

**Proceedings**

OF THE

**Twenty-Sixth Annual Session**

OF THE

**Trace Ridge Association  
of Missionary Baptists**

Held With  
**LIBERTY CHURCH**  
Van Buren County, Ark., Sept. 25 to 28, 1915

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**Officers**

ELD. C. T. COTTON.....Moderator  
Elberta, Ark.  
ELD. M. B. McENTIRE.....Clerk  
Murillo, Ark.  
ELD. R. M. HAYS.....Treasurer  
Rocky Hill, Ark.

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**Baptist Flag Publishing Co.**  
Fulton, Ky.

## PROCEEDINGS

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The messengers of the churches composing the Trace Ridge Association of Missionary Baptists met with Liberty Church, Van Buren County, Ark., Sept. 25, 1915, former Moderator and Clerk being present. A short devotional service was held, after which the introductory sermon was preached by Eld. S. E. Patton from Mal. 3:8, "Will a man rob God?" After a recess of ten minutes, the body was called to order for business by the Moderator. Prayer by J. P. Ford. Letters were called for from the churches and read by S. E. Patton and J. H. Hargester, as follows:

MOUNT PLEASANT—C. T. Cotton.

PLEASANT VALLEY—J. M. O'Neal, J. K. O'Neal and J. W. Kimball.

LIBERTY—W. P. Thornton, W. F. Hefner, Jas. Wilson.

PILGRIM'S REST—L. S. Cotton.

PLEASANT HILL—J. M. Cotton, J. A. Church, G. S. Pack.

PLEASANT GROVE—T. M. Ragland, A. J. Carter, R. B. Halsted.

PLEASANT EXCHANGE—J. P. Ford.

SNOWBALL—By letter.

DESOTO—By letter.

SALEM—R. L. Hays, W. B. Davenport.

The body then went into permanent organization by electing Eld. C. T. Cotton, Moderator; Eld. M. B. McEntire, Clerk; Eld. R. M. Hays, Treasurer.

The Moderator appointed a Devotional Committee as follows: J. W. Kimbrell, W. B. Davenport and the deacons of Liberty Church. Took recess to 3 p. m.

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## EVENING SESSION

Met at 3 p. m. Prayer by the Moderator. Called for petitionary letters. None presented. The Moderator then appointed the following Committees:

Destitution—S. E. Patton, J. P. Ford, T. M. Ragland.

Orphans' Home—R. M. Hays, W. B. Davenport, W. F. Hefner.

Pastoral Support—R. L. Hays, W. P. Thornton, L. S. Cotton.

Sunday Schools—S. E. Patton, R. M. Hays, J. H. Hargester.

Associational Missions—R. M. Hays, S. E. Patton, R. B. Halsted.

Publications—J. P. Ford, T. M. Ragland, R. L. Hays.

Obituaries—J. M. Cotton, J. W. Kimbrell, W. B. Davenport.

Prohibition—J. K. O'Neal, G. S. Pack, R. M. Hays.

Finance—J. A. Church, G. S. Pack, J. M. O'Neal.

Resolutions—J. M. O'Neal, L. S. Cotton, S. E. Patton.

Called for correspondence. None present. Called for report of Committee on Destitution, which was adopted as follows:

We find a large amount of destitution in our bounds as follows:  
Richland, Denard, Fairview, Oak Grove, Shady Grove, Pine Grove, Trace Ridge, Archey Valley, Cooper Schoolhouse, Hart Suggs, and many other places we ask to be supplied with Baptist preaching.

S. E. PATTON, Chairman.

Committee on Pastoral Support reported as follows:

We find that our pastors have been greatly neglected in their support and we recommend that our churches awake to this duty, and that the deacons put forth special efforts to the support of the pastors.

R. L. HAYS, Chairman.

Committee on Orphans' Home reported as follows:

We recommend that our Orphans' Home at Texarkana, Ark.-Tex., be supported, and we ask that collections be taken in Sunday Schools and churches and forwarded to Eld. J. W. Sims, Marvell, Ark., our Treasurer, and report the amount to our churches.

R. M. HAYS, Chairman.

On motion the body adjourned to 9 a. m. Sunday. Prayer by R. M. Hays.

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#### SECOND DAY—MORNING SESSION

Met at 9 a. m. Singing "There'll Be Stars in Your Crown." Prayer by R. L. Hays. Took up the report on Sunday Schools and after able discussion by the brethren it was adopted as follows:

We find that little interest is being taken in the Sunday School work and we urge that every Baptist church maintain a Sunday School and use every opportunity to teach the Bible in its simplicity and purity.

S. E. PATTON, Chairman.

Took recess for preaching Sunday at 11 a. m., after which a collection of \$12.80 was taken for Eld. J. W. Rambo, who is old, poor and very feeble.

Met at 3 p. m. Took up the report on Prohibition and after warm discussion it was adopted as follows:

We are glad to know that Prohibition is gaining fast, that the majority of States now have State-wide Prohibition. We pray our heavenly Father the time will soon come when we will have nation-wide Prohibition and drive the awful curse from our beloved nation.

J. K. O'NEAL, Chairman.

Took recess to Monday morning at 8 o'clock.

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#### THIRD DAY—MORNING SESSION

Met Monday morning at 8 o'clock. Prayer by J. H. Hargester. Read and corrected minutes. Took up report of Committee on Foreign Missions. Read and adopted as follows:

We believe the gospel should first be preached at home, then

to use our means and put forth every effort to send the gospel to all the world.

S. E. PATTON, Chairman.

Committee on Obituaries reported as follows:

So far as have been reported to us from the churches, God in his infinite mercy has spared all our members this year, for which we ask this body to bow in prayer to God for his preserving care to his children the past year.

J. M. COTTON, Chairman.

When this report was read and adopted, the house was led in prayer by J. P. Ford.

Committee on Finance: We received from the churches for minutes, \$13.90.

G. S. PACK, Chairman.

The Associational Board (or Committee) made their report as follows:

|                                     |         |
|-------------------------------------|---------|
| Received from former Treasurer..... | \$ 4.21 |
| Paid to Eld. McEntire .....         | 2.11    |
| Paid to R. M. Hays .....            | 2.10    |

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Total paid to missionaries .....\$ 4.21

S. E. PATTON, Chairman Board.

Following are reports of missionaries:

Eld. M. B. McEntire's Report.—Days labored, 42, at \$2.00 per day, \$84.00; collected on field, \$43.00. Balance due McEntire, \$41.00.

Eld. R. M. Hays' Report.—Days labored, 17, at \$2.00 per day, \$34.00; collected, \$7.45. Balance due Hays, \$26.55. Total due both missionaries on last year's work, \$67.55.

Dear brethren, you see we are behind on last year \$67.55, and as the Association by vote continued same board and you know we cannot work without money, we ask that collections be taken and forwarded to us so we can settle with missionaries for last year and also forward on the work this year.—W. B. Davenport, Treasurer, Rocky Hill, Ark. S. E. Patton, Secretary, Archey, Ark. Jas. Rorle, Rocky Hill, Ark., Executive Committee.

Committee on Associational Missions reported as follows:

We find the destitution in our bounds is growing fast, and many of our churches are pastorless. Therefore, we would recommend that this body elect and send out two strong men to occupy the field and that the deacons take collections in the churches, and also the missionaries take collections on the field, and we ask this body to make their time good.

S. E. PATTON, Chairman.

A motion carried that we supply the destitution, and Eld. M. B. McEntire, Murillo, Ark., and Eld. R. M. Hays, Rocky Hill, Ark., were elected missionaries.

On motion, the same Executive Board was retained this next



year. Appointed correspondents as follows: To United Association—Eld. M. B. McEntire. Pee Dee—S. E. Patton. Blue Mountain—Thomas Wilson.

Committee on Publications reported as follows:

We recommend a thorough study of the Bible, with The Baptist, published at Little Rock, Ark., and The Baptist Flag, Fulton, Ky., as good Baptist papers. J. P. FORD, Chairman.

By motion agreed to meet next year with Pleasant Grove Church, 15 miles southwest of Marshall, Searcy County, Ark., on Saturday, 10 a. m., before the fourth Sunday in September, 1916.

Eld. M. B. McEntire was chosen to preach the next introductory sermon; Eld. R. M. Hays, alternate.

On motion the minute fund was turned over to the Clerk to have as many minutes printed as would supply our needs and retain remainder of funds (if any) for his services.

Resolution No. 1.—Does Trace Ridge Association endorse pulpit affiliation or union meetings? Voted unanimously, No.

Resolution No. 2—Resolved, That we tender our thanks to Liberty Church and community for their kindness and noble hospitality to us during our stay with them.

J. M. O'NEAL, Chairman.

On motion the body adjourned to meet with Pleasant Grove Church, Searcy County, Ark., Saturday, 10 o'clock a. m., before the fourth Sunday in September, 1916. Prayer by J. M. Cotton.

Thus closed the 26th session of old Trace Ridge Association, a very peculiar session indeed. Not one dissenting vote on anything during the whole session of the body. All was harmony, joy and peace. (Clerk.)

ELD. C. T. COTTON, Moderator,

Elberta, Ark.

ELD. M. B. McENTIRE, Clerk, Murillo, Ark.

#### STATISTICS OF THE CHURCHES

DESOTO—Pastor, D. W. Horton; clerk, J. B. DePriest; received, 3; dismissed, 2; total, 13; for minutes, \$1.20. P. O., Zack, Ark.

LIBERTY—Pastor, R. M. Hays; clerk, C. B. Hefner; P. O., Murillo, Ark.; received by baptism, 1; for minutes, \$1.00; pastor's salary, \$13.35; total members, 50.

PLEASANT HILL NO. 1—Pastor, D. B. Ford; clerk, A. Cossey; P. O., Nogo, Ark.; for minutes, \$1.00; total members, 60.

SNOWBALL—Pastor, M. B. McEntire; clerk, Troy Mays; received by letter, 3; dismissed by letter, 5; total, 86; P. O., Snowball, Ark.; paid pastor, \$19.00; by ladies' aid, \$21.00; total to pastor, \$40.00; for minutes, \$1.50.

PLEASANT GROVE—Pastor, J. H. Hargester; clerk, J. M. Willbanks; P. O., Atlas, Ark.; total members, 30; for minutes, 1.00.

PLEASANT VALLEY—Pastor, M. B. McEntire; clerk, J. M. O'Neal; P. O., Watts, Ark.; for minutes, \$1.60; paid pastor, \$8.25.

PLEASANT EXCHANGE—Pastor, C. T. Cotton; clerk, Rosa Luna; P. O., Watts, Ark.; total members, 9; for minutes, \$1.00.

MOUNT PLEASANT—Pastor, C. T. Cotton; clerk, M. B. Thomas; P. O., Elberta, Ark.; total members, 40; for minutes, \$1.20.

SALEM—Pastor, T. W. Harness; clerk, C. E. Roten; P. O., Rocky Hill, Ark.; by baptism, 10; excluded, 3; paid to pastor, \$35.00; orphans' home, \$11.76; for minutes, \$1.10; paid out to Sunday School, \$10.00; No. pupils in S. S., 110.

PILGRIM'S REST—For minutes, \$1.00; clerk, W. L. Rains; P. O., Leslie, Ark.

### CONFESSION OF FAITH

I. We believe that the Bible was written by inspiration from God, therefore has God for its author, salvation for its end, and un-mixed truth for its matter. And it must now and to the end of time remain the true center of Christian doctrine and life; and by it all creeds, conduct and opinions will be tried. Phil. 3:16; 2 Tim. 3:16, 17.

II. Trinity. There is only one true God, whose name is Jehovah, revealed to man in three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, equal in divine perfection, and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the redemption and government of mankind. John 4:24; Ps. 73:18; Matt. 23:19.

III. The Fall of Man. Man was created holy under the law of God. By voluntary choice he fell from his holy state and brought all mankind under the curse of sin. Not by choice are his descendants sinners, but by nature, being void of holiness, inclined to evil, and therefore under just condemnation without defense or excuse. Romans 5:19; Eph. 2:1-3; Romans 1:19, 20.

IV. Salvation. Sinners are saved wholly by grace, through Christ's mediation. He took our nature upon himself, honored Christ's law by obedience, and by his death made full atonement for our sins, and then rose from the dead for our justification, and now intercedes for us at the throne of the Father, thus becoming a suitable and all-sufficient Savior. Eph. 2:8-10; John 3:16; Heb. 7:25.

V. Justification. Justification includes the pardon of sin and promise of eternal life on principles of righteousness bestowed wholly through faith in the Redeemer's blood, by virtue of which faith his righteousness is imputed to us of God; securing to us peace, favor with God, and every needed blessing for time and

eternity. Acts 13:39; Rom. 5:9; Rom. 4:4, 5; Rom. 5:1, 2.

VI. Salvation Free. The Gospel makes salvation free to all who accept it by cordial, repentant and obedient faith. Its rejection is therefore voluntary and involves the impenitent in aggravated condemnation. Isa. 55:1; John 5:40; John 3:19.

VII. Regeneration. In order to be saved, sinners must be born again—regenerated. This birth consists in giving a holy disposition, and is effected in a manner above our comprehension, through the Holy Spirit, in connection with divine truth, thereby securing our voluntary obedience to God's word, and its presence is proved by repentance, faith, love and a godly life. John 3:3; 2 Cor. 5:17, 1 John 5:1; 1 John 4:7.

VIII. Repentance and Faith. Repentance and faith are inseparable graces wrought in us in regeneration, whereby we confess our guilt, believe in Jesus Christ, and turn to God in contrition, confession and prayer, receiving Christ as our prophet, priest, king and only Savior. Mark 1:15; Rom. 10:9, 10.

IX. Election is the eternal purpose of God to regenerate, sanctify and save sinners through the agencies he has ordained and which are in harmony with freedom of will and comprehend all the means in connection with God's sovereign goodness, holiness, justification and mercy, and to ascertain it with regard to ourselves deserves our utmost diligence. 2 Thess. 2:13, 14; 1 Thess. 1:4-10; 2 Peter 1:10, 11.

X. Sanctification is the process by which we are made partakers of God's holiness. It begins in regeneration and is carried on in the heart of the believer by God's appointed means, study of his Word, prayer, self-denial and watchfulness. Prov. 4:18; 2 Cor. 7:1; Eph. 1:4.

XI. Preservation of all true believers marks them from superficial professors. God keeps his adopted children by his power through faith unto salvation. Rom. 8:28; Phil. 1:6; 1 John 2:19; Ps. 37:23, 24.

XII. God's law is the eternal rule of his moral government, which is holy, just and good. Man's failure to keep it arises from his love of sin. The establishment of the church was designed to preach the Gospel and by it bring men to unfeigned obedience to God's law, through Jesus Christ as their mediator. Rom. 8:7, 8; Rom. 8:2-4.

XIII. A Gospel Church is a congregation of baptized believers, associated by a covenant in faith and fellowship in the Gospel; observing the ordinances of Christ, governed by his laws, exercising the gifts, rights and privileges invested in them by his Word. To whom he gave his commission and committed the keeping and



propagation of the Gospel and its ordinances. These gifts and responsibilities cannot be transferred or delegated to any other body or individual. It may co-operate with sister churches, but cannot, by the co-operation, surrender elicitation, combination and control of its enegergies to any. Its energies belong to Christ. Its officers are pastors and deacons, whose duties are dfined in Timothy and Titus. 1 Cor. 1:1, 2; Acts 2:41, 42; 1 Cor. 11:2; Acts 11:22; Acts 13:1-6; Matt. 28:18-20.

XIV. Baptism is immersion in water of a believer in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Its object is to illustrate the burial and resurrection of the dead and our new birth. This immersion is by authority of the church, and at the hands of a properly authorized administrator. Acts 8:36-38; Rom. 6:4; Mark 1:5; Matt. 28:19, 20.

XV. The Lord's Supper commemorates the death of our Savior and is to be observed with bread and wine by the members of the church, preceded by solemn self-examination. Acts 2:41, 42; 1 Cor. 11:26; 1 Cor. 11:28.

XVI. The Lord's Day is the Christian's day of rest and worship, being the first day of the week and the fulfillment of the "year of jubilee." Its observance should be by abstaining from secular labor and recreation, and by devout worship, both private and public, thus preparing for that rest that remaining for the people of God. Hosea 2:11; Col. 2:14; John 20:18; John 20:26; Acts 20:7.

XVII. Civil government is of divine appointment for the good order of human society, and its officers are to be prayed for, honored and obeyed, except only in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only Lord of the conscience, and the Prince of the kings of the earth. Rom. 13:1-7; Matt. 22:21; Acts 5:39; Matt. 22:10.

XVIII. The Righteous and the Wicked are essentially and radically different. Only those who are justified by faith in the Lord Jesus, and sanctified by the Spirit of our God, are truly righteous; while all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are in God's sight wicked and under the curse. This distinction holds both in and after death. Mal. 3:18; Prov. 14:32; Luke 16:19-97; Matt. 25:46.

XIX. The Judgment Day will end the probation of man. The separation on that day will be final. The righteous gathered to reign with Christ; the wicked cast into hell, their final abode. 1 Peter 4:7; Acts 24:15; Matt. 13:49; Rev. 22:11.



alternative  
Sunday p. 10<sup>th</sup>  
Baptism in a cord  
of salvation in the 4<sup>th</sup>  
in order

2<sup>nd</sup> Propagation

Employed -

~~Mark~~ 1-14 -

2 Mark - 15-15-16

2 Acts - 2-38+

2 Gal X 3-26-27

Rom X 6-1-5-17

Answer M.B. M.

Acts. 20 - 20 -

Mark 1 - 16-0

Rom 1 - 16

1 - 6-7

St John 3-

2 Second. 30 Min

1st Peter 1-22-24

2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 1-18-

Math 28 19

Col 3-3

1<sup>st</sup> John - 2-10

Rom 10-11

6-3-4

Acts - 20 - 20

John 20 30, 31

Math 19 - 1-10

Rom - 11-5-7

John 3-14-17

10 1-16

Exodus 29-

Acts X 9-16

Answer M.B. M.