


10-1849

Proceedings of the Second Annual Meeting of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

SECOND ANNUAL MEETING

OF THE

ARKANSAS BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION,

HELD WITH THE

ELDORADO CHURCH,

UNION COUNTY, ARKANSAS,

ON THE

18th, 19th, 20th, 21st and 22nd of October, 1849.



LITTLE ROCK:

PRINTED AT THE GAZETTE OFFICE.

1849.

392.50
25.65

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
CONVENTION

CONSTITUTION.

Article 1. This body shall be styled the **ARKANSAS BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION.**

Art. 2. The convention shall be composed of delegates from Baptist Associations, churches, and individual contributors, who are members of the Baptist Church, in good standing.

Art. 3. Associations shall be entitled to five, and churches to three, delegates to the convention.

Art. 4. It is distinctly understood, that this convention shall have no ecclesiastical jurisdiction, nor even act as an advisory council, nor in any way interfere with the constitution of any Church or Association.

Art. 5. The primary objects of this convention shall be: to supply the destitute regions within its bounds, with the unadulterated Word of Life, and a living ministry, and to aid, by appropriate and scriptural means, all destitute and feeble churches, and also supply the community with such books as may be approved by this body, and as may be thought best calculated to communicate information as to the distinctive doctrines and ordinances of the Gospel of Christ, as received by our denomination. The convention may, whenever consistent with the condition of the treasury, adopt means for the advancement of education, and also for the cause of Foreign Missions.

Art. 6. The convention shall, at its annual meetings, elect a President and Recording Secretary, who shall perform the duties usually assigned to such officers, during its session.

Art. 7. The convention shall annually elect a President, two Vice Presidents, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, and ten or more Managers, who, together, shall compose the Executive Committee; five of whom shall constitute a quorum. The Executive Committee shall transact all business during the recess of the convention, and disburse the funds; shall fill all vacancies in its own body, and submit a report of their proceedings at each annual meeting. Each member of the board shall be, ex-officio, a member of the convention.

ASSOCIATIONS.

Red River.—W. B. Knight, E. Haynes, Wm. C. Randle, B. L. Wright, G. W. Whitfield.

Liberty.—J. B. Pratt, R. A. Hargis, G. S. Perry, A. J. Rutherford, M. M. Wallace.

Saline.—Not represented.

CHURCHES.

Eldorado (Union.)—F. Courtney, J. H. Capers, J. L. May.

Salem.—A. C. Hawkins*, J. Crisp, J. B. Hawkins.

Gilgal.—Jesse Hartwell, S. Norsworthy, W. Bailiff.

Liberty.—Wm. G. Cole, G. H. Cobb, H. Mitchell.

Union.—J. Meek, J. R. Pumphrey, Wm. Sullivant.

Camp Creek.—J. Aaron, A. McLean, F. Halthom.

Hopewell.—J. Shepherd, J. McKellan.

Pleasant Hill (Ouachita)—E. Haynes*, M. H. Edwards, S. Lindsey*.

Friendship.—J. L. McLendon, W. M. McLendon.

Princeton (Dallas)—R. J. Coleman, P. H. Thomas*, P. Watts*.

Brownsville.—W. H. Bayliss, N. G. Smith, A. Daniel.

Spring Creek (Saline)—D. Dodd, H. Colbert.

Pleasant Hill (Clark)—J. Langley, Thos. Davis*, Thos. Bar.

Mt. Bethell.—S. Stevenson, L. W. Marberry, F. Jordan.

Red River (Layfayette)—J. A. Barton, J. A. Wilson, C. F. McCutcheon.

Holly Springs (Bradley)—Robt. Pulley.

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS.

John A. Meek, L. W. Meek, John Meek, Lewis Baldwin, E. J. Bourland, J. Williamson, A. H. Patterson, G. W. Grimmatt.

Having enrolled the names of all the delegates present, proceeded to elect **JESSE HARTWELL, D. D., President**, and **A. DANIEL, Recording Secretary**. Appointed F. Courtney, N. G. Smith and F. Jordan a committee on devotional exercises during the meeting.

Adjourned until to-morrow morning at 10 o'clock, A. M.

Friday Morning, 10 o'clock.

Met pursuant to adjournment; prayer by Elder J. Meek.

Appointed the following Committees.

On Arrangements—Wm. H. Bayliss, N. G. Smith, A. Daniel.

On Nominations—D. Dodd, Wm. Sullivant, H. Capers, Wm. H. Bayliss.

On Agencies—Wm. B. Knight, R. A. Hargis, R. J. Coleman.

On Destitution—G. S. Perry, J. B. Pratt, D. M. Cochran, G. W. Grimmatt.

On Foreign Missions—N. G. Smith, L. W. Marberry, Robert Pulley.

On Education—F. Courtney, S. Stevenson, R. Pulley, J. N. Wilson.

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having examined and compared
have agreed upon the above; all of
submitted.

RULES OF DECORUM.

Convention shall be opened and closed by prayer.

President shall preserve order, and decide in all cases
to decorum.

3d. Any member not satisfied with his decision, may appeal to
the convention on the same day, but at no other time.

4th. But one member shall speak at a time, who shall rise to his
feet, and respectfully address the chair.

5th. The President, when addressed by a member for permission
to speak, shall signify the same by naming the person or otherwise.

6th. No member shall be interrupted while speaking, unless he
depart from the subject, or use words of personal reflection.

7th. Every motion made and seconded shall be considered, unless
withdrawn by the mover.

8th. No member shall retire without leave of the President.

9th. No member shall speak more than twice on the same propo-
sition, without permission of the convention.

10th. The President shall be entitled to the same privilege of
speaking as other members, provided he first fill the chair with some
other member; but shall vote only in case of a tie.

PROCEEDINGS.

THE MESSAGERS and Delegates comprising the **ARKANSAS BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION**, met at Eldorado pursuant to the appointment of the last Convention.

Elder I. C. Perkins appointed to preach the introductory sermon having failed to attend, Rev. J. Hartwell preached from the 14th chapter and 26th verse of St. John, "But the comforter who is the Holy Ghost, whom the father will send in my name, He shall teach you all things and bring all things to your remembrance whatsoever I have said unto you."

The meeting was then called to order by Elder Wm. H. Bayliss, the former President, when the delegates appeared with their credentials and took their seats.

On Sabbath Schools.—F. Jordan, L. Baldwin, A. McLean.

On Condition of Colored People—B. L. Wright, J. L. May, H. Mitchell, C. E. McCutcheon.

On Bible Cause—J. Meek, S. Norsworthy, J. Aaron, J. A. Burton.

On Circulation of Books—W. B. Knight, W. H. Bayliss, H. Colbert, F. Jordan.

On Auditing—F. Jordan, W. B. Knight.

On Finance—J. Shepherd, G. H. Cobb, W. Bailiff.

Received and adopted the report of our General Agent, (see appendix A) and on motion adjourned to meet at 3 o'clock, p. m. Prayer by Bro. Pulley.

Met pursuant to adjournment; prayer by Bro. Baldwin.

On motion, *Resolved*, That the Treasurer be instructed to purchase a blank book and record therein the subscriptions that have been and that may be hereafter made for the use of the convention, and that he enter all credits of payment made from time to time therein.

Received and adopted the report of the committee on Arrangements and read the Constitution and Decorum.

Appointed Correspondence as follows—

To the Red River Association, Elders L. Baldwin, J. Hartwell, J. Meek. Deacon N. G. Smith and J. Meek to write.

To the Saline, Elders J. Hartwell, J. Meek, R. Pulley, J. Aaron. J. Hartwell to write.

To the White River, Elders G. W. Grimmett, S. Stevenson. G. W. Grimmett to write.

On motion, *Resolved*, That we open a correspondence with the North Louisiana Convention and appoint Elders R. A. Hargis, S. D. Worthington, J. Meek and J. Aaron correspondents, and R. A. Hargis to write.

Appointed Elder S. Stevenson our General Agent for the ensuing year.

Appointed the next session of this body to be with the Mt. Bethell church, Clark county, seven miles west of Arkadelphia, to convene on Friday before the 1st Sabbath in October 1850. Elder S. Cobb to preach the introductory sermon and Elder F. Courtney his alternate and J. Hartwell, D. D., to preach on Sabbath on the subject of missions and Elder Wm. H. Bayliss his alternate.

Seeing the great destitution of religious and denominational books and the immense influence of light and demoralizing works of every kind,

Therefore on motion *Resolved*,

That we appoint brother W. B. Knight of Arkadelphia, to ride, preach and circulate religious and denominational books throughout this State, and that his salary be referred to the Educative Board.

On motion, adjourned, until to-morrow morning 9 o'clock, prayer by Elder J. Aaron.

Saturday Morning, 9 o'clock.

Met pursuant to adjournment; prayer by brother Stevenson.

Received and adopted the report of Elder S. Stevenson assistant Agent and referred his together with all other claims against the convention to the former Executive Board to report thereon.

Received Elder J. H. Compere a Corresponding Messenger from the North Louisiana Convention, and Elder D. M. Cochran from the Red River Association.

Received and adopted the report of the Committee on Nominations, (see B.) The report of the Committee on Education, (see C.) The report of the Committee on Agencies, (see D.) The report of the Committee on Foreign Missions, (see E.) The Committee on Sabbath Schools, (see F.) The report of the Committee on the Bible cause, (see G) and the report of the Committee on Circulation of Books, (see H) and referred the procuring as well as the circulation of books to the Executive Board.

Appointed J. Meek and J. Aaron to assist the Financial committee.

On motion adjourned until 4 o'clock, p. m., prayer by Elder G. S. Perry.

Met pursuant to adjournment: prayer by Elder J. H. Compere.

Received and adopted the report of the Committee on Destitution, (see appendix I.) The report of the Committee on Finance, (see J.) The report of the Committee on the Condition of the colored population, (see H.) The report of the former Executive Board, (see L) and the report of the former Treasurer, (see M.)

On motion it was unanimously resolved, that we amend the Constitution by changing the time of our meeting to Friday before the 1st Sabbath in October annually.

On motion *Resolved*, That this convention recommend the "Tennessee Baptist" published by Graves & Shankland, Nashville, Tennessee, and the "Missionary Journal," published by the Southern Domestic Missionary Board, Richmond, Virginia, to the denomination in this State.

Adjourned to meet Monday morning 9 o'clock, a. m., prayer by Elder Wm. H. Bayliss.

Sunday, October 21.

The services of the Sabbath were peculiarly interesting; Elder F. Courtney according to previous appointment preached at 11 o'clock, a. m., to a large and interesting congregation on the subject of Missions, after which a collection of \$50.40 was received from the congregation in cash, and a subscription of five hundred and thirteen dollars raised on the five year plan.

At 3 o'clock p. m., Jesse Hartwell, D. D., preached with power and effect, and at night Elder Wm. H. Bayliss preached, when the spirit of the Lord seemed abundantly poured out upon both saint and sinner; and many manifested much anxiety in asking an interest in the prayers of God's people.

Monday Morning, October 22.

Met pursuant to adjournment: prayer by Elder J. H. Compere.

Ordered the Recording Secretary to superintend the printing and distribution of 2,000 copies of the Minutes of the present session and that he have thirty dollars for his services.

Whereas information has been received by the Convention of a proposition from brother J. R. Graves, Editor of the *Tennessee Baptist*, for an Arkansas editorial department of said paper—

Therefore Resolved, That this convention appoint our well beloved brother Jesse Hartwell, D. D. to said department. Brother Hartwell being present so far accepted the call of the convention as to be willing that arrangements be made for the same, and proposed that the whole be referred to the Executive Board for further action—

Whereupon it was Resolved, That the future action upon this subject be referred to Executive Board and that its president be instructed to open a correspondence with brother Graves in order that proper arrangements may be made.

On motion, *resolved*, That we present our thanks to the brethren and friends in Eldorado and its vicinity for the kindness and hospitality extended to the members of the Convention during its session, and that the thanks of this Convention be presented to our Methodist brethren for the use of their house to hold our session in.

On motion referred all unfinished business to the Executive Board.

After prayer by the President adjourned.

JESSE HARTWELL, *President.*

A. DANIEL, *Recording Secretary.*

AGENT'S REPORT.

DEAR BRETHREN: The undersigned would respectfully submit the following report—

You will remember that our beloved brother, the Rev. I. C. Perkins, was the first chosen and appointed agent for the convention. His domestic affairs forced him to resign the agency, and the executive board (of which I was then acting as president,) by the earnest request of brother Perkins, accepted his resignation at their quarterly meeting in March last. There was then no agent, and there was no applicant for the office. I informed the board that it would be impossible for me, (on account of afflictions in my family) to devote my whole time to the agency, but if they chose to appoint me, I would render what services I could—and the board believing that it was of great importance to have an agent in the field, made the appointment; thinking that under the circumstances it was the best that they could do. Under this appointment I have only been able to serve about five months. Owing to the fact that the convention was a new thing to many of the brethren and churches in this State, some were disposed to look upon it with a

suspicious eye and a few from old prejudices were openly opposed to it; consequently my main object has been to communicate correct knowledge as to its design and leading objects, do away all opposing and erroneous prejudices, and unite the feelings of all the brethren in favor of the convention as their own domestic institution. And I am happy in being able to say, that I believe this has been done wherever I have traveled. All that the Baptists of Arkansas want, is proper convictions of what is right and they will follow it; at least I have found it thus with all with whom I have had the pleasure of communicating. I have not thought it prudent to press too hard the subject of collections; believing it more wise to give time for the minds of the people to be prepared for the great work which lies before us. Some collections, however, have been made, as also some additions to the subscription list.

A few of the first subscribers have paid me the first annual instalment, and credit made for the same. For all of which you are referred to the appendix to this report. Some of those who have made annual subscriptions, I have not had an opportunity to see, others were not prepared at the time that I saw them, and preferred sending the amounts up to this session of your body by their delegates. But it is to be feared, that from neglect or want of a convenient opportunity, a part at least of the amount will not be forthcoming the present session.

And permit me here to remark, that I deem it a matter of great importance, that you have during the whole of the next conventional year, a proper agent in the field of operations. And to be a proper person, he must be able to teach, one in whom the brethren and friends will have confidence: zealous, industrious and so circumstanced that he may devote his entire time to his work. A great deal is to be done, and a great deal may be done by such an agent.

It will be his duty to advocate the cause of the convention throughout the State, to make public collections, obtain new subscribers on the five year plan, and collect from the old. And to do this successfully he will have to devote his whole time to his work.

I find dear brethren that there is a very great destitution in our country; many neighborhoods where there is never any Baptist preaching, and also many churches who are without any regular supply. Many of these are so small and so poor as to be unable to call a minister to preach to them. Their only chance is to receive aid from your hands, or to dwindle and die for the want of help. I know that it is not the promise of the convention to supply pastors for the churches, but may not such feeble churches be supplied with a preached Gospel, by our missionaries, when they are found within the boundaries of their labors. And may they not thus be built up and become in process of time auxiliaries in the common cause? I am convinced that it might be so; and would respectfully recommend to the convention, that the missionaries be instructed to have regular appointments with such churches, when found convenient.

10
1130
75

9730

and that they receive from them such amounts as they may feel able to add to the treasury of the convention, and report the same to the convention. And now in conclusion beloved brethren permit me to say, we have undertaken a great work; but God is our helper, let us not fear; we have put our hands to the plough; let us not look back. It is true that as yet we have but little, but we are not to despise the day of small things. The glorious Gospel of our dear Savior was first preached by a few poor and friendless Disciples; now thousands of tongues are proclaiming the glad tidings of salvation to a fallen world. Then let every friend of the convention gird on his whole armor and battle nobly for the cause of truth and of God. And ere long she shall become a mighty gospel battery, whose electric flashes shall lighten all the dark places around us, and shall become like a city set upon a hill whose sparkling lights cannot be hid.

W. H. BAYLISS.

[A.]

APPENDIX TO AGENT'S REPORT.

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS.

| | |
|--|---------|
| Spring Creek Church and Congregation | \$3,95 |
| Philadelphia Church, 7 45, Big Creek Church 2 45 | 9,90 |
| Red River Association, | 29,50 |
| Saline, | 19,65 |
| | <hr/> |
| | \$63,00 |

COLLECTIONS ON SUBSCRIPTIONS.

| | |
|---|----------|
| Jesse Reaves 5,00, I. C. Perkins 10,00, | \$15,00 |
| Jas. M. Trigg 2,00, David Dodd 10,00, | 12,00 |
| B. M. Hutchinson 1,00, Sam'l Pelton 2,50, | 3,50 |
| W. H. Wyatt 1,00, D. Cunningham 1,00, | 2,00 |
| E. N. Chinnault 2,00, John Veasy 2,50, | 4,50 |
| T. B. Finley 2,00, Robt. McCargo 10,00, | 12,00 |
| E. W. Russell 5,00, Joseph Bird 2,00, | 7,00 |
| W. H. Bayliss 20,00, Geo. Nix 1,00, | 21,00 |
| Wm. Daniel 2,00, Robt. M. Trasher 5,00, | 7,00 |
| Thos. Evan's 2,00, N. G. Smith 20,00, | 22,00 |
| F. Courtney 10,00, W. H. Hunter 5,00, | 15,00 |
| Wm. C. Randle 5,00, Thos. Heard 5,00, | 10,00 |
| L. W. Marberry 2,50, B. J. Borden 5,00, | 7,50 |
| A. Daniel 10,00, R. J. Coleman 2,00, | 12,00 |
| John V. McColloch, | 1,00 |
| | <hr/> |
| | \$214 50 |

The following subscriptions and contributions were received by S. Stevenson assistant agent :

W. L. Anderson \$5,00, Jno. Thetford \$1,00, R. H. Scott \$1,00. Mrs. Kitchens 50 cents, John Vaunote 50 cents, E. J. Borland \$1,00, G. W. Whitfield \$1,00, Samuel Stevenson \$10,00, Lewisville Church \$6,15.

All of which is submitted.

WM. H. BAYLISS, Agent.

[B.]

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS.

Your Committee on Nominations beg leave to make the following report :

We consider that it is a matter of importance that the officers and managers who are to form the Executive Committee under the Constitution be such as to give the advantage of a quorum in some neighborhood, convenient to the centre of operations, therefore we would nominate as follows :

For President of the Executive Committee, brother Asbury Daniel, and brethren I. C. Perkins and Jesse Hartwell as Vice Presidents. For Treasurer brother N. G. Smith. For Corresponding Secretary brother Peyton S. Bethell, and for Managers brethren Philip H. Thomas, Wm. C. Randle, D. Cunningham, J. T. Craig, J. Reaves, Samuel Cobb, P. Alexander, W. H. Wyatt, D. Dodd, J. G. Lindsey, F. Courtney, J. Meek, A. J. Rutherford, A. E. Clemmons, J. N. Wilson, S. Norsworthy, P. W. Colter, E. Haynes, R. McCargo, H. H. Coleman, M. Yeager, J. Minick, S. D. Worthington, E. N. Chinnault, Elder W. H. Bayliss and J. Bird.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

D. DODD, Chairman.

[C.]

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.

The Committee to whom was referred the subject of Education beg leave to submit the following report :

The subject of Ministerial Education cannot well be too often presented to the denomination, being one of vital importance to their interests. While it has ever been a maxim with Baptists, that "a mixed ministry ('in this sense') is best for a mixed world," yet, by this never was meant, where it was practicable, that those seeking the office of Bishop, should not "study to show themselves approved unto God; workman that need not be ashamed." We therefore earnestly recommend to our young brethren, who feel it to be their duty to enter the Ministry, to avail themselves of every laudable means in their power, to gain information both literary and theological: and we would not stop here, but to our ministering brethren all, we would say, "search the scriptures" and lay hold of

every means, by which your knowledge of Divine things shall be increased.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

F. COURTNEY, *Chairman.*

[D.]

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON AGENCIES.

The Committee to whom was referred the subject of Agencies would most respectfully submit the following:

That a general agent is necessary under existing circumstances to make known the objects of the Convention, to collect funds and otherwise advance the interests of the Convention, we judge from the report of the agent during the past conventional year as well as from the good effects produced by such agency, which have come within our own knowledge; we therefore recommend the continuation of a General Agent.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

WM. B. KNIGHT, *Chairman.*

[E.]

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN MISSIONS.

The committee on Foreign Missions beg leave to submit the following report:

Something more than half a century ago, a shoe-maker in England, conceived the magnificent idea of sending the Gospel to the heathen. He was young and obscure, and when he mentioned the subject to the older brethren in the ministry, they told him to wait awhile until he got more age and wisdom on his side, and he would abandon his extravagant, visionary notions. Did he take their advice? No—for God was in it. The indefatigable and devoted Carey persevered till Fuller and a few others united with him, and at their first convention for the conversion of the world, they raised the sum of thirteen pounds, two and six-pence! and with this small beginning they commenced operations, and what has been the glorious result. The poor shoe-maker got to be the reverend Wm. Carey, D. D., with the enviable reputation of being the founder of modern missions and the harbinger of the heralds of the Cross in heathen lands and also of exalting the denomination of which he was a distinguished member, to that high position in the moral scale of the world, to which we are justly entitled, by that strict conformity to the word of God, which has ever marked our course from the days of John the Baptist till now.

We feel indeed brethren that it is not only a duty, but a high privilege to be found engaged in the same task with our ancient brethren Paul, Silas, Barnabs and many others of whom the world was not worthy, and our modern missionaries, Carey, Ward, Jud-

son, Shuck and hundreds of others, whose zeal for the cause of God has made them forsake and follow him.

How can a christian, with the love of God burning in his own bosom, refuse the lamp of life to the millions of poor heathen now perishing for the lack of knowledge! it is a contradiction in terms, a solecism in language.

The commission of our blessed Lord and Savior includes "every creature," let us not restrict it, but let us ever be found ready and willing to lend our aid and hearty co-operation in all laudable efforts, to send the glorious Gospel of the Son of God to earth's remotest bounds, till all nations, kindreds and tongues shall learn Messiah's name, and his "name be glorified from the rising moon to the setting sun."

With these views we would earnestly recommend Foreign Missions to the prayerful consideration and support of all true friends of christianity and lovers of Jesus.

Respectfully submitted.

N. G. SMITH, *Chairman.*

[F.]

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

The committee on Sabbath Schools beg leave to make the following report:

So far as we are informed on this subject there are but few well conducted Schools in this State. We believe they are institutions next in importance to the church of Christ: and where well conducted greatly advance the cause of religion and improve the morals of the people. As the great doctrines of the Bible are especially taught in these institutions; it seems that no one can consistently oppose them, especially any one who believes the Bible to be the Holy Scripture containing the revealed will of God. We believe it would not be very difficult to have Sabbath Schools established throughout our country generally, if we can get a few zealous persevering brethren, in each town, village and neighborhood to take the lead in this benevolent cause.

We therefore recommend each member of this convention to use all the influence he conveniently and consistently can to advance this cause. That our travelling agent, ministers of the Gospel and others interested in these institutions throughout the State, to use their influence, by giving public lectures, and use other necessary means to advance the cause of Sunday Schools. We especially recommend this convention to instruct our colporteurs, to consider it a part of his duties to purchase and distribute throughout the State books suitable for Sabbath School libraries; lecture on the subject have such schools organized wherever he can, and use his best efforts to advance the cause of the same.

All of which is most respectfully submitted.

F. JORDAN, *Chairman.*

[G.]

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON BIBIE CAUSE.

We, your committee to whom was referred the subject of the Bible Cause, tender this our report, which is respectfully submitted.

The diffusion of religious knowledge throughout the world, and more particularly throughout the unenlightened portions of our own State is a matter of too much importance to be treated lightly or passed by without the most serious consideration. It is a subject that should be in the mind of every one, and especially in the minds of those who love God and profess to follow him paramount to every other. The question then is, how is this object to be attained? How are persons of every station in life to arrive at this important knowledge upon which their eternal happiness so much depends. Only in one way can this thing be done, viz: by devising means for the distribution of the Bible—that inspired word of God in every section of our State. By establishing in various sections of the State Bible Societies for the purpose of enabling persons in every station of life to procure for themselves Bibles on cheap terms. Let it not be our fault if every cottage within the limits of our State has not in some corner this blessed work, and thereby be taught the road to eternal bliss! Let it not be said that we as Baptists have withheld from any one however poor he or she may be, the only means by which their salvation can be wrought. In consideration thereof, and for the purpose of accomplishing this great end, we would recommend the propriety of having established within the jurisdiction of each association in this State, at least one Bible Society, to be supported and supplied by individual contribution or otherwise. We would further recommend that our colporteur ascertain, as far as practicable in each association, or within the territory comprising each association, and indeed throughout the State each and every family who have not a Bible, and are desirous of having one, and supply them—if they are able to buy, sell, if not give them a Bible each—keep a list of all so given away and let them be paid for out of the funds received from individuals as donations to said Society.

In this way dear brethren we will not only feel the satisfaction of having done well, but of having placed in the hands of every individual that unerring compass, which, if properly used will guide them to the Harbor of safety. We at present have no facts to State, and indeed nothing upon which we can base what might be called a report, but we sincerely hope, dear brethren, that the time is not far distant when the Baptist of our infant State will move on in one solid phalanx and advocate this great and glorious cause and never cease to operate until Arkansas shall be looked upon as a bright jewel in the cause of Baptists.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

JNO. MEEK, *Chairman.*

[H.]

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON DISTRIBUTION OF BOOKS.

The committee to whom was referred the subject of the Distribution of Books, respectfully present the following:

We consider the subject one of great importance especially at this time, whilst our denomination is in its infancy in this State.—A large part of the citizens of Arkansas are recent emigrants from other States, who have not yet supplied themselves with books, and consequently there is a great scarcity of religious works, many are doubtless anxious to obtain them, and all that is necessary is to afford them an opportunity; how important then, that those of the right character and of religious influence should be distributed now, before their places are supplied by the literary trash of the present day, but as your body have already acted on this subject—and appointed a colporteur, we deem it unnecessary for us more than merely to recommend to the denomination the following works, especially, to-wit: Benedict's History of the Baptist, Fuller's Works entire, Hinton's History of Baptism, Howel on Communion, Howel on the Deaconship, Carson on Baptism, Comprehensive Commentary, the Psalmist, the Companion, and the other baptist works as circulated by the Southern and Tennessee publication Societies.

WM. H. BAYLISS, *Chairman.*

[I.]

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON DESTITUTION.

Your committee to whom is referred the important duty to inquire into and report upon the Destitution of our State, having taken the subject under careful deliberation, beg leave to report that, look which way we will, we see but a limited portion of our country brightened up with the warm and genial rays of Gospel light. By an abiding, instinctive law of our natures, our contemplation is first directed to the "household of Faith;" in that department, we are pained to find that many, very many churches, of our order, are not only without a supply, but almost entirely without occasional preaching—some of them able, some not able, to contribute to their own necessities, but all anxious and willing to be taken under the guardian care of the preached word—when our contemplation, dear brethren, is turned upon that department of our fellow men, called the sinner, our hearts sicken over the sad destitution which envelops them. The face of our country is thickly dotted over, with large communities of this class, some of which have never had the word in its primitive purity, others rarely, and some manifesting, by loud appeals upon our charity, a strong desire to be instructed in the way of life. Unable to portray the general moral blight which sweeps our lamented land, only in miniature, your committee would beg to represent, to your body, that the "fields" of labor

are large, and wide, and full, and the "laborers few;" and beg to commend that, at as early an hour as practicable, suitable and efficient missionaries be employed by your body to travel and disseminate the "unadulterated Word of Life" among this starving people; and, particularly, would your committee recommend the supplying of churches already constituted at the earliest hour practicable, and consistent with the State of your Treasury.

Most respectfully submitted.

GEORGE S. PERRY, *Chairman.*

[J.]

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The committee on Finance report, that they have received the following sums:

| | |
|--|---------|
| From the Liberty Association, (Itinerant Pr.) | \$32 00 |
| " Red River Association, | 3 65 |
| " Red River Church, <i>Lafayette co.</i> | 10 00 |
| " Pleasant Hill, <i>Clark co.</i> | 1 80 |
| " Pleasant Hill, <i>Ouachita co.</i> | 5 20 |
| " Camp Creek, <i>Union co.</i> | 3 00 |
| " Friendship, <i>Ouachita co.</i> | 2 85 |
| " Hopewell, <i>Union co.</i> | 4 00 |
| " El Dorado, " " | 10 00 |
| " Gilgal, " " (Itinerant Pr.) | 4 00 |
| " Princeton Ch., <i>Dallas co.</i> (Minutes) | 1 50 |
| " Salem Ch., <i>Union co.</i> " | 2 50 |
| " New Harmony Ch., <i>Ouachita co.</i> (Minutes) | 1 50 |
| " Mount Bethell Ch., <i>Clark co.</i> | 4 40 |
| From an individual, | 2 00 |
| From Hon. James Thompson, | 60 |
| | <hr/> |
| | \$89 00 |

All which is respectfully submitted.

J. SHEPHERD, *Chairman.*

[K.]

Your committee to whom is entrusted the duty to inquire into and report upon the condition of the Colored Population in our country, after having taken the same under deliberation, beg leave to report:

So far as we have been enabled to ascertain the fact, we, most sincerely regret to have it to say, the moral condition of the people is in a most deplorable condition of destitution and neglect. We find hundreds of that race, scattered over an extensive section of the southern part of our State, not only deprived of the word preached, but also declared the minor advantages of moral or reli-

gious instruction. Remotely situated, by circumstance and necessity, from those points, where religious worship is wont to be exercised, and not, unfrequently, unprovided for, when permitted to attend stated places of worship, their destitution is unavoidably a lamentable one.

Under all the views of their moral and religious destitution, in contrast with the great weight of responsibility that loudly calls upon our christian sympathies, we do, most importunately, recommend to the candid consideration of your body, the great importance of employing a missionary for the especial labor of religious instruction to that class of our population. Your committee urge the great necessity of this measure, from a clear conviction of the fact, that, by no other plan, can so desirable an access be had to this people—and also, from the fact, wide known to a part of this committee, that owners are not only not opposed to, but anxious that religious instruction should be given their slaves at their homes, thereby obviating any undue influences that might grow out of unadvisable collections, or unlawful associations.

All of which is most respectfully submitted.

B. L. WRIGHT, *Chairman.*

[M.]

TREASURER'S REPORT.

THE ARKANSAS BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION

| | DR. | CR. |
|---|-----------|----------|
| Feb. 1848. To cash paid for Printing Minutes, Clerk's fee and postage, | \$55 40 | \$143 90 |
| Aug. 1849. To cash paid J. Y. Lindsey, Missionary as per draft of the President of the Board, | 25 00 | |
| To cash paid as per order of the Board, | 62 50 | 140 00 |
| Oct. 1849. To cash paid Wm. H. Bayliss agent for his services as per draft of President, | 212 33 | 10 00 |
| " " Expenses of Treasurer, | 16 70 | 33 33 |
| " " Cash paid J. Y. Lindsey as per draft of the President, | 62 50 | 210 50 |
| " " Cash paid G. W. Grimmett as per draft of the President, | 128 22 | 25 15 |
| Cash paid B. L. Wright missionary to the Colored people as per draft of the President, | 45 00 | 33 20 |
| Cash paid S. Stevenson, assistant agent as per draft of the President, | 133 33 | 4 75 |
| | \$740 '98 | 89 00 |
| | | 50 40 |
| | | 5 00 |
| | | 2 00 |
| | | 5 00 |
| | | \$753 23 |
| | | \$11 30 |

Balance on hand

NAT. G. SMITH, Treasurer.

We your committee appointed to assist to Audit the Treasurer's report, find it correct after having examined the same.

F. JORDAN, Chairman.

[M.]

The Executive Board of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, present the following report of their proceedings, for the conventional year just closed:

Dear brethren, unavoidable circumstances have prevented the Board from being as efficient in its action, as under other circumstances it might have been, but he who said, "Lo I am with you always," has signally blessed the means employed, to the salvation of many immortal souls.

During the last session of the Convention the board met, organized, and appointed Elder I. C. Perkins, as general agent for the year, but he was prevented by domestic affairs from entering the field, in that capacity, and accordingly tendered his resignation, which was accepted by the Board, and on the 10th of Feb. 1849, Elder Wm. H. Bayliss was appointed general agent, and Asbury Daniel, president of the Board. and Elders G. W. Grimmett and J. Y. Lindsey, domestic missionaries, Elder Grimmett to labor in the south-eastern counties of the State, and Elder J. Y. Lindsey, to labor in destitute portions above the military road.

Our general agent, Elder W. H. Bayliss's report will be found embodied in the minutes of the convention, marked (A) in the Appendix.

Elder G. W. Grimmett, missionary of the Board reports, that he has regularly served two churches, in addition to his service in behalf of the Board. The high waters during the past spring very materially interfered for some time with his labors. He however, reports an increase of interest in the cause of religion where he has traveled, and has witnessed the conversion and baptism of quite a number at his different appointments.

Elder J. Y. Lindsey, also a missionary of the Board, reports the most flattering success upon his labors. Wherever he has been, the people have gladly attended upon the preached word, and have earnestly asked, that "they might hear of these things again." He has assisted in the constitution of three churches, baptised fifty, and witnessed the baptism of many more. He recommends that the missionary for his field shall not start on his labors, until the first of March and then devote his whole time to the work.

Owing to a severe affliction in his family, brother Bayliss was enabled to devote but a portion of his time to his appointment, whereupon, by the advice of some of the members of the Board, the president obtained the services of Elder S. Stevenson as an assistant agent, which was unanimously approved by the Board, and the appointment confirmed at its August meeting. The Board at its August meeting also appointed Elder B. L. Wright as missionary to the Blacks on Red River.

Elder S. Stevenson, assistant agent, reports, that he has travelled, presented the claims of the Board and solicited subscriptions with considerable success. He has preached the word wherever he has been to attentive audiences. He represents the destitution in our State as very great. He found one Baptist church of 26 members,

which had been entirely without preaching for two years.

Elder B. L. Wright, reports that he has been diligently engaged in his mission and has his regular appointments. We hope this field may be well cultivated and yield an abundant harvest.

Your committee would not close this report, without urging upon the convention the importance of urging upon the churches to seek out and encourage the gifts that may be among them, and assist them to prepare that they may be able to vindicate the Truth of God, against sophistry and error, and "contend earnestly for the faith once delivered to the Saints." We are aware that opposition has been raised to human training, and the argument used, that many of those already in the field, though illiterate, are doing great good. Yes, 'tis true that some with limited opportunities are doing much; they have toiled "in season, and out of season;" their zeal and devotedness have removed difficulties like mountains; "they had a mind to the work," and the Lord owned their labors of love. But could this opposing brother have followed these devoted servants of God, and could he have read the deep anxiety of their hearts, to be more thoroughly furnished in Divine things, he would then say to every young minister, "*study* to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that need not be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Life." What pious heart has not mourned over the mighty array of talent engaged in the propagation of error and in endeavoring to poison the fountain of life. To meet these, and to combat error and infidelity, we must have men, not only pious and called of God to the work, but men who can vindicate the truth of God from sophistry and infidelity, and contend *ably* for the faith delivered to the Saints. And as we doubt not there are many within our bounds, who would gladly receive assistance by donations of books we would recommend that appropriations be made to such ministers, as are indigent and need your assistance, that they may be enabled to add to their stock of knowledge.

Dear brethren it affords us great pleasure to have it in our power to communicate to you the pleasing intelligence that our agents and missionaries have uniformly met with a hearty welcome by the brethren and friends wherever they have travelled, and there seems to be an increasing interest manifested in the objects of the convention wherever its claims have been presented, and we do hope ere long, to have the gratification of reporting the supply of every destitute portion of our new and rising State, with not only a preached gospel, but with all the concomitant means of grace, when we shall see the sacramental host of God's elect annually coming up to the meeting of the convention, with their gifts and offerings, from every part of our State, to present to the Lord in their holy convocations. All of which is respectfully submitted.

A. DANIEL, *President of the Board.*

N.B. It appears from an examination of the five years subscription list that the sum of \$168, is now due the convention and in good hands.

A. DANIEL.