

UNION ASSOCIATION MINUTES – MARCH 6, 2004

Scott Gaston led the congregation in singing "What A Day That Will Be." Bro. Allen Mabra welcomed everyone to the meeting. Bro. Carl Cheshier, president of Hillsdale Bible College led in prayer. The Hillsdale Singers were introduced and sang several songs of worship.

Following another congregational song, Bro. Bob Hale led in prayer. Lori Torrison sang, "Gone." She and husband, Steve Torrison, gave their personal testimonies and told of how God had led them to be missionaries to Panama. Steve then preached from Matthew 28:18-20 concerning the need to "catch, keep, and obey." He closed with prayer.

Bro. Carl Cheshier thanked the Union Association for their students at Hillsdale. He told of the now completed chapel building, and the brick walk still being completed. This year's auction will be the sixth one, and they are looking forward to an even larger one than last year. The Have-a-Heart goal for this year is \$200,000. He also spoke of the ABLE Degree completion program and the second year of the Master's Degree program. In September, the college is attempting to gather all who have sung in Hillsdale programs over the years for a special reunion at the state meeting in October.

Bro. Allen Mabra gave a report on the TSP Program. It is on a record pace this year. Steve and Lori will be supported by the program as they go to language school and mission training.

Bro. John Hewitt of FWB Family Ministries, spoke about the need of reaching out and touching individuals and families for Christ. The children's home in Tennessee led 89 children to the Lord last year; they minister to over 450 children per year, and they are opening a new facility in Little Rock, Arkansas. Bro. Scott Gaston dismissed in prayer for lunch.

Following the lunch break, the congregation sang "So Send I You." Bro. J.C. Smith led in prayer. Moderator Charlie Murphy called the business meeting to order. The Clerk read the letters from the churches. Delegates present were: Antioch: Nelda Crispin. Clinton: Russell Rayner, Leta Rayner, and Brian Johnson. German: Larry Ford, Sue Ford, and Sue Fawver. Guymon: Red and Lavena Chastine, and Michael Beasley. Pampa: Mary Waldrop, Melba Lynch, and Agnes Atchley. Woodward: Lori Torrison, Jean Hale, and Jill Lightsey. Bro. Stacy Ross moved to accept and seat the delegates. Motion carried. The Clinton letter included a request for Russell Rayner to be examined for ordination as a deacon.

The clerk read the minutes of the last meeting. They were approved as read. Bro. Allen Mabra gave the financial report for the Treasurer. He made a motion to approve the report. Carried. He then gave the Executive/Credentials Board Report. Their recommendations were as follows: (1) To continue our commitment of \$5,000 per year to the Hillsdale Chapel Fund, the Board recommends that the Treasurer be instructed to send that amount. Russell Rayner moved to accept the recommendation. Diane Smith seconded. Motion passed. (2) The Board recommended that \$500 be given to Free Will Baptist Family Ministries. Evan Parker moved to accept. Brian Johnson seconded. Motion passed. (3) The Board recommended giving \$300 to Ben Mabra to help underwrite his E-Team mission trip to Brazil this summer. Russell Rayner moved to accept. Diane Smith seconded. Motion passed. (4) Russell Rayner was examined and

found to be sound in doctrine. The Board recommended that he be referred back to the local church for ordination as a deacon. Sis. Nelda Crispin moved to approved. J.C. Smith seconded. Motion passed.

Bro. Evan Parker gave the Mission/Education Board Report. Vici Camp dates: June 28-July 2, 2004. The camp name will be changed to honor Sis. Hazel Kirk, with the final name to be decided later. 2004 camp theme to be: "I Am Third." There will be a T-Shirt contest again this year. Each church will design their own shirts – traveling Scooby Doo trophy will be prize.

Brian Johnson was recommended to replace the vacant position on the Mission/Ed. Board. A plea was made for teachers to volunteer early. Bro. John Hewitt will be camp evangelist. Bro. Evan made the motion to elect Bro. Johnson to the vacant position. Russell Rayner seconded. Motion carried. Bro. Charlied expressed heart-felt thanks to the Association for the prayers during the last meeting for the tragedy which took Hazel Kirk's life. The clerk read a card of thanks from Gary Kirk and the two girls, Jeri and Kathe, for all the prayers and expressions of sympathy. The moderator asked for a standing vote of thanks for the host church's hospitality.

The clerk asked that anyone with donations for the Hillsdale auction contact her, and asked for information from churches with children competing in district CTS competition. John Hewitt gave thanks for the help with his ministry. The moderator declared the meeting adjourned. Bro. Jeremy Lightsey dismissed the meeting in prayer.

Minutes – September 10, 2004
Union Association of Free Will Baptists
Annual Meeting

The Union Association of Free Will Baptists met at Woodward, Oklahoma, Saturday, September 10, 2004, at the Woodward Free Will Baptist Church. The meeting opened with singing "America" and "America, the Beautiful." Bro. Clarence Shepherd led the congregation in prayer. Pastor Allen Mabra welcomed everyone to the meeting. He reminded us that September 11 would mark the third anniversary of the terrorist attacks on the United States and the importance of using the freedom we have to spread the Gospel.

Steve and Lori Torrison were our first missionary speakers. Sis. Lori spoke of their previous visit to Panama. Bro. Steve presented a slide show of Panama. He stated that the goal of the Panama Association of FWB is to plant a church in each province. The Torrison's personal goals are to help existing churches start youth groups, children's churches, and discipleship programs to reach their own outreach. They asked for our prayer support and financial support of the TSP Program. They will be training in Colorado Springs, working with the Hillsdale Mission program, and traveling to raise support for TSP.

Ben Mabra showed a slide show of his summer E-Team mission trip to Brazil. He thanked the churches, individuals and the association for their financial support of his mission trip and told of its impact in his life.

Following a break in the program, Bro. Scott Gaston sang "You Can't Ask Too Much of Our God." Kyle and Beth Howell, short-term missionary appointees to Uruguay were next on the program. Sis. Beth spoke of her prayer verse, Ephesians 6:19 and showed a slide presentation and had a question and answer time. Bro. Kyle preached, using I Timothy 4:2-4. He used the acrostic: Responsibility to spread the Gospel

Ever Ready

Add to the kingdom

Don't back down

Bro. Scott dismissed in prayer for the noon hour.

The meeting reconvened at 1:15. Following congregational singing, Bro. J.C. Smith led in prayer, and Bro. Charlie Murphy called the Business Meeting to order. Clerk Belva Mabra read the minutes of the last meeting. They were approved as read. She then read the letters from the member churches. Bro. Evan Parker moved to seat the delegates. Bro. Mabra seconded. All churches sent letters, and all but Enid were represented by delegates. Motion carried. Delegates present were: Pauline Shepherd, Red Chastine, Leta Bell Rayner, Brian Johnson, Darlene Smith, Loreta Kauk, Melba Klein, Sue Ford, Melba Lynch, Lester Lynch, Daniel Gaston, Bob Hale, and Jean Hale.

A request was read from the Pampa Church for the Executive Board to examine their new pastor, Bro. Earl Stowers for acceptance into the association. This had been given to the Executive Board earlier for their consideration.

Bro. Allen mabra read the annual financial report for Treasurer Jane Gaston. He then moved to accept the report. Bro. Shepherd seconded. Motion carried. Bro. Mabra then introduced the fact that there seemed to be no one to do the annual audit of the books and asked for suggestions. Sis. Jean Hale made a motion for the Executive Board to serve as auditor for the finances. The board would have the freedom to bring in a CPA if they deemed it necessary. Beulah Klein seconded. Motion passed. Red Chastine said he would ask his wife, Lavina, if she would be able to do it if needed.

Bro. Mabra then gave the Executive Board report. They offered three suggestions for motions: (1) To give \$2,000 from the Association to the Total Support Program, plus the offerings turned in to the association today; J.C. Smith moved to implement the motion. Carried.

(2) Bro. Stowers was examined and found to be sound in doctrine. It was recommended he be accepted into the association pending receipt of his letter from the Saline Association in Arkansas. Sis. Melba Lynch moved to approve the motion. J.C. Smith seconded. Carried.

(3) To set the date of the next meeting (The Hillsdale Conference) on February 26 to work with the open dates of the college. Bro. Sandy Shepherd moved to accept. Bro. Russell Rayner seconded. Carried.

Bro. Evan Parker gave the report of the Mission/Education Board. Youth Camp, now renamed Hazel's Camp of Hope, reported 5 salvations. 2005 Camp dates are June 27-July 1st. The board plans to ask Bro. Stacy Ross to be the camp evangelist. Fees may have to be increased, due to the continual financial loss from the camp. It was explained that the association has always subsidized the camp to make it affordable to children; however, the association no longer has the funds to do this indefinitely. Discussion followed.

Bro. Allen Mabra gave a brief report on the National Convention. He then gave a report on the Total Support Program, stating that it has funded 98% of the salaries of all missionaries who originated from Oklahoma. Two missionary couples are retiring, two more couples plus one single missionary are going out. New support is needed.

He also reported that the national publications (Heartbeat, Contact, and AIM) are combining into one; however, the Co-Laborer will remain the same. FWB Foreign Missions has been renamed FWB World Missions to remove a negative connotation of the name. Several CTS students from Woodward competed at the national level in Bible memorization, Bible Bowl, and drama. Eryn Brooks placed second in her individual drama.

Election of Officers were as follows:

Bro. Stacy Ross was elected as the new moderator.

All other offices remained the same. The Executive/Credentials Board – Stacy Ross 5 year member. Mission/Education Board – Evan Parker 5 year member. The General Board Member for 2005 will be Rev. Clarence Shepherd.

State Delegates are: Antioch: Pauline Shepherd; Clinton: Leta Bell Rayner; German: Jill Lightsey; Enid: Lori Torrison; Guymon: Kelly Ross; Pampa: Regina Stowers; Woodward: Belva Mabra.

The district Women Active for Christ report was given and accepted as information. Belva asked for any obituary information to be placed in the minutes. Allen Mabra has forms to be used for turning in money to the treasurer. The state meeting is October 11-14. There was a standing vote of appreciation for the good meal. Bro. Charlie Murphy asked for prayer for the nation and asked for prayer requests. Bro. Jeremy Lightsey dismissed in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Clerk, Belva Mabra