

Elder O. J. Taylor -
Sons Grandfather

The First Annual Meeting of the Territorial Association of Free Will Baptists,

Held at Nubbing Ridge School House, August 31 to September 1, 1894.

AUGUST 30, 1894.—According to previous arrangements, we Free Will Baptist ministers and deacons and delegates from the different churches in the Cherokee and Choctaw nations met at the time and place appointed, at Nubbing Ridge school house, for the purpose of organizing a Territorial Association of Free Will Baptists. Met at early candle lighting; prayer by Bro. Brown, after which adjourned to meet at 11 a. m., August 31st.

Met at 11 a. m., pursuant to adjournment. Preaching by Bro. Brown, 6th chapter, 33d verse of St. Matthew. Adjourned to meet at 4 p. m.

Met at 4 p. m. House called to order by singing. Prayer by Elder J. E. McGee; after which proceeded to elect a chairman. Elder O. J. Taylor was elected chairman. Next the reading of three different minutes of Articles of Faith, and we adopted the Arkansas minute. Moved and seconded to adjourn to meet at 9 a. m., Sept. 1st, 1894.

Met at 9 a. m. House called to order by singing. Prayer by Elder D. L. Bearden; after which motion and second we proceeded to elect a Moderator and Elder A. Barnhill was elected for the ensuing year, and Elder O. J. Taylor was elected assistant. Then we proceeded to elect a Clerk by a motion and a second, and J. W. Graham was duly elected Clerk for the ensuing year. Next was to elect a Treasurer; a motion and second to elect Bro. J. M. Dunn, and he was duly elected Treasurer for the ensuing year. Motion and second to elect Elder D. L. Bearden as Assistant Clerk, and he was duly elected.

Next in order was the reading of the Church letters, Concord and Liberty and New Hope. Motion and second they be received. Motion and second to receive Shyan by Bro. Nabors as delegate. Motion and second to receive Shilo Church by Elder J. E. McGee as delegate. Motion and second to adjourn, prayer by Bro. Harshaw, to meet at 2 p. m.

ELDER A. BARNHILL, Moderator.

J. W. GRAHAM, C. C.

House called to order by singing at 11 a. m., and Elder J. E. McGee preached from Matthew 16th chapter and 18th verse, after which adjourned to meet at 2 p. m.

Met at 2 p. m. Prayer by Elder A. Barnhill; after which proceeded to appoint different committees.

Committee on bill of Arrangements: Elders D. L. Bearden, J. L. McGee, J. M. Roberts.

Committee on Preaching: Bro. D. L. Nabors, Bro. Blackwell and Bro. B. F. Howell.

Committee on Sabbath Schools: Bro. Harshaw, Bro. Burkhalter and Bro. Dunn.

Committee on Temperance: Elder J. M. Roberts, Bro. A. J. Jones and Elder D. L. Bearden.

ELDER A. BARNHILL, Moderator.

J. W. GRAHAM, C. C.

Next in business was to read the reports of the different committees. They were read and adopted as follows:

COMMITTEE ON TEMPERANCE.

The Committee on Temperance reported as follows:

"It is our honest conviction that intemperence is the direct cause of nine-tenths of all the crimes on earth. And that it is the mighty lever prying at the very foundation of Christianity; and invades the peaceful homes of men, blighting and withering the fairest flowers of our land, clouding

the mind, corrupting the morals, and deadening the sensibility of both young and old age, making widows of happy mothers and mendicants of orphan children. It wrecks happy lives and families and laughs at the ruin it has wrought. It corrupts the Bar, the Bench and the Pulpit, the State Legislatures and the Halls of Congress, and no race of people, nor class of society, is exempt from its ravages. Therefore, we believe it to be our duty as Christians and children of a pure and Holy God to banish this demon from our church and co-operate with other Christians and temperance workers to deliver fallen humanity from its blighting curse."

SABBATH SCHOOLS.

We, your committee on Sabbath Schools, report as follows: We believe it to be the duty of each church to maintain a Sabbath School, for it is instructive and interesting to the young that the Bible and New Testament be used, and that we request each church to report the condition of their School by letter to the Association next year.

C. L. HARSHAW,	} Committee.
J. N. DUNN.	
J. W. BURKHALTER,	

COMMITTEE ON BILL OF ARRANGEMENTS.

We do not believe the Brethren of this Association ought to ordain any Brother to the Ministry unless the Church of his membership recommends him. We believe each Pastor ought to teach his Church their duty of a Church towards each other in Christian liberality.

We believe we ought to have as many as two union meetings each year in our Association.

We believe each ordained Minister in good standing has a right to seat with us in the Association to transact her business.

Report of committee received and committee discharged.

A. J. BARNHILL, Moderator.

J. W. GRAHAM, C. C.

Motion and second that we hold our next Annual Association with Liberty Church, near Whitefield, I. T., commencing Friday night before the 4th Sunday in August, 1895.

Next in order was to elect one of our body to preach the introductory sermon and Elder O. J. Taylor was elected Elder J. E. McGee was chosen as Alternate.

We agree to hold union meeting at Concord Church, beginning Friday night before the 3rd Sunday in July, 1895. Elders J. E. McGee, D. L. Bearden and J. W. Burkhalter agree to attend the same.

Also we agree to hold a similar meeting with Shyan Church, near Cameron, commencing on Friday night before the 2nd Sunday in August. Bro. O. J. Taylor and Bro. Roberts agree to attend the same.

MCLAIN, I. T.—Enrolled members of Concord Church, 24; Elders, J. M. Roberts and O. J. Taylor. Cash for minutes \$2.50.

HOYETT, I. T.—Enrolled members of New Hope Church, 13. Cash for minutes \$1.25.

WHITEFIELD, I. T.—Enrolled members of Liberty Church, 33; Elder, J. H. Brown. Cash for minutes \$2.25.

CAMERON, I. T.—Enrolled members of Shyan Church, 60; Elder, J. E. McGee. Cash for minutes \$1.00.

BOXOSHE, I. T.—Enrolled members of Pleasant Ridge Church, 15; Delegates, Bro. B. F. Howell and Elder D. L. Bearden. Cash for minutes \$1.25.

ORDAINED MINISTERS: A. Barnhill, J. E. McGee, O. J. Taylor, J. M. Roberts, D. L. Bearden, J. W. Burkhalter, J. H. Brown and W. G. Ramsey.

CULLEY, I. T.—Enrolled members of Shilo Church, 23; Elder, J. E. McGee. Cash for minutes \$1.00.

NAMES OF DELEGATES.

Concord Church.—Elders, J. M. Roberts and O. J. Taylor; Deacon, J. W. Graham.

Liberty Church.—Moderator, J. H. Brown; Elders, A. J. Jones and A. Barnhill.

New Hope Church.—Elder, J. H. Blackwell; Deacon, J. N. Dunn.

Shilo and Shyan Churches.—Elder, J. E. McGee; D. L. Nabors, C. C.

Union Grove Church.—Enrolled members, received by letter, 23; Ordained Ministers, 1, W. G. Ramsey.

KENIDA, I. T.—Cash for minutes 55 cents.

Resolved, That we extend our best love and respect, to the brethren and sisters and friends of this community for their kindness and hospitality extended to us during our stay here.

Moved and seconded that we adjourn to meet at stated time before mentioned.

ELDER A. BARNHILL, Moderator.

J. W. GRAHAM, C. C.

FORMS.

FORM OF CHURCH LETTER TO THE ASSOCIATION:

INDIAN TERRITORY, Cherokee and Choctaw Nations.

Church to the Territorial Association of

Free-will Baptists, when assembled with.....

GREETING:

We send as delegates from our Church Bros.....

....., whom we pray you receive to sit with you and aid you in your deliberations. [Add Statistical Report, state of religion, post office address, number of fellowship, &c.]

Done in Church conference..... 189.....

Moderator.

Clerk.

LETTER OF DISMISSAL.

This certifies that is a member of good standing of the Free-will Baptist Church at and as such we recommend him to the fellowship of God's people.

Done by order of Church in conference, 189.....

..... Clerk. Moderator.

RULES OF ORDER.

1. At every sitting, business shall be opened and concluded by prayer by the Moderator, or whomsoever he may request.
2. Ministers present, invited to seats, are allowed to take part in the debate on all subjects, but not to vote.
3. Those who speak shall arise and address the Moderator. Personal reflection shall be avoided in all debates.
4. No motion shall be discussed without being seconded.
5. When a motion has been made and seconded and a member opposes its discussion, the Moderator shall put the question: Shall this be discussed? If negative, the question shall be dismissed.
6. If any proposition or motion under debate contains two or more points, it shall be divided at the request of any member 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. All questions decided by a majority of the members present.
10. No member shall absent himself without special leave of the Moderator.
11. Minutes shall be leisurely read and corrected before the close of the Association, if necessary.
12. In the future sessions of the Association, arrange-

ments shall be made so as to insure two or more sermons each day, or other equivalent devotional exercises.

13. The rules of order shall be distinctly read from the chair immediately after the organization of the Association.

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

CONSTITUTION.

From long experience, we, the members of the Free-will Baptist Church of Christ, being regularly baptised upon the profession of our faith in Jesus Christ, and being convinced of the necessity of a combination of churches to perpetuate a union and communion amongst us, and to preserve and maintain a correspondence with each other, do therefore ordain this constitution for our better church government.

1. The Association shall be composed of members chosen by different churches in our union, not exceeding three delegates from each church, and on producing letters shall be entitled to a seat.

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

3. The members thus chosen and convened to be denominated the Territorial Association of Free-will Baptists, being composed of sundry churches in the Indian Territory—the Association having no power to lord it over God's heritage, nor to have any ecclesiastical power over the churches, reserving the right of withdrawing from any church becoming disorderly.

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

5. Newly constituted churches may be admitted to the

Association, which are to petition by letter and delegates, and if upon examination they are found to be orthodox and orderly, they may be received into the Association, the Moderator giving the right hand of fellowship.

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

7. Every motion made and seconded shall come under the consideration of the Association, except it be withdrawn by the member who made it.

8. The Association is to endeavor to furnish the churches with minutes of the Association in proportion to the number of members in each church, the distribution being at the discretion of the Association.

9. It shall be the duty of the Clerk to keep a regular file of minutes of the Association on a book to be kept by the Association for this purpose.

10. The minutes of the Association shall be read, and corrected if needed, and signed by the Moderator and Clerk before the close of the Association.

11. Amendments to the Constitution may be made when necessary by a majority vote of the members present.

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

1. We believe in one true and living God, Father, Son and Holy Ghost, and these three are equal in Divine essence, power and glory. Rom. 1: 20; John 1: 1.

2. We believe that the scripture of the Old and New Testament is the Word of God, and the only infallible rule of faith and practice. 2 Tim. 3: 16, 17.

3. We believe that God created man good and gave him holy commandments whereby he should live holy, but man voluntarily disobeyed the commandments of God, trans-

grossed the law and fell under the just condemnation of the same, 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 suffering of death crowned with glory that He, by the grace of God tasted death for every man. Gen. 1:31; Hebrews 2:9.

4. We believe that Christ by his death, suffering and resurrection purchased our pardon and offered it freely to all mankind upon the principles of repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. He now commands all men everywhere to repent; therefore he sayeth: "Look unto me and be ye saved all the ends of the earth, for I am God and there is none else." Matt. 4:17; Isa. 45:22; Acts 20:22.

5. We believe that adult persons must be regenerated and born of the spirit of God if they inherit eternal life. John 3:3; Rom. 5:1-13.

6. We believe that infants and idiots are saved upon the merits of the Son of God. Jonah 4:11; Mark 10:14. Luke 18:16.

7. We believe that all 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 enter in through the gates of the city. Rev. 22:14.

8. We believe that baptism by immersion is the apostolic mode, even the burial of the believer in water; and that Christ, who is our life, showed this humble example to His children and bids us walk therein. John 3:22; Matt. 3:16; Rom. 6:2,3,4,5; Matt. 28:19, 20.

9. We believe that God in His goodness displays His power of Grace in a great degree, in calling and qualifying His servants by the teaching of the Holy Ghost and by the

instruction of His blessed Word, to go forth and proclaim life and salvation without price. He bids us freely to come, and nothing prevents the salvation of any but their own stubborn rebellion and sinful refusal to come. 1 Cor. 12: 3; Eph. 3: 7; Rev. 22: 17.

10. We believe that Baptism and the Lord's Supper, and the washing of the saints' feet, and the keeping of the Lord's day holy and abstaining from worldly lust and carnal cares, and to assemble ourselves together, is an ornament which prepares and beautifies the soldiers of the cross to march onward in the army of the Lord. Matt. 26: 28; John 13: 4, 5.

11. We believe that none have a right to baptism only those who have obtained a living hope in the Lord Jesus Christ, and none have a right to administer the same only those who are called of God and have come under the hands of the Presbytery of Elders; and each church ought to have a pastor, deacon and clerk chosen by the church and continue in office during the good pleasure of the same; and in dealing with disorderly members, reference should be had to the 18th chapter of Matthew and other scriptures relative to dealing with disorderly members. In all cases a majority shall rule, except in receiving members, which shall be unanimous. Titus 1: 5; Acts 14: 23; 2 Cor. 6: 6.

12. We believe it the duty of each church to assemble themselves together once a month, and that it is the duty of the pastor of the church when setting forth the Lord's supper and washing the saints' feet to invite all Christians. Heb. 10: 26; 1 Cor. 11: 27, 28.

13. We believe in the resurrection of the dead, of both the just and unjust. The resurrection of the just to glory and immortality in the presence of God; the unjust to everlasting shame and banishment from the presence of God. Matt. 25: 31-34; 1 Cor. 15: 42-45; 2 Thess. 1: 1-11; Rev. 20: 10 and 21: 9; Job 19: 26.