

MINUTES OF THE  
TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL SESSION  
OF THE

**Benton County Baptist Association**

HELD WITH THE

**Baptist Church at Siloam Springs,  
Ark., August 30 to September 1,  
1907. ¶ Next Session to be held  
with the Baptist Church at Gentry,  
Ark., Beginning on Friday before  
the first Sunday in October, 1908.**

OFFICERS

REV. L. TOMME, Moderator  
J. S. HEROD, Clerk

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## PROCEEDINGS

The Benton County Baptist Association met with the church at Siloam Springs on Aug. 30, 1907. Elder W. L. A. Stranburg conducted the devotional service.

Moderator Elder L. Tomme called the meeting to order and appointed Elder J. F. Little and Elder I. C. Underwood as reading clerks.

Elder J. S. Herod was elected clerk pro tem.

Nine church letters were received.

Messengers were enrolled as follows:

Bentonville, pastor, I. C. Underwood; W. W. Thomson, clerk, E. E. Bagwell, Sunday school superintendent; Miss Laura Harris, Sunday school secretary; Mrs. William Rochald, president's aid society; Mrs. Felix Lindsey, secretary M. W. U.

Garfield, Elder J. S. Herod, George Posey, Mrs. Clara Haswell.

Siloam Springs, pastor, Elder L. Tomme, C. G. Phillips, Mrs. Joseph Smith, Mrs. A. J. Estes, R. R. McKeehan.

Twelve Corners, L. W. Buttry, J. W. Harris, W. L. Cardin, Parker McLaren.

Logan, A. Twiggs, Mrs. Jones.

Gentry, Elder W. L. A. Stranburg, J. B. Whiteside, Tom Chastain, Sister Stranburg, Lily Stafford.

Decatur, J. H. Buckner, J. A. Scoggins, T. H. Perkins.

On motion, messengers without letters, with letters to follow, were seated in the body.

Motion prevailed that Brother C. P. Church, a visiting brother, be seated in counsel in the body.

Permanent organization followed. Elder L. Tomme was elected moderator for the third term and J. S. Herod, clerk.

On motion, the regular order of business was suspended for thirty minutes, and the time given to the election of officers for the Sunday School Convention. Elder C. P. Dean was elected president of the Sunday School Convention for the ensuing associational year, and Bro. W. L. A. Stranburg, secretary-treasurer.

Elders I. C. Underwood, J. F. Little and C. P. Church were appointed Executive Committee.

After announcements the body adjourned to meet at 2:00 p. m.

#### ORDER OF BUSINESS.

9:30 Devotional service.

10:00 Reading letters and enrollment of messengers. Organization, election of officers and appointment of committees.

10:45 Adjournment.

#### AFTERNOON SESSION.

2:00 Devotional service.

2:30 Announcement of committees.

2:45 Miscellaneous business.

Adjournment at pleasure.

8:00 Introductory sermon.

9:30 Devotional service.

10:00 Reports of committees:

A Associational Missions.

B State Missions.

C Home Missions.

D Foreign Missions.

E Sunday Schools and Colportage.

F Education.

G Religious Literature.

H Orphans' Home.

I Temperance.

J Obituaries.

K Finance.

L Resolutions.

M W. M. U.

N B. Y. P. U.

O Nominations.

P Sabbath Observance and Law Enforcement.

#### Afternoon Session.

Devotional service conducted by Elder S. L. Holloway.

The Association was called to order by the Moderator.

Committee on religious services was appointed, consisting of Bro. J.B. Whiteside and pastor and officers of Siloam Springs church.

Motion prevailed to change the order of business so that the announcement of committees comes immediately after the permanent organization.

On motion, Bro. S. L. Holloway was seated in the associational body.

A motion that the clerk be instructed to have three hundred copies of the minutes printed, and that he be allowed \$10 for his services, was adopted.

The following committees were appointed:

Associational Missions—Elder J. B. Gooch and **Jake Harris.**

State Missions—Elder **J. F. Little and W. L. Cardin.**

Home Missions—C. P. Dean and **Jim Campbell.**

Foreign Missions—Elder **W. L. A. Stranburg and Parker McLaren.**

Sunday School and Colportage—Elder **S. L. Holloway and Jess Evans.**

Education—Elder **I. C. Underwood.**

Religious Literature—Elder **W. D. Joyner and A. Twiggs.**

Orphan's Home—Elder **J. F. Little.**

Temperance—Elders **I. C. Underwood and E. G. Fulkrod.**

Obituaries—Elder **C. P. Church and Tom Chastain.**

Finance—**J. B. Whiteside and George Posey.**

Resolutions—Elders **S. L. Holloway and J. B. Gooch.**

W. M. U.—**Sisters Stranburg, Fulkrod and Stafford.**

B. Y. P. U.—**W. L. A. Stranburg, E. G. Fulkrod.**

Nominations—Elders **C. P. Dean, J. F. Little and W. L. Cardin.**

Sabbath Observance and Law Enforcement—**C. G. Phillips.**

While waiting for reports of committees, Elder **I. C. Underwood**, recently called to the pastorate of Bentonville church, was called to the floor and made a very pleasant and profitable talk, giving a short history of his life, conversion, call to the ministry, etc.

Committee on Nominations reported as follows:

We, your committee on Nominations, beg leave to submit the following report:—On associational board, Elder **L. Tomme, J. S. Herod, F. Z. Meeks, I. C. Underwood, W. L. Stranburg.** To preach the annual sermon, Elder **I. C. Underwood**; alternate, **L. Tomme.** That the Association meet with the Gentry church on Friday before the first Sunday in October, 1908, at 9:30 a. m. That

Bro. J. B. Gooch represent us in the Southern Baptist Convention.  
—C. P. Dean, J. F. Little, W. L. Cardin.

Report on Associational Missions was read, discussed by Bros. Little, Tomme, Gooch and others, and, on motion, was tabled till 10:00 a. m. Saturday.

Adjourned to meet at 7:30.

### Evening Session.

Devotional services led by Elder L. Tomme.

Annual sermon was preached by Elder S. L. Holloway, from Heb. 12:24.

Adjourned to meet at 9:00 Saturday.

### Saturday Morning Session.

At 9:00 devotional service was led by E. G. Fulkrod.

The Association was called to order by acting moderator, C. P. Dean.

Minutes of Friday's meeting were read and approved.

The following report on Associational Missions was read and adopted:

#### ASSOCIATIONAL MISSIONS.

We, your committee on Associational Missions, beg to report the following:

In view of the fact that we occupy one of the most important fields in the southwest, a field in which destitution is found almost on every hand, we not only think it expedient, but imperative, that we do everything in our power, as an Association, to preach the gospel in every place where we can. We recommend, therefore, that you continue the missionary on the field, and that you put on a colporter also.—J. B. Gooch, J. W. Harris.

A collection was taken, which amounted to \$50.50, to pay a deficit in last year's work.

Report of the committee on Foreign Missions was read.

#### FOREIGN MISSIONS.

The past year has been, in some respects, the most prosperous our foreign board has ever had. The largest amount ever given by the churches of the Southern Baptist Convention to this work has been contributed this year. Missionary work has grown in foreign fields until it is impossible to appreciate the magnitude of its re-

Discussed by Bros. Underwood, Little, Holloway and Stranburg and adopted.

Committee on B. Y. P. U. reported as follows, and was adopted:

#### B. Y. P. U.

As we see it, a B. Y. P. U. is not an appendage or a prop to a church. New Testament churches are founded in the eternal decree, or purpose of Almighty God, and as such will stand when all organizations having a human head or founder shall have passed away. As we see it, a B. Y. P. U. is a church at work with its young people. It is the church training young hearts to love Jesus more, and young hearts to be more skilled in the great work of bringing a lost world back to God.

The demand of the hour is for men and women grounded in the faith, filled and inspired with a zeal for missions and a consecration of what they are and have to the God whose they are and whom they serve. This movement is an effort to meet this demand. A devout and systematic study of God's precious word is one of the special needs of the hour. To this end we recommend and urge upon every church and pastor in our Association to give this young people's movement a fair and honest trial. Do this and we are very much mistaken if a brighter day will not dawn upon our churches.—W. L. A. Stranburg.

Report on Orphans' Home was read, discussed by Bro. Little and others and adopted.

#### ORPHANS' HOME.

We find that the home has suffered last year on the account of the illness of Brother Gardner, who was forced to give up the work. After which Bro. O. T. Finch came on the field with his heart on fire with zeal for the home and did a great work, but he too soon broke down and was compelled to quit also. Now we have Brother Turner, one of God's good men. Shall we stand by him while he undertakes to feed and clothe the seventy-two homeless children? Or will we stand and see another good man break down under the load? Now let us get under the burden with Bro. Turner, and make his heart glad by helping him. We recommend that a cash collection be taken here and now for the home.—J. F. Little.

sulta. Figures tabulating the results give the idea of bigness, but the real facts are not readily comprehended. Besides the actual conversions upon the fields, the civilizing and Christianizing influence of our missionaries and the power of the gospel are changing the life, customs and laws of nations. Quietly, but powerfully, the mission work has a large part in changing the affairs and conditions of the nations.

As we see it the world is gradually, but surely, losing itself in the history and work of the kingdom of Jesus Christ. The sound of the builders today will be the shouts of the victors tomorrow. To this end we recommend to our churches, pastors and ladies aid societies: First, that special prayer be offered for our foreign mission work; second, that we subscribe, pay for and read the foreign mission journal; third, that we more largely contribute of our means to our foreign mission work than we have ever given before.—W. L. A. Stranburg, Parker McLaren.

Discussed by Bros. Underwood, Stranburg, Holloway and others and adopted.

The committee on Christian Education reported as follows:

#### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION.

The purpose of education is to give development and culture to the mind. Christian education gives culture to the mind and the spirit. It develops the whole man. The Baptist denomination of Arkansas has a well formulated plan of academies and colleges, which give intellectual and moral training from beginning to a full collegiate education.

The academy at Bentonville should be the pride of all North Arkansas. She is your lovely daughter, who has had a phenomenal growth the last three years. The academy had a total enrollment the last year of 177. The student body has outgrown the dormitory. Bids are now being received for a second dormitory. This report recommends, not in any formal way, but with every drop of warm blood that courses through our veins, that our pastors and churches make the matter of Christian education in our midst a subject of earnest prayer for God's guidance and blessing upon our educators, that He will make us loyal supporters in sending students to our schools and that God will give us men of liberal contribution to carry forward the work of building.—I. C. Underwood.

A collection was taken, and \$10.16 was raised for the home. After announcements adjourned till 2:00.

### Afternoon Session.

Devotional service was led by Bro. J. B. Gooch.

The Association was called to order by the moderator.

The report of the committee on Temperance was read and adopted.

### TEMPERANCE.

We, your committee on Temperance, ask to report as follows:— Seeing that the use of intoxicating liquor is ruining the lives of so many, and destroying the peace and happiness of homes, causing sorrow everywhere, we pronounce it a grievous evil, and do pledge ourselves to do all we can to put down the manufacture and sale of the same as a beverage. Furthermore, we ask all Christian voters to join us in the support of the fight against the manufacture and sale of intoxicants as a beverage.—I. C. Underwood, E. G. Fulkröd.

The committee on Sabbath Observance and Law Enforcement reported as follows:

### SABBATH OBSERVANCE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT.

I hereby recommend that all Baptists of the Benton County Association that they keep the Sabbath holy unto the Lord; that they teach their children so to do; that Sunday is not a day to visit and for play, but that they should keep it holy. I also recommend that we use our influence in the enforcement of all laws that are for the building up of Christ's kingdom on earth; that our daily life be such as our Lord would approve.—C. G. Phillips.

Executive Board of Benton County Association made the following report, which was adopted:

### EXECUTIVE BOARD.

We, the Executive Board, have the following report to make:— At the Association a year ago, we re-employed our former missionary, Bro. C. P. Dean, on a salary of \$50 per month. We received \$100 from the state board, and \$100 in books from the American Book Publication Society, for which we hereby publicly express our thanks. Bro. Dean served us faithfully for three months, at which time he resigned to accept work as district missionary under the state board. Bro. J. B. Gooch was then elected to take his

place, on the same salary, and receiving the same help. Our missionaries have traveled 1200 miles, sold and given away 91 Bibles and Testaments.

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| Books sold (all kinds).....  | 258      |
| Sermons preached.....  | 167      |
| Addresses made .....   | 8        |
| Families visited .....   | 300      |
| Tracts distributed...  | 1300     |
| Baptisms.....  | 5        |
| Conversions .....  | 11       |
| Total value of books sold.....   | \$180.50 |
| Total value in money raised on field, and commis-<br>sion on sale of books ..... | 257.05   |

Missionaries paid in full to date.

We recommend that the work be continued. Report adopted.

—J. F. Little.

Committee on State Missions reported as follows:

#### STATE MISSIONS.

We, your committee on State Missions, beg leave to make the following report:—We find the matter of state missions in Arkansas fast taking its rightful place, at the front, in the Southern Baptist Convention. We have made rapid strides upward, on all lines, in our Master's work. Home and foreign missions have a larger income in gifts, and we have more missionaries on the field doing better work than ever before. God has gloriously blessed their labors this year. Last year we increased the work 33 1-3 per cent, and owed \$15,000 at the time the board met. This year the work was laid out on the basis of 40 per cent increase over last year. We must receive \$20,000 if we come up to the convention out of debt. The work was laid out last year on a basis of \$25,000, and this year on a basis of \$35,000. We recommend that state missions have the right of way until the convention.—J. F. Little.

Report was adopted.

Report of W. M. U.

#### W. M. U.

We, your committee, beg leave to report that five of the churches in the Association have W. M. U. We find all of these societies to be in a good and prosperous condition; the members sin-

cere and untiring in their labors and the organizations accomplishing much. We would recommend that the other churches be encouraged to organize W. M. U. We feel that they will prove a great help to the churches.—Mrs. W. L. A. Stranburg, Mrs. L. N. Fulkrod, Miss Lily Stafford.

Report adopted.

Report on Religious Literature was read by Bro. W. D. Joyner.

#### RELIGIOUS LITERATURE.

We, your committee on Religious Literature, ask to report as follows:—We regard the Bible as the book of books; therefore we recommend that the Bible be carefully and prayerfully read, that we may be able to teach our children and others, that it may be done unto them as Paul said unto Timothy, "From a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus."

We would further recommend the reading of good religious books, such as are sold by our colporters and Baptist Publishing companies. We also recommend the Baptist Advance as one of the best papers of our state, and should be in every home. We also recommend our Home Field and Foreign Mission Journal.—W. D. Joyner, A. Twiggs.

Report of committee on Home Missions:

#### HOME MISSIONS.

The Home Mission covers the territory of the Southern Baptist Convention and includes Cuba. The state work is co-operative with the home mission work. Total amount spent by the home board last year, \$176,411.23. Churches and stations sustained, 2,617. Baptisms, 12,178. Bibles and Testaments distributed, 24,798. Arkansas has received much help from the home board. We recommend that we stand loyally by the home board, and support it by our prayers and money.—C. P. Dean, James Campbell.

The report was heartily adopted.

The Sunday School and Colportage report was read by Brother S. L. Holloway:

#### SUNDAY SCHOOL AND COLPORTAGE.

We are glad to note that the churches are emphasizing more and more the Bible school, or the teaching service, because it is scriptural, because Jesus, the apostles and the early church fathers

recognized the power of the teaching service and laid great emphasis upon it. Again the Lord is now greatly blessing the teaching service of the church. More than eighty per cent of those who become members of our churches come from the Bible school. The Bible is the text book, a knowledge of which under the power of the Holy Spirit brings conviction for sins, then repentance towards God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Our Benton County Sunday School Association is undertaking to increase the interest and the efficiency of this feature of the church's work. We therefore recommend that all the churches heartily and actively co-operate with this county association in this very important work, and that every teacher and Sunday school worker strive to become a soul-winner for our Lord.—S. L. Holloway.

Adopted.

The report on Finance was read by Bro. J. B. Whiteside.

FINANCE.

The committee on Finance begs leave to report money received from the messengers for printing minutes and clerk fees:

|                      |        |
|----------------------|--------|
| Bentonville .....    | \$5.00 |
| Temperance Hill..... | 2.50   |
| Gentry .....         | 2.60   |
| Twelve Corners ..... | 1.60   |
| Garfield .....       | 1.50   |
| Rogers .....         | 4.50   |
| Logan.....           | .50    |
| Decatur .....        | 1.25   |
| Siloam Springs ..... | 3.00   |
| Collection .....     | 4.50   |

Total .....\$22.45

Associational Missions:

|              |         |
|--------------|---------|
| Gentry ..... | \$11.30 |
| Logan.....   | 1.50    |
| Rogers ..... | 11.55   |

Total .....\$24.35

—J. B. Whiteside, George Posey.

## LADIES AID REPORTS.

Garfield—Number of members, 15; disbursements, lamps for church, \$25; painting church, \$10; paper hanging, \$4.50; charity, \$5; on church debt, \$25.—Margaret Blanset, Pres.; Mary Park, Secretary.

Gentry—Number of members, 18; receipts since Sept. 1, 1906, \$87.98; disbursements since Sept. 1, 1906, \$48.88; cash on hand, \$39.10.—Mrs. W. L. A. Stranburg, Pres.; Miss Viola Chapman, Secretary.

Siloam Springs—Disbursements, on church indebtedness, \$25, pastor's salary, \$25; associational missions, \$5; state missions, \$5; home missions, \$7; foreign missions, \$7; S. S. colportage, \$5; orphans' home, \$13; Christian education, \$5; Margaret home, \$3. Total, \$100.

Rogers—The ladies aid of Rogers Baptist church has a membership of 34-odd members. It has been our aim to forward the work of the church in every way we can. We have weekly meetings where we sew and do such other work as comes in our line. We have cleared since last Association about \$220, have paid \$35 on pastor's salary and have done some charitable work. The balance has been used in paying off debts which we incurred last year in furnishing our new church. We still owe on same \$400.—Mrs. A. M. Buckley, Pres.; Mrs. E. W. Homan, Sec.

## LADIES MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

The report of the Ladies Missionary Society of the Rogers Baptist church:—Members, 32; amount raised from dues, \$30.66; amount donated, \$3.16; box sent to frontier missionary, valued at \$75; foreign missions, \$10; home missions, \$5; associational missions, \$3; state missions, \$5; box, \$30; expense of box, \$1.65.—Mrs. C. D. Rearick, Pres.; Mrs. S. L. Rivers, Sec.

## RESOLUTIONS.

The following resolutions were offered and adopted:

We cannot understand the providence of our Heavenly Father, but He tells us in His word that all things work together for good to them that love God. Just recently our Brother and Sister Tomme have suffered the loss of their new home and most of its furnishings by fire.

It is our privilege, and we desire to express to them by resolutions our deepest sympathy in their painful loss, and this keen disappointment which has come to them in this providence. Neither we nor they would for one moment murmur or complain, because their hearts are not fixed upon temporal things, but upon the things of His heavenly kingdom. So in our Christian fellowship we come heart to heart with them and express our fellowship and Christian sympathy to them in their disappointment and loss.—S. L. Holloway, J. B. Gooch.

Inasmuch as our Bro W. L. A. Stranburg of Gentry and Bro. Thomas Amis of Hot Springs are each engaged in heroic battle, in their respective fields, for civic righteousness. They have each borne great hardships, and have undergone great persecutions. They are standing today in their respective fields as standard bearers for civic righteousness and spiritual religion.

Resolved, That this body by vote heartily endorses the great service of these two brethren, and that we pray God's richest blessings upon them in their trying service.—S. L. Holloway, J. B. Gooch.

Resolved, That article two (2) of the constitution of this Association be changed so as to read, "On Friday before the first Sunday in October," instead of, "On Friday before the first Sunday in September."—S. L. Holloway, J. B. Gooch.

Resolved, That the Association of Benton county ask that each woman's society be requested to furnish the associational clerk with an itemized account of all the monies furnished by them to the several departments of our work.—S. L. Holloway, J. B. Gooch.

Resolved, That we as an Association express our sincere thanks to the people of Siloam Springs for their very cordial treatment, and most especially to the brethren who have so hospitably entertained us in their homes.—S. L. Holloway, J. B. Gooch.

Adjourned to meet at 7:30.

### Evening Session.

At 7:30 devotional service was led by Bro. J. B. Gooch.

At 8:00 Brother Little preached the closing sermon, after which we gave each other the parting hand as a token of our love for one another, thanking God from the depth of our souls for the sweet Christian fellowship of another associational gathering. The

year is past, and our work has gone on record. May our feeling toward each other at parting, and our faith in God, serve as a prelude to the incoming year.

J. S. HEROD,  
Clerk.

L. TOMME,  
Moderator.

## TABLE OF CHURCHES

| CHURCHES   | PASTORS   | CLERKS   | POSTOFFICE   | ORDAINED MINISTERS  |
|--|---|--|--|---|
| Rogers<br>Bentonville  | A. L. Jordan<br>I. C. Underwood   | Ray Daily<br>W. W. Thomas  | Rogers, Ark.<br>Bentonville                                | J. F. Little, J. B. Gooch, J. L. Jordan<br>I. C. Underwood, I. R. Hall, C. P. Dean,<br>W. D. Joyner |
| Garfield<br>Siloam Springs<br>Logan<br>Twelve Corner<br>Gentry | C. F. Siler<br>L. Tomme<br>John Henson<br>J. Harris<br>W. L. A. Stranburg | F. M. Haswell<br>O. T. Moore<br>J. Crone<br>W. B. Warren<br>B. F. Stafford | Garfield<br>Siloam Springs<br>Gentry<br>Garfield<br>Gentry | J. S. Herod<br>L. Tomme<br><br>W. L. A. Stranburg, J. L. Brown, J.<br>Chastain                      |
| Decatur<br>Temperance Hill                                     | J. H. Hogan<br>none   | J. A. Scoggins<br>J. A. Murray   | Decatur<br>Vaughn  |   |

# STATISTICAL TABLE

| CHURCHES        | INCREASE THIS YEAR |                          | DECREASE THIS YEAR     |                          | SUNDAY SCHOOL RECORD     |                  |                |          |              |           |                                  |                  |                                 |                 | FINANCIAL TABLE          |                   |                 |                        |             |                                |          |                |               |                  |                        |               |
|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|----------------|----------|--------------|-----------|----------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------|----------|----------------|---------------|------------------|------------------------|---------------|
|                 | Total Increase     | By Restoration or Letter | By Letter or Statement | By Experience or Baptism | Value of Church Property | Total Membership | Total Decrease | By Death | By Expulsion | By Letter | Kind of Literature Used in S. S. | Number of Pupils | Number of Officers and Teachers | Days of Meeting | Baptisms During the Year | Minutes and Clerk | Pastor's Salary | Building and Repairing | Incidentals | S. S. Expenses and Collections | The Poor | State Missions | Home Missions | Foreign Missions | Associational Missions | Orphan's Home |
| Rogers          | 19                 | 21                       | 40                     | 191                      | 7                        | 4                | 11             | 1        | 17           | 17        | A. B.                            | 17               | 17                              | 17              | 17                       | 4.50              | 720.00          | 2298.48                |             |                                | 4.03     | 70.00          | 43.26         | 39.32            | 69.40                  |               |
| Decatur         | 2                  | 7                        | 9                      | 91                       | 8                        | 1                | 9              | 108      | 3            | 3         | A. B.                            | 3                | 3                               | 3               | 3                        | 1.25              | 72.00           |                        |             |                                |          |                |               |                  |                        |               |
| Bentonville     | 24                 | 17                       | 41                     | 176                      | 15                       | 8                | 23             | 190      | 1-2-3-4      | 9         | 104                              | 9                | 104                             | 1-2-3-4         | 16                       | 5.00              | 1000.00         |                        | 112.66      | 22.33                          | 5.00     | 251.00         | 32.10         | 32.10            | 66.75                  | 23.56         |
| Garfield        | 3                  | 1                        | 2                      | 55                       | 1                        | 1                | 2              | 58       | 4            | 5         | 40                               | 40               | 40                              | 1-2-3-4         |                          | 1.50              | 100.00          | 85.00                  |             | 12.00                          |          |                |               |                  | 20.00                  | 1.00          |
| Siloam Springs  | 8                  | 18                       | 2                      | 28                       | 8                        | 140              | 8              | 140      | 1-2-3-4      |           |                                  |                  |                                 |                 |                          | .50               | 800.00          | 181.30                 | 85.00       |                                | 15.00    | 120.00         | 105.65        |                  | 69.25                  |               |
| Logan           | 1                  |                          | 1                      |                          |                          | 39               | 4              | 2        |              |           |                                  |                  |                                 |                 |                          |                   | 88.16           |                        |             |                                | 2.75     |                |               |                  | 1.50                   |               |
| Twelve Corner   |                    |                          |                        |                          |                          | 133              | 6              | 3        | 3            |           | S. B. C.                         | 8                | 8                               | 1               |                          | 1.00              | 25.00           |                        |             | 2.75                           |          |                |               |                  | 21.31                  | 3.10          |
| Gentry          | 21                 | 15                       | 36                     | 138                      | 7                        | 3                | 10             | 150      | 1-2-3-4      | 6         | 159                              | 6                | 159                             | 1-2-3-4         |                          | 2.60              | 672.00          |                        | 21.75       | 54.75                          |          | 52.32          | 15.37         | 27.31            | 24.29                  | 18.69         |
| Temperance Hill | 1000               | 6                        | 6                      | 100                      | 8                        | 6                | 14             | 92       |              |           | S. B. C.                         | 56               | 56                              |                 |                          |                   |                 |                        |             | 23.17                          |          | 6.25           |               |                  |                        |               |

Bentonville, Ministerial Education, \$27.00. Gentry, Bible Fund, \$8.28. Rogers, Ministerial Education, \$10.37.

## ARTICLES OF FAITH.

I. We believe that the Holy Bible was 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.

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

III. 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.

IV. 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, by his death made a full atonement for our sins; thus having arisen from the dead he is now enthroned in heaven; and uniting in his wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfections, he is in every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate, and all sufficient Savior.

V. 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 it brings us into a state of most blessed peace and favor with God and secures every other blessing needful for time and eternity.

VI. 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 inherent depravity and voluntary rejection of the Gospel which rejection involves him in an aggravated condemnation.

VII. 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 is effected in a manner above our comprehension by the power of the Holy Spirit in connection with divine truth, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the Gospel; and that its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance and faith and newness of life.

VIII. We believe that repentance and faith are sacred duties and also inseparable graces wrought in our souls by the regenerating Spirit of God;

whereby, being deeply convicted 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 Jesus Christ as our Prophet, Priest and King, and relying on him alone as the only and all sufficient Savior.

IX. 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 infinitely free, wise, holy and unchangeable; that it utterly excludes boasting and promotes love, humility 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 effect 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.

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

XI. We believe that such only are real believers as endure unto 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 that they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

XII. We believe that the law of God is the eternal and unchangeable rule of his moral government; that it is holy, just and good; and that the disabilities which the Scriptures ascribe to fallen men to fulfill its precepts arise entirely from their love of sin, to deliver them from which and to restore them through a mediator to an unfeigned obedience to the holy law, is one great end of the Gospel, and of the means of grace connected with the establishment of the visible church.

XIII. We believe that a visible church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the Gospel, observing the ordinances of Christ, governed by His laws, and exercising the gifts, rights and privileges invested in them by His word; that its only spiritual officers are bishops, or pastors and deacons, whose qualifications, claims and duties are defined in the epistles of Timothy and Titus.

XIV. We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion in water of a believer, unto the name of the Father, the Son, and Holy Ghost; 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 prerequisite 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.

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

XVI. We believe that civil government is of divine appointment, for the interest and good order of human society; and that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously 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.

XVII. We believe that there is a radical 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 the curse; and this distinction holds among men both in and after death.

XVIII. We believe that the end of this world is approaching, that the last day Christ will 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 adjudged 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.

## CONSTITUTION

**Article I.** This Association shall be composed of messengers, who shall be members of the churches they represent (except such as may be invited to a seat by consent of the body) and shall be styled, "The Benton County Baptist Association."

**Article II.** This Association shall meet annually on Friday before the first Sabbath in October, at the place previously appointed; and after public worship, reading the letters from the churches and acting upon those soliciting membership, a moderator and clerk shall be chosen from the messengers by ballot, both of whom shall hold their offices until others shall be elected.

**Article III.** It shall be the duty of the clerk to make an accurate record of the proceedings of each meeting of the Association, in a book provided for the purpose. He shall also act as treasurer.

**Article IV.** Each church of fifty members or less may send two messengers, and one messenger, and one member for each fractional part of fifty over. The messengers shall present letters certifying their appointment and briefly expressing the state of the churches, their increase and decrease, and their aggregate number. Each church shall send with the letter money for printing the minutes.

**Article V.** Churches wishing to unite with this Association may apply by letters and messengers, and giving satisfactory information of their being sound in doctrine and correct in practice, they may be received by a unanimous vote, in token of which the moderator shall give to their messengers the hand of fellowship in behalf of the Association. Churches may be dismissed upon application.

**Article VI.** We acknowledge the independence of the particular churches, and that no authority or jurisdiction is to be exercised over them by this Association, nor will the Association decide in any controversy that may arise in any church. Nevertheless they deem it their duty to disown any church belonging to this body which may have essentially departed from the faith.

**Article VII.** When a church shall neglect making any communication to the Association for three years successively, it shall be considered as having withdrawn from us, and shall be dropped from the minutes of the Association unless at least two members request their continuance, who shall engage to inquire into their standing and report at the next meeting of the Association.

**Article VIII.** This association shall have the right to open and hold correspondence with other associations, as may be deemed expedient.

**Article IX.** It shall be the duty of the Association, from time to time, to suggest to the several churches such measures as may be wise and proper to promote the interest of the Messiah's kingdom, and spread the Gospel throughout the world.

**Article X.** This constitution may be amended at any regular meeting of the Association by a two-thirds vote of all members present.