

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Twenty-ninth Annual Session

OF THE

BIG CREEK

Missionary Baptist Association

HELD WITH

SALEM CHURCH

SALEM, ARK.

September 26, 27, and 28

1903

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AMERICAN BAPTIST PUBLICATION SOCIETY

PROCEEDINGS.

Big Creek Missionary Baptist Association convened its 29th session with the church at Salem, Ark., Sept. 26, 1903.

The Introductory Sermon was preached by Eld. J. L. Bowling concluded by Eld. J. C. Holman. Text, Luke 13—24.

After refreshments the house was called to order by Eld. W. H. Bowling (the former Moderator.)

Eld. R. I. Hiner and Bro. G. C. Jones were appointed Reading Clerks. Churches names called and Messenger's names enrolled.

Cross Roads—J. H. Chadwick, H. L. White.

Diamond Springs—Willis Patterson, Allen Wilkins.

Emeaus—S. S. Lancaster, Robt. Mask, H. Mansfield.

Enterprise—R. Thompson, Will Grisso. Henry Dixon, J. Roby.

Liberty—G. P. Keith, A. D. Barker.

Liberty Hill—C. B. Chadwick, Sam Webb, W. R. Fountain.

Mt. Zion—J. F. Barnes, J. D. Bookout, J. D. Cochran, J. L. Bowling.

Macedonia—Walter Hancock, J. T. Ezell.

New Prospect—J. M. Barnes, J. H. Soden.

Pleasant Grove—J. C. Haywood, R. I. Hiner, E. J. Bratcher, T. J. Holloway.

Oak Grove—Ed. Dean, Bert Claxton, G. C. Jones.

Pleasant Ridge—J. H. Porterfield, L. S. Ballard, G. W. Gray.

Shady Grove—J. C. Holman, James Light, A. A. Tollison, Thos. Foster.

Salem—W. H. Bowling, S. P. Campbell, W. T. Livingston, T. A. Goodwin.

Union Hill—W. T. Fowler, A. J. Hand, R. E. Richardson, E. R. Williams.

Viola—Z. T. Carroll, George Barrett.

Plum Grove was not represented.

The Association proceeded to the election of Moderator and Clerk. Eld. W. M. Duren and D. W. Epley were appointed tellers, and the election resulted in the election of Eld. J. C. Holeman, Moderator, and J. F. Barnes, Clerk.

After remarks by the Moderator Corresponding Messengers and visiting Ministers were welcomed to seats with us, viz: Eld. D. W. Epley and Sister M. A. Epley of Union Association, J. L. Finley and

T. F. Whittaker of White River Association, Eld. W. M. Duren, M. T. Patterson and W. L. Muncey of Rocky Bayou Association.

The several committees were appointed. (See Reports of Committees.)

Committee on Devotional Exercises, Bros. S. P. Campbell, W. T. Livingston and T. A. Goodwin, announced that Eld. S. L. Ballard preach Saturday night; Eld. W. M. Duren at Baptist church Sunday 11 A. M.; Eld. J. H. Soden at Methodist house Sunday at 11 A. M.; Eld. Jones of Mammoth Spring Sunday night.

It was voted that our next meeting be with Oak Grove Church, Eld. J. H. Soden to preach the Introductory Sermon, Eld. L. S. Ballard, alternate.

Arranged Correspondence with Sister Associations, viz.:

Union—G. P. Keith, R. I. Hiner.

State Line—Eld W. H. Bowling, Eld. R. E. Richardson.

White River—A. J. Hand, W. T. Livingston, J. W. C. Gardner, J. W. Patterson.

Rocky Bayou—Henry Dixon, J. L. Bowling, J. D. Cochran, W. T. Livingston, J. M. Barnes, R. E. Richardson, S. P. Campbell.

Pleasant Ridge Church asked for a letter for the purpose of joining Rocky Bayou Association, which was granted.

Adjourned to meet Monday at 8 A. M.

DEVOTIONAL EXERCISES.

Saturday night Eld. S. L. Ballard preached to a large and attentive audience, from Acts. 2—38.

Sunday Eld. W. M. Duren preached from Rom 8—24, while Eld. J. H. Soden at the Methodist church preached from 11th verse of 84th Psalm.

At 3:30 P. M. Eld. W. L. Smith preached a short sermon on Baptism, and when he had finished, Eld. W. H. Bowling and 3 candidates went down into the water and he baptized them in South Fork. This was a very beautiful emblem or picture of our Savior's burial and resurrection.

At 7 P. M. Eld. Jones of Mammoth Spring preached from 1st Corinthians, 15—10.

Monday 11 A. M. Eld. D. W. Epley preached from Romans 10—2.

Those Sermons were all Bible, Baptistic, Doctrinal and Practical from which the many hearers will certainly realize much and lasting good.

J. F. BARNES, Clerk.

Monday morning 8 o'clock the House was called to order by the Moderator.

Renewed call for visiting Messengers and Ministers. Eld. W. L. Smith, Missionary of general Association, was welcomed to a seat.

Renewed call for Messengers and letters.

Appointed a Committee on Deceased Ministers and Members.

Minutes of Saturday read and approved.

The roll was called and absentees marked.

Report of Committees called for in regular order. Reports are as follows:

SABBATH SCHOOLS.

We find nearly nothing being done by our churches in the Sabbath school work. We advise every church to organize and run a Baptist Sunday school all the year, and send a complete report to our next Association.

J. H. CHADWICK.

H. L. WHITE.

WM. GRISSE.

COMMITTEE.

Speeches by Elds. Bowling, Epley, Smith, Hiner and Gardner.

Adopted.

BAPTIST LITERATURE.

We beg to recommend the Bible as the Book of Books, the only true guide promoting denominational knowledge, and that our Sunday Schools use the American Baptist and Southern Baptist Literature.

J. L. BOWLING

A. A. TOLLISON.

J. D. BOOKOUT.

COMMITTEE.

The above was adopted after much discussion of two reports brought in by committee and amended so as to read as above.

ASSOCIATIONAL MISSIONS.

We find the Northern, Southern and central portion of our bounds well supplied with gospel preaching. In the West our churches and Ministers are but few. In the Eastern portion the destitution is great. We recommend that the present Board system be continued

and vigorously executed and perfected until there is a church and a pastor in every community in our Association.

C. B. CHADWICK.

HENRY DIXON.

G. W. GRAY.

Committee.

Adopted.

STATE MISSIONS.

We recommend the General Association through which we do our State Mission work, believing that the principles of the General Association are scriptural and expedient. From the reports of the Missionaries we find that it is doing a great work in our State. From May, 1902, to August 15, 1903, its Missionaries have received into our churches about 800 people, and organized 8 Churches and 10 Sunday Schools.

S. L. BALLARD.

J. W. PATTERSON.

J. S. LANCASTER.

Committee.

After much discussion by Elds. Duren, Smith, Bowling, Ballard, Hiner and others the above report was adopted by a vote of 18 to 12.

HOME MISSIONS.

We find the Home Mission Board is in serious trouble with Gethsemane Church, Havana, Cuba, and have thrown Pastor Dias and his organ, seats, collections, baskets and baptizing suits out in the streets, and will not allow them to worship in their house. Therefore we recommend that this Association withdraw all support from Home Mission Board.

J. H. SOREN.

BURT CLAXTON.

H. MANSFIELD.

Committee.

Adopted.

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

We believe Mission work in all its departments are in compliance with the commission to preach the Gospel to all the world. We recommend that the pastors of all the Churches in Big Creek Association keep this idea before their Churches, and take collections quarterly for foreign missions. Let us pray the "Lord of the Harvest" to send more laborers into the field. Let us give liberally and pray earnestly for the success of foreign missions.

R. E. RICHARDSON.

J. D. COCHRAN.

G. C. JONES.

Committee.

Adopted.

TEMPERANCE.

We advise that Baptists take a firm stand against the manufacture, furnishing or drinking intoxicating liquors and that Baptists abstain from all intemperate habits; that we do all in our power to suppress everything tending to Intemperance, Vice and Immorality; that we earnestly pray for this cause; and in selecting officers that we vote as we pray. Overindulgence in anything is Intemperance.

That Christians should be standards of virtue, Morality and Temperance at all times.

J. C. HAYWOOD.

R. L. CAMPBELL.

J. H. PORTERFIELD.

Committee.

Adopted.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION.

Christian education is the development of mind and heart that prepares people for complete living. Millions of dollars are paid annually by the various denominations to prepare their young people for work. The Baptists are not behind in this grand work. We have in our state many Baptist schools doing good work and we advise Baptist parents to patronize and support Baptist schools when desiring higher education for their children, and that if any church has in it a young man whom they believe is called of God to preach the Gospel, steps should be taken to send such an one to school.

R. I. HINER.

G. P. KEITH.

C. B. CHADWICK.

Committee.

Adopted.

ORPHAN'S HOME.

We recommend the Orphan's Home of Monticello, Ark., as an institution worthy of confidence and support of our people. That the churches should contribute for this purpose, as it is doing a grand work. There are 54 children who are cared for and are being educated to go out and bless the world.

W. H. BOWLING.

W. R. FOUNTAIN.

SAMUEL WEBB.

Committee.

Adopted.

DECEASED MINISTERS.

Our Brother, Eld. H. B. Clinton, has been called from among us by the Death Angel. This Association feels their great loss, but while it is our loss it is his eternal gain. Though this Association

is 28 years old Brother Clinton has been with us at all our meetings until separated from us by death. We extend our sympathies to the bereaved ones.

J. R. CROWDER.

W. T. FOWLER.

ED DEAN.

Adopted.

Committee.

Amount in hands of Treasurer for Associational Missions, \$7.13

Finance Committee reported \$11.90 minute funds.

A. J. HAND.

S. P. CAMPBELL.

W. T. LIVINGSTON.

Committee.

The Moderator appointed Central Board consistig of E. J. Bratcher, Eld. R. I. Hiner, Henry Dixon, Samuel Miller and G. C. Jones.

Auxiliary Board—Brother Burt Claxton and the Clerks of the several Churches.

The Moderator appointed a Committee to write obituary of Eld. H. B. Clinton, consisting of J. F. Barnes, Eld. W. H. Bowling and S. W. Cochran, same to appear in our minutes.

Motion that we continue our fifth Sunday Meetings as last year, Eld. J. C. Holeman to act as Chaitman, and J. F. Barnes as Clerk.

Next fifth Sunday meeting to be with Liberty Church. Carried.

Resolved. That we tender our thanks to Salem Church, town and community for their kind hospitality. To the Moderator and Clerk for their faithful discharge of duty. To the visiting Ministers for their presence, assistance and sermons.

R. I. HINER.

Carried.

After prayer while singing, the Messengers took the parting hand.

Adjourned to meet with Oak Grove Church, Saturday before the 4th Sunday in September, 1904.

JOHN C. HOLEMAN, Moderator.

JAMES F. BARNES, Clerk.

Elder Harmon B. Clinton.

Elder Harmon B. Clinton was born January 30, 1825, and departed this life May 29, 1903; professed faith in Christ in early life and joined the Missionary Baptist Church at the age of 22; commenced preaching the Gospel at the age of 30; was in the organization of Mt. Zion church in the year 1866. He lived a consistent member of same until his death, and in his last sermon at this place Bro. Clinton said: "My dear brothers and sisters, I don't expect to be with you much longer, but bless God there is a crown laid up in Heaven for me. Not for me only but for you all if you love Jesus. Thank God, I have fought a good fight. I have kept the faith. My life is nearly at an end but I know I shall live in the presence of God throughout the ceaseless ages of eternity."

Bro. Clinton was a constituent member of and helped organize our Association in the year 1875, and we believe he has been present at every meeting of said Association except one.

While his transmission from this to eternal life has caused much sorrow, it is only his absence that causes us to mourn. To know Brother Clinton was to love him. We will ever cherish his memory as one to whom we feel much indebted for the moral and religious culture of our country, and shall expect to see him again and be greeted by him in the Heaven of Rest.

J. F. BARNES,
ELD. W. H. BOWLING,
S. W. COCHRAN.
Committee.

By order of Association.

CONSTITUTION.

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

ART. 2. The members composing the annual meeting 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 four from each church.

ART. 4. The Association shall meet annually at such time and place as shall have previously been 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 advise and consult upon the matter 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 religion in 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 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 meetings, and 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 meeting, shall be invited to a seat 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 reproved 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 church 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.

DECLARATION OF FAITH.

1. We believe that 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, 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 of the Godhead there are 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 in His wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfections. He is every way qualified to 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 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 needed 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 affects 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 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.

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 begun in regeneration; and that it is carried on in the hearts of believers by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, 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 persevering 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 is holy, just and good and that the inability which Scriptures ascribe to fallen men to fulfill its 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 baptized 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 qualifications 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 and 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-requisite 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 undying love of Christ—preceded at ways by solemn self-examination.

15. 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 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 the Kings of the earth.

17. We believe that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; that 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.

18. We believe that the end of this 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.

Directory.

OFFICERS—

JOHN C. HOLEMAN, Moderator, Salem, Ark.

JAMES F. BARNES, Clerk, Salem, Ark.

CENTRAL BOARD—

E. J. Bratcher, Eld. R. I. Hiner, Henry Dixon, Samuel Miller and G. C. Jones.

AUXILIARY BOARD—

Brother Burt Claxton and the Clerks of the several Churches.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	CLERKS.	POST OFFICE	Days of Meeting	Increase			Decrease			Total Mem.	Minute and Clerk Fund.
					Exp. & Bap.	Letter.	Restored.	Letter.	Excluded.	Died.		
Emeaus.....	J. C. Holeman.....	J. S. Lancaster.....	Camp, Ark.....	1	6						179	.75
Cross Roads.....	S. L. Ballard.....	J. H. Chadwick.....	Union, Ark.....	2	1	1		3			27	.50
Diamond Springs.....	T. F. Cargill.....	Allen Wilkins.....	Wake, Ark.....		3	1			1		16	.55
Enterprise.....	T. J. Holloway.....	R. K. Pope.....	Beall, Ark.....		2			2	3	1	59	1.00
Liberty.....	J. H. Soden.....	G. P. Keith.....	Viola, Ark.....	3	1	2	1			1	42	1.00
Liberty Hill.....	J. H. Soden.....	J. H. Clinton.....	Oxford, Ark.....								51	.80
Mt. Zion.....	S. L. Ballard.....	Samuel Miller.....	Union, Ark.....	3		2		3		1	109	.75
Macedonia.....	J. H. Soden.....	J. T. Ezell.....	Byron, Ark.....		3			6	1		21	.50
New Prospect.....	J. H. Soden.....	S. G. Dillard.....	Violet Hill, Ark.....		1	3		4			46	.80
Oak Grove.....	J. C. Holeman.....	G. C. Jones.....	Moody, Mo.....	2	36	5		2			56	1.00
Pleasant Grove.....	T. F. Cargill.....	E. J. Bratcher.....	Lanton, Mo.....		12	4	3			1	72	.70
Plum Grove.....	R. E. Richardson.....	J. D. Denton.....	Afton, Ark.....	2	3					1	16	.60
Pleasant Ridge.....	S. L. Ballard.....	G. W. Gray.....	Oxford, Ark.....		12	17	2		2	1	75	1.00
Salem.....	W. H. Bowling.....	J. W. C. Gardner.....	Salem, Ark.....	1	14	8			3		62	1.05
Shady Grove.....	J. C. Holeman.....	J. H. Holeman.....	Wheeling, Ark.....	4	25	4	1	4		1	104	1.50
Union Hill.....	R. E. Richardson.....	W. T. Fowler.....	Wake, Ark.....		3			6	1		26	.50
Viola.....		Mary Cain.....	Viola, Ark.....		4			3	15	1	65	1.00
Totals,				1903	126	47	7	33	26	9	864	14.00
				1902	58	24	9	26	11	9	772	15.00
				1901	53	30	7	21	12	11	721	15.00
				1900	43	24	5	25	16	15	670	15.00
				1895	72	60	5	41	23	4	750	16.20
				1890	24	41	9	39	15	3	631	11.50
				1885	37	35	2	33	15	3	580	13.30

There are in Arkansas 47 Associations, 1855 Churches and 155,377 members.

There are in the United States 5,515,183 Missionary Baptists.

In other lands only 827,030.

About 1,000,000 colored Baptists.

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