

MINUTES

OF THE
SIXTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL SESSION
OF
RICH MOUNTAIN ASSOCIATION OF
FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST



I WILL LIFT UP MY EYES UN-
TO THE HILLS, FROM WHENCE
COMETH MY HELP. PSALMS 121:1

NEXT ASSOCIATION WILL BE HELD WITH
BIG CEDAR FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH
INTERSECTION OF HIGHWAYS 63 AND 259

BIG CEDAR, OKLAHOMA

JUNE 25-26, 1976

REPRODUCTION OF RICHARDSON'S 03AND259

BIG CEDAR, OKLAHOMA

MINUTES OF THE SIXTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL SESSION OF THE
RICH MOUNTAIN ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTIST
CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST

FRIDAY EVENING

The sixty-seventh annual session of the Rich Mountain Association of Free Will Baptist churches met June 27, 28, 1975, at the Midway Free Will Baptist Church.

Rev. Horace Thoburn welcomed everyone to Midway church and led the congregation in singing "To God Be the Glory." Opening prayer Larry Denton. Rev. Thoburn then led everyone in more congregational singing.

The service was then turned to Rev. Roy L. Wilson, Moderator. Since no speaker had been selected for the Friday night service, Rev. Wilson brought the message. Rev. C. C. Rogers led the prayer before the evening message. Text: Haggai I. Message theme: "Thus saith the Lord of hosts; consider your ways."

Rev. Roy L. Wilson declared the Association in session. The clerk read the letters from four of the five churches of the Association and the delegates were seated with a right hand of fellowship.

The Moderator then read the constitution and the Rules of Order.

The Arrangements Committee was appointed by the Moderator. Those appointed were: Alford Looney, Oren Rhodes, and Civilene Ford.

The closing song "Breathe on Me," was led by Rev. Thoburn. Prayer by Rev. Roy L. Wilson. The meeting was adjourned until 10:00 a. m. Saturday morning.

SATURDAY MORNING

The service was opened with the hymn "At the Cross" led by Marilyn Wilson and a prayer by Rev. Bennie Fisher.

The Association was declared open for business by the moderator, Rev. Wilson. The letter from Big Cedar was read by the clerk and was accepted. The delegates were then seated with a right hand of fellowship.

Rev. Wilson's opening comments were taken from Acts 1-4. He then read the Constitution and Rules of Order for the Rich Mountain Association.

Committees were appointed as follows:

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Roger Wilson, Esther Thoburn, Mary Chastain

RESOLUTIONS: S.B. Metcalf, William Hicks, Omer Yeaman

OBITUARIES: Dorothy Looney, Zella Hooper, Glenda Wilson

STATISTICS: Lula Shults, Bennie Fisher, Ray Metcalf

TEMPERANCE: Horace Thoburn, Bob Chastain, Alford Looney

FINANCE: Frank Lewis, Oren Rhodes, Marilyn Wilson

At this point a recess was called by the moderator to allow the various committees to compile their reports. Rev. S.B. Metcalf dismissed the congregation with a prayer.

Later the service was called back to order and reopened with the song "We Have an Anchor" led by Marilyn Wilson. Ray Metcalf led the congregation in prayer. After the singing of several congregational songs, Rev. Wilson introduced Rev. William Hicks who brought the morning message, using as his text Hebrews 2:1-3.

After an inspiring message, the service was turned back to Rev. Wilson who asked that we be much in prayer for Rev. Artie

Atchley who was a patient in Polk County Hospital.

Following a song, "Unprepared to Meet thy God", and a prayer by Bob Chastain, the service was dismissed for lunch.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON

The afternoon service was opened with the congregation singing "I am Resolved" and a prayer by Oren Rhodes. The moderator then asked for the reports of the various committees.

The ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE gave their report which was accepted and the committee dismissed.

The SUNDAY SCHOOL report was given, accepted, and the committee dismissed.

The OBITUARY report given, accepted, and the committee was dismissed.

The TEMPERANCE COMMITTEE presented their report which was accepted and the committee was dismissed.

The FINANCE COMMITTEE'S report included a recommendation to pay the clerk \$25.00 for printing the minutes. The report was accepted, along with the recommendation, and the committee was dismissed.

The TREASURER'S report was given and accepted.

The RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE gave it's report. The report was accepted and the resolutions voted on separately.

Rev. Wilson reported for the Executive Board and the report was accepted.

New business was called for. Rev. Metcalf proposed that the associational clerk and moderator select a committee to help print the minutes. This was agreed upon.

The Big Cedar, Oklahoma Free Will Baptist Church requested that the next Associational Meeting be held at their church. Their request was granted.

It was decided to have our first quarterly meeting at Liberty Church, August 28, 29, 30.

Delegates selected to go to the State Association were: Marilyn Wilson, Omer Yeaman, Floyd and Jeannette Moore.

Those elected to our Mission Board are as follows:

Rev. S.B. Metcalf-----	3 Years
Rev. R.L. Wilson-----	2 Years
Bob Chastain-----	1 Year

Rev. Bennie Fisher was elected to preach the introductory sermon for the next Associational Meeting.

Marilyn and R.L. Wilson were appointed to print the Gospel Voice. The churches were asked to select a reporter and to have their news in by the 5th of each month.

Judy Lewis was elected Associational Clerk with Linda Denton as Assistant Clerk.

It was decided to retain Rev. Wilson as Moderator. Rev. Fisher was elected Assistant Moderator.

A vote of thanks was given to the host church for caring for the delegates of the Association.

It was decided to have an Associational Revival at Hatfield with Rev. Raymond Dees as evangelist, July 21-26, 1975.

The business session was then adjourned until the next Associational Meeting. A prayer concluded the afternoon service.

SATURDAY NIGHT

The services opened with congregational singing led by Rev. Thoburn, followed by a prayer led by Rev. Roy Wilson.

After the song service Rev. Bennie Fisher presented the message, using as his text, Genesis 5:5, "The Two Destinies of Man."

Following the message, the service was closed by a prayer led by Oren Rhodes.

NEXT ASSOCIATION

Big Cedar Free Will Baptist Church, June 23-29, 1976

OFFICERS

Moderator: Rev. Roy L. Wilson, Box 126, Hatfield
Phone: 389-2140
Assistant Moderator: Rev. Bennie Fisher, Route 1,
Hatfield Phone: 389-2943
Clerk: Mrs. Judy Lewis, P.O. Box 173, Hatfield,
Phone: 389-2572
Assistant Clerk: Mrs. Linda Denton, Route 1, Box 242-A,
Hatfield Phone: 389-2236

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Rev. Bennie Fisher.....3 Years
Rev. Horace Thoburn.....2 Years
Mr. Yeaman.....1 Year

ORDAINED MINISTERS

Rev. S.B. Metcalf, Route 1, Box 232, Cove, Arkansas. Ph. 387-2971
Rev. W.F. Smith, Big Cedar, Okla. Ph. Clayton, Okla., 651-2251
Rev. Bennie Fisher, Route 1, Hatfield, Ark. Ph. 389-2943
Rev. G.C. Rogers, 603 10th St., Mena, Ark. Ph. 394-3134
Rev. Roy L. Wilson, P.O. Box 126, Hatfield, Ark. Ph. 389-2140
Rev. J.T. Burnette, Boles Route, Maldron, Ark. Ph. 637-2824
Rev. William Hicks, Route 1, Cove, Ark. Ph. 387-5781
Rev. Frederick Hensley, Mena, Arkansas Ph. 394-3466
Rev. Horace Thoburn, Big Fork S.R. Black Sprs, Ark. Ph. 394-3632
Rev. Artie Atchley, Cove, Arkansas
Rev. Raymond Dees, Hatfield, Arkansas

LICENSED MINISTER

William Grantham, Vandervoort, Arkansas

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Sunday School:

We, your Sunday School Committee, Submit the following report:

We find by looking over the letters that all 5 churches have a Sunday School. The FIVE together have FIVE Sunday School Superintendents, 21 classes, 21 teachers, 5 clerks, and an average attendance of 193. The churches are Mena, Midway, Big Cedar, Hatfield, and Liberty.

Roger Wilson
Esther Thoburn
Mary Chastain

Obituary:

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

We find that God in his infinite love has called from our midst during the past year:

Beulah Peters, Mena Free Will Baptist Church. She was a Charter Member.
Ida Hensley, Mena Free Will Baptist Church
Elston Pierce, Mena Free Will Baptist Church
Kathy Hiatt, Mena Free Will Baptist Church
Ruth Fisher, Hatfield Free Will Baptist Church
Addie Evans, Liberty Free Will Baptist Church
Clarence Medford, a faithful attender at the Midway Church.

Mrs. Wade Hooper
Mrs. Roger Wilson
Mrs. Dorothy Looney

Temperance Committee:

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

We recommend that the churches teach and preach temperance in all walks of life.

We should abstain from the use of alcoholic beverages in any form, and the use of harmful drugs of the various types. We would recommend in view of the conditions of the day and times, temper-

ance in all things such as the various cults, dress, etc. In general, temperance in all walks of life.

Rev. Horace Thoburn
Robert Chastain
Alford Looney

Arrangements Committee:

We, the Arrangements Committee, submit the following report:

Saturday Morning:.....Bro. William Hicks
Saturday Night:.....Bro. Bennie Fisher

Alford Looney
Oren Rhodes

Report of the Statisticians Committee:

We, your committee of statistics, submit the following report:

For the five active churches of the Rich Mountain Association, we have 15 deacons. Our total membership is 394 members. Six members died during the past year. The churches paid the following:

Pastors' Salary.....	\$3923.33
Building and Repair.....	2513.55
Radio Broadcast.....	966.00
State Association.....	80.00
Local Association.....	105.00
Foreign Missions.....	120.00
Home Missions.....	107.78
Literature.....	995.27
Revival.....	941.72
Miscellaneous.....	3317.15
Total Value of Church Properties.....	62200.00

Lula Shylts
Bennie Fisher
Ray Metcalf

Report of the Finance Committee:

We, your Finance Committee, submit the following report:

We find a balance of \$0.00 in the treasury.

The churches have contributed \$105.00 for associational minutes and \$100.00 for the State Association for a total of \$205.00.

We, of the Finance Committee, further recommend a payment of \$25.00 to be paid to the Associational Clerk for the purpose of preparing the minutes of the Associational Meeting for this year.

Frank Lewis
Marilyn Wilson
Ore. Rhodes

Report of the Resolutions Committee:

We, your Resolutions Committee, submit the following report:

Be it resolved that we drop Resolution No. 10 from the minutes, and that we rewrite No. 16 to read as follows:

Be it resolved that we, the Rich Mountain Association of Free Will Baptists, create a mission board for the purpose of surveying surrounding communities to determine the possibility of beginning new churches. This board shall consist of 3 ordained members serving for 1, 2, and 3 year terms, alternating each year.

S.B. Metcalf
Omer Yeaman
W.D. Hicks

Report of the Treasurer:

I, your Clerk and Treasurer, submit the following report:

CONTRIBUTIONS:

For District Minutes.....	\$95.00
For State Association.....	72.00
From Sister Evans.....	10.00
Total Funds Rec'd	<u>177.00</u>

EXPENSES:

For State Association.....	\$72.00
For Advertisement.....	19.50
For Postage.....	5.04
Supplies for Minutes.....	67.07
Loaned to Rich Mt. Assoc. Youth	
to purchase projector.....	60.00
Total Expenses	<u>\$213.46</u>

Borrowed from Gospel Voice Fund..... \$41.46

Balance in Treasury June 30, 1975..... \$00.00

FINANCIAL REPORT OF THE GOSPEL VOICE

Balance in Treasury June 30, 1974..... \$77.96

Contributions.....	37.50
Total Funds	<u>\$115.46</u>

Expenses..... \$56.61

Balance in the treasury June 30, 1975..... \$53.85

MISSION BOARD FUND

Balance in Treasury June 30, 1974.....	\$45.00
Sent to DeQueen Mission.....	<u>\$45.00</u>
Balance in Treasury June 30, 1975.....	00.00

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; 1 Cor. 16:1-3; Heb. 14:34.

RESOLUTION NO. 2--Be it resolved that we, the members of the Rich Mountain Association, do pledge ourselves to conform to the requirements of God's work, first by confessing our faults to one another, and praying one for another that we may be healed. James 5:6. That we will do, God being our helper. Moreover, we each one of us, strictly observing that Holy Rule of Order laid down by our Lord and Christ, our great and loving redeemer, found in the fifth chapter of Matthew 23, 24, in which reads as follows; "Therefore, if thou bring thy gift to the altar and there rememberest that thy brother hath aught thee leave 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 times we are asking the hearty adoption and faithful observance of this resolution.

RESOLUTION NO. 3--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. 4--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. 5--Be it resolved, that a church does not recommend anyone to be ordained for the ministry until they have preached at least one year with license.

RESOLUTION NO. 6--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. 7--Be it resolved, that the moderator need only read the rules of order after organizing and seating any new delegates.

RESOLUTION NO. 8--Be it resolved, that each committee read their report to the association and that be passed by the association before they turn it over to the clerk.

RESOLUTION NO. 9--We recommend that each church have a Vacation Bible School each year, the teachers of which to be selected by the individual church.

RESOLUTION NO. 10--Be it resolved, that we, from the depths of our hearts do thank the ones that have labored to earn and prepare the food and took care of this Session of the Association.

RESOLUTION NO. 11--Be it resolved, that the association furnish an annual Ministers Certificate to each Minister in good standing with the association.

RESOLUTION NO. 12--Be it resolved, that our association meet on Friday night before the last Sunday in June each year.

RESOLUTION NO. 13--Be it resolved, that we elect our Moderator, and Clerk and Treasurer at the close of our business session of each year.

RESOLUTION NO 14--Be it resolved, that the Association give

the Moderator the authority to appoint a Promotional Director for each of the following duties: Vacation Bible School and C.T.S. or league work.

RESOLUTION NO. 15--Be it resolved, that we, the Rich Mountain Association of Free Will Baptists, create a mission Board for the purpose of surveying surrounding communities to determine the possibility of beginning new churches. This board shall consist of 3 ordained members serving for 1, 2, and 3 year terms, alternating each year.

RESOLUTION NO. 16--Be it resolved, that we sponsor a news bulletin to be printed twice monthly, for the purpose of keeping our people in the various churches informed as to the activities of the other churches. Be it resolved that we secure a mailing list from the various churches that we might be able to send this bulletin to interested persons outside our local churches. The cost of this bulletin to be provided by the various churches according to the number of copies they wish to receive.

RESOLUTION NO. 17--Be it resolved that we meet Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evenings for our Quarterly Meetings.

RESOLUTION NO. 18--Be it resolved that the churches contribute to the minute fund in relation to church membership and the number of minutes needed rather than having each church contribute an equal amount.

RESOLUTION NO. 19--Be it resolved that the delegates from each church have the authority to fill the vacancies in their delegations created because of an elected delegate's failure to be present by 10:00 a.m. Saturday morning. In the event that no delegates, deacons, or the Pastor of a particular church is present that the asso-

ciation body may vote to receive as voting delegates any members of said church which may be present.

RESOLUTION NO. 20--Whereas, the use of dangerous drugs is rapidly increasing, and aiding in destruction of the minds of our young people: Be it resolved that we speak out in opposition to, and endeavor to make our people more aware of the dangers of these drugs.

RESOLUTION NO. 21--Whereas, Witchcraft, Occult and Astrology are clearly defined in the Bible as originating with Satan: Be it resolved that we encourage our members to be more alert to the dangers to the Christian who becomes involved in these Satanic practices.

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

From long experience, we the members of the Free Will Baptist Church of Christ, being regularly baptised 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 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 any ecclesiastical power over the churches; but reserve 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 delegate from its session when they or their church are disorderly or fail to keep a good report.

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

5. Newly constituted churches may be admitted by the Association by petitioning by letter, and delegates if orderly and orthodox.

6. No question from any church shall come under 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 contrary to the Articles of Faith of the Or-

iginal Free Will Baptists as set forth in our National Treatise, the charge shall be proven or dropped.

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. Galatians 6:1-2; Matthew 18:15-18.

11. We believe that God commanded tithes and offerings in the Old Testament. Jesus Christ endorsed it in the Gospel (Matt. 23:23), 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." 1 Cor. 16:2.

12. 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 churches of the Association. Try to select delegates that will be present to represent you. Hebrews 10:25.

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 the state of innocense? 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 baptised 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 ordinances, and are to be taught and preached 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; 1 John 5:7; Isaiah 48:16-19.

2. We believe that the Scripture of the Old and New Testaments are the written and revealed Word of God, and the only infallible rule of faith and practice. II Thess. 3:16-17; II Peter 1:21.

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 all who have reached the age of accountability must be regenerated and born of the Spirit of God if they inherit eternal life. John 3:3; I John 1:13; II Cor. 5:17.

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. Rev. 21:14; Matt. 10:22; James 1:12.

8. We believe that baptism by immersion is in 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 instruction given by Paul to Timothy. Timothy 3:1-8; II Timothy 2:15.

10. We believe that God displays His power to grace to a great degree by 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; 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 Cor. 11:30-34; St. Mark 16:15-18; and Matt. 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; I Cor. 16:2; and St. John 20:1, 19, 20.

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 10:25; Acts 2:42.

14. We believe that none have a right to baptism and 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 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; 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, 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 secluded. Now listen to Christ: "He that offends one of these little ones that believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck and that he was drowned in the depth of the sea." Matt. 18:6; 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. 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 wait 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 goodfaith and the other not.

Every Christian is responsible for his own act, 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 the baptism by legal administration does not confer any claims to Christian rights, as this proves to be a personal matter; for we clearly see the 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 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 is 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.

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. Reading Constitution and Rules of Order by moderator.
8. Appointment of Committees; (A) Arrangements, (B) Sunday School, (C) Resolution, (D) Obituaries, (E) Temperance, (F) Statistics, and, (G) Finance.
9. Report of Committees appointed at last association and other unfinished business.
10. Report of new committees.
11. New business.
12. Selecting place for next association.
13. Select the one to preach the introductory sermon the following year.

14. Vote of thanks to the Host Church for caring for the delegates to the association.
15. Selection of delegates to State Association.
16. Adjournment.

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. Where 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 organizing of the Association.
13. 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 sanctions 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 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, or its poor, and all its benevolent work.

We agree to accept Christian admonition and reproof with meekness and 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 to 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 success 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 _____.

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

PETITIONARY LETTER FORM

To the Rich Mountain Association of Free Will Baptist Church of Christ

We, the _____ Church, have been organized according to the faith of Free Will Baptist.

Greetings, we send _____ to petition for us that we may be received in your honorable body.

Our church was organized on _____, 19____, by _____.

Our church is composed of _____ Deacons and _____ Ministers. A total membership of _____.

Offering: Minute Fund _____. Orphan Home _____.

(Petitionary Letter form continued)

Done in conference this ____ day of ____, 19__.

Moderator

Clerk

CHURCH REPORTS

BIG CEDAR FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

Delegates: Novella Davis, Lenora McBride, and Omer Yeaman.

Total Membership.....27

Members Received.....0

Members Dismissed.....1

Members Deceased.....0

Number of Sunday School Classes.....1

Sunday School Enrollment.....17

Average Attendance.....12

Number of Ordained Deacons.....1

Paid Pastor.....391.00

For Minutes.....15.00

For Education (Literature).....55.34

Miscellaneous.....29.50

For State Association.....20.00

Building and Repair.....79.33

Value of Church Property.....\$3,000.00

Pastor: Rev. C.C. Rogers, 603 Tenth St., Mena, Arkansas

Clerk; May McDonald, Star Rt., Hodgen, Oklahoma

HATFIELD FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

Delegates: Oren Rhodes, Bonnie Rhodes, Glenda Wilson, Roger Wilson,
Joe Nichols, and Frank Lewis.

Total Membership.....101

Members Received.....17

Number of Baptisms.....7

Members Dismissed.....4

Members Deceased.....1

Hatfield Free Will Baptist Church report continued:

Sunday School Enrollment.....	107
Number of Classes.....	7
Average Number in Sunday School.....	75
Women's Auxiliary Enrollment.....	14
Average Attendance.....	7
Number of Ordained Deacons.....	7
Number of Licensed Ministers.....	1
Paid Pastor.....	\$1887.48
Home Missions.....	107.78
For Education and Evangelistic Work.....	833.07
Building and Repair.....	2355.66
Miscellaneous.....	1108.88
For Minutes.....	25.00
Mid-week Service (Average Attendance).....	14
For State Association.....	20.00
Value of Church Property.....	\$30,000.00
Pastor: Rev. Roy L. Wilson, Box 126, Hatfield, Arkansas	
Clerk: Lula Shults, Star Route Box 113, Hatfield, Arkansas	

LIBERTY FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

Delegates: Bessie Mixon, Andrew Mixon, and Ada Combs.

Total Membership.....	33
Members Deceased.....	1
Sunday School Enrollment.....	20
Average Number in Sunday School.....	20
Number of Classes.....	3
Number of Ordained Deacons.....	2

Liberty Free Will Baptist Church Continued:

Paid Pastor.....	\$108.95
For Education.....	63.00
For Minutes.....	25.00
For State Association.....	20.00
Value of Church Property.....	\$1,200.00

Pastor: Rev. William Hicks, Route 1, Cove, Arkansas

Clerk: Minnie Hicks, Route 1, Cove, Arkansas

MENA FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

Delegates: Mrs. Joyce Henry, Mrs. Annie Park, Thelma Wolfenbarger,
Mary Chastain, Civilene Ford.

Total Membership.....	204
Members Received.....	23
Members Dismissed.....	6
Members Deceased.....	4
Number of Baptisms.....	13
Sunday School Enrollment.....	100
Average Number in Sunday School.....	85
Number of Classes.....	7
Number of Licensed Ministers.....	2
Number of Ordained Deacons.....	5
Women's Auxiliary Enrollment.....	18
Average Attendance.....	12
Paid Pastor.....	\$1885.00
Mid-week Service (Average attendance).....	25
Education and Evangelistic Work.....	1890.46
Building and Repair.....	78.00
Miscellaneous.....	2481.43

Mena Free Will Baptist Church report continued:

For Minutes.....	25.00
For State Association.....	00.00
For Gospel Voice.....	10.00
Value of Church Property.....	25,000.00
Foreign Missions.....	120.00
Pastor: Rev. J.T. Burnette, Boles Route, Waldron, Arkansas	
Clerk: Mrs. Wade Hooper, 910 S. 2nd St., Mena, Arkansas	

MIDWAY FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

Delegates: Mrs. Esther Thoburn, Mrs. Dorothy Looney, Alford Looney.

Total Membership.....	29
Sunday School Enrollment.....	20
Average Attendance.....	10
Number of Classes.....	2
Paid Pastor.....	150.90
For Minutes.....	15.00
For Education.....	46.12
Miscellaneous.....	220.77
For State Association.....	20.00
Value of Church Property.....	2,500.00
Pastor: Rev. Bennie Fisher, Route 1, Hatfield, Arkansas	
Clerk: Mrs. Wilma Griffin, Route 1, Box B.C. 14, Mena, Arkansas	

THE FIRST METHODIST CHURCH OF KANSAS

For 1888	100.00
For 1889	100.00
For 1890	100.00
For 1891	100.00
For 1892	100.00
For 1893	100.00
For 1894	100.00
For 1895	100.00
For 1896	100.00
For 1897	100.00
For 1898	100.00
For 1899	100.00
For 1900	100.00

THE FIRST METHODIST CHURCH OF KANSAS

For 1888	100.00
For 1889	100.00
For 1890	100.00
For 1891	100.00
For 1892	100.00
For 1893	100.00
For 1894	100.00
For 1895	100.00
For 1896	100.00
For 1897	100.00
For 1898	100.00
For 1899	100.00
For 1900	100.00
For 1901	100.00
For 1902	100.00
For 1903	100.00
For 1904	100.00
For 1905	100.00
For 1906	100.00
For 1907	100.00
For 1908	100.00
For 1909	100.00
For 1910	100.00
For 1911	100.00
For 1912	100.00
For 1913	100.00
For 1914	100.00
For 1915	100.00
For 1916	100.00
For 1917	100.00
For 1918	100.00
For 1919	100.00
For 1920	100.00
For 1921	100.00
For 1922	100.00
For 1923	100.00
For 1924	100.00
For 1925	100.00
For 1926	100.00
For 1927	100.00
For 1928	100.00
For 1929	100.00
For 1930	100.00
For 1931	100.00
For 1932	100.00
For 1933	100.00
For 1934	100.00
For 1935	100.00
For 1936	100.00
For 1937	100.00
For 1938	100.00
For 1939	100.00
For 1940	100.00
For 1941	100.00
For 1942	100.00
For 1943	100.00
For 1944	100.00
For 1945	100.00
For 1946	100.00
For 1947	100.00
For 1948	100.00
For 1949	100.00
For 1950	100.00
For 1951	100.00
For 1952	100.00
For 1953	100.00
For 1954	100.00
For 1955	100.00
For 1956	100.00
For 1957	100.00
For 1958	100.00
For 1959	100.00
For 1960	100.00
For 1961	100.00
For 1962	100.00
For 1963	100.00
For 1964	100.00
For 1965	100.00
For 1966	100.00
For 1967	100.00
For 1968	100.00
For 1969	100.00
For 1970	100.00
For 1971	100.00
For 1972	100.00
For 1973	100.00
For 1974	100.00
For 1975	100.00
For 1976	100.00
For 1977	100.00
For 1978	100.00
For 1979	100.00
For 1980	100.00
For 1981	100.00
For 1982	100.00
For 1983	100.00
For 1984	100.00
For 1985	100.00
For 1986	100.00
For 1987	100.00
For 1988	100.00
For 1989	100.00
For 1990	100.00
For 1991	100.00
For 1992	100.00
For 1993	100.00
For 1994	100.00
For 1995	100.00
For 1996	100.00
For 1997	100.00
For 1998	100.00
For 1999	100.00
For 2000	100.00

For 1888, 1889, 1890, 1891, 1892, 1893, 1894, 1895, 1896, 1897, 1898, 1899, 1900, 1901, 1902, 1903, 1904, 1905, 1906, 1907, 1908, 1909, 1910, 1911, 1912, 1913, 1914, 1915, 1916, 1917, 1918, 1919, 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1932, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1945, 1946, 1947, 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000.

