

Minutes

Fifty-Sixth Annual Session

OF THE

SALINE ASSOCIATION

OF

FREE WILL BAPTISTS

HELD WITH

MACEDONIA CHURCH

Cleveland County, Arkansas

SEPTEMBER 5 - 6 - 7, 1952

Next Session Will Be Held With

HARMONY CHURCH

Rye, Arkansas

Eld. J. E. White, Moderator.....New Edinburg, Ark.

Bro. J. C. Rawls, Clerk.....Warren, Ark.

ORDAINING COUNCIL

Eld. J. C. Moring.....England, Ark.

Eld. J. E. White.....New Edinburg, Ark.

Eld. R. M. Moore.....Tarry, Ark.

Eld. D. A. Bryan.....Warren, Ark.

Eld. H. E. Taylor.....Sherrill, Ark.

PROCEEDINGS

The 56th annual session of the Saline Association met with Macedonia Church Sept. 5th, 6th, and 7th, 1952.

Composed of ministers, deacons, delegates, and church clerks, commonly known as Freewill Baptists. The welcome hospitality, comfort, and good eats were enjoyed by all.

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION

House called to order by Moderator Eld. J. E. White.

Opening Song No. 37, "Standing on the Promises" by Sister Jannie Barker.

Song No. 159, "When the Redeemed are Gathering In," Bro. J. E. McMahon.

Song No. 167, "Tell It to Jesus Alone," Bro. Haskell Bowlin.

Scripture Reading by Moderator — Psalms 118th Chapter.

Prayer, Eld. J. C. Moring.

Song No. 78, "When We All Get to Heaven," Sister Geraldine McCellan.

Song 53, "The Unclouded Day," Bro. Haskel Bowlin.

Dismissed for Recess by Bro. Murry Funderburg.

Eleven O'clock, House called to order by the Moderator.

Song No. 195, "He Whispers Sweet Peace to Me," Bro. J. E. McMahon.

Song No. 98, "It Won't Be Very Long," Sister Nellie Faye Dyer.

Eleven O'Clock Introductory Sermon by Eld. H. E. Taylor.

Prayer, Eld. J. E. White.

Scripture Reading — Isaiah 53 Chapter 1-8 Verses.

Song No. 178, "Wonderful Jesus," Bro. J. E. McMahon.

Dismissed for noon by Bro. T. H. Dixon.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

One O'Clock House called to order by Moderator.

Song 146, "I'd Rather Have Jesus," Bro. Eddie Lee McCellan.

Song 138, "When the Roll Is Called Up Yonder," Sister Geraldine McCellan.

Song 139, "I'm Getting Ready to Go Home," Bro. D. Smith.

Song 173, "I'll Make It My Home," Bro. D. Smith.

Prayer, Rev. Elbert McCellan.

Proceed with reading of letters and seating of delegates.

Motion and second to receive letters and seat delegates.

Motion and second to receive Thomas H. Dixon and C. L. Lybarger as Advisory Members.

Called for letters from Corresponding Association.

Election of Officers for coming year.

Moderator — Eld. J. E. White

Ass't Moderator — Eld. H. E. Taylor

Clerk — Bro. J. C. Rawls

Ass't Clerk — Eld. Lewis Barker

Song Leader — Eld. D. Smith.

Song 195, "He Whispers Sweet Peace to Me," Bro. D. Smith.

Prayer, Bro. Hershel Sharkley.

Reading of Rules of Order by Ass't. Moderator Eld. H. E. Taylor.

Appointment of Committees.

Elected Eld. Bill Smith to bring Devotional Friday night.

Elected Eld. T. H. Dixon to bring message Friday night.

Song 90, "I'll Live In Glory," Bro. D. Smith.

Dismissed by Bro. W. Y. Mann.

FRIDAY NIGHT

Song 78, "When We All Get To Heaven," Bro. D. Smith.

Song 202, "Anywhere Is Home," Bro. Hershel Sharkley.

Song 203, "Blessed Jesus Holds My Hand," Bro. Cliff Dyer.

Song 162, "When Our Lord Shall Come Again," Bro. Harce McCellan.

Prayer, Bro. Murry Funderburg.

Song 314, "I Want To Be a Worker," Bro. Edward Martin.

Talk by young Minister Secial Sanders.

Song 327, "Sweet Hour of Prayer," Bro. D. Smith.

Devotional led by Eld. Bill Smith.

Number Testified, 53.

Song 132, "I'm Going That Way," Bro. D. Smith.

Prayer, Eld. J. E. White.

Divine Services, Eld. T. H. Dixon.

Subject, "Second Coming of Jesus" — 2nd Timothy 2nd Chapter.

Song 53, "The Unclouded Day," Bro. D. Smith.

Hand Shake with Eld. T. H. Dixon.

Song, "There's a Great Day Coming," Bro. D. Smith.

Alter Call.

Dismissed, Bro. Tom Brown.

SATURDAY MORNING

Song 281, "Nothing But the Blood of Jesus," Rev. D. Smith.

Song 336, "What a Friend We Have In Jesus," Bro. D. Smith.

Scripture Reading by Rev. J. E. White, 12th Chapter Second Corinthians first verse through 10th verse.

Prayer, Rev. D. Smith.

Song 307, "Amazing Grace," Rev. D. Smith.

Elected Delegates to State

Sister Murry Funderburg

Sister Nettie Taylor

Sister Roy Rial

Sister D. Smith

Sister J. C. Moring

Alternates

Bro. Hershel Sharkley

Sister Lela Cook.

Sister Eva Tucker.

Rev. Lewis Barker was elected to conduct Introductory Sermon next year.

Rev. Eddie Lee McCellan is his Assistant.

Rev. H. E. Taylor will conduct Memorial Sermon next year.

Rev. L. K. Brisher is his Assistant.

Next Rally Day will be at Pine Bluff Church.

Election of Rally Officers.

Bro. Ottis Cook, President

Sister Nettie Taylor, Clerk

Bro. Irby Teel, Song Leader

Dismissed for Recess, Rev. H. E. Taylor.

Song 4, "In Gethsemane Alone," Rev. Stanton White.

Song 174, "I'm Saved," Rev. Stanton White.

Song 165, "If I Could Hear My Mother Pray Again," Rev. D. Smith.

Prayer, Rev. H. E. Taylor.

Memorial Sermon, Rev. J. E. White.

Revelations, 21st Chapter, First through 8th Verse.

Subject, Our Heavenly Home.

Song 123, "Precious Memories," Rev. D. Smith.

Hand Shake.

Dismissed, Rev. T. H. Dixon.

SATURDAY EVENING

Song 173, "I'll Make It My Home," Bro. Van Thompson.

Scripture Reading, John 3-12.

Prayer, Rev. Loyd Williams.

Song, "When the Redeemed Are Gathering In," Rev. D. Smith.

Bro. Herman Thompson elected Home Mission Board.

Rev. J. E. White was elected District Evangelist for coming year.

Sister W. P. White will be a standing delegate.

Motion and second that a Double Monument be put to Rev. and Sister W. P. White grave.

Dismissed for recess, Rev. J. C. Moring.

Song 33, "An Empty Mansion," Sister Aileen Thompson.

A form of Thanks to the Association by Sister W. P. White.

Song 5, "Look For Me At the Gate," Rev. D. Smith.

Collection, \$41.83. \$9.00 goes to state and remainder goes to Saline.

Offering for Sister W. P. White, \$53.46.

Offering for Sister Becky Dyer and Bro. Bunk Adkins, \$71.19.

Motion and second to adjourn until we meet at Harmony Church on Friday morning at 9:30 before the first Sunday in September 1953.

Song 290, "God Be With You," Bro. Sharkley.

Dismissed by Rev. D. A. Bryan.

SATURDAY NIGHT

Song 98, "It Won't Be Very Long," Bro. Cliff Dyer.

Song 195, "He Whispers Sweet Peace to Me," Rev. Stanton White.

The Ordaining Council found Bro. Vernice Hunter and Bro. J. T. Bly eligible to be ordained as Ministers. The ordaining took place in their home church.

Bro. Aubrey Lord and Bro. Aldrich Tygart, Bro. Roy Rial and Bro. Hilton Freeman was found eligible to be ordained as Deacons.

Devotional led by Bro. J. C. Rawls.

Number Testified, 42.

Sermon by Rev. Bill Smith.

Sixth Chapter of Ephesians II through 16th verse.

Assisted by Rev. Loyd Williams.

Dismissed by Bro. Murry Funderburg.

SUNDAY MORNING

Song 26, "The Glory Land Way," Bro. Cliff Dyer.

Talks on how to improve Sunday School by Bro. Grover Poole, Rev. J. E. White, Bro. McCain, Rev. Charlie Collins, Rev. Elbert McCellan, Bro. Paul Harton, Rev. Harce McCellan and Rev. Lewis Barker.

Song 134, "Love Took It Away," Russell Puckett.

Dismissed for Recess by Rev. Elbert McCellan.

Song 205, "Just a Little While," Bro. Edward Martin.

Song 65, "If I Could Hear My Mother Pray Again," Bro. Cliff Dyer.

Sermon, Rev. H. L. Myers
14th Chapter of Mark
Subject, "Love."

Assisted by Rev. Cecial Sanders.

First John 10th Chapter, 27th - 30th Verse.

Altar Call, two conversions.

Song, "Just Over In Glory Land," Bro. C. H. Dyer.

Hand Shake.

Song 305, "Everybody Will Be Happy Over There," Bro. Edward Martin.

Dismissed, Bro. C. H. Dyer.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON

From 1 to 3 o'clock spent in song services.

Short talks by two young Ministers

Bro. Eddie Lee McCellan and Bro. J. C. Rawls.

Mark 13th Chapter, 1-37 Verses Matthew 24.

Subject, Signs of Jesus' Return.

Dismissed, Bro. C. H. Dyer.

Members received this year	130
Number Baptized	74
Number dismissed by letter	37
Number Excluded	2
Number Deceased	15
Total Membership	1,858

Number in Sunday School.....	995
Number of Officers	94
League Membership	243
Value of Church Property.....	\$77,685.00
Pastoral Work	9,016.69
Paid Evangelist	3,299.22
Building and Repairs	7,382.53
Incidentals	572.36
Foreign Mission	88.50
Home Mission	152.55
Education	78.80
Publication	489.88
Saline Minutes	86.50
State Minutes	60.00
Number of Deacons	65
Number of Ministers	20
Money Spent This Year	\$21,227.03

MINISTERIAL REPORT

I beg leave to report that I have preached ten sermons, married two couples, traveled 400 miles, received \$28.45. Pray for me.

Rev. H. P. McCellan.

I beg to make my yearly report. I have preached 56 sermons, witnessed 8 conversion, helped in 2 Revivals, Baptised 6, received \$519.50 Pray the blessing of God will still be extended to us. Pray for us.

Your humble servant,

Rev. Stanton White.

I have preached 7 sermons, have received \$30.00. Pray for me that I may be more in the work in the coming year.

Rev. H. L. Myers.

I wish to report a fair year in the Lord's services. I have preached 120 Sermons, Received for my labor \$674.00. Pray for me.

Rev. Loyd Williams.

I have pastored 2 churches, held three revivals, 4 funerals, married 3 couples, traveled 2,500 miles, received \$400.00, Baptised. I ask your prayers.

Rev. D. Smith.

I have pastored four churches, helped in four revival meetings, baptised 7, had 17 additions to the church, received \$1,202.70, plus the great blessing of God. Pray for me and mine.

Rev. H. E. Taylor.

I beg to report my Ministerial work. I haven't pastored any church, have helped in four revivals, witnessed eight conversions. I have conducted or helped in 7 funerals. I have married 9 couples. Received \$236.80. Pray for me and mine.

Rev. J. C. Moring.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

We, your Credential Committee, wish to report to the best of our knowledge that all ministers of the Saline Association are in good standing.

H. E. Taylor
Faye Mann
Ruthie Mae Greenwood.

We, your Committee on Non-Represented Churches, find all churches present except 1, Olivedale.

Herman Greenwood
Roy Rial
J. C. Moring.

We, your Committee on Finance, have \$10.95 to be turned in to the clerk for Saline Minutes.

C. H. Rodgers,
Chairman.

SABBATH SCHOOL

We, your Committee on Sunday School, find that every church has a Sunday School. We urge each Sunday School to use Free Will Baptist Literature.

Laurene Doggett,
Chairman.

We, your Committee on Obituary, find that 15 have left our midst this year. We feel our loss is Heaven's gain.

Sister Clyde Cornett,
Chairman.

RESOLUTION NO. 1

In so much as we, your Resolution Committee, have been informed that a Resolution passed by this body 1 year ago at Pleasant Grove Church has been lost and we offer this to replace it. Therefore we ask that all Ministers and Deacons coming from another Association to our Association or any other Denomination must come before the Ordaining Council of the Saline Association and that all Ministers be issued Ministers Certificate Card annually.

RESOLUTION NO. 2

Be it resolved that the Saline Association elect a District Evangelist and arrange a visit to all Churches in the Association and especially those that are most in need of the Free Will Baptist Doctrine.

Lewis Barker
James Brith
H. L. Myers
D. Smith
Murry Funderburg.

POLICY DOCTRINE

Rev. Lewis Barker, Rev. J. E. White, Rev. H. E. Taylor, Rev. J. C. Moring and Bro. Murry Funderburg.

CLERK'S REPORT

Received on Sept. 5, 1952	\$201.95
Home Mission	23.00
Foreign Mission	12.00
Received from Finance Committee	10.95
Clerk Hire	10.00
Paid for State Minutes	60.00
Paid for Saline Minutes	88.03
Money in Treasury	7.97

ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. 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; 1st 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 ascending 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 634; 11:29; St. John 16:14-18; 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. 2 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 have fallen. God gave them hope of salvation through the coming of Christ. Genesis 1:27; 2:16-17; Romans II:11-35; 5:18; Psalms 37:23-25.

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 came 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; 2nd 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 Presidency 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. II: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; 12-13; 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. John 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. 2 Thes. 1:1; Acts 16:5; 20-28; III John 1:10; Math. 18-17; Rev. 1:4; 11:20; I 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 overcome all the obstacles of life; that all the combined forces of the great enemy of the souls on earth, in Hell (or 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. 2 Cor. 9:10; 2 Peter 1:4-8; I Peter 2:2; Rom. 8:35-39; 2 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 subjection) will take place in the resurrection. I Cor. 6:11; 2 Thes. 2:13; Heb. 12:14; Phil. 3:21; 1st Thes. 5:19-23; St. John 17:17-19; 2 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. Phil. 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.

2 Thes. 1:4-9; Rev. 14:9-13; 20:12-13; 21:8; 2 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 reflection 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 person or persons shall speak twice on same subject without special leave from the Moderator.

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 adjournments who shall fill the stand at the next meeting.

10. Alterations 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, (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.

Your Clerk,

J. C. Rawls,
Warren, Arkansas,
Rt. No. 2

