


10-1850

Anniversary of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention: 1850

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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Third

ANNIVERSARY

OF THE

ARKANSAS BAPTIST STATE CONVENT

1850

130175

MINUTES

OF THE

THIRD ANNUAL MEETING

OF THE

ARKANSAS BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION,

FOR MISSIONARY PURPOSES,

HELD WITH THE

MOUNT BETHEL CHURCH;

CLARK COUNTY, ARKANSAS;

October 4th--7th, 1850.

ARCADELPHIA:

PRINTED AT THE "SENTINEL OFFICE."

.....
1850.

Executive Committee.

REV. SAMUEL STEVENSON, *President.*

" H. H. COLEMAN, } *Vice Presidents.*
" I. C. PERKINS, }

THOMAS A. HEARD, *Cor. Secretary.*

WILLIAM C. RANDLE, *Treasurer.*

Managers.

WM. B. KNIGHT.

Rev. WM. HARDAOE,

L. W. MARBURY,

" J. T. CRAIG,

R. C. McCARGO,

J. S. GARVIN,

D. H. ROSS,

JOHN J. HARRIS,

E. W. RUSSELL,

E. M. HARRIS.

REV. J. C. PERKINS, *General Agent.*

MINUTES.

THE ARKANSAS BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION held its Third Anniversary with Mount Bethel Church, Clark County, commencing Friday, Oct. 4th, 1850.

The Introductory Sermon was preached by Rev. FRANKLIN COURTNEY, of El Dorado, from JOHN, III chap. and part of the 30th verse: "*He must increase!*" The sermon was an unusually *logical* and *scriptural* production.

The Convention was then called to order by the President—Rev. JESSE HARTWELL, D. D.

At the request of the President the Delegates presented their credentials, and were enrolled as follows:

ASSOCIATIONS:

- Saline*, - - - - - Wm. H. Wyatt, J. Y. Lindsey, Joseph Bird.
Red River, - - - - - Thomas H. Compere, E. Haynes, I. C. Perkins, Samuel Stevenson.
Liberty, - - - - - A. J. Rutherford, Franklin Courtney, Jesse Hartwell.

CHURCHES.

- Manchester*, - - - - - J. T. Craig, R. J. Rambo.
Temperance Hill, - - - - - Wm. H. Wyatt.
Brownsville, - - - - - A. G. Nevil, Asbury Daniel, John S. Garvin.
Mount Gilead, - - - - - Michael Howell.
Pleasant Hill, Clark co. Miles L. Langley, F. J. Browning.
Mine Creek, - - - - - P. W. Coulter.
Mount Bethel, - - - - - Samuel Stevenson, Wm. B. Knight, James Gunter.
Camp Creek, - - - - - John Aaron.
Bethesda, - - - - - T. D. Pennington.
Pleasant Hill, Washita, E. Haynes, T. J. Watts.
Tulip Creek, - - - - - E. W. Russell.
Princeton, - - - - - D. C. Hall.
Gilgal, - - - - - Jesse Hartwell.
El Dorado, - - - - - Franklin Courtney.
Little Missouri, - - - - - Jesse Lavender, James Lisenby.

DELEGATES.

Individual Members, - Wm. H. Bayliss, John Thetford, R. McCargo, Thos. A. Heard, L. W. Marbury, Thomas Evans, J. J. Harris, E. M. Harris, D. C. Hall, S. E. Hall, Wm. Hardage, Jonathan Matchett.

On motion, the following were elected officers of the Convention :

REV. WILLIAM H. BAYLISS, *President*.

" SAMUEL STEVENSON, *Rec. Secretary*.

THOMAS A. HEARE, *Assist. Secretary*.

The following Committees were called for, and appointed by the President :

Committee on Arrangement — Franklin Courtney, Jesse Hartwell and I. C. Perkins.

Committee on Nominations — R. McCargo, L. W. Marbury and John Thetford.

Committee on Agencies — A. J. Rutherford, R. J. Rambo and P. W. Coulter.

Committee on Distitution — J. Y. Lindsey, E. Haynes and Jonathan Matchett.

Committee on Foreign Missions — Jesse Hartwell, Wm. H. Wyatt and John Aaron.

Committee on Ministerial Education — J. S. Garvin, T. J. Watts and T. H. Compere.

Committee on S. Schools — I. C. Perkins, Wm. B. Knight and A. Daniel.

Committee on the Colored Population — E. Haynes, Joseph Bird and D. H. Ross.

Committee on Bible Cause — Franklin Courtney, Wm. Hardage and Jesse Hartwell.

Committee on Circulation of Books — Samuel Stevenson, Wm. B. Knight and John Aaron.

Committee on Auditing — E. W. Russell, T. J. Watts and J. T. Craig.

Comittee on Finance — R. McCargo, A. Daniel and T. D. Pennington.

Committee to arrange Prcaching — Thomas A. Heard, Wm. C. Randle, E. W. Russell, A. Daniel and P. W. Coulter.

A letter of correspondence was received from the Baptist State Convention of North Louisiana.

Corresponding Messengers were appointed as follows :

Red River Association — Samuel Stevenson, A. J. Rutherford, Wm. H. Bayliss, John Aaron, T. H. Compere and Wm. H. Wyatt.

Saline Association — T. D. Pennington, Wm. Hardage, I. C. Perkins, T. H. Compere, E. Haynes, and Samuel Stevenson.

White River Association — John Aaron, J. T. Craig and J. Y. Lindsey.

Liberty Association — E. Haynes, John S. Garvin, William H. Wyatt and T. H. Compere.

Baptist Convention, North Louisiana — William H. Bayliss, Jesse Hartwell, John Aaron and A. Daniel.

Baptist State Convention, Texas — A. J. Rutherford, A. Daniel, William H. Bayliss and I. C. Perkins.

Adjourned to meet at 8 o'clock, Saturday morning. Prayer by Rev. William Hardage.

SATURDAY, 8 o'clock, A. M.

Met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by the President.

Resolved, That the following committees be appointed, to report at the next Annual Meeting of this Convention.

On Foreign Missions — Jesse Hartwell, R. S. Haynes and J. May.

On Domestic Missions — I. C. Perkins, E. Haynes and D. M. Cochran.

On S. Schools — Samuel Stevenson, Wm. B. Knight and Wm. C. Randle.

On Ministerial Education — A. J. Rutherford, T. H. Campere and T. J. Watts.

On Temperance — Franklin Courtney, John Aaron and Wm. H. Wyatt.

The report of the Committee on Arrangement was received and adopted.

Received a Letter of Correspondence, by the hand of Rev. J. Matchett, from White River, Ark. Baptist State Convention.

Resolved, That said Correspondence be returned, and Wm. B. Knight, J. Y. Lindsey and L. W. Marbury, be our Messengers.

Resolved, That this Convention appoint three delegates to the Southern Baptist Convention, to be held in Nashville, Tennessee, on the second Friday of May, 1851.

Whereupon Rev. Wm. H. Bayliss was appointed in the Saline Association, and Rev. H. H. Coleman his alternate; Rev. I. C. Perkins, from the Red River Association, and Rev. S. Stevenson his alternate; Rev. Jesse Hartwell, D.D., from Liberty Association, and Rev. Franklin Courtney his alternate.

The following *Reports* were received and adopted.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON DESTITUTION.

The destitution in many portions of our State is truly lamentable. Not only on the East side of the Arkansas River, are the people perishing for lack of knowledge; but within the bounds of our Missionary operations there are many who seldom hear the words of Eternal life. Your Committee have reason to believe that there are persons living within our bounds, forty years old, who never heard one of our order preach. There are many small churches, that will in all probability, become extinct as churches, unless they receive ministerial aid. Along the south-eastern boundary of our field of labor, there is great destitution, and it is believed that the people would gladly receive our Missionaries.

J. Y. LINDSEY, *Chairman of Committee.*

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN MISSIONS.

The subject presented to our consideration, is one of vital importance, and should rouse the feelings of every child of God. When the Gospel was first preached to the Grecians, or heathen, (Acts, II, 20.) Barnabus saw "the grace of God, and was glad, for he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost." The success of the Gospel should produce the same effect till the end of time.

During the past year, events prosperous and afflictive, have attended this field of labor. Sickness and death have thinned their ranks. Several of the Missionaries have been compelled to return home, and leave the heathen to perish in their ignorance. Others have been called away by death, and have entered into their rest. Among these is to be counted that great and excellent man ADONIRAM JUDSON, so long and familiarly known as Missionary in Burmah, who died April 12th, 1850, and was buried in the "illimitable sea." While we mourn his loss we have reason to bless the God of grace that he was so long spared, and that his labors were so successful. Though we have been called to mourn, we have been made to rejoice over the number of immortal souls that have been brought to the knowledge of the truth, through the self-denying labors of those who remain in the field. Light is spreading—the word of truth is being circulated, and the knowledge of salvation is proclaimed among those who have long sat in darkness, and the shadow of death. Though we in our infancy are not able to do much to advance this blessed cause, yet we may unite our prayers to the great Head of the Church for its advancement, and, by learning what is done by our brethren, may rejoice with them, and praise our Glorious Redeemer.

JESSE HARTWELL, *Chairman of Committee.*

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON THE CONDITION OF OUR COLORED POPULATION.

Your Committee are to some extent acquainted with the deplorable condition of many of our servants, especially in the the south-western part of our State, there are many of them who are almost entirely deprived of hearing the Gospel preached. We also know that many of them do, and others doubtless would gladly hear the word of life if favorable opportunities were afforded. They often seem deeply impressed with the worth of their immortal souls. From the best information that we can obtain, in the absence of your Missionary to the colored population on Red River, we believe his labors have been blessed. We would therefore recommend that this field be occupied.

Your Committee would further recommend that each Church appoint a Committee of three or more brethren, to attend the meetings that may be held with their respective churches, for the benefit of this much neglected people; and also, that we use our influence with masters, to obtain for their servants, the privilege of attending the house of God as often as practicable.

E. HAYNES, *Chairman of Committee.*

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE BIBLE CAUSE.

Without the Bible, no people have ever yet been christianised; and while our own State is in many parts destitute of the word of Life, the question as to the duty of christians in supplying this destitution, may well arise in our Conventional Meetings. In vain may churches be collected together, in vain may the sacrament be dispensed, and in vain may the Missionary go forth, proclaiming the glad tidings of salvation, if the people have not the word of God which they may read at their own firesides.

On the other hand, supply the people with the Bible, let them read it at home, and let their children be taught its sacred truths in the domestic circle, and the Minister is very materially aided in prosecuting his work. But how is this destitution to be supplied? Bible Societies, auxiliary to the American and Foreign Bible Society, have accomplished more in this respect in other States, than any other means, which have hitherto been adopted to accomplish the same end.

We therefore most earnestly recommend to our churches to *form Bible Societies*, and procure from some convenient depository, the necessary books, which may through these auxiliary societies be distributed as the destitution demands. We make these suggestions not merely to be read, but we ask brethren as they love the word of God, as they desire the salvation of sinners, and as they wish to see the cause of religion prosper, to adopt this or some other efficient plan for distributing God's eternal truth.

F. COURTNEY, *Chairman of Committee.*

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

The great importance of early religious instruction, seems to be admitted by all evangelical christians.

Ignorance, is no longer regarded as the mother of devotion. But on the contrary, experience teaches that ignorance engenders infidelity, and leads to every form and degree of vice and immorality. Conscience possesses power to restrain in proportion to the light of truth in the mind. Although it must be admitted that the Gospel is the *great means*, that God has ordained for the conversion of the world; yet, private instruction is fully authorised by the sacred Scriptures, and is equally as important and necessary as public preaching.

The great obligation of training children "in the nurture and admonition of the Lord," rests mainly upon parents; and God will doubtless hold them accountable for the faithful performance of this highly important duty.

Yet Dear Brethren, in the absence of parental instruction, where parents manifest no regard for the souls of their tender offsprings, has not a way been fully opened by the introduction of the *Sunday School system*, by which we may bring even little children to the blessed Savior; and will not God hold us accountable in some degree for their instruction. If for withholding temporal blessings, Christ will say to those on the left hand, "Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me;" how shall those escape who withhold the *Bread of Life*.

In view of the incalculable benefits and blessings which have already been realised by individuals, communities and even our common country, by Sunday School instruction; every *christian* must be convinced that the blessing of God has in a most signal manner attended the labors of Sunday School teachers. In no way can christians more effectually promote the cause of religion, and give permanency to our free institutions, than by engaging *heartily* and *prayerfully* in Sunday Schools. We therefore recommend the subject to the consideration of our brethren and fellow-citizen, generally.

It gives your Committee pleasure to close this brief report, by stating that the "AMERICAN SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION" has recently established a depository in New Orleans; also, that Rev. S. Stevenson expects to keep a general supply, of books at Arkadelphia, Ark's.

I. C. PERKINS, *Chairman of Committee.*

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS.

See "Executive Committee." RADFORD McCARGO, *Ch'm'n of Com.*

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON THE DISTRIBUTION OF BOOKS.

It is impossible to estimate fully the influence of religious books upon the morals of a people. They are one of the *principal* auxiliaries, of which we can avail ourselves, in promulgating the Gospel; especially are they necessary to counteract the baneful influence of "light reading," which has already flooded our country, and which tends to skepticism, and consequent immorality. It is to be regretted that there is no general supply of religious books kept in any part of this State.

Your Committee would therefore recommend that the Convention as early as practicable establish a Deposit of Standard Evangelical works, at some suitable place, and especially, with some *suitable person*; also, that during the summer and fall, several persons be employed as Colporteurs, for the purpose of supplying the great destitution, which exists in this department of our missionary enterprise. It is confidently believed that in this way, very much good might be accomplished, at little or no expense to the Convention.

S. STEVENSON, *Chairman of Committee.*

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON AGENCIES.

After collecting all the information that time and circumstances would permit, your Committee would most respectfully suggest that the efforts of at least one agent is demanded by the interests of the Convention.

We would also recommend that our missionaries be constituted sub-agents, to represent the interests of the Convention, wherever and whenever they may think it expedient; also, that they be authorised to take up collections and obtain subscriptions for the support of the Convention in her efforts to extend the word of life, to the destitute of our own State and country.

A. J. RUTHERFORD, *Chairman of Committee.*

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON MINISTERIAL EDUCATION.

We regard the education of our Ministry an object of primary importance, in the great plan for the evangelizing of our State, being second only to the supplying of its destitute sections, with the word of life.

The peculiar truths of our denomination have arrayed against them, much of the learning and wisdom of the world, and the contest will ever be an unequal one, between error supported by intelligence, where truth is unaided by education.— The one is enabled to propagate error under the cloak of truth, while the other is not able to strip it of its borrowed covering and expose the sophisms upon which it is based. Besides, high intellectual culture and moral discipline, but the better prepares its possessors to proclaim the great truths of the Gospel to a dying world; we therefore recommend to the associations and churches, either singly or conjointly, to afford the means of education as far as they are able, to their young brethren, whom they have set apart to the Ministry.

In view of the great importance of the subject, your Committee further recommend, that a committee of five members be appointed by your honorable body, to submit a plan at your next session, by which the initiatory steps in this great work may be taken up, and our denomination be supplied with a Seminary for the education of her Ministry.

J. S. GARVIN, *Chairman of Committee.*

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON FINANCE.

CASH RECEIVED.

From Manchester Church,	\$1,00	From Tulip Creek Church,	\$1,00
" Camp Creek "	2,00	" Gilgal "	1,00
" Pleasant Hill "	1,00	" Little Missouri "	90
" Temperance Hill "	1,00	" Mount Zion "	2,50
" Friendship "	1,00	" Pleasant Hill "	5,00
" Mount Gillead "	1,00	" Salem "	2,00
" Bethesda "	1,00	" Red River Association,	42,00
" Mine Creek "	8,00	" Public Collection,	21,25
" Mission box, by J. Hartwell,	1,00		
	\$17,00	Amount forwarded,	\$75,90
			17,40

TOTAL, \$93,30

RADFORD McCARGO, *Chairman of Committee.*

On Motion, adjourned to meet at 3 o'clock, P. M.

—o—

Met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Rev. E. Haynes.

Resolved, That this Convention recommend the "*Missionary Herald*," and "*Commission*," published at Richmond, Va. : the former at \$1, and the latter at 25 cents per annum. Address, "*H. K. Ellison, Richmond, Va.*"

The Agent's report, which will also be found appended to the Minutes, was read and adopted.

Adjourned to meet at 8 o'clock, Monday morning.

—o—

MONDAY, 8 o'clock, A. M.

Convention met. Prayer by Rev. I. C. Perkins.

Resolved, That this Convention hold its next session with the Princeton Baptist Church, Dallas County, Ark.

For the purpose of accommodating subscribers who are in arrears, and also of enabling the Executive Committee to pay the Missionaries; as soon as possible, the *just reward* of their labors, Therefore,

Resolved, That the following brethren be appointed local collectors:

E. M. Harris, Dallas County, P. W. Coulter, Hempstead County.

J. H. Capers, Union County, J. Y. Lindsey, Saline County.

Resolved, That Rev. Wm. H. Wyatt be appointed to preach the Introductory Sermon, at our next annual session, and Rev. E. Haynes, a Missionary Sermon, on the Sabbath.

Resolved, That Rev. I. C. Perkins be appointed General Agent for the Convention; and should his health and domestic duties permit him to go beyond the

limits of our own State, he, together with our *infant cause*, is hereby most affectionately commended to the liberality of our brethren in other States.

The Colporteur's Report, which will be found appended to the Minutes, was read and adopted.

Resolved, That the Recording Secretary be instructed to superintend the printing of twelve hundred copies of the Minutes.

Resolved, That the thanks of this Convention are justly due, and hereby tendered, to the Members of Mount Bethel Church, and Citizens of Clark County, for the kind and very hospitable entertainment of this Meeting.

Resolved, That the thanks of this Convention be tendered to the President and Recording Secretaries for the very able and courteous manner in which they have discharged their respective duties.

Resolved, That the Convention now adjourn to meet at Princeton, "on Friday before the first Sabbath in October," 1851.

Prayer by the President.

REV. WILLIAM H. BAYLISS, *President*.

SAMUEL STEVENSON, }
THOMAS A. HEARD, } *Secretaries*.

The Treasurer for last year being absent, his report does not appear in the minutes.

REPORT OF COLPORTEUR TO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Dear Brethren — It will be remembered that, in addition to my agency, I was appointed Colporteur about the first of June, to supply the vacancy made by the resignation of Wm. B. Knight. Much could not be accomplished in the short space of four months, even with a good supply of books. But it is due to myself to state, that I only received books to the amount of about seventy dollars from Bro. Knight; and although I immediately ordered about five hundred dollars worth from Nashville, Tenn., I did not receive half that amount from that place.

Owing to my limited time, after having been thus disappointed, I was unable to obtain a full supply of books. Thus, you see, I have operated under very unfavorable circumstances; yet it will be seen by reference to Appendix to this Report, that I have sold \$582,36 worth of books; and that the Convention will realize a clear gain, on said sales, of \$115,28.

Yours very truly,

SAMUEL STEVENSON.

AGENT'S REPORT.

Dear Brethren — I have ever felt incompetent to the great work which you have assigned to me, as your agent. It was with reluctance and fearful misgiving that, twelve months ago, I accepted your appointment. Since that time I have devoted myself entirely to the interests of the Convention, and am pleased at being able to say, that, notwithstanding many circumstances and prejudices have operated against our Missionary enterprise, I feel confident that it is growing in the affections of God's people, as well as increasing its means of operation.

The extensiveness of my field of labor, together with the protracted rains during the winter and spring, have rendered it impossible for me to visit all the churches within our bounds; yet I may not be thought egotistical, by stating that, even

though I have been encumbered with the Colportage, during four months, I have traveled over two thousand miles, visited churches in seven counties, and endeavored to preach the Gospel, and present the claims of our Infant Cause, whenever and wherever God, in His providence, has afforded an opportunity. I have, also aided in the constitution of two Churches, and baptised four persons. It has not been my object, so much to obtain money, as to secure the sympathies and prayers of our brethren, in behalf of the great work now before us, and inspire them with confidence in the operations of the Convention.

Various causes have operated against the objects of my agency, among which are, a general pecuniary embarrassment; a lamentable coldness and apathy on the subject of religion; the circumstances connected with the exclusion of several prominent ministers of the Gospel; and, especially, the manner in which Missionary funds have, in some cases, been collected and expended, aside from the operations of the Convention. With these, and many other obstacles to encounter, and in view of my limited acquaintance among the brethren, I have not deemed it prudent to urgently solicit private contributions, or public collections. Yet it will be seen, by reference to appendix to this report, that I have collected \$555.10; and, including the efforts of the present meeting, have obtained subscriptions to the amount of \$1,181.00. We have now on our subscription list, near \$3,000.00, \$720.00 of which will come due annually.

But it is a matter of regret that many who have subscribed, do not properly regard the "advice" of the Apostle to the Corinthians; for in speaking upon this subject, he says, "This is expedient for you, who have begun before, not only to do, but to be forward a year ago. Now therefore, perform the doing of it; that as there was a readiness to will, so there may be a performance also out of that which ye have." We have not enough however, on our subscription list, were it all collected, to prosecute vigorously the great work before us.

Many facts demonstrate, that the time for earnest, efficient effort, has arrived.—The labors of our Missionaries, are gladly received by the "common people." Their views of scripture doctrine, of church order and government, are generally approved.

From almost every part of our State, the "cry for Gospel light," is heard.

"They call on us in words direct; or in their notes of woe—
Obey, ye saints, your Lord's command—Go preach my Gospel, go."

God has opened the way, has given us every possible encouragement in his word, and now calls upon us to "go in and possess the land."

Shall we not then, Dear Brethren, double our diligence, remembering that, "they that be wise, shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness, as the stars forever and ever." Could the convention, but obtain the small sum of ONE DOLLAR a year from each one professing to be a Missionary Baptist, in South Arkansas, over two thousand dollars would be annually expended in promulgating the blessed Gospel among our destitute citizens. Eternity alone would develop the happy consequences of such an expenditure. But alas, many who profess to be laboring in the vineyard of their master, seem to be digging in the earth and hiding their Lord's money. Most of our churches are asking for more ministerial labor, while many of our most acceptable preachers, find it necessary to labor elsewhere for a support. Not one, perhaps, within our bounds, obtains a support from churches—none are released from "serving tables," and enabled to give themselves "continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word." How long, Dear Brethren, shall these things continue? The languishing condition of many churches, together with multitudes who go the way that leads to death, answer, how long?

May God of his mercy impress our minds with the obligations that rest upon us; and enable us to realize the unspeakable privileges that we enjoy.

Yours very truly,

SAMUEL STEVENSON.

APPENDIX TO AGENT'S REPORT.

CASH COLLECTED FROM

M. M. Wallace,	\$ 5,00	R. J. Coleman,	2,00
E. M. Bull,	5,00	B. J. Sanford,	1,00
A. Mathews,	1,00	D. D. Cunningham,	1,00
P. Watts,	5,00	Wm. M. Hutchinson,	1,00
E. E. Dawdy,	2,00	John Veasey,	2,50
Mrs. Williams,	75	John Thetford,	1,00
R. J. Rambo,	4,00	T. A. Heard,	5,00
P. M. Bass,	1,00	Woodson Heard,	2,00
Z. E. Nix,	50	James Thompson,	1,00
S. G. Smith,	2,50	Wm. L. Anderson,	5,00
Wm. F. Smith,	5,00	Wm. A. King,	4,00
E. M. Harris,	20,00	James M. Trig,	2,00
Mrs. M. E. Harris,	2,00	M. Howell,	20
Joanna T. Harris,	15	H. B. Stuart,	1,00
M. Bozeman,	32,80	C. L. Malone,	2,50
W. T. Crawley,	2,00	S. E. Hall,	6,00
Thomas C. Hudson,	2,00	Wm. H. Wyatt,	1,00
James M. Gilkey,	5,00	Collection at Liberty Association,	25,20
P. Alexander,	5,00	Mrs. S. C. Trig,	1,00
Wm. Bethel,	5,00	Wm. C. Randle,	5,00
H. Canfield,	1,00	L. W. Marbury,	2,50
S. A. Sanders,	10,00	Mrs. Marbury,	1,50
V. J. Burke,	1,00	I. C. Perkins,	10,00
Mrs. L. A. Burke,	1,00	H. H. Coleman,	10,00
C. L. Bullock,	5,00	R. McCargo,	10,00
F. Courtney,	10,00	Jos. Bird,	2,00
James Gunter,	1,00	John Minnick,	1,00
A. D. Jones,	5,00	John V. McCulloch,	1,00
F. J. Browning,	1,00	Thomas Evans,	2,00
Mrs. S. Browning,	1,00	A. C. Hart,	2,00
Samuel Langley,	1,00	D. C. Hall,	6,00
Wm. Langley,	1,00	P. S. Bethell,	20,00
M. L. Langley,	1,00	E. W. Russell,	5,00
Thomas Davis,	1,00	Wm. Hardage,	2,00
Tyre H. Brown,	40,00	Wm. Anderson,	2,00
Wm D. Estis,	5,00	A. Daniel,	10,00
E. F. Strong,	2,00	Wm. F. Browning,	1,00
Tillman Brawner,	10,00	Collection at Saline Association,	14,50
Young Goodwin,	1,00	R. M. Thrasher,	5,00
J. M. Cogburn,	1,00	Wm. Mainard,	1,00
J. C. Parker,	1,00	The Printer, at Arkadelphia,	5,00
A. B. Clement,	2,60	Samuel Stevenson,	60,00
P. W. Coulter,	25,00		
D. C. Paxton,	5,00	Total,	\$555,10
Mrs. Mary Heard,	2,00	CASH PAID OUT.	
Wm. H. Bayliss,	20,00	To Treasurer,	75,00
Warner Rucks,	5,00	.. B. L. Wright,	50,00
M. Yeager,	2,00	.. J. Y. Lindsey,	10,00
Mrs. E. Brantley,	1,50	.. Wm. H. Wyatt,	30,00
John Aaron,	5,00	For printing Minutes,	60,00
J. T. Craig,	4,00		
F. Clement,	1,50	Total,	\$225,00
R. F. Haynes,	10,00	Total cash received,	\$555,10
N. L. Graves,	2,50	Total cash paid out,	225,00
James A. Hicks,	2,00		
Wm. Daniels,	2,00	Total on hand,	330,10
Wm. D. Bethell,	5,00	Agent's Salary,	\$400,00
J. Y. Lindsey,	10,00	Cash on hand,	330,10
Jas. Robison,	1,00		
Mrs. E. Robison,	1,00	Balance due Agent,	69,90

Your auditing Committee have examined the Agent's account, and found it to be correct.

E. W. RUSSELL, *Ch'm'n of Com.*

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

The Executive Committee of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention respectfully present the following report of their labors during the Conventional year, which has closed. Owing to the fact that the brethren constituting our body of members, live so far apart the meetings of the board have been sparsely attended, and we, therefore, believe it would be better to have the number less, but that they be generally selected from the same region.

Bro. Ste. Johnson, who was appointed General Agent, at your last Annual Session, has made his report, to which we refer you for particulars of his labor; but we cannot forbear an expression of approbation of his general course, as agent.— With many and very serious obstacles to retard the work assigned him; he has accomplished much, and greatly promoted the interests of the Convention.

Bro. B. L. Wright, our Missionary to the Colored Population on Red River, has labored indefatigably nearly the whole year. The difficulties with which he has had to contend, might well have intimidated one less bold and devoted, but his motto seems to have been "onward." His reports present the most flattering accounts of success. He has failed to attend this meeting; by reason of illness; yet we learn from the most reliable sources, that he has baptised over thirty willing converts; and but for his illness would probably have baptised many more; for others have professed a hope in Christ, and only wait a suitable opportunity of following their Savior, in his appointed ordinance. We also learn that many White persons have become very much interested, and will probably aid the Convention, should Bro. Wright's appointment be renewed.

Bro. Wm. Hardage was appointed; to attend Little Missouri Church, in Clark County, and reports that owing to high waters, and other obstacles he has only attended about one third of the year. This church that had not for several years been blessed with the preached Gospel, or sent her delegates to the Association, has this year been represented in the Association and Convention.

Bro. Wm. H. Wyatt, a Missionary of the Board, also reports eighty-four days labor, in the service of the Convention, during which time he baptised twelve persons; aided in the ordination of two deacons, and in the constitution of one church.

Bro. J. Matchet, another Missionary of the Board, reports four months' labor in the North-western part of our State, during which time he baptised twenty-six persons, and aided in constituting one church of twenty-six members.

Bro. J. Y. Lindsey, another missionary, reports the most flattering prospects in the field in which he has labored. He has baptised twenty-five persons, one of which was a minister of the Methodist order. He also supplied two churches, and assisted in ordaining two deacons. He met with many persons who had never heard a Baptist sermon in the State, and was frequently greeted with the most earnest solicitations to break to the people the bread of life.

We have thus in a summary way stated a few items in the operations of the board. With what profound feelings of gratitude to the great Head of the church should we review the brief history of our Convention, organized under very unfavorable circumstances; with foes without, and foes within; with a vast uncultivated field before us, and our implements all in disorder, we commenced the work, relying on God as our helper. Our third annual session has rolled around, and reports of success are still cheering. We are fast getting possession of the land, "yet there remaineth very much land to be possessed."

Dear Brethren let us remember the good things the Lord has bestowed upon us; and let us "come up to the help of the Lord, to the help of the Lord against the mighty."

Should we not seek out those who are impressed with a call to the ministry, and aid them in the cultivation of the talents which the Lord has given them? Let us say in conclusion that energy and union, alone are wanting on our part. Let the churches but concentrate their efforts in the good work, and very soon the "desert will blossom as the rose." Finally brethren we say, go on; think of these things; talk of these things; pray for Divine guidance, and may the Lord of Sabbath be your God, is our sincere prayer for his name sake.

A. DANIEL, *President.*

Constitutions

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.

ART. 8. The annual session of this convention shall commence on Friday before the first Sabbath in October, of each year.

ART. 9. This constitution may be amended at any annual meeting of the convention, two-thirds of the members present concurring therein, except the fourth article, which shall for ever remain untouched.

The committee to whom was referred the subject of drafting a constitution for the convention, having examined and compared several of similar character, have agreed upon the above ; all of which is most respectfully submitted.

RULES OF DECORUM.

- 1st. The convention shall be opened and closed by prayer.
- 2d. The President shall preserve order, and decide in all cases relating 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 proposition, without permission of the convention.
- 10th. The President shall be entitled to the same privilege of speaking as other members, provided he first fills the chair with some other member ; but shall vote only in case of a tie.