

MINUTES
of the
Forty-Fourth Session
of the
**StateLine Missionary Baptist
Association**

Held with Ravenden Springs Church,
September 6, 7, 8, 1917

W. S. LOONEY, Moderator
JOHN D. KERLEY, Clerk.

Next Session to be Held with New Hope Church No. 2.
(Six miles Northwest of Ravenden Springs,) Begin-
ning Thursday Night Before the Second Sunday in
September 1918.

MINUTES OF THE STATE LINE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

State Line Missionary Baptist Association met with Ravenden Springs church on Thursday night Sept. 6, the annual sermon was preached by Rev. E. T. Lincoln of Maynard, after which the association adjourned to meet at nine o'clock Friday morning.

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION

Met as per adjournment. Meeting opened with singing and prayer led by J. D. Kerley. The moderator and clerk both being present, Bros. Wesley James and J. W. Harvey were chosen reading clerks and the letters from the several churches were read and messengers enrolled as follows:

Antioch—W. S. Looney and A. M. Jackson.

Witts Chapel—John D. Kerley and J. H. Hill.

Bethany—Wesley James.

Ravenden Springs—Birdie Rice, Amos Dixon, Lottie Haas.

New Hope No. 2—W. H. Smith, Sisters Josephine Weaver and Mary S. Hill.

W. S. Looney was elected moderator and John D. Kerley clerk by acclamation.

The following visitors were enrolled: Bro. J. G. Lile of Arkadelphia, and Sister J. L. Burns of Jonesboro.

The moderator appointed the following committees:

Preaching—Messengers from Ravenden Springs.

Publication—Wesley James, E. T. Lincoln.

Destitution—J. W. Harvey, A. M. Jackson.

Obituaries—A. Dixon, Josephine Weaver.

Resolutions—J. G. Lile, Mary S. Hill.

State Missions—E. T. Lincoln, W. H. Smith.

Home Mission—W. H. Smith, Lottie Haas.

Sunday School—J. H. Hill, Mary S. Hill.

Temperance—E. T. Lincoln, J. W. Sconce.

State of the Church—W. B. Merrill, A. M. Jackson.

Orphans' Home—A. Dixon, J. W. Harvey.

Foreign Missions—W. H. Smith, J. W. Sconce.

Christian Education—J. G. Lile, B. M. Rice.

Finance—J. H. Hill, Wesley James.

Woman's Work—Sisters J. L. Burns and Lottie Haas, Bro. J. W. Harvey, B. M. Rice.

Sister J. L. Burns of Jonesboro made a 20 minute talk on woman's work over the state, which was highly appreciated.

The committee on preaching reported that they had chosen Rev. J. G. Lile to preach at eleven o'clock. After five minutes recess J. G. Lile preached a highly appreciated sermon to all present. Adjourned till 1:30.

AFTERNOON SESSION

The moderator called the association to order at 1:30. Song and prayer led by W. H. Smith. The committees were called upon to report.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Publications

We, your committee on publications, would report as follows: Knowing the power of the printing press, we would recommend a more thorough study of the Bible that we might be able to withstand work of the devil. We would recommend that our people take and read some of our state papers such as the Baptist Advance, The Baptist, and the Home and Foreign Mission Journal, and such good books as, Theodocia, Earnest Little Baptist, Church Manual, Church History, and Mabel Clemments. They all can be had at our own publication house at Little Rock. We also recommend our Sunday School literature published at Nashville, Tenn.

Respectfully submitted,
E. T. Lincoln,
Wesley James,
Committee.

Adopted as read.

Destitution

We, your committee on destitution, beg to submit the following report: We wish to say what has been said from time to time, we have great destitution in our bounds. We have had J. W. Harvey since January 1st and he has only in part been able to meet the great demands. So many of our churches have no pastors and think they are not able to support one.

and this makes it even greater. We recommend that every church endeavor to secure a pastor and that a missionary be employed to go to the many places where there is no church. The missionary's report will help us to a better understanding of this work and its needs.

Respectfully submitted,

J. W. Harvey,
A. M. Jackson,
Committee

Adopted as read.

Woman's Work

We, your committee on Woman's Work find no mention made of this subject in the minutes of last year, except in the report on state missions where it gives woman's work as one of the departments of state missions. We find nine churches in State Line association and so far as your committee has been able to find there is only one woman's society and that at Maynard. There was one at Ravenden Springs but it has held no meetings for about two years. We recommend that a woman's society be organized in each church in the association, in order that the women and young people be enlisted in the work. We recommend that the partners assist the women to organize and encourage them in every way they can. We recommend Mrs. J. W. Sconce as superintendent of woman's work in this association and ask that she be elected as such. We recommend that each society have a personal service department, bible study, mission study and tithing bands. We recommend that the women be given two hours at the next meeting of the association to present their work.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Burns,
Mrs. Haas,
Mrs. Rice,

Committee.

Adopted as read.

At this time Sister J. L. Burns of Jonesboro made a highly appreciative talk on woman's work and what it is doing for the kingdom of God.

Orphans' Home

We, your committee on orphans' home would report as follows: We have two orphans' homes in the state, one at Monticello and one at Texarkana, which are looking to us for support. Monticello had about 130 children in it at the last meeting of the state convention. They were required to place as

many as possible in good homes. As required, about 75 have been placed in good homes. There is a heavy debt hanging over the home and the children have to be fed and clothed, therefore we should take collections for both homes as their need demands. We are not informed as to the Texarkana home but feel sure they need help. So let us provide for them as best we can. The Bible says, "Visit the fatherless," as we help them, we help Christ.

Respectfully submitted,

A. Dixon,
W. H. Smith,
Committee.

Adopted as read.

Bro. J. G. Lile made a very interesting talk on the orphans' home at this point. A public offering was taken and \$11.35 was collected for the home. There was motion and second that the report on christian education be read and discussed at 8 o'clock. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 5:00 o'clock to meet at 7:30.

7:30 P. M.

The moderator called the house to order at 7:30. Song and prayer led by Washington Savage, after which the report on Christian Education was read and adopted as read. Report as follows:

Education

We, your committee on Christian Education would report as follows: Without well-equipped Baptist schools all of our Baptist work would suffer and come to a standstill. We look to our Baptist schools for most of our trained workers in pulpit and pew as well as on mission fields. Ninety-five out of every hundred of our foreign missionaries come from Baptist schools. So christian education and its support must be put on the same basis with missions. Arkansas Baptists have two great christian colleges—Ouachita, for boys and girls, at Arkadelphia, C. E. Dicken, D. D., president; Central, for girls, at Conway, J. W. Conger, LL. D., president. Last year Ouachita had 287 students, and Central had 202. These schools have rendered a service to the Baptist cause in Arkansas, the value of which can never be estimated. We now have two mountain schools. One of these is at Maynard, with W. A. Cummings as principal, and the other at Mountain Home, with H. F. Vermillion as principal. The education of preachers is one great object in christian education. The denomination that fails to provide for the education of its preachers will die as a denomination. Last year there was 40 young preachers in Ouachita col-

lege and several in the Mountain Home and Maynard schools. They receive free tuition, and some help on other expenses when it is necessary. The bible department in Ouachita is arranged with special reference to the preachers, but the classes are open to all, and bible is required of all who graduate. This committee hopes that all of our preachers will preach often each year on the needs and benefits of Baptist schools, that every church in the association will make a good offering for our schools and for the education of young preachers this year, and that our people will send their children to our Baptist schools.

J. G. Lile,
Birdie Rice,
Committee.

The discussion was led by Bro. Lile and followed by others. Meeting adjourned until 9 o'clock Saturday morning.

SATURDAY MORNING

The meeting was called to order by the moderator. Song, and prayer led by W. H. Smith.

Sunday School

We, your committee on Sunday schools, beg to submit the following report: We find from the report of the different churches there are but five Sunday schools in our bounds. We are proud of these but sorry that after so much resolving on this matter so little is done. We, as here-to-fore, recommend that all of our churches organize and maintain a Sunday-school.

Respectfully submitted,
J. H. Hill,
Mary S. Hill,
Committee,

Approved as read.

Home Missions

We, your committee on home missions, would recommend, first, that earnest prayer be made for the work of the home mission board and that our pastors be asked to preach at least once during the year on home missions. That this association accept its apportionment for home missions as suggested by our state body and that we apportion this amount among our churches through our executive committee, or a special committee and publish the apportionment.

Respectfully submitted,
W. H. Smith,
Lottie Haas,
Committee.

Adopted as read.

Foreign Missions

Last year was the greatest year in Southern Baptist history of foreign mission achievement. A total of \$961,970.48 was raised which included \$180,000 debt, amount contributed to Judson Centennial and to current support. This is the greatest advance ever made by any denomination in the south in contributions to foreign missions in a single year. If Southern Baptists had raised \$38,092.42 more, they would have reached the round million dollar mark!

J. W. Sconce,
W. H. Smith,
Committee.

State Missions

Your committee on state missions would report as follows: The way for a Baptist church to become a "glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing" is for it to be intensely missionary in doctrine and practice. State missions may be defined as the united effort of Arkansas Baptists to get everybody in Arkansas saved and into Baptist churches and then to get them to give proper support to all enterprises of the kingdom of God, both for Arkansas and all the world. We believe the Great Commission was given to Baptist churches. There is great destitution in all the sections of the state. There are a million lost souls in Arkansas. It is perfectly safe to say that sixteen thousand souls go from Arkansas to hell every year. We can save them if we will. What an opportunity this presents to Arkansas Baptists! They will listen to our preaching. Whenever we send messengers they do listen. And the obligation rests upon the christian people of Arkansas to give them the gospel. No other either can or will do this work. (See catechism for other facts.) Last year the churches cooperating through the state convention put forth state missions thus:

Missionaries and other workers	65
Conversions	3,124
Baptisms	2,281
Additions	3,010
Amount raised for state missions.....	\$25,598

The present year gives promise of being far better than last year. The amount of money that we need to raise for State Missions to put us out of debt at the Convention at Jonesboro, December 5, is at least \$30,000. So your committee urges the following:

- 1 That every pastor get all possible information about

State Missions to his people and endeavor to secure an offering from every church member and every organization in every church.

2 That the pastors and active laymen during the meeting of this association get together and organize themselves and make plans to reach every church in the association for an offering to State Missions before December 1.

3 That the churches of this association do their best to raise at least the amounts asked of them by the Executive Board.

E. T. Lincoln,

H. I. Smith,

Committee.

Adopted as read.

Obituaries

We, your committee on obituaries would report as follows:

We are grateful of the fact that very few have been taken from us by death during the past year. Rev. I. J. Looney and sister Polly Lamb of Witt's Chapel; Bro. S. P. Pratt of Vernon Church; Bro. J. M. Smith of Bethany Church; Sister Parthena Baty of Antioch Church have entered into rest during the past year. We extend our sympathy to the beloved families of our departed brethern and sisters, but we rejoice in our Saviour's words, "He that liveth and believeth in me, shall never die." We know that the departed christians still live and live in a much better state.

A. Dixon,

Josephine Weaver,

Committee.

Adopted as read.

State of the Church

We, your committee on State of Churches beg to submit for the prayerful consideration of every Baptist individual and churches collectively:

That only one-half of our churches are represented. This indicates that our spiritual conditions are at a very low ebb. Five of our churches are pastorless. Only one church reports a mid-week prayer meeting. Brethren, can we afford to go longer at this state. God has wonderfully blest us with good crops, and the messenger of death has only visited three of our churches. We pray that we may awake before we are visited by the chastening rod of God's providence.

Respectfully submitted,

A. M. Jackson,

W. B. Marriott,

Committee.

Adopted as read.

Finance Report

We, your committee on finance beg leave to report from our various churches for clerk fees and minuite funds, as follows:

Witt's Chapel.....	\$4.00
Bethany.....	1.55
Rayenden Springs.....	1.50
New Hope No. 2.....	1.20
Antioch.....	1.25
Vernon.....	1.50
Union.....	1.50
Total.....	<u>\$12.50</u>

and we, as your committee, earnestly pray that each and every church in this association contribute more freely to this cause of our blessed Master.

Wesley James,

J. H. Hill,

Committee.

At this time the clerk was asked to make a report of what the expenses were in getting the minutes printed last year. After the report a public collection was taken, and \$4.70 was collected for this purpose.

Temperance

We, your committee on temperance would report as follows:

We thank God for the progress of our temperance cause in the United States and especially for the bone dry law in our beloved state of Arkansas, and we would recommend that we pray and work for nation-wide bone dry law, and that we vote for men to make laws and enforce laws who are in favor of the same. We thank our sheriff for the way he has enforced the bone-dry law, as well as the others of our county.

Respectfully submitted,

E. T. Lincoln.

Resolutions

Your committee on resolutions submits the following for your adoption:

1. That we deeply appreciate the goodfellowship and brotherly love so manifested in the delegation of this session of our association.

2. That we regret that some of our churches were not represented by messengers, but hope that all of our churches be represented at our next session.

3. That the hospitality of the people of this community has been abundant and cordial and that we sincerely appreciate same and extend our hearty thanks.

J. G. Lille,
Mary S. Hill,
Committee.

By the request of the moderator, - the preaching services were postponed at eleven o'clock and the business of the association gone on with.

Report of Missionary

I, your missionary, beg leave to make the following report:

I have labored 186 days, have visited every church in the association, have helped and assisted in five protracted meetings have preached seventy-six sermons, made thirty-six religious addresses, visited three hundred and seventy-two homes, made two hundred and seventy-two personal appeals to the lost, and indifferent christians. There has been contributed to my support \$184.52. \$109.52 from the various churches and individuals, and \$75.00 from the state board. Have traveled in all, 464 miles.

Respectfully submitted,

J. W. Harvey,
Missionary.

There was motion and second that there be a committee of five appointed to see after the mission work of the association. Motion carried, and the following committee was appointed: W. A. Cummings, W. T. Taylor, J. Q. Pond, John D. Kerley and J. H. Hill.

Ravenden Springs, Ark.

Received of John D. Kerley, clerk of the association, \$11.35, as a public collection for the orphans' home.

J. G. Lille.

Motion now prevailed that we select a place for our next association. It was decided by vote that we meet with New Hope No. 2, northwest of Ravenden Springs. Bro. E. T. Lincoln was chosen to preach the introductory sermon.

A motion made and seconded that in conclusion the association stand adjourned to meet with New Hope Church No. 2, on Thursday night before the second Sunday in Sept. 1918.

Song: "Till We Meet Again." Benediction was pronounced by Bro. J. W. Harvey.

W. S. Looney, Mod.
J. D. Kerley, Clerk.

List of Ordained ministers:

- E. T. Linclon, Maynard, Arkansas.
- J. W. Harvey, " "
- W. A. Cummings, " "
- J. A. Allison, Attica, "
- Tom Allison, Walnut Ridge, "
- J. W. Sconce, Ravenden, Springs "
- J. W. Weaver, Wirth, "

Rules of Decorum

- 1 The Association shall be opened and closed by prayer.
- 2 Every motion made by a member of the Association and seconded shall come under the consideration of the Association, unless withdrawn by the member making it.
- 3 Only one person shall speak at a time, and he shall arise from his seat and address the moderator before proceeding with his remarks.
- 4 The person speaking shall not be interrupted by anyone except the moderator until he has finished his remarks.
- 5 The person speaking shall confine himself strictly to the subject under consideration, and shall in no wise reflect on or make unfriendly remarks about anyone who has preceded him but shall fairly discuss the subject, conveying his ideas as concisely as possible.
- 6 No member of the Association shall absent himself in time of business without permission from the Association.
- 7 No member of this Association shall address another by any other appellation than that of brother.
- 8 The moderator shall not interrupt any member while speaking unless he violates the rules of the association.
- 9 Any member who shall knowingly violate any rule of the association, shall be reprovod by the association in such a manner as a majority of the members may direct.
- 10 The names of the members of the association shall be enrolled and the roll called as often as the association may think proper.

Articles of Faith

- 1 We believe in one true and living God, the Son and Holy Ghost, and these three are one.
- 2 We believe the scriptures of the Old and New Testament are the Word of God and the only true rule of faith and practice.
- 3 We believe that man was made upright, but by a voluntary transgression violated God's law and became a sinner.

4 We believe that by voluntary transgressions of man, sin entered the world, and death by sin; thereby death passed upon all men for that all have sinned.

5 We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God, by the righteousness of Christ imputed upon them.

6 We believe that good works are the fruits of faith and follow after justification.

7 We believe that saints will preserve in grace and not one of them be lost.

8 We believe that Baptism and the sacrament of the Lord's Supper are ordinances of the church, and that they shall be continued until the second coming of Christ.

9 We believe that Baptism by immersion is the only Gospel mode, and true believers the only fit subject for it.

10 We believe that none but legally baptized members have a right to commune at the Lord's table, and that no person has a right to administer that ordinance of the church unless he is legally called and qualified.

11 We believe in revealed religion by the operation of the Spirit, agreeable to the word of God, that Jesus Christ is the Great Head of the church, and the government thereof is with the body.

12 We believe there will be a resurrection from the dead, both of the just and the unjust, and a general judgment, and that happiness of the righteous and the punishment of the wicked will be eternal.

13 We believe that the Lord's day should be set apart for the worship of God, and no work of a wordly nature transacted thereon—that of necessity excepted.

