

**MINUTES OF THE
17TH ANNUAL SESSION OF
Big Creek Missionary**

BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Held with Shady Grove Baptist Church,
Fulton Co., Ark., Sept. 12-14, 1891.

The Next Session to be Held with Liberty Church, Fulton Co.
Ark., on Saturday Before 4th Sunday in Sept. 1892.

OFFICERS:

Eld. J. P. Lovelace, Moderator,.....Oxford, Ark.
Isham A. Lovelace, Clerk,.....Oxford, Ark.

CENTRAL MISSION BOARD:

J. D. Bratcher,.....Bexar, Ark.
Samuel Miller,.....Union, Ark.
John W. Battles,.....Viola, Ark.

**SALEM, ARK:
SALEM INFORMER,**

1891:

MINUTES.

The Big Creek Missionary Baptist Association met in its 17th annual session with Shady Grove Baptist Church, Fulton county, Arkansas, Saturday, Sept. 12, 1891, at 11 o'clock, a. m.

According to the election of last session the introductory sermon was preached by Elder J. P. Lovelace; text, Matt. 24: v14 "And this Gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached in all the world, for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come." He was followed by his alternate Eld. J. E. Cargill; the subject was ably handled and attentively listened to.

Evening Session, 1 o'clock p. m. Association was called to order by the moderator, Eld. J. P. Lovelace, after singing and prayer by Eld. B. L. Chadwick.

Elds. W. H. Bowling and J. E. Cargill were appointed to read letters. Churches were called and letters read; after which the association proceeded to the election of a moderator and clerk. Eld. J. E. Duren and Bro. S. A. Campbell were appointed tellers in said election. The names of the churches were called whose messengers voted for moderator and clerk. Result: Eld. J. P. Lovelace, moderator, and Isham A. Lovelace, clerk.

1. Called for petitionary letters, when Union and Spring River churches being sound in the Missionary Baptist faith, was received and the right hand of fellowship extended to their messengers by the moderator.

2. Called for corresponding messengers from sister Associations, when Daniel Beaver from White River Association and S. A. Campbell, from Rocky Bayou Association, and G. W. Lewey, from Union Association, Missouri; whereupon the Moderator extended these brethren the right hand of fellowship, and welcomed them to seats with us.

3. Visiting Ministers of other associations were invited to seats; Eld. J. E. Duren, Rocky Bayou association accepted.

4. Appointment of committees.

5. Religious exercises.—Messengers of Shady Grove Church.

6. Baptist Literature—Eld. J. R. Cooper and bros. G. W. Gibson and J. W. Grison. Foreign Missions—Elds. H. B. Clinton, B. L. Chadwick and J. T. Hudson.

7. Home Missions—Eld. W. H. Bowling and S. Miller and J. D. Bratcher.

8. Sabbath Schools—Elds. J. E. Cargill, J. C. Haywood and J. B. Hackett.

Finance—E. R. Lucas, A. C. McNair.

10. Christian Education—Elds. W. H. Bowling, J. E. Cargill, H. B. Clinton.

On motion the Association adjourned till Monday morning, 9 o'clock a. m. Prayer by Elder H. B. Clinton.

Preaching—Saturday night by Elds. W. H. Bowling and J. C. Haywood.

Sunday, 11 a. m., preaching by Elds. J. E. Duren and J. P. Lovelace. 2 o'clock p. m. by Elds. J. E. Cargill and T. F. Cargill. Sunday night, by Elds. H. B. Clinton and B. L. Chadwick.

Second Days Session.—Monday, 9 a. m. Sept. 14, association called to order by the moderator, J. P. Lovelace, after singing and prayer by M. S. Bishop.

1. Roll called and absentees marked.

2. Minutes of Saturday read and received.

3. Called for churches not represented on Saturday, when Cross Roads and Little Strawberrys letters was presented, read and messengers names enrolled.

4. Called for petitionary letters; none.

5. Invitation was given to visiting ministers.

6. Called for report of committee on Sabbath Schools which was received and after remarks by several members, was adopted.

7. Committee on Finance granted further time.

8. Committee on Baptist Literature, granted further time.

9. Called report on Home Missions, which was received, and after remarks by the brethren, was adopted. (appendix B)

10. Central Mission Board appointed vis: J D Bratcher, Samuel Miller, J W Battles.

11. Motion that the Central Mission Board employ a missionary to travel in the bounds of this association, carried.

12. A collection was taken up amounting to \$46 70 in cash and pledges for associational missions.

13. Called for report of committee on finance; report adopted. (See appendix C.

14. Called for report of committee on Baptist literature, which was received and adopted. See appendix D.

15. Called for the report of the committee on Foreign Missions which was received and after remarks by Eld W H Bowling, was adopted. See appendix E.

16. Called for report of committee on Christian education, which was received, and after remarks by J P Lovelace, E R Lucas, W H Bowling was adopted. See appendix F.

Adjourned to meet at 1 p. m.

Evening Session.—After singing the association was called to order by the moderator.

17. Called for report of Central Mission Board, which was received and adopted. See appendix G.

18. Called for report of Missionary, which was received and adopted. See appendix H.

19. Arranged correspondence as follows: White River association, J W Grisso, Eld J E Cargill, E R Lucas, Jas.

Herron, R E Richardson, Rocky Bayou association, G W Gibson, Eld J P Lovelace, J G Bridges, Eld J R Cooper. Union association, Eld J O Haywood, W R Cash, M S Bishop. Spring River association, G B McKaughan, J B Hackette, John Smith. Eld W H Bowling was elected as delegate to the State Baptist Convention.

20. Liberty was selected as the place for the next meeting of the association.

21. On motion the time of meeting was changed from second to the fourth Saturday in September.

22. Elder J R Cooper was to preach the Introductory sermon, with Eld B L Chadwick, as alternate.

23. On motion it was agreed upon to have a minister's and member's meeting; Little Strawberry Church selected as the place of said meeting, to commence on Friday at 11 o'clock, a. m. before the 5th Sunday in Dec. 1891.

24. Eld J P Lovelace was elected to preach the Introductory Sermon; Eld N T Chadwick, as alternate.

25. Motion that the clerk superintend the printing of these minutes, and that he have 300 copies printed, and have for his services the overplus of the minute fund after paying for the printing. Carried.

26. Motion that we tender our thanks to Shady Grove church and community for kind hospitalities during the setting of this association; carried.

27. Adjourned to meet with Liberty Church, Fulton county, Arkansas, on Saturday 11 o'clock, a. m., before the 4th Sunday in September, 1892. Closing prayer by Eld J E Duren. While singing, the messengers took the parting hand.

Eld. J. P. Lovelace, Moderator.

Isham A. Lovelace, clerk.

Declaration of Faith.

1. We believe the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired, and is a perfect treasure of heavenly instruction; that it has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth without any mixture of error for its matter; that it reveals the principles by which God will judge us, and therefore is, and shall remain to the end of the world; the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds and opinions should be tried.

2. We believe that there is one, and only one, living and true God, an infinite and intelligent Spirit, whose name is Jehovah, the Maker and Supreme Ruler of Heaven and earth; inexpressively glorious in holiness, and worthy of all possible honor, confidence and love; that in the unity of the Godhead, three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; equal in every divine perfection, and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.

3. We believe that man was created in holiness, under the law of his maker; but by voluntary transgression fell from that holy and happy state, in consequence of which, all mankind are now sinners; not by constraint but choice; being by nature utterly void of that holiness required by the law of God, positively inclined to evil and therefore under just condemnation to eternal ruin; without defense or excuse.

4. We believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace through the mediatorial offices of the Son of God, who by the appointment of the Father, freely took upon him our nature yet without sin—honored the divine law by his personal obedience, and by his death, made a full atonement for our sins—that having risen from the dead. He is now enthroned in Heaven, and uniting his in wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfections. He is every way qualified to be an all-Sufficient Savior.

5. We believe that the great gospel blessing which Christ secures to such as believe in Him, is justification—that justification includes the pardon of sin, and the promise of eternal life on principles of righteousness; that it is bestowed not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through faith in the Redeemer's blood; by virtue of which faith His perfect righteousness is freely imputed to us of God; that brings us into a state of most blessed peace and favor with God, and secures every other blessing for time and eternity.

6. We believe that the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the gospel; that it is the immediate duty of all to accept them by a cordial, penitent and obedient faith; and that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth but his own determined depravity and voluntary rejection of the gospel, which rejection involves him in an aggravated condemnation.

7. We believe that in order to be saved sinners must be regenerated or born again—that regeneration consists in giving a holy disposition to the mind that it effected in a manner above our comprehension by the power of the Holy Spirit, in connection with the divine truth, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the gospel, and that its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance, faith and newness of life.

8. We believe that repentance and faith are sacred duties and inseparable graces, wrought in our souls by the regenerating Spirit of God; whereby being deeply convinced of our guilt, danger and helplessness, and of the way of salvation by Christ, we turn to God with unfeigned contrition, confession and supplication for mercy, at the same time heartily receiving the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ as our Prophet, Priest and King, and relying on him alone as the only and all-sufficient Savior.

9. We believe that election is the eternal purpose of God according to which He graciously regenerates, sanctifies and saves sinners, that being perfectly consistent with the free agency of man, it

comprehends all the means in connection with the end, that it is a most glorious display of God's sovereign goodness being perfectly free, wise, holy and unchangeable; that it utterly excludes boasting and promotes humility, love, prayer, praise, trust in God and active imitation of his free mercy; that it encourages the use of means in the highest degree; that it may be ascertained by its effects in all who truly believe the gospel; that it is the foundation of Christian assurance and that to ascertain it with regard to ourselves demands and deserves the utmost diligence.

10. We believe that Sanctification is the process by which, according to the will of God, we are made partakers of his holiness; that it is a progressive work; that it is begun in regeneration; and that it is carried on in the hearts of believers by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, the sealer and comforter, in the continual use of the appointed means—especially the word of God, self-examination, self-denial, watchfulness and prayer.

11. We believe that such only are true believers as endure to the end; that their preserving attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial professors—that a special Providence watches over their welfare and they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

12. We believe that the law of God is the eternal and unchangeable rule of His moral government—and it is holy, just and good, and that the inability which Scriptures ascribe to fallen men to fulfill precepts, arises entirely from their love of sin—to deliver them from which, and to restore them through a mediator to unfeigned obedience to the holy law, is one great end of the gospel and the means of grace connected with the establishment of the visible church.

13. We believe that a visible church of Christ is a congregation of baptised believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel; observing the ordinance of Christ: governed by His laws; and exercising the gifts and privileges invested in them by His word—that its only scriptural officers are bishops or pastors and deacons whose qualification and claims and duties are

defined in the Epistles of Timothy and Titus.

14. We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion in water of a believer into the name of the Father Son and Holy Spirit, to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem our faith in the crucified, buried and risen Savior with its effect, in our death to sin and resurrection to a new life—that it is a pre-request to the privileges of a church relation and to the Lord's supper—in which the members of the church by the sacred use of bread and wine, are to commemorate together the dying love of Christ—preceded always by solemn self-examination.

15. We believe that the first day of the week is the Lord's day or Christian Sabbath, and it is to be kept sacred to religious purpose by abstaining from all secular labor and sinful recreation, by the devout observance of all the means of grace, both of private and public, and by preparation for that rest that remaineth for the people of God.

16. We believe that the Civil Government is divine appointment, for the interest and good order of human society; and that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored and obeyed, except in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus, who is the only Lord of the conscience and the Prince of Kings of the earth.

17. We believe that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; that such only as through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and sanctified by the spirit of our God, are truly righteous in his esteem; while all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are in his sight wicked and under curse; and this distinction holds among men both in and after death.

18. We believe that the end of the world is approaching; that at the last day Christ shall descend from Heaven and raise the dead from the grave to final retribution; that a solemn separation will then take place; that the wicked will be judged to endless punishment, and the righteous to endless joy; and that this judgment will fix forever the final state of men in Heaven or hell, on principles of righteousness.

APPENDIX A.—We your committee on Sabbath Schools beg leave to submit the following: We think the training of the mind of the child in the truths of the Bible is very necessary in bringing them to Christ. Therefore we recommend that each Church in Big Creek Association organize Sabbath schools, and that we recommend the Old and New Scriptures, and also Baptist Sabbath schools helps in this great work.

Elds. J. C. Haywood, J. E. Cargill, and Jas. B. Hackett, committee.

APPENDIX B.—Dear brethren your committee on Home Mission would respectfully make our report as follows, knowing as we do that there is a great destitution in our bounds. We recommend that the moderator appoint one member in each church to constitute a home mission board and it shall be their duty to labor with their respective churches to raise means to support a missionary, and the moderator appoint three to constitute the central board. And if the association prefers, it can elect and employ a missionary, and in case it does not, it shall be the duty of the central board to employ one at once; and the home mission board is to confer with the central board and report amount collected and turn over to the central board said amount by the first of March, 1892. And that each male member in this association be requested to pay at least one dollar and the sisters do at least something for the support of the home mission cause. And it shall be the duty of the central board to pay Elder W. H. Bowling the amount due him for work done this year. And we earnestly request that a strong effort be put forth at once while there is something in the hands of the brethren, and try to secure a sufficient sum to keep a missionary in the field for all the year. We earnestly ask every church and each member of the different churches to give their hearty co-operation in this grand work; and if all will do this our hearts will be made glad when we hear one year from now the report what the Lord has done for the people in the bounds of Big Creek association. Respectfully submitted.

J. D. Bratcher, cham.

APPENDIX C.—We your committee on Finance, the amount received from the churches for minute fund, \$15.10. Respectfully submitted.

E. R. Lucas, A. C. McNairn, committee.

APPENDIX D.—We your committee on Baptist Literature would respectfully submit the following: The Holy Bible being the inestimable gift of God to man as a rule and guide to his faith and practice, we would earnestly recommend to the brotherhood its prayerful study. We would recommend that the brethren read our state paper, the Arkansas Baptist and such other Baptist literature as is in their reach.

G. W. Gibson, J. W. Grisso, Eld. J. R. Cooper, committee.

APPENDIX E.—We your committee on Foreign missions submit the following: In our foreign mission Journal we learn that there are more men and women needed to fill the stations in foreign fields, and we cannot send the needed help without more means. We therefore recommend that each church in our bounds take up a collection at their regular meeting in December 1891, and forward the same to our foreign mission board, and report the amount to our next association.

Eld. H. B. Clinton, chairman.

APPENDIX F.—We your committee on christian education beg leave to submit the following: Whereas the cause of christian education is now universally recognized by Baptists as being of paramount importance in uplifting the masses to a higher plane of christian civilization.

Whereas our public schools in many places are largely brought under infidels and worldly sentiments. We would therefore recommend that our association would rally to the support of the Mt. Home and Ouchita Baptist Colleges believing it to be our duty to educate our children in our own schools when it can be done.

Eld. H. B. Clinton, chairman.

APPENDIX G.—Dear brethren the Home mission board, appointed at your last association, do make the following report: 1st. Employed Eld. W. H. Bowling, as missionary, at one dollar and a half per day, to preach and work in the eastern bounds of the association, for which service we have paid him thirty-five dollars and 95 cents. Ballance due him for his service as missionary, forty-six dollars and 55 cents.

J. D. Bratcher, chairman.

APPENDIX H.—I, your missionary, that was employed by your board to travel in the eastern part of Big Creek Association the past year, do report as follows: Miles traveled 555; Sermons preached 62; exhortation, 15; organized one church; conversion, 20; baptisms, 19; received by letter 4; days work 55; received for my service, \$35.95; ballance due \$46.55. Respectfully submitted.

Eld. W. H. Bowling, Missionary.

The following named brethren were appointed agents to collect funds for associational missions and co-operate with the central mission board, viz:

Mt. Zion, J. D. Cochran; Cross Roads, J. H. Chadwick; Shady Grove, S. Oliver; Liberty, B. L. Chadwick; New Prospect, A. C. McNairn; Pleasant Grove, C. L. Foust; Viola, J. E. Cargill; Enterprize, J. W. Grisso; Little Strawberry, Jno. Chadwick; Liberty Hill, Isham A. Lovelace; Oak Grove D. McElmurry; Mt. Pleasant, N. Arnold; Macedonia, J. H. Copeland; Bethlehem, S. J. Wilson; Shiloh, Wm. Mize; Pleasant Ridge, J. T. Hudson; Spring River, G B McKanghan; Union, W R Cash.

Churches.	Address.	Pastors.	Clerks.	Am't, p'd Pastor	Days of meeting	Rec'd by Letter	By Messenger's Report	Restored	Discontinued	Home mission	Foreign mission	Minute Fund
Mt Zion	Union,	S W Cochran	S W Cochran	\$75	3 7 4	...	3 3 3	95	\$10 52	\$0		
Shady Grove	Whensing	J R Cooper	J K. Battles		4 1 2	...	2 1 1	91		1.32		
Liberty	Viola	J P Lovelace	H B Lucas		1	...	1 1	55		75		
Oak Grove	Viola	J R Cooper	C G Fargerson	\$15	2	...	3 1	25	1.50	1.00		
Liberty Hill	Oxford	W M Duren	I A Lovelace		1 7 1	...	3 3 3	74	2.00	1.00		
New Prospect	Violet Hill	J H Soden	A C McNairn		3 1 1	...	2 3 1	20		1.00		
Pleasant Grove	Ten Mile	J C Haywood	R W Holloway	\$11	2 1 3	...	4	32		95		
Viola	Viola	J E Cargill	Z T Carrill	\$20	4	...	1 2	25	7.10	95		
Enterprise	Viadette	T F Cargill	C A Webb		3 1	...	1	20	1.35	1.00		
Macedonia	Byron	N T Chadwick	W W Humphries		4 8	...	3 1 4	45		1.00		
Mt Pleasant	Afton	W H Bowling	J B Hackette	\$1.95	2	...	1 2	19		95		
Bethlehem	Salem	do do	E J Satterfield			...		4				
Shiloh	Elizabeth	T F Cargill	W B Hodges	\$22	2 8	...	1 4 1	42		35		
Pleasant Ridge,	Wild Cherry,	W H Bowling,	J A Shelton		2 4	...	3 2 1 1	37		90		
Union	Mam. Spring	G M Putman	L Evans			...		13		1.00		
Spring River	Mam. Spring	W H Bowling	J B Hackette		4 11	...	1 1	20	3.00	55		
Cross Roads	Union	H B Clinton	C B Chadwick		4 11	...		45		95		
Little Strawberry	Salem	J P Lovelace	J T Porterfield		2 4 2	...	2 4	40		90		
Total....				95	\$3 25	4 9	21 29 8 7 12	24.55	15.10			

Order of Business.

1. Call the roll.
2. Reading the minutes of Saturday.
3. Renew the call for unrepresented churches.
4. Renew the invitation for churches bearing petitionary letters.
5. Renew invitation to visiting ministers
6. Renew invitation to corresponding messengers.
7. Call for report of Committee on Sabbath Schools.
8. Call for report of committee on Finance.
9. Call for report of committee on Baptist Literature.
10. Call for report of committee on Home Missions.
11. Call for report of committee on Foreign Mission.
12. Call for report of committee on Christian Education.
13. Call for report of Missionary board
14. Appoint corresponding messengers to sister Associations.
15. Select a place for holding next Association.
16. Select a brother to preach the Introductory Sermon.
17. Miscellaneous business.

Names of churches and messengers: Mt Zion—W H Bowling, Sam Miller, G W Gibson and G Bridges; Shady Grove—J R Cooper, R E Richardson H Holt, S Oliver; Liberty—B L Chadwick, N T Chadwick, J W Battles, E R Lucas; Oak Grove—W D Claxon D McElmurry, John McCandlis; Liberty Hill—H B Clinton, J P Lovelace, I A Lovelace; New Prospect—C McNairn, Wm Floyd; Pleasant Grove—J C Haywood, W A Holloway, C I Foust; Viola—J E Cargill; Enterprise—J W Grisso, Jas Herron; Macedonia—Wm Tally, J H Copeland, W W Humphries; Mt Pleasant—J H Hackette, Newton Arnold, J B Hackette; Bethlehem—S J Wilson; Pleasant Ridge—J T Hudson; Shiloh—W A Mize; Union—M S Bishop, W R Cash; Spring River—G B McKanahan; Cross Roads—J H Chadwick, L White; Little Strawberry—Jno Chadwick.



Constitution.

Art. 1. This Association shall be known by name of the "Big Creek Missionary Baptist Association."

Art. 2. The members composing the annual meetings of the Association shall consist of the messengers sent by the Churches.

Art. 3. The messengers sent by the churches to the annual meetings, shall not exceed 4 from each church.

Art. 4. The Association shall meet annually, at such time and place as have previously appointed.

Art. 5. The officers of this Association shall consist of a Moderator, Clerk, and Treasurer, who shall be chosen by a majority of the Messengers, annually at the annual meeting of the body.

Art. 6. This Association shall have no power to control or regulate the internal affairs or discipline of any church, but it may adopt or recommend all such measures as shall be considered best calculated to produce the harmony and prosperity of the churches, and to advance the Redeemer's Kingdom, and advise and consult upon matters as the churches may at any time present for their consideration and advice. It may receive churches in this Association or dismiss churches from the body, inquire into the state of Religion on its bounds, and suggest measures for its advancement, and be a common bond of Union among the churches, but shall not exercise any legislative power over the churches.

Art. 7. This constitution may be amended at any regular meeting by a vote of two-thirds of the members present, provided notice has been given at a previous meeting.

Rules of Decorum.

1. The Association shall commence with Religious exercises and a sermon from some preacher, who shall have been previously appointed, unless the Association shall otherwise direct.

2. The moderator of the last session shall preside, and the former clerk shall act (provided they attend)

until the letters from the churches connected with the body shall have been read and a moderator and clerk appointed.

3. It shall be the duty of the moderator to preside over the meetings during its session, and appoint committees (unless the Association shall otherwise direct) preserve order, reprove improprieties (except an appeal is made to the meeting by two members. He shall have a right to speak on all subjects calling a member to the chair, and examine and correct the minutes if necessary.

4. The Clerk shall keep a correct copy of the proceedings of the meeting, read the letters and documents, and may call any member to assist him at the close of the meeting. He shall take charge of the papers and documents, unless otherwise directed.

5. The Churches shall designate their messengers, and report their condition by letter.

6. Preachers in good standing in other Baptist churches or associations with whom we are in fellowship, when attending our annual meetings, shall be invited to seats as correspondents, and these meetings shall always be opened and closed with prayer.

7. Every member may speak twice on one subject in debate before the meeting, but no more without leave, and when speaking stand and address the Moderator, and use decorous and christian language; and no member shall absent himself from the association during the session without leave; and any person who shall violate these Rules or Constitution shall be reprov'd as the association shall think proper.

8. These rules may be amended by a majority of the members present at any regular meeting.

9. The churches shall contribute funds for the ordinary expenses of the body, such as printing the minutes and paying the traveling expenses of such members as the association may send to other bodies.

10. A public collection shall be taken up at each session, and applied to such benevolent purposes as the association may direct.

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The Laboring Man's Advocate for
Justice, Equity and Right.
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