MINUTES

FORTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL SESSION

of the

SALINE ASSOCIATION

of

FREE WILL BAPTISTS



Held With

PLEASANT VALLEY CHURCH

Bradley County

SEPTEMBER 1, 2, 3, 1944

Next Session will be held with Willoughby Church,
Bradley County, Arkansas

Eld. J. E. White, Moderator _____ New Edinburg, Ark. S. L. Woodard, Clerk _____ Warren, Ark.

Ordaining Council

Eld. J. C. Moring	England, Ark.
Eld. J. E. White	New Edinburg, Ark.
Eld. W. P. White	Warren, Ark.
Eld. R. M. Moore	Tarry, Ark.
Eld. J. D. Bryan	Warren, Ark.

PROCEEDINGS

The Ministers, Deacons, Delegates and Church Clerks, composing that part of the Church of God or Christ met in annual session with Pleasant Valley Church, near Warren, Bradley County. September 1, 2, and 3, 1944.

The inception recorded representation from every church in Saline Association. All members of committees and officers were

willing and ready to do their duty with interest.

Arrangements for the reception of those in attendance were planned by the Pleasant Valley Church. The welcome, hospitality, comforts, and good eats were enjoyed by the attendants. Noon and

evening meals were served at the church.

A very high tribute is hereby paid to J. E. McMahon, Eld. Stanton White, Eld. J. E. White, Murry Funderburg, Leonard Doggett, Clif Dyer, Sister Ollie Sweeney, and Sister Katherine White and others who were instrumental in making the singing enjoyable. Th officers, committees, ministers, and song directors, characteristically rendered their services.

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION

The Assistant Moderator, J. E. White, called the body to order. Song, "Some Day," directed by J. E. McMahon. Scripture reading: First Corinthians, 13th chapter. Prayer, Eld. W. P. White. Song, "I'll Live in Glory," directed by Sister Ollie Sweeney.

11 O'clock Service

Song, "Amazing Grace," directed by Eld. J. E. White. Prayer, Sister Cora Parnell. Scripture Lesson, First Corinthians, 15:57-58. Eld. J. E. White brought the message of the hour in a very able manner. Eld. O. A. Ashcraft gave his approval in a short talk. Dismissed with prayer by Dallas Jones.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Opening song, "Anywhere is Home if Christ My Lord is There," directed by J. E. McMahon. Scripture Lesson, Third chapter of Rome, read by Eld. J. E. White. Prayer, Eld. Johnnie Hartley. Moderator called for letters from different churches in the Saline Association and the following were presented and delegates seated:

WILLOUGHBY—Sister Rufus Doggett, Sister Wiley White,

and Sister Ervin West.

PLEASANT VALLEY—Sister Verna Graham, Sister Ollie Sweeney, Sister W. H. Graham, Sister Annice Williams, and Sister L. E. Jones.

MT. PLEASANT—Sister R. W. Estell and Bro. J. L. Johnson. HARMONY—Clifton Rodgers, Ray Curry, John Taylor, Sister

Dora Clark, and Sister Ethel Taylor.

MACEDONIA—Ryley Bryant, Johnnie Hartley, Sister Maxine Brown, Sister Juanita Morgan, and Sister Ollie Mae Bryant.

PLEASANT GROVE—John Ed Funderburg, Sister Ruth Funderburg, Sister Florence Funderburg, and Sister Lizzie Funderburg.

PINE HILL—Earnest Williams, Sister Viola Dorsey, and Ear-

nest Ingram. •

OAK GROVE—J. E. McMahon, J. A. McMahon, and Sister J.

E. McMahon.

UNION CHAPEL—A. W. Bost, J. H. Tilley, J. H. Rodgers, and T. M. Craig.

YORK TOWN—Sister Helen Dodds and Sister Eva Tucker. SPRING HILL—W. T. Woodruff and Sister W. T. Woodruff. FREE HILL—Eld. O. A. Ashcraft.

Delegates, Ministers, Deacons, and Church Clerks took their place in the council in the usual manner, greeting each other with

hand clasp, christianizing the Assembly for its annual work.

Permanent Organization: Eld. J. E. White, Moderator; Eld. Lewis Barker, Assistant Moderator; S. L. Woodard, Clerk; Dallas Jones, Reading Clerk; J. E. McMahon, Choir Director.

The Moderator, J. E. White, appointed the following commit-

tees:

Divine Service—J. A. McMahon, J. H. Tilley and Earnest Williams.

Resolutions—Dallas Jones, Eld. W. P. White, J. E. McMahon,

T. H. Brown, and T. M. Craig.

Temperance—Sister Ethel Taylor, Earnest Ingram, and Sister Murry Funderburg.

Sunday School—W. W. Clark, L. E. Jones, and Sister Viola

Dorsey,

Obituary—Murry Funderburg, Sister Verna Graham, and Clifton Rogers.

Non-Represented Church—W. T. Woodruff, Johnnie Hartley,

and Sister Cora Parnell.

Union of Churches—Sister Ollie Mae Bryant, J. H. Rogers, William Wheeler, J. D. Devine, and W. H. Howsen.

Credential-Murry Funderburg, John Taylor, Sister Rufus

Doggett.

Statistical—Sister Billie Jean Funderburg, Sister Ollie Sweeney, Sister Ruby White, Sister Juanita Morgan, and Sister J. E. McMahon.

Finance—J. M. Spikes, Sister W. P. White, Sister Maxine

Brown, Sister Delois Wolfe, and Sister Ervin West.

S. L. Woodard read the rules of order. Song, "Everybody Will Be Happy Over There," directed by J. E. McMahon.

Recess, ten minutes.

Dismissed by W. W. Clark.

Song, "What a Friend," directed by J. E. McMahon. Verbal report by Eld. O. A. Ashcraft from Free Hill and W. T. Woodruff

from Spring Hill were accepted.

Permanent officers for Sunday School Rally: Dallas Jones, President; S. L. Woodard, Vice President; Sister Lee Morgan, Secretary. The Sunday School Rally will be in Pine Hill Church, the second fifth Sunday in 1945. This Rally will be for all churches in Saline Association and no judges for any event will be used.

Motion and second to recess until tonight.

Benediction by Earnest Ingram.

FRIDAY EVENING SESSION

Service opened with class singing directed by the following: J. E. McMahon, Sister Ollie Sweeney, and Sister Katherine White. Prayer, Dallas Jones.

Murry Funderburg conducted the devotional service. The men out numbered the women in standing as a witness for the Lord.

At this time Eld. W. P. White, who was to bring the message, used as his subject, If a Man Honestly Thinks He is Right, Is He Justifiable? Theme: "To Live as Christ and Die His Gain." Concluded by Bro. Johnnie Hartley. Song. Dismissed by W. Y. Mann.

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

The resumption of business began with class singing. Prayer, Eld. O. A. Ashcraft. Scripture Lesson, Eld. J. E. White, First Psalm. Resolution No. 1 and 2 were read, discussed, and accepted.

A Home Mission Board was set up with a committee of three: Dallas Jones, Chairman; Murry Funderburg, Secretary; W. W. Clark.

The vacancy in the ordaining council was filled. The council up to date is: J. C. Moring, J. E. White, W. P. White, R. M. Moore, and J. D. Bryan.

A five minute recess.

11 O'clock Memorial Service

Service was opened with a special number, "I'll Fly Away," directed by Eld. Stanton White, dedicated to Eld. O. A. Ashcraft

and Eld. W. P. White. Prayer, Murry Funderburg.

At this time Eld. D. A. Bryan of Warren, Ark., brought the message in memory of those who have departed this life since last Association, using as a theme, "Father into Thy Hands I Commend Their Spirit." Many sweet memories were recalled of our associational deceased friends. We miss them, but hope our loss is Heavn's gain. Christ gave a plan of salvation, and made a home, not by human hands, for his children in Heaven. Concluded by Eld. J. E. White. Song, "Getting Ready," directed by J. E. McMahon. Handshake with all christians.

Benediction by J. E. McMahon.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Session was opened with class singing. Prayer, T. H. Brown. Willoughby Church, three miles west of Warren, Ark., was selected as the next place of meeting, to begin on Thursday night before the first Sunday in September, 1945, and continue over Sunday.

Introductory sermon, Eld. Stanton White, Alternate Eld. John-

ny Hartley.

Memorial sermon, Eld. J. E. White, Alternate Eld. D. A. Bryan. State delegates, Eld. Johnny Hartley, Sister Murry Funderburg, Sister J. E. McMahon, Sister Ollie Sweeney, and Sister Catherine White. Alternates, Sister R. W. Estell, Sister Iva Mae Mc-Cellon, and Sister Ethel Taylor.

No evangelist was elected. The evangelist work will be directed by the Home Mission Board. A public collection for Home Missions was taken up. The public gave \$23.22 plus \$55.75 in treasury,

making \$78.97 in all.

Ten minute recess.

Song, "He Bore It All," directed by Leonard Doggett.

Motion and second that Saline Association join the National Association. This motion was carried almost unanimously.

Ministers Reports:

Eld. J. E. White, New Edinburg, Ark.: Sermons preached 84, Churches pastored 3, Revivals held 3, Professions witnessed 20, Number Baptized, none, Additions to Church 16, Funerals preached 5, Miles traveled 1720, Money received \$664.40.

Eld. Ernest Ingram, Star City, Ark.: Sermon preached 9, Miles

traveled 130. Money received \$3.82.

Eld. H. L. Myers, New Edinburg, Ark.: Sermons preached 2, Money received \$4.00.

Eld. D. A. Bryan, Warren, Ark.: Sermons preached 36, Miles

traveled 270. Money received \$42.00.

Eld. J. M. Spikes, England, Ark.: Sermons preached 35, Church missions 3. Revivals held 2, Professions witnessed 8, Additions to church 8, Miles traveled 800, Money received \$20.00.

Eld. Stanton White, Warren, Ark.: Sermons preached 26, Churches pastored 1, Revivals held 2, Professions witnessed 7, Additions to church 10. Miles traveled 440. Money received \$193.72.

Eld. W. P. White, Warren, Ark.; Sermons preached 5, Money

received \$6.00.

Eld. O. A. Ashcraft, Herbine, Ark.: Revivals visited 2, Money received \$120.00.

Eld. Lewis Barker, New Edinburg, Ark.: Sermons preached 32, Churches pastored 1, Revivals held 1, Professions witnessed 2,

Miles traveled 1050, Money received \$90.00.

Motion carried to adjourn the business session, to meet with Willoughby Church, Warren, Ark., Thursday night before the first Sunday in September, 1945. The parting hand was taken.

Benediction by W. W. Clark.

SATURDAY EVENING SERVICE

Singing by the choir. Prayer, Eld. Johnny Hartley. Scripture

reading in Psalm. Devotional by Eld. Ernest Ingram.

Eld. Stanton White very ably delivered the message at this time. Scripture Lesson found in Galations. Text: Be not deceived for God is not mocked. For whatsoever we sow we shall also reap. Concluded by Eld. Lewis Barker. Dismissed by Eld. D. A. Bryan.

SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE

Sunday morning service was a very enjoyable service. The singing class sang several selections. The Moderator, Eld. J. E. White, read nine verses from the 53rd chapter of Isaiah. Prayer, W. Y. Mann. Eld. D. A. Bryan gave a very interesting talk on Sunday School. Eld. O. A. Ashcraft gave the origin of Sunday School. Eld. Lewis Barker brought the message of the hour from St. Matt. 24:3-24, "The Second Coming of Christ." Eld. D. A. Bryan made the closing remarks in a very able and effective manner.

Dismissed with prayer by Eld. Johnny Hartley.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON

Afternoon was spent in song service. A public offering of \$11.60 was donated to Eld. O. A. Ashcraft. May the blessings of Heaven rest and abide with us both now and forever. Amen!

Report of Committees: `

UNION OF CHURCHES—We, the committee on Union of Churches, and that all the churches have been represented and are in good standing as far as we know.

Sister Ollie Mae Bryant, Chairman

NON-REPRESENTED CHURCHES—We, the committee on Non-Represented Churches, find that all churches are represented. This is something we should feel proud of.

W. T. Woodruff, Chairman

SUNDAY SCHOOL—We, the committee on Sabbath School, find the churches that are carrying on a Sunday School are in much better condition in every way. We encourage parents to go with their children to Sunday School. The success of any Sunday School is founded upon the truths and principles it teaches with the presence of everyone if possible. We know there is a need of teaching our youth the Bible in this day of unrest and dissatisfaction. Every church should wake up to their duty in regard to a Sunday School for the people it is to serve. Give to the church and Sunday School your best and the best will come back to you.

L. E. Jones, Chairman

TEMPERANCE—We, your committee on Temperance, believe there are evils caused by the effects of liquor. The Devil uses every means possible to mislead the christian people. All people must put God first and rely upon his promises, less we fall into temptation.

Sister Murry Funderburg, Chairman OBITUARY—We, your committee on obituary, find that the

all-wise God has seen best to call from our midst to their reward Bro. S. B. Bradley and Bro. Hugh Woolrdige of Harmony church, P. V. T. Obie Burns of Pine Hill, Pfc. Houston Parker, Bro. Conal, and Sister Adams of Willoughby. Their lives will live in our memories. We are submissive.

Murry Funderburg, Chairman

FINANCE—We, the finance committee, find that \$45.55 has been turned over to the clerk for Saline and State minutes and help take care of State meeting.

Sister Maxine Brown, Chairman

STATISTICS—We, the committee on Statistics, beg leave the following report:

Pastoral work	\$1617.32
Church Property	\$5529.50
Help in Meeting	\$ 528.08
Help in Sickness	\$ 14.00
Home Mission	\$ 36.02
Publication	\$ 161.01
	<u> </u>
Total	\$7885.93

Dismissed 8, Deaths 5, Ministers 16; Church Paper 86; Received into the Church 86, Baptized 34; Total Membership 1213, League Members 97; Number in Sunday School 343.

Sister Billie Jean Funderburg, Chairman

RESOLUTION No. 1—Be it resolved, that each church in Saline Association invite one of the young or old ministers to preach in their church each month.

RESOLUTION NO. 2—Be it resolved, that Saline Association elect a Home Mission Board of three members to handle all Home Mission affairs. One of the three members act as chairman, one as treasurer. The above board is held responsible for all funds and duties performed. At each fifth Sunday meeting they are to make a general report on finance and expenditures and Home Mission work.

Dallas Jones, Chairman

ARTICLES OF FAITH

- 1. GOD—We believe in one true and living Triune God; composed of Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, equal in divine essence, purpose, power, and glory. St. John 1:1; 1st Cor. 8:6; 1 John 5:7; St. John 10:30.
- 2. CHRIST—We believe that Jesus Christ is the divine Son of God; was with the Father and the Holy Spirit at the time of the creation; left the Courts of Heaven and came to this earth. Took upon Himself the form of humanity, sin excepted, by being born of the virgin Mary, manifested his power, was crucified, placed in Joseph's new tomb, arose from the dead the third day, completing the great plan of salvation; walked and talked with his disciples, publicly ascended up to Heaven, and that he will descend to gather his jewels home. Isaiah 9:6; St. John 1:14; Luke 7:26-28; 24:50-53; Math. 14:13-21; Mark 16:9-19; 15:22-41; Acts 1:9-12; 1st Thes. 4:13-18.
- 3. HOLY SPIRIT—We believe the Holy Spirit has visited true believers in all ages, and especially since the ascension of the Son back to the Father, and its coming on the day of Pentecost. Has taken up its office work among all nations of people as a Di-

vine Reprover, Comforter, and Guide. Judges 6:34, 11:29; St. John

16:18-14; Isaiah 63:10-12; Ephesians 4:30; Acts 8:17-20.

4. THE BIBLE—We believe the Bible, which is composed of the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, was given by inspiration of God, is our waybill from earth to Heaven, and only infallible rule of faith and practice. II Peter 1:19-21; II Timothy 3:14-17; Daniel 10:21; Acts 1:16-17; Math. 24:14.

5. THE FALL OF MAN—We believe that God created man good, gave him a just law by which he should be governed, with promises of reward for faithfulness and with penalties of punishment for disobedience. Gave man power of free moral agency to choose the right and reject the wrong. But our first parents heeded the voice of the great Enemy of souls, voluntarily transgressed the Law of God, fell under the just penalty of the same, and were unable of their own power to extricate or save themselves from the great dilema into which they had fallen. God gave to them the hope of salvation through the coming of Christ. Gen. 1:27; 2:16-17; Romans 11:11-35; 5:18; Psalms 37:23-24.

6. REDEMPTION, SALVATION, ADOPTION—We believe that Jesus Christ, by his birth, death, burial, resurrection and ascention, paid the purchase price of the redemption of the whole human race, arranged a pardon for all who come to Him upon Gospel terms; and a law of adoption into the Kingdom of Heaven, and an eternal inheritance in the glorified Kingdom above. Hebrews 9:12; 1:3-4; Gal. 3:13; 4:4-5; Titus 2:14; St. John 3:16, Isa. 45:22.

7. CONDITIONS OF SALVATION—We believe that all persons dying in infancy, and all idiots, are saved by the atoning merits of the Son of God without any act upon their part; that persons coming to the years of accountability, transgressing the Law of God, must upon their part exercise faith in Jesus Christ through repentance toward God, at the completion of which pardon takes place in the mind of the Father, and by the Holy Spirit they pass through the ordeal of regeneration, are washed in the blood of the Lamb and are planted in the Kingdom of Christ or God. John 3rd chapter; Math. 19:13-22; II Cor. 7:10; Luke 18:16-17; St. John 4:11-16, Psalms 98:3.

8. SALVATION FREE—We believe that God desires the salvation of all; Christ died for all; the gospel invites all; the Holy Spirit strives with all, and whosoever will may come and be saved upon the terms of the Gospel. I Peter 1:9-25; 2:9, 24-25; Rev. 22:17.

9. BAPTISM—We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion of believers in water, in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, in which is represented the burial and resurrection of Christ; also represents our death to sin, and only those who have come under the presbytery of elders are qualified to administer the same. Math. 3:14-16; 28:19; 3:5-6; I Peter 3:21; St. John 3:23; Acts 10:47.

10. COMMUNION AND FEET WASHING—We believe that the Lord's Supper and the washing of feet are ordinances of the gospel of Christ; the Lord's Supper was instituted by our Saviour to commemorate his broken body and shed blood for the sins of the world, and to show our remembrance of Him till He comes. All Christians have a right to the Lord's Supper, and should be invited; "let a man examine himself and so let him eat."

The washing of feet was instituted at the same time that the supper was instituted as an act of humility to show our love for each other and both ordinances should be perpetuated by all Christians until his second coming. Luke 22:19-20; I Cor. 11:20-29; St.

John 13:1-18; Math. 26:26-29.

11. THE SABBATH—We believe that the Christian Sabbath should be observed as a day of rest and for the worship of God; that we should abstain from all sinful amusements, and secular employments, works of mercy and piety excepted. Exodus 20:11; 31-12-18; Deut. 5:12-15; Ezek. 20:12; Math. 28:1; Luke 23-56; Acts 13:42-48; Mark 2:27.

12. CALL TO THE MINISTRY—We believe in a divine call of the ministry; that God in His goodness and power of grace, impresses His Ministers with the burden of lost souls, to the extent that the call becomes irresistible with personal contentment, that when they yield to the call and exercise their native gifts according to the scripture with a full reliance upon Him He accompanies them in the person of the Holy Spirit to guide them in the way of truth and to bless their labors according to His purpose. Jonah 1:1; Jer. 1:5; Mark 3:14; Acts 1:22-26; Math. 28:19.

13. THE INVISIBLE CHURCH—We believe that the invisible or Spiritual Church is the redeemed in the aggregate, is the family of God, is composed of all true Christians of every congregation from righteous Abel to the restitution of all things from every kindred, nation, tongue, and people. Eph. 3:16-21, 2:19-22; Heb.

12:22-23; I Peter 2:5; Acts 2:47; Math. 16:18.

14. THE VISIBLE CHURCH—We believe that a visible Church of Christ is a congregation of faithful men and women, having obtained fellowship with the Lord and with each other, agreeing to keep up a good discipline and doctrine according to the rules of the gospel. II Thes. 1:1; Acts 16:5; 20:28; III John 1:10;

Math. 18:17; Rev. 1:4, 11-20; 2nd Cor. 8:18-19.

15. PERSEVERANCE—We believe that all true believers in Christ should persevere in divine grace, and in the knowledge of the truth that God's grace is sufficient to help them to overcome all the obstacles of life that all the combined force of the great enemy of souls on earth in Hell (or in his eternal abode) are not able to pluck them from his hand so long as they walk in the path of duty; but those who sidestep and willfully refuse or neglect to perform their duty they would backslide and if persistently continued would be eternally lost. II Cor. 9:10; II Peter 1:4-8; 1 Peter 2:2; Rom. 8:35-39; Apostasy; II Peter 1:8-9; I Cor. 10:1-13; Heb. 12:15-17, 6:1-6, 3:12, 1st John 5:16; I Tim. 4:1-2; St. John 15:1-7; Math. 12:31-32; Jude 1st chapter.

16. CHRIST THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH—We believe that Christ is the great head of the Church, and the government of the local church is with the body. Col. 1:18-19; Math. 16:18, 21:42;

Heb. 12:23; Eph. 1:22; Acts 16:4-5.

17. SANCTIFICATION—Sanctification is a work of God's grace, by which the soul is cleansed from all sin and wholly consecrated to Christ. It takes place in regeneration and the Christian can and should abide in this state to the end of life, constantly, growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. And the sanctification of the body (which is held under subjection) where take place in the resurrection. I Cor. 6:11; II Thes. 2:13; Heb. 12:7 Phil. 3:21; 1st Thes. 5:19-23; St. John 17:17-19; II Timothy 2:20

18. THE SOUL—The soul is endless, hence does not die the body, but immediately after death enters into a conscious of happiness or misery according to the spiritual character possessed. Philp. 1:23; Luke 23:43, 16:19-25; Rev. 6:9; Math. 1

19. THE RESURRECTION—We believe in the resurrect the dead, both of the righteous and wicked. When the resurr

shall take place the soul and body shall be reunited, the righteous shall be received into everlasting happiness to reign with God forever; but the wicked shall go away into everlasting punishment.

Math. 28:6; St. John 5:28-29; I Cor. 15:51-58.

20. JUDGMENT—We believe that there will be a great universal judgment, when all men shall be judged according to their works, whether they be good or bad, and that immediately thereafter the wicked shall enter into everlasting punishment, and the righteous into everlasting happiness. II Thes. 1:4-9; Rev. 14:9-13, 20:12-13, 21:8; II Cor. 5; 10; Math. 12:36-37; Acts 17:31.

RULES OF ORDER

1. At every sitting of the Association, business shall be opened and concluded with a prayer.

2. Those who speak shall rise, address the Moderator, and

personal reflections shall be avoided.

- 3. All motions made and seconded shall be open for discussion, but debate may be shut off at any time by a majority of the members of the Association.
- 4. If any proposition or motion under debate contains two or more points, it shall be divided at the request of any member and the vote taken separately.

5. Motions made and lost shall not be recorded on the Min-

utes unless so ordered at the time.

6. No one shall speak more than once on the same subject without special leave from the body.

7. All questions shall be decided by a majority of the mem-

bers present.

- 8. No member shall absent himself without leave of the Moderator.
- 9. At the future sessions of this Association arrangements shall be made so as to insure two sermons, or other devotional exercises which shall be equivalent thereto, during each day of the session, and that the chair announce just before adjournments who shall fill the stand at the next meeting.

10. Alternations may be made in these rules at any regular

meeting of the Association.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Introductory sermon.

- 2. Association called to order by Moderator, or in his absence the Clerk.
- 3. Letters from the Association of this Association called for, read and messengers invited to seats.

4. Right hand of fellowship.

5. Call for letters from newly organized Associations.

6. Corresponding Associations.

Election of permanent officers.

- 8. Reading Rules of Order and Minutes of last Association by Chairman or Clerk.
 - 9. Appointment of the following Committees: (a) Resoluns; (b) Finance; (c) Arrangements of Preaching; (d) Temperte; (e) Sabbath Schools; (f) Obituaries; (g) Condition of Non-resented Churches; (h) Union of Churches; (j) Credential; Statistics.
 -). Report of Committees appointed at last Association, and unfinished business.

Report of new committees.

New business.

Adjournment.