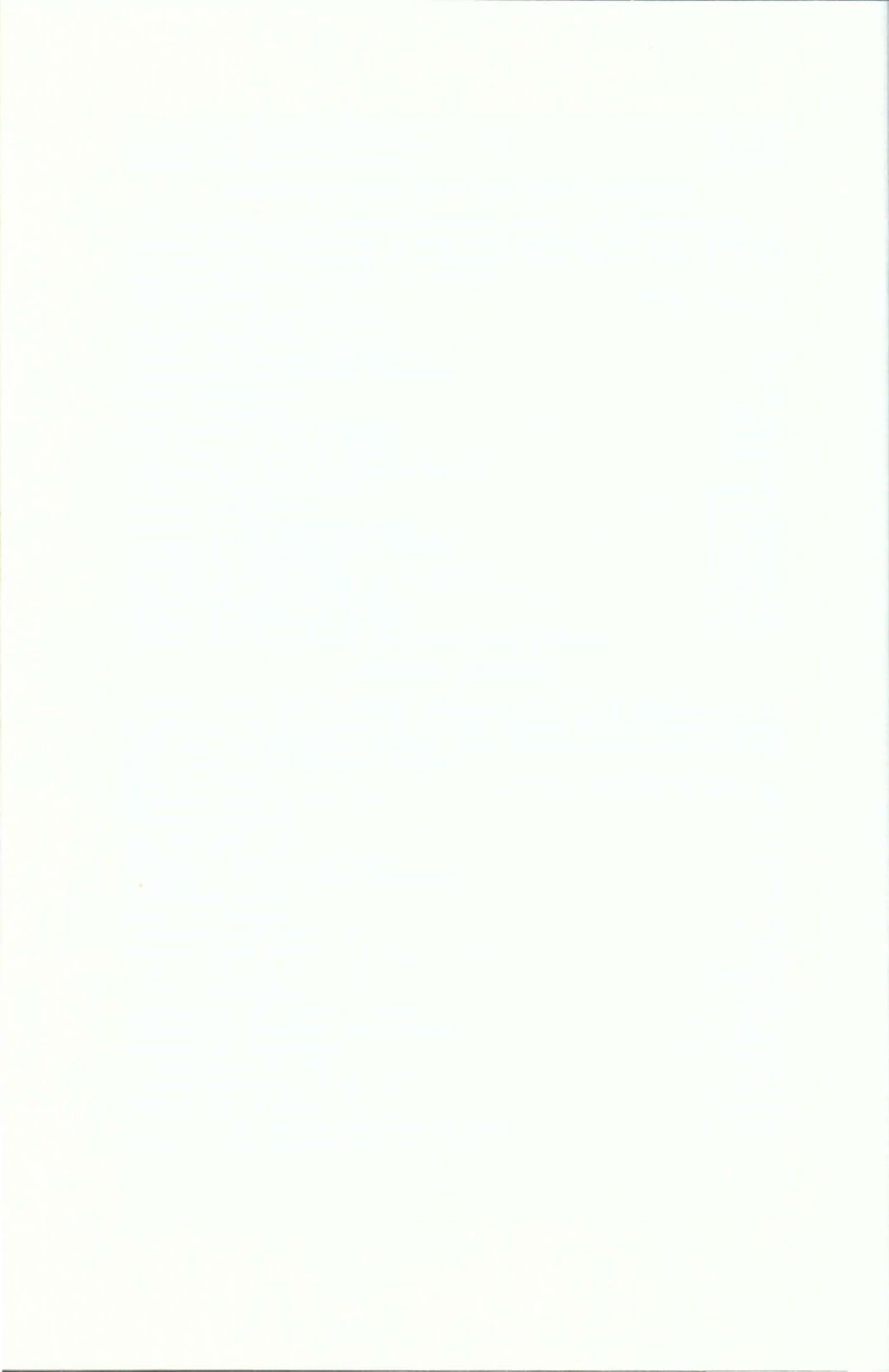
Pastor, Rev. Bennie Fisher; Deacons, Bros. L. R. Burnett, A. B. Foster, and Perry Looney; Clerk, Mrs. Wilma Griffin, Board Camp, Arkansas; and Delegates, Herbert Hess, Marvin Lewis, Beulah Hess, Flora Lewis, and Barbara Griffin.

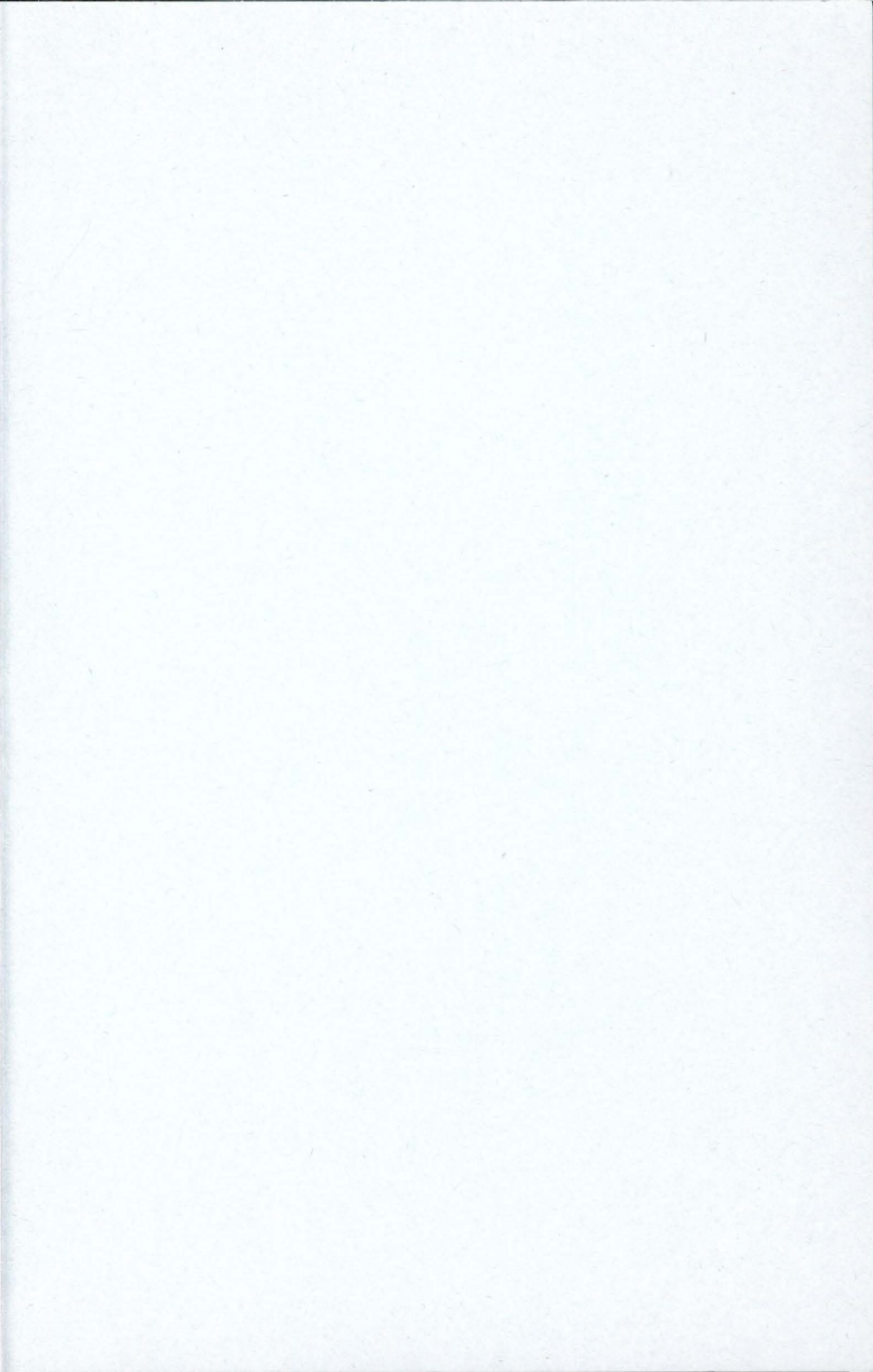
Meetings Days .....	Second and Fourth Sundays
Members received this year .....	5
Number Baptized .....	2
Number Deceased .....	2
Number of Resident Members .....	28
Number of Non-Resident Members .....	9
Total Membership .....	37
State of Religion .....	Good
Condition of Sunday School .....	Good
Average Attendance in Sunday School .....	28
Value of Church Property .....	\$2000.00
Amount Paid Pastor .....	\$ 267.23
Amount for Evangelistic Work .....	\$ 73.52
Amount for Building and Repairs .....	\$ 59.55
Amount for Incidentals .....	\$ 134.48
Amount for Publications (S. S. Lit., etc.) .....	\$ 31.65
Amount Enclosed for Minutes .....	\$ 15.00
Amount for Children's Home .....	\$15.00
Additional Money for the 1954 Minutes .....	\$ 5.00

Pastor for the coming year, Rev. R. I. Cook.









Nichols