



Thirty-Sixth Annual Session

OF THE

OUACHITA
BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

HELD WITH

Buffalo Church

Polk County, Ark., Sept. 25-28, 1903

MINUTES

The messengers from the churches composing the Ouachita Association, assembled with Buffalo church, Friday, September 25th, 1903.

The introductory sermon was preached at 11 o'clock by Eld. T. M. Holingsworth.

In the afternoon, after devotional exercises the order of business was taken up, and the Moderator appointed Robt. Fortner, S. Richardson and U. S. Andrews, a committee on enrollment. On finance—Jas. Wilcox, E. D. French and W. W. Cranford. Committee on preaching—Robt. Fortner, Joe Neighbors, A. M. Bruce and E. Barton.

Letters from 24 old churches were read; also three from new churches — Mt. Zion, Smithville and Sulphur Springs—asking membership in our association, and were received on condition that they accept the Articles of Faith, Constitution, and Rules of Decorum found in our minutes. The hand of fellowship was given by the moderator to the messengers from the new churches.

The election of officers resulted in continuing the old officers, to wit: Elder S. A. Neighbors, moderator, J. J. Mershon, clerk; J. E. Taylor, treasurer.

Roll of churches and messengers as reported by committee on enrollment:

Churches—	Messengers—
1 Salem.....	J O Butler
2 Lone Valley.....	A M Bruce
3 Mt. Vernon.....	Wm Beam
4 Mill Creek.....	J H Shepherd, W O Sargent
5 Hatfield.....	W W Cranford, H H King, S Richardson
6 Concord.....	A G Dickerson, H C Ridling
7 New Home.....	U S Andrews
8 Oak Grove No. 2	H M Wilkins, M L Ridling, E Barton
9 Buffalo.....	Robt. Fortner, Jasper Fortner, J S McClain
10 Mt. Prospect	J F Dingler

11	Welcome Home.....	W S Mayo, J T Griffin, J W McDonald
12	Blue Springs.....	J M Widner
13	Mena.....	W L Compere, W D Kelly, J J Mershon
14	Corinth.....	S A Neighbors, J B Neighbors, J B Larmon
15	Rock Springs.....	B H Risenhoover, Wm Shelton
16	Yockana.....	J K Wilcox
17	Mt. Olive.....	J E Taylor, Emmet Rowe
18	Janssen.....	B W Teeter, W H Stevens
19	Granniss.....	R R Pace, G E Sargent
20	Oak Grove No. 1.....	D W Cunnutt, Isham Sammons
21	County Line.....	A J McMillen, S L Kemp
22	New Hope.....	J D Lawrence
23	Union Grove.....	R J Hall
24	Pleasant Hill.....	B F Atkisson
25	Mt. Zion.....	J W Inniman, E D French, J G North
26	Smithville.....	A M Blake
27	Sulphur Springs.....	A S Robinson

The following resolution was read and unanimously adopted:

Whereas, We are servants of the living God, and we believe it to be the will of God for his servants to strive together as a unit for the preaching of the Gospel and carrying on the Lord's work; Therefore, We earnestly recommend that this Association set aside all party spirit and reject everything or person from among us that will tend to divide us as brethren, or retard the work of our Lord and Master.

On motion Bro. Gardner was seated as a visitor representing the Orphans Home at Monticello.

Eld. B. J. Mathews was seated as a visitor from Pine Bluff Association. Bros. Burt and Volentine were seated as visitors from Southwestern Association. Bro. H. W. Melton, was seated a visitor from Buckville Association.

W. L. Compere, J. O. Butler and A. S. Robinson were appointed a committee on Orphan's Home.

The preaching committee announced B. J. Matthews to preach at Buffalo church Friday night, and Bros. Burt and Pace to preach at Welcome Home.

The messengers were assigned homes by the church.

The Association adjourned to meet at 8 o'clock Saturday morning.

SEPT. 26, 1903.

Assembled at 8 o'clock, after prayer service, resumed business.

Bro. H. T. Howell was seated a visitor from Caddo River Association.

Bro. J. J. Holland seated as a visitor.

Committees were announced on the different subjects.

Report on Orphan's Home received and adopted. Address by Bro. Gardner, and a collection of \$12.30 for the Home.

Business was suspended at 11 o'clock, and an exceedingly interesting sermon by Eld. B. J. Mathews on "Millennial Reign."

At one o'clock business was resumed. The preaching committee made the following announcement for Saturday night: At Buffalo church, Bros J. J. Holland and Burt; at Cove, H. T. Howell; at Bro. Holingsworth's house, Wm. Shelton; at Welcome Home, Bros. M. L. Ridling and A. G. Dickerson.

The associational board made a report, followed by the report of the missionary. The two reports were received and adopted.

After the report on associational missions was received and adopted, the following pledges were made for the support of missions in the bounds of the association:

W L Compere \$10, J J Mershon \$10, J. O. Butler \$12, John North \$5, J W Innman \$5, W M Pipkin \$25, B W Teeter \$5, M L Ridling \$2, J E Taylor \$5, W O Sargent \$2.50, A J McMillen \$1, H W Wilkins \$2, E Barton \$2, W W Cranford \$1, W D Kelly \$5, Robt Fortner \$2, J M Widner \$1, S Richardson \$1, E D French \$1, A J Dickerson \$2.50, Sister Emma Guinn \$2.50, J T Griffin \$1, Sis-Randolph \$1, J W McDonald \$1, J W Holingsworth \$1, H T Howell \$1, Wm Shelton \$1, B H Risenhoover \$1, A S Robinson \$1, S A Neighbors \$2, Yockana church \$2.50, Concord church \$2.50, Mt. Prospect church \$2, Corinth church \$2, Rock Springs church

\$2, H. H. King \$1, W C Benson \$2. Total \$125.50.

On motion Bro. Burt of De Queen was substituted in place of Bro. J. O. Butler to preach the missionary sermon at 11 o'clock Sunday.

On motion the Sunday collection taken for associational missions.

On motion Bro. Emmet Rowe was excused that he might return to his school Monday.

Minutes read and approved.

On motion the body adjourned until 8 o'clock Monday morning.

SEPT. 27, 1903.

Bro. Burt preached the missionary sermon at 11 o'clock Sunday, after which a collection was taken for associational missions amounting to \$15.50.

The preaching committee announced for Sunday night preaching: Eld. H. T. Howell and S. A. Neighbors, Buffalo church; Elds. J. J. Holland and R. J. Hall at Welcome Home; Eld. T. A. Volentine at Bro. Hollingsworth's house; Eld. W. W. Melton and H. C. Ridling to preach at 3 p. m., Sunday evening.

SEPT. 28, 1903.

The association met at 8 o'clock. After devotional exercises, business was resumed.

On motion the committee on condition of churches was dissolved.

On motion Eld. C. A. King from Howard county association was seated.

After the report on foreign mission was read and adopted, a collection was laid on the table for that purpose amounting to \$4.65.

On motion Bro. W. M. Pipkin was added to the associational board.

On motion Bro. B. F. Atkisson was seated as a messenger from Pleasant Hill church.

After the report on temperance was received and amended, enthusiastic speeches were made by a number of brethren.

On motion the constitution was suspended and preaching was omitted at 11 o'clock Monday.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

The following are the reports as amended and adopted by the association:

THE BAPTIST ORPHANS' HOME.

Feeding, clothing and educating helpless orphan children under Baptist influences is a work which appeals to the sympathies of us all. None of us know how soon our own children may be left helpless orphans. This work is being done by the Baptist Orphan's Home, at Monticello, under the management of Mrs. H. H. Gardner. The new building is completed, giving a capacity for 75 children. There are now 58 children in the home. We recommend that our churches take collections for this work.

W. L. Compere,
J. O. Butler,
A. S. Robinson.

REPORT OF MISSION BOARD.

Received from the old board	\$ 23 75
Received from the state board, due on last year	50 00
Received from the state board, on this year	150 00
Received from profit on books sold by Bro. J. O. Butler.....	40 00
Received from contributions	124 82
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Total amount received from all sources.....	\$388 57

The board employed Bro. J. O. Butler to labor as missionary and colporter at \$40 per month for nine and one-half months—Bro. Butler furnishing his own wagon and team and money to carry on the book business, the profits of which belongs to the board. We paid Bro. Butler \$380. Paid for printing and postage \$4. State board in due us \$40. Balance cash on hand \$4.57.

We herewith submit the report of our missionary and colportage work, calling special attention to the number of Bibles and Testaments circulated. The Bibles and Testaments given away were paid for out of the profits made on books sold.

W. L. A. Stranburg, chairman.
W. I. Green, secretary.

MISSIONARY'S REPORT.

Days of labor 296, miles traveled 1678, sermons 121, religious visits 170, Prayer services held in homes 30, churches organized 1, baptised 8, churches preached at 19, other stations preached at 24, pages of tracts distributed 5600, Bibles and Testaments sold 377, Bibles and Testaments given away 34,

value of books sold \$198.30, value of Bibles and Testaments given \$9.45, profit on books sold \$40, collected on field for associational missions \$15.15, collected on field for state missions \$3, Sunday Schools organized 1.

J. O. Butler, Missionary.

REPORT ON ASSOCIATIONAL MISSIONS.

We find that the mission board has employed Bro. J. O. Butler to labor as missionary and to do colportage work, as the association recommended last year. We further find that Bro. Butler has labored faithfully in all parts of the association. We would call special attention to the good work done in circulating 411 Bibles and Testaments—many of these were placed in homes which were before without Bibles. We further find that God's blessing especially rested upon Bro. Butler's work at Acorn, which resulted in a new church of 20 members.

Whereas, we find that there are several important points of destitution, which should by all means have regular preaching, we recommend that the mission board endeavor to supply them as far as they may deem consistent with the amount of funds they may have.

We recommend that the churches continue to increase their quarterly contributions to this work so that the work may be further enlarged.

Wm. Shelton,
J. G. North,
J. W. McDonald.

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

1st. We are glad to report that there seems to be a growing interest in the cause, and we believe that the work should go forward in the name of our master. And in obedience to the command go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature. God is blessing the work of the missionaries in all parts of our land, and we recommend that there be a greater effort made in the churches to aid with their means to further the missionary work in foreign lands.

W. D. Kelly,
E. D. French,
Wm. Shelton.

TEMPERANCE.

The use of intoxicating liquor as a beverage is a curse to the human family. We recommend that all Christian people, and especially Baptists, abstain from its use, as we learn from God's word that Christians should abstain from the appearance of all evil. We further urge every member of our churches to vote against the whisky traffic, and do all in their power to suppress the sale and use of intoxicating liquor. We are God's soldiers, let us fight.

R. R. Pace,
J. W. Larmon,
A. M. Blake.

SABBATH SCHOOLS.

We find only five churches reporting Sabbath schools, namely: Mena, Janssen, Acorn, Salem and Oak Grove No. 1. We think there must be more Sabbath schools than here reported, and would recommend that all churches report what they are doing on this line, and would further recommend that whenever possible Baptist churches should organize a Sabbath school and use Baptist literature.

W. D. Kelly,
B. W. Teeter,
B. H. Risenhoover.

ORDAINED MINISTERS AND P. O.

S A Neighbors, Potter; J E Smail, Shady; T M Holingsworth, Cove; M L Ridling, Vandervoort; C I Walker, W L A Stranburg, T B Phelps, Mena; R R Pace, Grannis; R J Hall, Gillham; D L Shirley, Waters; B Duke, Mountain Fork; H C Ridling, Mena; J M Widner, Hatfield; Wm Shelton, Ink; W L Compere, Mena; E B Williams, Vandervoort; G W Johnson, Grannis; Lee Wilson, Hatton; J W McDonald, G A Cross, W C Eades, A S Robinson, Cove; Russel Brown, Grannis; J O Butler, Mena.

LICENSED PREACHERS.

J L Fisher, Mena; H D Roberts, Vandervoort; D W Curnutt, Hatton; Edward Posey, Quito; A G Dickinson, Ink; A J Robins, Rocky; H H Thomas, Duckett.

J K Wilcox,
U S Andrews,
J F Griffin.

FAMILY WORSHIP.

We suggest that this subject is so important that we feel our inability to do it justice. Our families are nearer and dearer than any earthly ties. We know that the word of God teaches us to bring our children up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Brethren let us search the scriptures and learn our duty that we owe to God and our families. That we may lead them by our example in word and prayer with and for them.

A J McMillen
W S Mayo
J S McClain.

OBITUARIES.

We find deaths reported in the churches as follows: Mill Creek church, J L Mathew, Fannie Madden.

Concord church—Sister Margaret Ridling, wife of Elder H C Ridling. New Home—Sister Mattie Long. Lone Valley church—Sister L E Bruce, died Sept. 18, 1903. Hatfield church—Sister Ella Whitehead, died April, 1903. Rock Spring—Sister Vina Risenhoover was born A. D. 1825, joined the Baptist church 1845, died August 1903. Yocana church—N A Wilcox died

Feb. 1. 1903. Minerva Ridling died Sept. 3, 1903.

We learn that these all died in the faith and have gone to their reward. While we shed the tears of sympathy we bow in humble submission to the will of Him who doeth all things well. Let us be faithful and meet them all in glory.

J T Dingler
A S Robinson
J M Widner

STATE MISSIONS.

We find that the mission board of the State convention has paid our missionary \$20.00 a month this year, which is half his salary. We recommend that the thanks of this association be hereby returned for this much needed aid in our mission work. We further recommend that this association take no action for or against the State convention or General association, leaving all our churches free to affiliate with which ever body they may choose, trusting that the Lord may guide us all to do those things that make for peace and the advancement of his kingdom.

W L Compere
G E Sargent
J B Larmon.

EDUCATION.

Education means the proper development of our God given faculties; it means to train the mind to think for itself. Study, said the great apostle Paul, to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed rightly dividing the word of truth. Therefore, if we would properly develop our minds, we must read, think and investigate for ourselves.

A M Bruce
H H King
J H Shepherd.

RELIGIOUS LITERATURE.

1st. We recommend the Bible as the book of all books and that it should be read and studied more than any other book or any other literature. 2nd, We recommend such other books as might help us to the better of the great doctrines taught in God's word. Some of which are the Pilgrims Progress, Grace Truman, Little Baptist, Theodosia Earnest, etc.

We further recommend that this association here and now enter its protest, and ask the Editors of our denominational papers to close their columns against such bitter personalities and strife provoking articles which have become so common of late, and give us clean Baptist reading, which will tend to provoke to love and good works. ("See Heb. 10:24.")

J O Butler
H C Ridling
A G, Dickerson.

NOMINATIONS.

We recommend Bro. M. L. Ridling to preach the introductory sermon, Wm. Shelton, alternate. W. L. Compere to preach missionary sermon. Bro. S. A. Neighbors, alternate. We recommend Mill Creek as the place to hold the next session of the association. We further recommend for the executive board, W. L. Compere, chairman; B. W. Teeter, J. J. Mershon, J. O. Butler, S. A. Neighbors and by amendment W. M. Pipkin.

J. E. Taylor,
W. O. Sargent
W. H. Stevens.

FINANCE.

We find sent up for printing minutes, \$29.02; for associational missions, \$9.31 for orphans home, \$2.37; for foreign missions, \$11.40. Total, \$52.10.

J. K. Wilcox
E. D. French
W. W. Cranford.

TREASURERS REPORT.

Received of finance committee for minutes, \$29.02; received of finance committee for foreign missions, \$11.40; received of finance committee for associational missions, \$9.31; Sunday collection for associational missions, \$16.25; for orphans home, \$14.80. Total amount, \$80.78.

J. E. Taylor, treasurer.

On motion the clerk be paid \$10 for his services out of the minute fund, and as many minutes as possible be printed and mailed with the remainder of the fund.

Correspondents were appointed to the following bodies:

Brothers R. R. Pace and B. F. Atkinson to Howard county association.

Brother J. O. Butler to Caddo River association.

Brothers T. M. Holingsworth and J. M. Widner to Choctaw association.

Brother A. G. Dickerson to Buckville association; Brother W. L. Compere to Buckner association; Brother R. J. Hall to South Western association.

Resolved, that the thanks of the association are tendered to the church and community for their hospitable entertainment.

On motion the old order of business was adopted and the clerk instructed to have it printed in the minutes.

On motion Brother H. C. Ridling be given a letter of recommendation from Ouachita association.

Minutes read and approved.

On motion the first board meeting be held at Concord church; the second at Mt. Olive; the third at Gramis; the fourth at Corinth.

On motion the association adjourned to meet with Mill Creek, Friday before the fourth Sunday in September, 1904.

The parting was taken outside the church after adjournment.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

- 1—Preaching annual sermon.
- 2—Appointment committee on enrollment.
- 3—Appoint committee on finance.
- 4—Read letters from churches.
- 5—Call for petitionary letters.
- 6—Election of officers.
- 7—Call for correspondence.
- 8—Appoint various committies.

S. A. Neighbors, 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 deliberate 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 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 the 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, rebaptized, dismissed, expelled, restored or dead, 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. The 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 upon 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 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 from the association, nor more than once till 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 are a trinity of persons in the God-head—Father, Son and Holy Ghost—and these three in one.
2. We believe the Scriptures 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 into 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 baptized persons, who are in christain 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 for 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.

