

MINUTES

OF THE

31st Annual Session

OF THE

OUACHITA

Baptist Association,

HELD WITH

CORINTH CHURCH,

Polk Co., Ark., Sept. 24th, 25th and 26th, 1898.

1898:

M. W. LINDSAY, PRINTER, MENA, ARK.

PROCEEDINGS:

The Ouachita Baptist Association met with Corinth Church, Saturday, September 24, 1898. The body was called to order by the moderator, J. J. Holland, after devotional exercises. The following churches were represented and the letters read by Brothers W. L. Compere and W. A. Brumbly: County Line, Yocana, Concord, Mt. Gilead, New Hope, Shady Grove, Mena, Corinth, Mt. Pleasant, Pine Grove, Mt. Olive, Buffalo. Received by petition: New Home, Mill Creek.

The moderator extended the hand of fellowship to the delegates of the new churches.

The pastor and deacons of Corinth church, together with Bros. J. F. Jeffrey and W. W. Roberts were appointed on the preaching committee.

On motion Bro. A. J. Robins was enrolled a messenger from Pine Grove church. On motion, Bros. J. F. Shands and J. J. Mershon were enrolled messengers from Mena church. Bro. J. Buchanan was enrolled a messenger from Mt. Pleasant church. The vote was then taken and resulted in the election of the following officers: Moderator, J. J. Holland; treasurer, A. J. Robins; clerk, J. J. Mershon.

Correspondents were invited to seats in the body.

A motion was made and carried, to have committee of three appointed to report on the change of co-operation of Ouachita Association from the General Association to that of the State Convention. The moderator appointed H. C. Ridling, who appointed Bro. J. F. Jones, who appointed Bro. W. L. Compere. The preaching committee reported Elder J. Buchanan to preach at Corinth church at night; Elder M. L. Ridling at Union Grove. Bro. Ridling was appointed to conduct a prayer meeting at 9 a. m., Sabbath. After the messengers had been assigned homes the body adjourned until 8 o'clock, a. m., Monday.

At 11 o'clock, Sabbath morning, the missionary sermon was preached by Elder E. S. James, the appointee, and collections taken afterwards as follows: For Foreign Missions, \$3.25; Associational, \$4.65. Elder J. J. Holland preached at Corinth Sabbath night, and Elder E. S. James preached at Union Grove.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1898.

The body met a little after 8 a. m. After devotional exercises in which the 12th chapter of Romans was read, the roll of messengers was called and corrected. On motion the clerk's record was read up to this point, and approved. The following committee reports were received and adopted, to wit:

ON NOMINATIONS.

We recommend that the Association select the next place to hold its ses-

sion. We appoint Elder M. L. Ridling to preach introductory sermon Saturday, at 11 o'clock, a m.; Elder E. B. Williams, alternate. Elder J. J. Holland to preach the missionary sermon at 11, a. m., Sabbath; Elder S. A. Neighbors, alternate.

J. F. JEFFREY, Chairman.

RELIGIOUS LITERATURE.

We desire to report as follows: We recommend a sound Baptist paper, The Arkansas Baptist, published at Little Rock, Arkansas; also, we recommend the literature of the Southern Baptist Convention, for use in our Sabbath Schools, published at Nashville, Tennessee, and urge upon our churches to provide the same for use in their Sabbath Schools. We feel that it is high time for Baptists to be awake to their interests, from the fact that we see the great need of this being observed among our churches.

M. L. RIDLING, Chairman.

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

Do our churches believe in Foreign Missions? Let us see. We know a tree by its fruits; eleven churches report nothing. Grand total by 489 members, 14 churches, respectfully, is \$8.81. Faith without works is dead. If we believe in Foreign Missions our faith must be very dead. Can it be that this pitiful sum expresses the desire of 489 Baptists for the salvation of a thousand million heathen? Will the Master accept this as obedience to His command "Go ye into all the world, preach the Gospel to every creature." If not, somebody is failing to do his duty. Let each one who reads this report say earnestly, "Lord, is it I?" and resolve to do better another year.

W. L. COMPERE, Chairman.

TEMPERANCE.

Your committee on Temperance would report as follows: We find by consulting the words of our Savior that all intemperance is an evil that proves disastrous, and the drink habit is a very great evil to the young men in all generations. Therefore, be it resolved, that this Association ask the churches to do all in their power to suppress the evil of intemperance.

Respectfully submitted,

J. A. MCCRAIRAY, Chairman.

Report on Co-operation of Ouachita Association with State Convention instead of with the General Association was received, and, by motion, was substituted by the minority report as follows:

A little investigation will show that conditions are materially different now from what they were years ago when we began to co-operate with the General Association of West Arkansas and Indian Territory. Railroads have made us close to the Convention, while the constantly increasing work of the General Association in the Territory has removed it far away from us. The State Convention desires to have all the associations in the state co-operate with it, while our connection with the General Association is a positive hinderance to its work. The General Association has just expressed its feelings on this question by voting unanimously to drop "West Arkansas" from its name, and it is now styled "The General Association of Indian Territory." We, therefore, believe it will be to the best interest, not only of our Association, but also of the General Association and the State Convention, for us

to co-operate hereafter with the State Convention, and we recommend that delegates be appointed to that body. Respectfully submitted,
H. C. RIDLING, Chairman.

At 11 o'clock, a. m., the hour for preaching, the committee announced Elder W. L. Compere to occupy the stand, and Elders H. C. and M. L. Ridling to preach at night.

The body came together after noon by singing and prayer.

REPORT ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

We, your committee on Sabbath Schools, beg leave to submit our report. We find that the Sabbath School is one of the greatest helps in bringing our youth to accept the Gospel truths. We recommend sound doctrine, such as our own Baptist literature, and urge all of our churches to have a Sabbath School connected with their church work.

JOEL F. SHANDS, Chairman.

HOME OR ASSOCIATION MISSIONS.

Your committee desire to report as follows: We find a large portion of our territory destitute of Gospel preaching; we further recommend that this body take some steps to supply the destitution of our territory with the Gospel.

H. C. RIDLING, Chairman.

On the adoption of the last named report, the following persons subscribed the amount set opposite their names for associational missions: W. M. Pipkin, \$5; W. L. Compere, \$5; J. J. Mershon, \$5; J. J. Holland, \$1; W. W. Roberts, \$1; W. E. Eckles, \$1; M. L. Ridling, \$1; Joe Neighbors, paid 50 cents; S. Anderson, paid 25 cents; J. F. Hurley, \$1. W. P. Freeman, 50 cents; John Southern, 50 cents; Henry Roberts, 50 cents; M. Perrin, 50 cents; J. Buchanan, one dollar; J. C. Whitaker, 50 cents; W. L. Shepherd, 50 cents; J. Jeffrey, \$2.50; J. W. Fields, one dollar; J. F. Jones, paid 50 cents; C. M. Crawford, 50 cents; A. J. Robins, 50 cents; E. S. James provided the missionary work in the destitute places, \$2.50; S. A. Neighbors, the same, \$2; total amount subscribed, \$34.25.

OBITUARIES.

We, your committee on Obituaries, beg leave to report as follows: We find that there has been four deaths in the bounds of our Association. Bro. J. F. McLeod, whom we have known intimately for twenty years. He was a minister of the Gospel, and advocated the cause of the Master faithfully for many years; he was born in Darlington county, South Carolina, August 30, 1830; united with the church when twenty-one years of age, began to exercise in public immediately and was ordained when 27 years old; died November 19, 1897, aged 67 years, two months and nineteen days.

Sister Mary Perrin was born in the year 1852, professed a hope in Christ in 1870, and joined Mt. Gilead church, and lived a consistent christian to the time she died.

Also, Bro. John Arie, who died sometime during the year was a member of Corinth Church.

E. S. JAMES, Chairman.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

To the moderator and brethren of the Ouachita Baptist Association :

I find in my hands for Home Missions, \$7.70 ; for Foreign Missions, \$4.25 ; for minutes, \$12.47. Total amount, \$24.42.

A. J. ROBINS, Treasurer.

DUTIES OF CHURCHES TO PASTORS.

We desire to submit the following report :

We believe it is the duty of the churches to be prayerful in selecting a man ordained of God to fill the position of pastor, also the duty of church to honor and sustain such a man as sent of God to be a teacher of his people. It is the duty of church members to be punctual in attending their church meetings, that they may hear and earnestly heed the instructions of their pastors. The churches should love and esteem their pastors for their work's sake, and they should obey all the instructions given them in the Lord, as the under-shepherd over the flock of the Great Shepherd of souls. Every church should provide for the temporal wants of their pastors so that they can give their time to the ministry of the Word, for this is one of the means whereof the churches must become wise in a knowledge of the truth, and thereby become faithful in spreading the Gospel according to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ.

J. BUCHANAN, Chairman.

FAMILY WORSHIP.

Committee on family worship desire to report thus : We believe that prayer and supplication, and giving of thanks, be made in all our homes for men everywhere, and teach Holy Scriptures to our children.

S. A. NEIGHBORS, Chairman.

MISSIONARY'S REPORT SEPT. 28, '97, to SEPT. 25, '98.

Number of miles traveled, 2,200 ; sermons preached, 150 ; exhortations, 73 ; received by experience and baptism, 20 ; received by letter, 16 ; churches organized, 3 ; Sabbath Schools organized, 7 ; religious visits with families, 170 ; days in service, 150 ; Sunday school lectures, 15 ; cash received from board and on the field, \$31.75 ; received of Mt. Gilead church, \$5.00 ; visits with sick, 50 ; funeral services, 5 ; prayer meetings, 30 ; by Bro. A. J. Robins, 50 cents ; for myself, \$5.00 ; for Shady Grove, 75 cents. Total amount paid, \$43.00. Respectfully submitted,

H. C. RIDLING, Missionary.

On motion the body voted the next session of the association to be held with Mt. Pleasant church, Saturday before the fourth Sabbath in September, 1899.

A motion was carried to turn over the minute fund to the clerk, and to make the best possible arrangements for printing the minutes and the balance to be retained for his services.

On motion the moderator was instructed to appoint a board for the work of the association. The appointments were as follows: W. L. Com-

pere, chairman, Mena; J. J. Mershon, Mena; J. F. Hurley, Grannis, W. A. Brumbly, Dallas; W. P. Freeman, Mena.

The minute fund was increased by contribution to \$15 12.

Correspondents were appointed to the following places; Buckner Association, Belva, Scott county, third Sabbath in October, Bros. J. J. Holland, W. L. Compere, J. J. Mershon, J. A. McCrary; Buckville Association next fall, Bros. J. J. Holland and J. F. Shands, Howard County Association, October 22, 98, Bros. B. F. Cannon and S. E. Chote; Southwestern Association, October 8, 1898, at Wilton, Bros. J. Buchanan and J. F. Hurley; State Convention, third Sabbath and Friday before, in Novembe. Bros. W. L. Compere, J. F. Shands, J. A. McCrary, J. J. Holland and E. S. James.

A resolution of thanks was adopted as follows: We hereby tender our thanks to Corinth church and committee, for their generous hospitality in entertaining this association.

Concord church was the place designated for the first 5th Sabbath meeting in October, 1898. Bro. J. J. Holland to preach introductory sermon, S. A. Neighbors the missionary sermon.

Mill Creek church the place for the second 5th Sabbath meeting; Corinth the place for the third, and Mena the place for the fourth.

On motion the body adjourned to meet with Mt. Pleasant church next September, Saturday before the 4th Sunday.

After the body adjourned they sang and took the parting hand; closing prayer by Bro. H. C. Ridling who also preached at night.

J. J. HOLLAND, Moderator.

J. J. MERSHON, Clerk.

Constitution.

ARTICLE 1. This union of churches shall be known and distinguished by the name and title of "Ouachita Baptist Association."

2. This Association shall be composed of churches in union. Each church shall be entitled to three delegates, who shall be required to furnish satisfactory evidence of their appointment by the several churches before taking their seats.

3. The delegates, when convened, shall organize themselves into a deliberative body by appointment of moderator and clerk, who shall be chosen by ballot at each annual session and to continue in office until their successors are chosen.

4. This Association shall not interfere with the rights of the churches of which it is composed, and shall only act as an advisory council, assuming no authority except what is expressly delegated to it by the churches, or is evidently implied by the compact. It, nevertheless, claims authority over its own members and delegates from the churches, and in justice and propriety must have the power to withdraw from, and disown, all churches which depart from the principles of this compact, by becoming heretodox in faith, or disorderly in practice; it should, therefore, regard all churches under this constitution with a vigilant eye for good. Its principle business shall be to promote the declarative glory of God by extending the kingdom of grace on earth through the medium of preaching the Gospel, and the means in accordance with the Gospel; to union

and fellowship with all the churches of Christ, especially those united under this constitution.

5. Newly constituted churches, or churches dismissed from other associations of the same faith and order, may be admitted into this union through representation of three delegates at the annual session of this association with a petition for admission, and upon their agreeing to the abstract of principles herein published.

6. The churches in this union shall transmit to every annual session of the Association, written statistics, giving names of delegates, number in fellowship, baptized, received by letter, dismissed, expelled, restored or died, since the last session, and all information that the churches deem important, which shall be read and minuted.

7. This Association may have a fund supplied by a voluntary contribution of the churches, and all money thus contributed shall be transmitted from the churches and paid over through the committee on Finance to the treasurer, who shall be elected by ballot, and hold his office during the pleasure of the Association, and present annually, for insertion in the minutes, a clear and succinct statement of all the receipts and expenditures.

8. The Association shall furnish the churches with the minutes of every session.

9. This Association shall take no cognizance of any query sent up from the churches unless they have endeavored to solve the same and have failed, nor any difficulty between churches unless they have pursued the direction in the 18th chapter of Matthew, and have failed to settle it; then this Association shall take such matters into consideration and act on them at its discretion.

10. The clerk of this Association shall keep a file of the Minutes of this body and deliver the same to his successor in office.

11. This constitution may be altered, or amended, at regular meetings of the Association, by the concurring voices of two thirds of its members present; provided such alterations or amendments be approved by the churches composing this Association.

12. At each annual meeting there shall be an introductory and a missionary sermon, and the body shall adjourn each day, at 11 a. m., for preaching.

Rules of Decorum.

1. This Association shall be opened and closed by prayer.

2. A moderator and clerk shall be chosen by suffrages of members present.

3. The moderator shall be deemed a judge of order, and shall have power to call to order at any time.

4. Any member dissatisfied with his decision may appeal to the Association on the same day, but not thereafter.

5. But one member shall speak at a time, who shall rise to his feet, and, obtaining permission, proceed.

6. The moderator, when addressed by a member for permission to speak, shall signify the same by naming the person or otherwise.

7. No member shall be interrupted while speaking unless he departs from the subject, or is guilty of personal reflection. Every motion made and seconded shall come under the consideration of the Association, unless withdrawn by him who made it.

8. Every case taken up by this Association shall be decided, or withdrawn, before another is offered.

9. When a question is taken up, after allowing time for debate, the moderator shall take the voice of the Association, and the members in the affirmative shall signify their position by rising from their seats, and those in the negative shall retain theirs. The moderator shall announce the decision before the affirmative resume their seats.

10. Any member wishing to retire shall obtain permission from the moderator.

11. No member shall speak more than twice, on the same subject, without permission of the Association, nor more than once until every member wishing to speak shall have spoken, nor shall any proposition be made to close the debate until the subject has been fairly discussed.

12. Members shall address each other under appellation of brother.

13. The roll may be called as often as the Association may direct.

14. No member shall be tolerated in any practice which tends to interrupt public speaking.

15. The moderator shall be entitled to the same privilege of speaking as any other member, provided he appoint another to his seat during the time, but shall not vote on any subject unless the Association be equally divided.

16. Any member violating these rules may be reprov'd by the moderator at discretion, but only the day the breach be done.

Articles of Faith.

1. We believe in one only true and living God, and that there is a trinity of persons in the God-Head—Father, Son and Holy Ghost—and these three in one.

2. We believe the scripture of the Old and New Testaments is the word of God and the only rule of faith and practice.

3. We believe in the fall of Adam, and that the depravity of his fallen nature was entailed upon his posterity; and in the impotency of man to recover himself by his own free will and ability.

4. We believe in election through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth.

5. We believe in the final preservation of the Saints and that they will never finally fall away and be lost.

6. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God only by the righteousness of Christ imputed unto them, and that it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believed.

7. We believe that good works are fruits of faith and follow after justification, and are evidences of our own gracious state.

8. We believe there will be a general resurrection of the dead and a general judgment, and that the happiness of the righteous and the punishment of the wicked will be eternal.

9. We believe that the visible church of Christ is a congregation of faithful baptised persons, who are in christian fellowship, and are agreed to keep up a Godly discipline agreeable to the rules of the Gospel.

10. We believe that Jesus Christ is the great head of the Church, and the only law-giver, and the disciple is with the body, and should be faithfully kept up for the glory of God and the prosperity of his people.

11. We believe that baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of the Gospel, and none but true believers have a right thereto, and should be administered by regular ordained ministers, and that immersion is the only apostolic mode of baptism.

Statistical Table.

CHURCHES	PASTORS	MESSENGERS	CLERKS	POST OFFICE	Days of meeting	Add. by Baptism	By letter	Restored	Decrease by Death	Dismissed	Excluded	Membership, Males	Membership, Female	Total	Ordained Ministers	Amt. Rec'd for Associational Missions	Home Missions	Foreign Missions	Sunday Sch. Work	To Pastors	Value Ch. Property	Minutes	Total Contribution
Falo	E B Williams	Robert Fortner	Robt Fortner	Cove	4						2			25						\$12 50		50	
Record	ES James	H C Ridling, P Freeman, T H Embry.	T H Embry		3	2	9	1		3		18	30	30	1							82	
Smith	S A Neighbors	I V A Risner, J B Neighbors, J K Mount.	W W Brum'ly	Dallas	3	14	4	3	1	2		8	10	48	1	\$ 1.40				5 00	\$150.00	1 00	\$ 7.40
County Line	E B Williams	M L Ridling, J W McMillin.	W H Ridling	Hartley	2						1	19	29	18	1							55	274.05
Na	W L Compere	Wm L Compere, J F Shands, J J Mershon	J J Mershon	Mena	all	8	24			4	1			48	2	3.68	\$4.18	\$7.56	\$19.06	187 77	550.00	2 50	
Gilead	J J Holland	J F Jeffries, Matthew Perrin.	J F Jeffrey	Black Springs	1	1	1		1					27			4.87				1 00	21.50	
Olive	E B Williams	H C Hamilton, A W Whitehead.	R M Anderson	Gann	1	1	5		1	2				34				25	2.25	18 25		75	
Pleasant	J Buchanan	J F Hurley, G. Russel, J Buchanan,	J W Hurley	Grannis	1	4	13	1		3	1			55			1.50					75	
W Home	Jas Boling	J F Jones, W W Roberts,	W W Roberts	Regs	1	1	1			2		27	24	10								50	
W Hope	M L Ridling	W E Tibbs, J B Lawrence,	D W La'rence	Shady	1	3				1	4			51						8 50		50	
Mill Creek	Joel F Shands	J C Whataker, W A Gorden, J W fields,	Burt. Farless	Rockey	2	27	1			1				35				1.00				1 00	
Shady Grove	H C Ridling	A J Robins,	R A Robins	Rockey	3		4			11		15	16	20								1 00	
Yocara	S A Neighbors	J W Sargent, J W Andrews,	J W Sargent	Rockey	4	11	1		1	3		23	34	31		75				6 00	200.00	65	7.40
Yocara	J J Holland	J J Holland, J A McCrary, John Southern.	Orlin Wilcox	Egger	1	5		3		6	2			57		85				6 90			
Hopewell	B F Cannon		Dan'l Nations	Janssen	4	6	8							32			25			23 75			

NOTE.—Mena church: Incidental Ex. \$49.30; 8 Sunday school officers; 7 classes; 80 scholars; average attendance, 50; use Southern Bap. Con. literature, cost of Lit., \$10, W M Pipkin, Mena, Supt. Mt. Olive: 8 S. S. officers; 5 classes; 45 scholars; Bap. Lit.; cost \$2.25; R M Anderson, Gann, Supt. Mill Creek: 60 scholars; Bap. Lit. Shady Grove: 7 S. S. officers; 4 classes; 59 scholars; Union Lit., cost \$4; I S Butler, Supt. Yocara: 3 cl.; 40 sch.; av. att., 30; Bap. Lit.; John Southern, supt. Hopewell: repair on building, \$10.