

MINUTES

OF THE

Twenty-ninth Annual Session

OF

Fourche Valley Missionary Baptist Association

HELD WITH

Casa Baptist Church, October 7 and 8, 1916.

The next session will be held with Bigelow Baptist Church at Bigelow, Perry County, Ark., commencing Saturday before the second Sunday in October, 1917, at 10:00 a. m., the introductory sermon to be preached by Eld. George L. Hays, of Perryville, Ark.

ELD. J. E. STEELEY, Moderator

V. N. REDDITT, Clerk

Proceedings

The Twenty-ninth Annual Session of the Fourche Valley Baptist Association convened with the Casa Baptist church, October 7, 1916, at 10:00 a. m. Devotional exercises were conducted by Eld. W. T. King.

The Moderator, having called the body to order, proceeded in the absence of the Clerk to elect a Clerk pro tem. Eld. J. E. Steeley was elected.

The following churches responded to the call for letters, with messengers present:

Bigelow—Eld. M. Culp and Eld. J. E. Steeley.

Houston—J. A. Lovelace, Eld. H. A. Munn, Iva Harrison, Erline May and Will Harris.

Adona—J. Norton and Hettie Norton.

Perryville—G. E. Smith, John L. Hill.

Mulberry—H. McCabe, J. W. Kiker and S. M. Avery.

Lollie—J. F. Middleton and C. W. Wilson.

Aplin—J. A. Allison, M. D. Rucker and C. A. Black.

Casa—R. S. Williams, C. C. Smith and V. N. Redditt.

On motion and second, the body went into permanent organization and elected Eld. J. E. Steeley, Moderator and V. N. Redditt, Clerk.

At 11:00 o'clock the introductory sermon was preached by Eld. M. Culp. Theme, "The Test of True Discipleship." Text, Luke 14:26, 27-33.

Brethren J. E. Steeley, R. S. Williams, J. Norton and J. L. Hill were elected a committee on Divine services.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION.

Devotional exercises conducted by Eld. Goodnight. Tidings from Russellville Association by Eld. D. B. Moore; Dardanelle Association by Bros. Robbins and E. Baldwin and Caroline Association were responded to by John L. Hill.

A Petitionary Letter was received from Pleasant Grove church and messengers. W. A. Paul seated. Letter from Cherry Hill received and S. T. Tillery seated as messenger.

Committee on Divine Services selected Brother T. M. King to preach at 7:30 p. m.

The following Committees were appointed:

Home Missions—M. Culp, J. A. Lovelace and J. W. Kiker.

Foreign Missions—D. B. Moore, J. F. Middleton and W.

A. Paul.

State Missions—J. L. Hill.

Orphanage—W. S. Goodnight, J. A. Allison, L. P. Redditt.

Religious Literature—R. S. Williams, J. Norton and G.

E. Smith.

Prohibition—O. L. West, Will Harris and M. Culp.

Christian Education—H. A. Munn, H. McCabe and M. D.

Rucker.

Sunday School—C. W. Wilson, C. A. Black, C. C. Smith.

Woman's Work—Mrs. Hettie Norton, Misses E. A. May,

Iva Harrison, and Brother M. Culp.

Nominations—V. N. Redditt, R. M. Prewitt, S. M. Avery.

Finance—R. S. Williams, S. M. Avery, and C. W. Wilson.

Deceased Members—J. A. Lovelace, G. E. Smith, Will

Harris.

Associational Missions—D. B. Moore, J. H. Matthews,

H. A. Munn.

Resolutions—G. E. Smith, S. W. Goodnight, G. W. Us-

sery.

Report of Committee on Home Missions.

The Committee on Home Missions submitted the following report:

The Home Mission Board, located at Atlanta, Ga., is the

agency through which Southern Baptists as a body have the task of preaching the Gospel to the lost and building up the kingdom in the South.

The population served by the Home Board embraces about 36,000,000 people, about 18,000,000 of whom make no profession of religion whatever.

Our Board, last year, maintained about 1,409 missionaries. These report 43,792 baptisms and brought into the churches 71,386 persons. They organized 167 churches and 321 Sunday schools.

This year the Convention has apportioned \$438,750.00 to be raised by the churches in 17 States, which will average about \$18.00 to the church.

We recommend that our churches be encouraged to order and use, free, tracts furnished by the Board. Also, that earnest prayer be made in all churches for this work, and that at least one sermon on Home Missions be preached during the year in each church.

M. CULP,
J. A. LOVELACE,
J. W. KIKER,

Committee.

Very able discussion. Adopted.

Report on Foreign Missions.

The following report on Foreign Missions was read and adopted:

Your committee on Foreign Missions submit the following report:

Foreign Missions is our effort to carry the Gospel into all the world. The harvest for Foreign Missions is ripe, the doors are wide open and our missionaries are meeting with great and glorious success.

That on the foreign field 6,471 converts were baptized and 77 churches were organized. We have today 315 Missionaries on the Foreign Field, and they are crying and praying for our help. A great number of our young men and women have

surrendered to the call to the Foreign Field and the Foreign Mission Board has had to say to these brethren, "Funds all gone, can't send you."

Brethren: Your committee would recommend that, when our regular time comes to pay to Foreign Missions, that every church make an effort to get every member to pay to this great and needy cause.

D. B. MOORE,
J. F. MIDDLETON,
Committee.

Discussed and adopted.

Report on Religious Literature.

The following report on Religious Literature was read and adopted:

We, your committee on Religious Literature, submit the following report:

1. That we recommend a careful study of the Bible, the book on which our faith is built.
2. We recommend the Baptist Advance, our State paper.
3. That we patronize our Book House at Little Rock when in need of religious books.
4. That we advise the use of S. B. C. Literature in all our Sunday schools.

R. S. WILLIAMS,
J. NORTON,
G. E. SMITH,
Committee.

Report on Christian Education.

After splendid discussions, the following report on Christian Education was adopted:

Your committee on Christian Education submits the following:

The Bible is definitely in favor of Christian Education Matt. 28:20; Eph. 4:18; Hosea 4:6. Indeed, every word in God's Book that speaks against ignorance is for Christian

Education. Jesus was a great teacher as well as a great preacher. Christ and his apostles everywhere emphasized the importance of knowledge touching religious work. We as Baptists and followers of Christ and his apostles must believe in and practice Christian Education as thoroughly as we do Missions.

The education of preachers is especially important for Baptists. We will be woefully undone in time if we neglect this fundamental matter. We urge with all possible emphasis that every young preacher in this Association do his best to get a good education. Preachers are given free tuition in all our Baptist schools in the State. At Ouachita College other financial help is given when needed. Arkansas Baptists have two great Baptist Colleges—Ouachita College for boys and girls at Arkadelphia, C. E. Dicken, D. D., President; and Central College, at Conway, for girls, J. W. Conger, LL. D., President. The attendance at Ouachita last year was about 300, and at Central about 200. We also have Mountain Home College, (Mt. School Academy) at Mountain Home, Rev. H. F. Vermillion, President; Maynard Academy, at Maynard, Rev. W. A. Cummings, President. Both of these schools are mountain schools of the Home Mission Board of Atlanta, Ga., for boys and girls, and are doing well.

It is hoped that our Baptist people will patronize our Baptist schools. They are as good as the best. The atmosphere in all these schools is religious and Baptist. The study of the Bible is given a large place in each of them.

Your committee earnestly recommends that all our preachers preach often each year on the needs and benefits of our Baptist schools, and that they urge our folks to send their children to them. We further emphasize the great importance of every church in this Association making a worthy offering to our schools each year. The churches co-operating through the Baptist State Convention are giving about \$20,000.00 this year to Christian Education.

That all money be sent to J. S. Rogers, General Secretary, Little Rock, Ark.

H. A. MUNN,
H. McCABE,

Committee.

Report on State Missions.

The following report on State Missions, after very able discussions, was adopted:

Your committee on State Missions submit the following report:

All New Testament churches find their origin and end in Missions: the ultimate origin of missions to be found in the heart of God; the historical origin of missions is found in the life and death of Christ, and the practical origin and application of missions is entrusted to Baptists or New Testament churches. Missions believed in and practiced is just as much a mark of true Baptists as the restricted Supper of our Lord, or the preservation of the saints.

State Missions, is in many respects, the very heart of all our denominational work. State Missions is the constant friend of Associational Missions the conservator of Home Missions, and the Base of Supplies for Foreign Missions. No church in this Association can afford not to make an offering to State Missions this year. State Missions includes revival meetings, baptizing, reviving and enlisting laggard churches, colportage, helping to build church houses, aiding weak churches in supporting pastors, raising church debts, Sunday School and Baptist Young People's work, and Woman's work.

In 1915 the churches co-operating through the Baptist State Convention did the following State Mission Work:

Missionaries and other workers, 60; Conversions, 2,301; Baptisms, 2,053; Additions, 3,085; amount raised in Arkansas for State Missions, \$18,762; Bible Schools held, 11; Bible Institutes held, 132.

This year our number of employees in State Mission work is 56; the number of conversions up to September 1st

was 2,511; the number of baptisms, 1,802 and number of additions, 2,518.

To put our State Mission work out of debt, the Baptists of the State need to raise, between this and December 6th, \$27,997.12.

Your committee would recommend three things:

1. That our people all up and down the Association pray devoutly for our State Mission cause.
2. That every pastor by sermons, gift and visits, do his utmost in every church for the State Mission debt.
3. That our pastors and active laymen and women organize themselves into committees of two or more and go out to try to get every church in the Association to make an offering to State Missions, and that an organization be completed at this Association.

Earnestly submitted,

J. L. HILL, Chairman.

Association adjourned until 7:00 p. m.

SATURDAY EVENING SESSION.

Devotional exercises were conducted at 7:00 p. m. by Eld. D. B. Moore. Preaching at 7:30 p. m. by Eld. T. M. King; text, Matthew 9:36: He was moved with compassion on them.

Individual collections on State Missions: Subscriptions, \$23.50, paid \$5.00; cash collection, \$6.00.

Association was called to order by Moderator at 8:40 a. m., Sunday, after devotional exercises led by Eld. H. A. Munn. Brother J. S. Wright and Sister Wright were seated as members from Adona church.

Motion and second carried to appoint the Clerk as Treasurer.

Committee on Deceased Members.

Report of committee on Deceased Members read and adopted as follows:

We, your committee on Deceased Members, report as follows:

We find that the following members have passed from labor to rest: Sister Lizzie Hunter, of Casa church; Sisters Elizabeth Barnett, Sarah C. Rusher, and Mariah Caylor, of Bigelow.

Be it resolved that we extend sympathy and condolence to the bereaved families.

That, while we miss their association and counsel, we bow in submission to him who doeth all things according to his wisdom.

J. A. LOVELACE,

G. E. SMITH,

W. A. HARRIS,

Committee.

Report of Committee on Nominations.

Committee on Nominations read the following report, which was adopted:

We, your Committee on Nominations submit the following report:

On Executive Associational Board, M. Culp, Chairman; M. A. Van Dalsem, J. H. Matthews and R. M. Prewett.

M. Culp was also nominated as a member of the State Executive Board for the next ensuing two years.

That the Association meet next year with Bigelow, and that Eld. Geo. L. Hays preach the introductory sermon.

V. N. REDDITT,

S. M. AVERY,

Committee.

Report of Committee on Orphans' Home.

Report on Orphans' Home was read and after very earnest pleadings by many, the following report was adopted:

We, your committee on Orphans' Home, beg leave to submit the following report:

Our Orphans' Home work is founded not on human sympathy alone, but on the supreme authority of the Word of God.

Jesus said, "The poor ye have with you always and you can do them good."

James expresses our duty to the fatherless. He says: "Pure religion before God is to visit the fatherless in their affliction."

Deut. 14:28, 29, "Provide so that these should come and eat."

At our last Convention we passed a resolution requiring the Board to place the children in good homes, and in compliance with this resolution between 75 and 80 children have been placed in good homes.

We have received 14 into the Home since January 1, 1916, there now being between 125 and 130 in the Home.

Our \$17,000 debt is a heavy burden and our brethren of Monticello, who have been under this load so long, are begging for relief. This debt is ours as much as theirs, and we can pay this debt any day, could we only realize this as our debt. We have now in cash and good pledges about \$4,000 of this amount. Our task from now to the Convention is to provide for the other \$13,000 and at the same time provide for the current expenses of these orphans who must eat three times a day as our children.

Your committee therefore recommends

1. That every pastor in this Association presents this matter as God commands.
2. That every Sunday school be requested to continue their regular monthly offerings, for current expenses, and that we now take a collection in cash and pledges to relieve the heavy demands, and that all pledges be paid at an early date and not later than November 20, 1916.

W. S. GOODNIGHT,

J. A. ALLISON,

Committee.

Report of Committee on Finance.

The report of the committee on Finance was read and adopted as follows:

We, your committee on Finance, submit the following:
Amount on hand for Minute money, reported up to present, \$24.10

C. W. WILSON,

S. M. AVERY,

Committee.

SUNDAY MORNING SESSION.

Brother D. B. Moore was selected to preach at 11:00 o'clock. Before preaching, able discussions were made on State Missions and the following agreed to go to churches and take collections for State Missions: Sister J. Norfon, and Brothers M. Culp, H. A. Munn, J. E. Steeley, W. S. Goodnight and W. A. Paul.

After a very gracious sermon and service, Association adjourned until 2:00 p. m.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON SESSION.

Devotional services at 2:00 p. m., led by Eld. J. E. Steeley.

Report of Committee on Associational Missions.

Report of committee on Associational Missions was read and adopted as follows:

We, your committee on Associational Missions, submit the following:

Number days worked, 120; miles traveled, 500; sermons preached, 65; prayer meetings held, 25; Sunday schools organized, 1; churches organized, 1; meetings held, 5; number of converts in meetings, 35; additions to churches: Cherry Hill, 5; Harmony, 5; Pleasant Grove, 10; and Adona, 8; Ladies' Aids organized, 2; B. Y. P. U's organized, 1; collections from churches: Harmony church, \$7.70; Adona, \$1.55; Cherry Hill, \$8.70; Pleasant Grove, \$15.00; Perryville, \$15.00; Houston, \$20.00; Casa, 80 cents; Aplin, \$2.20; public collections, \$2.65; total, \$75.60. For seven months' work at \$15.00 per month, \$105.00; received on field, \$73.60; balance due, \$31.40; expense of Missionary, \$5.60. Total indebtedness, \$37.00.

H. A. MUNN, Missionary.

Sermon at 3:00 p. m. by Eld. E. Baldwin. Theme, "Grace;" text. II Corinthians 12:9.

The Clerk was authorized to write kind letters to corresponding associations.

A letter was received by mail from Liberty church, read and statistics noted.

Report of Committee on Woman's Work.

Report on "Woman's Work" was read and after splendid talks was adopted as follows:

We, your committee on Woman's Work submit the following:

Your committee on Woman's Work find that there are about 250 Women's Missionary Unions, 50 Young Men's Auxiliaries, and 125 Sunbeam Bands. They enlist all ages and classes of boys, girls, and women, in our churches. All of these organizations have monthly missionary meetings with carefully prepared programs. They are taught systematic Bible study and proportionate Giving. Our women are doing a great work and are really the missionary training forces of our churches. The work has grown to such proportions that it has become necessary to have their annual meetings separate from the State Convention, and they now meet in May instead of November.

We believe the motto, "Saved to Serve," rightly applies to women of Arkansas.

We, the committee, recommend that this Association elect a Superintendent for the purpose of enlisting the women in the Association and that churches in this Association co-operate with the Superintendent giving her spare time to this work, and that this Association pay for her stationery and postage.

MRS. HETTIE NORTON,
MISS E. A. MAY,
MISS I. G. HARRISON,

Committee.

Report of Committee on Sunday Schools.

Report of Committee on Sunday Schools was read and adopted.

We, your committee on Sunday Schools, report as follows:

We are glad to report that all of the churches represented at this Association have Sunday schools. Yet much remains to be done to make these schools what they might be, to secure better attendance, more efficient teachers, and a deeper conviction of the importance of this work among the older members of our churches.

C. A. BLACK,

C. W. WILSON,

Committee.

Sister J. Norton was elected as Superintendent of Union for enlisting women in their work.

Report of Committee on Prohibition.

Report of committee on Prohibition was read and adopted as follows:

We, your committee on Prohibition, submit the following: We believe that the use of intoxicating drinks is one of the greatest evils that we as a Christian nation has to deal with. We, as Baptists, recommend State-wide prohibition and respectfully urge our people to vote against Act No. 2.

O. L. WEST,

M. CULP,

Committee.

Committee on Devotional exercises announced Temperance Rally for night service.

Report of Committee on Resolutions.

Committee on Resolutions report as follows, which was adopted.

Resolved, That we tender our heart-felt thanks to the church and pastor at Casa for their hospitality to us during our stay among them.

Be it further resolved, That we thank our Moderator for the impartiality shown in the dispatch of business, that we thank our Clerk for his kind services.

Be it further resolved, That our Clerk supervise the printing and distribution of 300 minutes, and that we pay him \$5.00 for his services.

W. S. GOODNIGHT,

C. C. SMITH,

Committee.

SUNDAY EVENING SESSION.

Great "Temperance Rally" was had at 7:30 p. m., after devotional exercises by the pastor, J. E. Steeley. Much enthusiasm for the defeat of Act No. 2 was manifested.

Association then adjourned to meet with Bigelow Saturday before the second Sunday in October, 1917 at 10:00 a. m.

J. E. STEELEY, Moderator.

V. N. REDDITT, Clerk.

STATISTICAL TABLE OF CHURCHES.

CHURCHES	PASTOR	CLERK	Post Office	Rec. by Baptism	Rec. by Letter	Restored	Dis. by Letter	Died	Excluded	Present Membership
*Antioch										
Aplin	J. E. Steeley	M. D. Rucker	Aplin	2			10			51
Adona	H. A. Munn	J. S. Wright	Adona	5	2	1				16
Casa	J. E. Steely	R. S. Williams	Casa			1	3	1	2	65
Cherry Hill	Geo. L. Hays	Thos. Tillery	Perryville		4					
*Cove Chapel										
Bigelow	M. Culp	Clara Crist	Bigelow	26	10	4	17	3	2	124
Houston	H. A. Munn	Garth Akridge	Houston	14	3		3			169
*Harmony										
*Hawkeston										
*Mt. Moriah										
*Mt. Grove										
Lollie	J. E. Steely	J. H. Matthews	Mayflower	8	6	1			4	41
†Liberty	Thos. H. Green	E. L. Cook	Maumelle				3			18
Pleasant Grove	Geo. L. Hays	W. A. Paul	Perryville	4	6					20
Pleasant View										
Perryville	H. A. Munn	J. L. Hill	Perryville	1	1					55
Mulberry	J. E. Steely	Maude McCabe	Adona	4					2	35

*No representatives †Represented by letter ‡Relation.
 Preachers in the Association are: J. E. Steely, M. Culp, Geo. L. Hays, G. E. Smith, W. S. Goodnight, O. L. West, C. W. Reid, T. L. Green.

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