

MINUTES
FORTY-NINTH ANNUAL SESSION
of the
SALINE ASSOCIATION
of
FREE WILL BAPTISTS



Held With
WILLOUGHBY CHURCH
Bradley County
AUGUST 31, SEPTEMBER 1, 2, 1945



Next Session will be held with Free Hill Church
Cleveland County, Arkansas

Eld. J. E. White, Moderator New Edinburg, Ark.
Eld. Lewis Barker, Clerk New Edinburg, 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. D. A. Bryan Warren, Ark.

PROCEEDINGS

The Ministers, Deacons, Delegates and Church Clerks, composing that part of the Church of God or Christ, commonly known as Free Will Baptist, met in annual session with Willoughby Church near Warren, Bradley County, August 31, September 1 and 2, 1945.

The inception recorded representation from churches 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 Willoughby 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, Leonard Doggett, Ollie Sweeney, Eld. R. M. Moore, Irby Teel and others who were instrumental in making the singing enjoyable.

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION

The Moderator Eld. J. E. White called the body to order. Song, "This World Is Not My Home," directed by J. E. McMahon. Scripture reading; Psalms 119th chapter. Prayer Eld. W. P. White. Song, "Precious Memories." A ten minute devotional in which many took part. Five minute recess.

Eleven o'clock service. Song, "Just Over in the Glory Land," directed by Leonard Doggett. Prayer by Bro. Rush Estelle. The message of the hour was brought by Eld. John S. Hartley, using for a text Matt. 16:5. Concluded by Eld. J. E. White. Dismissed with prayer by Eld. Lewis Barker.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Song service directed by J. E. McMahon. Prayer by W. W. Clark. Moderator called for letters from different churches of the Saline Association and the following were presented and delegates seated.

PLEASANT GROVE—Bros. John Edd Funderburg, Stanley Foy, Sis. Billy Jean Andrews and Sis. Billy Jean Funderburg.

OAK GROVE—Bro. J. A. McMahon, Sis. J. A. McMahon and Sis. J. E. McMahon.

HARMONY—Bro. Berette Nickols, Bro. and Sis. Hayes, Bro. John Taylor, Bro. W. W. Clark and Bro. Clifton Rogers.

MT. PLEASANT—Bro. Jim Meeks, Bro. S. R. Pennington, Bro. R. W. Estelle, Sis. S. R. Pennington.

PLEASANT VALLEY—Bro. G. W. Doggett, Bro. R. E. Scroggins, Bro. Leonard Doggett, Bro. Herman Greenwood and Sis. Vera Graham.

WILLOUGHBY—Sis. Nona Belle West, Sis. Ruby White, Sis. Hester Parker, Sis. Laurence Doggett, Sis. Mae Delle Doggett, and Sis. Rachel Adams.

MACEDONIA—Bro. T. H. Brown, Sis. Ollie Mae Bryant, Sis. Geneva Myres, Sis. Ruth Hazel McClellan and Sis. Christine Rand.

UNION CHAPEL—Bro. T. M. Craig and Bro. Nathan Young.

PINE HILL—By Letter.

YORK TOWN—Sis. Helen Dodds, Sis. Ola Mae Moore, Sis. Hazel Moore and Bro. Martin Tucker.

FREE HILL—Bro. Elzy Doss, Sis. Leonard Ashcraft, Sis. Lillie Spakes, Sis. Rosey Ashcraft.

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

a handclasp, christianizing the assembly for its annual work. Moderator called for letters from newly organized churches. Two churches were present and presented their letters and were received into the association and delegates seated.

ROSE HILL—Bro. Earnest Nowlen, Bro. Ralph Barnett, Sis. Earnest Nowlen and Sis. Hattie Clemmons.

DURDON CHAPEL—Deacons John Brown, Irby Teel, and Robert Whitefield.

Clerk—Sis. Rachel Parker.

Delegates—Bro. Lee Hubbard and Minister Eld. Homer Parker.

Election of permanent officers:

Moderator, Eld. J. E. White; Assistant Moderator, Eld. Lewis Barker; Clerk, Eld. Lewis Barker; Reading Clerk, Stanley Foy; Choir Director, Leonard Doggett.

Moderator J. E. White appointed the following committees:

Resolution—W. W. Clark, T. H. Brown, J. E. McMahon, R. M. Moore, Dallas Jones.

Temperance—R. W. Estelle, Sis. Mabel Revear, Sis. Hattie Clemmons, L. E. Jones, J. M. Taylor.

Union of Churches—Johnnie Hartley, Wylie White, W. P. White.

Sunday School—Sis. J. E. McMahon, Sis. Hester Parker, Sis. Christine Rand.

Divine Service—J. G. Brewster, W. A. Bryant, Clifton Rogers.

Obituary—L. W. Wheeler, Herman Greenwood, Leonard Doggett.

Credential—Bro. Hayes, R. E. Scroggins, Berdette Nickols, S. R. Pennington.

Statistical—Hazel Mann, Billy Jean Funderburg, Eloise Foy, Ruth Hazel McClellan, Sis. S. R. Pennington.

Song by Leonard Doggett. Dismissed by J. E. McMahon.

Thirty minutes recess.

Song by J. E. McMahon. Prayer by Eld. L. W. Wheeler.

Permanent officers for Sunday School Rally—Dallas Jones, president; Sis. Lee Wynn, secretary. The Sunday School Rally will be held at Rose Hill church near Monticello, Ark. the second fifth Sunday in 1946. All churches of the Saline Association are invited to come and bring a good program from your Sunday School.

Motion and second that we recess until tonight.

Benediction by Eld. Jimmie Hartley.

FRIDAY EVENING SESSION

Song directed by G. C. Poole, followed by Eld. J. E. White. Prayer by Eld. D. A. Brian.

The devotional conducted by Sis. J. E. White, was a very enjoyable part of the service. Song directed by Stanton White.

The message was delivered by Eld. Homer Parker, using for his text Psalms 8-4, "What Is Man, That Thou Art Mindful of him?" Concluded by Moderator Eld. J. E. White.

Song directed by Eld. Stanton White and an old time handshake. Dismissed in word of prayer by G. C. Poole.

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

Song directed by Irby Teel. Scripture reading by Moderator from 5th chapter of II Corinthians. Prayer by T. H. Brown.

At this time a number of the committees made good reports. All reports were approved and committees discharged. See committee reports.

Song directed by Lonnie Brown.

Five minute recess.

Eleven o'clock service: Song directed by Leonard Doggett and Lonnie Brown.

At this time the memorial message was delivered by Eld. C. E. Wilson of Greenbrier, Ark. Text St. John 14:1-2.

Many sweet memories were recalled of our friends that have passed from the walks of life in the past year. We miss them but hope our loss is Heaven's gain. Concluded by Eld. J. E. White. Song by Eld. R. M. Moore. Handshake with all christians.

Benediction by Eld. Lewis Barker.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Song directed by Leonard Doggett, "I'm Getting Ready." Prayer by J. E. McMahon.

Verbal Report from Spring Hill church by W. T. Woodruff and delegates seated. Report from Home Mission Board given by Bro. Murry Funderburg, secretary.

The Association voted to retain the present board, composed of Dallas Jones, chairman; Mary Funderburg, secretary; W. W. Clark, member.

The Moderator appointed a recommendation committee as following: Eld. R. M. Moore, Eld. W. P. White, Eld. C. E. Wilson, Eld. Homer Parker, Dea. J. E. McMahon, Dea. W. W. Clark.

Song directed by Lonnie Brown.

Free Hill Church, twelve miles southeast of Rison on highway 35 was selected as the next place of meeting of the Saline Association to begin on Friday morning before the first Sunday in September 1946 and continued over Sunday.

Introductory sermon Eld. R. M. Moore; alternate Eld. Homer Parker; Memorial sermon Eld. J. E. White; alternate Eld. D. A. Brian

The Recommendation committee recommended that the Saline Association vote at the Arkansas State Association that Arkansas join the National Body of Free Will Baptist. Report adopted.

Motion and second that the clerk order letter forms for each church in Saline Association.

Ten minutes recess.

Song directed by Lonnie Brown. Report from Bro. Murry Funderburg shows that Saline Association has only paid \$46.65 to Foreign Missions the past year. We hope that we can do better the next year.

An offering of \$41.50 was given from the association on building a new church at Greenbrier, Ark.

Ministers Reports:

Eld. J. E. White, New Edinburg, Ark. Sermons preached 130, churches pastored 4, miles traveled 1,553, number baptized 13, money received \$738.67.

Eld. L. W. Wheeler, sermons preached 4, money received \$12.

Eld. John S. Hartley, sermons preached 50, miles traveled 1,558, money received \$138.76.

Eld. W. P. White, sermons preached 35, number baptized 5, money received \$113.00. Please pray for me.

Eld. Loyd Williams, I wish to report a fair year in the Lord's service. Helped in one meeting, sermons preached unknown, money received unknown. Pray for me.

Eld. R. M. Moore, Tarry Ark. I have pastored one church, had a wonderful meeting. Pray for me.

Eld. Stanton White, Eld. Homer Parker, Eld. D. A. Brian, Eld. Lewis Barker made a verbal report.

Delegates to State Association as following: Sis. Iva Mae McClellan, Sis. Murry Funderburg, Sis. Eva Tucker, Sis. J. E. McMahon, Bro. Martin Tucker; alternates, Sis. Homer Parker, Bro. G. W. Doggett, Sis. Hattie Clemmons. The Association ordained Bro. Stanley Foy as a Deacon from Pleasant Grove church. Song and handshake.

Motion and second that we adjourn, the business session to meet with Free Hill Church, twelve miles southeast of Rison, Cleveland County, Ark., on Friday morning before the first Sunday in September, 1946.

Dismissed with prayer by Murry Funderburg.

SATURDAY NIGHT SERVICE
Songs directed by G. C. Poole and Irby Teel. Devotional service conducted by Stanton White.

The message of the hour was brought by Eld. Loyd Williams. Scripture lesson, Matt. 6th chapter. Theme, The straight and narrow way. Dismissed by Eld. Johnnie Hartley.

SUNDAY MORNING

Sunday morning service was a very enjoyable service. The singing class sang several selections. Prayer by Bro. Irby Teel. Several songs. Prayer by Eld. Homer Parker.

Eleven-fifteen o'clock preaching by Eld. J. E. White. Scripture reading, Matt. 27. Text Matt. 57. Handshake.

Dismissed with prayer by Bro. Henry Jetters.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON

Afternoon was spent in song service in which many wonderful songs were sung to the glory of God.

DIVINE SERVICE—We, the committee on Divine Service, recommend Bro. Homer Parker fill the stand Friday night, Bro. Loyd Williams Saturday night and Bro. J. E. White Sunday at 11 o'clock.

J. G. Brewster, Chairman

TEMPERANCE—We, your committee on Temperance, believe that the evils caused by the effects of liquor are the main objects used for the purpose of destroying the christian faith and misleading lots of our young christian people. But if we put God first and rely upon His promises we will be more able to withstand temptations.

Sis. Hattie Clemmons, Chairman

CREDENTIAL—We your committee on credentials, find that all of our ministers are in good standing as far as we know. But some are not doing as much as they should do, and we recommend that they strive to do more for the Lord. And we ask that our churches remember them in their prayers.

S. R. Pennington, 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. Edward Weaver, Macedonia, Sis. J. R. Howard, Bro. John Orr, Mt. Pleasant, Sis. Ruth Griffith and Bro. Carlos Keen of Pleasant Grove, Bro. Hallie Middleton of Yorktown. Their lives will live in our memories. We are submissive to the will of God.

L. W. Wheeler, Chairman

SUNDAY SCHOOL—We, your committee on Sunday School, find the churches are still carrying on the good work of the Sunday School. There are ten Sunday Schools in our Saline Association reported to be fair. We find there are two churches in our Association that have no Sunday School. Every church should wake up to their duty in regard to a Sunday School for the people it is to serve. We want our schools to be a school that teaches, a school that reaches every available home. A school that lives, a school that gives, to make God's kingdom come.

STATISTICAL—We, your committee on Statistic, beg leave the following report:

Pastoral work	\$2,482.59
Church property	\$7,901.00
Help in meetings	\$1,787.00
Help in sickness	\$133.00
Home mission	\$41.11
Publication	\$144.08
Minute money	\$73.97
Total	\$11,482.75
Received into Church	66
Baptized	41
Dismissed	2
Died	6
Ministers	16
Total Membership	1,168
Number in Sunday School	365
Taking Church Paper	92

Sis. Hazel Mann, 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 Divine 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 dilemma 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 ascension, 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; 28:18; 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; I Peter 2:2; Rom. 8:35-39; Apostasy; II Peter 1:8-9; I Cor. 10:1-13; Heb. 12:15-17, 6:1-16, 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) will take place in the resurrection. I Cor. 6:11; II Thes. 2:13; Heb. 12:14; Phil. 3:21; 1st Thes. 5:19-23; St. John 17:17-19; II Timothy 2:20-21.

18. **THE SOUL**—The soul is endless, hence does not die with the body, but immediately after death enters into a conscious state of happiness or misery according to the spiritual character here possessed. Philp. 1:23; Luke 23:43, 16:19-25; Rev. 6:9; Math. 10:28.

19. **THE RESURRECTION**—We believe in the resurrection of the dead, both of the righteous and wicked. When the resurrection 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 Minutes 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 members 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 Churches of this Association called for, read and messengers invited to seats.

4. Right hand of fellowship.

5. Call for letters from newly organized Churches.

6. Corresponding Associations.

7. 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) Resolutions; (b) Finance; (c) Arrangements of Preaching; (d) Temperance; (e) Sabbath Schools; (f) Obituaries; (g) Condition of Non-Represented Churches; (h) Union of Churches; (j) Credential; (k) Statistics.

10. Report of Committees appointed at last Association, and other unfinished business.

11. Report of new committees.

12. New business.

13. Adjournment.