

→*MINUTES*←

OF THE

TWENTY-NINTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

Mt. Vernon Baptist Association,

HELD WITH

POPLAR + GROVE + CHURCH,

ST. FRANCIS COUNTY, ARKANSAS,

On the 16th, 17th and 18th of October, 1885.

OFFICERS.

S. H. KING, *Moderator.*

ELDER W. H. PASLEY, *Treasurer.*

ELDER B. N. HULTSMAN, *Clerk.*

Next Session to be Held with the Brinkley Baptist Church, Brinkley, Monroe County, Arkansas. Friday before the Third Sunday in October, 1886.

PROCEEDINGS.

Mt. Vernon Baptist Association met according to adjournment with Poplar Grove church, St. Francis Co., Arkansas, Friday, at 11 o'clock A. M., October 16, 1885.

Introductory sermon preached by Elder L. K. Obenchain, the appointee, to a large and attentive audience, from Rev. 2:10.

After an intermission of five minutes the Association was called to order by S. H. King, the former Moderator.

Elder G. A. Grammer, the former Clerk, being absent, the Moderator appointed Elder B. N. Hultsman, Clerk, for the permanent organization of the Association.

Elder L. K. Obenchain and J. P. Farrar, Sr., read the letters from the various churches, and delegates' names enrolled.

On motion of Elder L. K. Obenchain, the Association proceeded to the election of officers of said body, which resulted in the election of S. H. King, Moderator; Elder W. H. Pasley, Treasurer, and Elder B. N. Hultsman, Clerk.

Petitionary letters were called for, whereupon the following churches responded by letter and delegates, and the hand of fellowship was extended to them by the Moderator:

Mars Hill.—St. Francis Co., Ark. Postoffice, Palestine.

Prairie.—St. Francis Co., Ark. Postoffice, Goodwin.

Cypress.—Phillips Co., Ark. Postoffice, Turner.

Shiloh.—St. Francis Co., Ark. Postoffice, Colts Station.

Poplar Grove.—St. Francis Co., Ark. Postoffice, Mill Brook.

Hopewell.—Lee Co., Ark. Postoffice, Clifton.

On motion of L. K. Obenchain, visiting brethren were invited to seats. Elders M. D. Early, representing the *Arkansas*

Evangel; G. W. Reeves, Financial Agent Baptist State Convention, and R. G. Hewlet, of Oxford, Mississippi, responded and were welcomed among us.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES.

Owing to deaths and non-attendance it became necessary to re-appoint standing committees.

Committee on Devotional Exercises.—C. S. Belsha, J. B. Miles, J. R. Hodge, Jeff. Pasley and Frank Hill.

Committee on Nomination.—G. B. Turner, J. R. Whitted and R. H. Sparkman.

Committee on Sunday Schools.—A. Flora, C. S. Belsha and L. J. Wilks.

Committee on Foreign Missions.—Elder B. F. Thomas, Elder J. L. Wilson and G. O. Dixon.

Committee on Obituaries.—Elders L. K. Obenchain, W. H. Pasley and J. S. Belsha.

Committee on Publication.—C. S. Belsha, J. B. Harding and J. R. Brown.

Committee on Temperance.—Elder J. H. Fitzgerald, J. Wood and J. J. Ables.

FRIDAY NIGHT.

After an excellent sermon by Elder R. G. Hewlet, of Mississippi, Text Eph. 6:11, the Association resumed business.

On motion by Elder J. L. Wilson, adjourned to meet Saturday at 9 o'clock A. M.

Prayer by Elder B. N. Hultsman.

SATURDAY MORNING.

After thirty minutes of devotional exercises the Association resumed business.

Minutes of Friday read and adopted.

On motion by Elder B. N. Hultsman, Sunday morning after Sunday school, mass meeting be set apart to take up a collection for State Missions.

Call for reports of committees.

Report on education read.

The hour for preaching having arrived, the Association adjourned to meet immediately after the sermon pending report.

Elder J. L. Wilson preached quite an interesting sermon; text, Matt. 16:24. After which continued discussion on the report pending, by Brethren Reeves, Early, Obenchain, Thomas, Wilks and others; report adopted.

The delegates from Center Grove church, Lee County, Arkansas, and New Hope church, Lee County, Arkansas, having failed to reach the Association Friday, and being present to-day, reported by letter and delegates. Letters read, delegates' names enrolled, hand of fellowship given by Moderator.

Report on Foreign Missions read and discussed by Brethren Thomas, Hultsman and Early, and during the discussion, on motion by Elder L. K. Obenchain, took up a collection amounting to \$7.30; report adopted.

On motion, the Moderator appointed a committee of Elder L. K. Obenchain, Elder M. K. McCarty and R. A. Butts on apportionment.

Report on publication read.

Motion to adjourn, pending report, to meet at 5 o'clock P. M.

Prayer by Elder B. F. Thomas.

The Association met according to adjournment, and after singing "Nearer My God to Thee," prayer was offered by Brother Wilks; discussion on report continued by Brothers Early, Miles and others, amended and adopted.

Report on apportionment read and adopted.

Motion to adjourn for preaching.

After sermon by Elder G. W. Reeves, text John 12:26; the Association resumed business.

Report on Home Missions read, and during the discussion, Elder W. H. Pasley presented the claims of the Associational Mission Work, which followed with a collection as follows:

Helena.....	\$ 20 00
Marvel.....	25 00
G. B. Turner (paid)	1 00
William Thompson (paid)	2 00
Center Grove.....	10 00
B. N. Hultsman.....	5 00
Ash Grove (paid \$2.50)	5 00
J. R. Whitted, (paid).....	2 00
W. L. Howard	5 00
J. P. Farrar, Sr.....	5 00
Elder J. H. Fitzgerald.....	5 00
F—Chappel.	10 00
F—City.....	25 00
Jennie Sims.....	5 00
A. Flora.....	5 00
Carie Scaife.....	5 00
Oak Grove.....	10 00
Oak Hill.....	5 00
W. J. Hicks.....	2 50
C. S. Belsha.....	2 50
Poplar Grove.....	10 00
W. K. Leach, (paid).....	1 00
Hopewell.....	5 00
J. J. Ables, (paid).....	1 00
Sister A. M. Adams, (paid).....	50
Prairie.....	5 00
W. A. Capshaw	2 50
Sister J. F. King, (paid).....	50

Total Amount..... \$180.50

On motion, adjourned to meet Sunday at 9 o'clock A. M.
Prayer by Elder W. H. Pasley.

SUNDAY:

After singing "Jesus Lover of My Soul," prayer was offered by Elder B. N. Hultsman.

Report on Sunday schools read, and, after many interesting and encouraging speeches by Brothers Miles, Wilks and others, the report was adopted.

This hour being set apart by the Association, Elder G. W. Reeves presented the claims of State Missions in a brief and forcible manner, and asked for a contribution, which resulted in a collection of \$28.85.

On motion, adjourned for preaching by Elder W. H. Pasley; text, Rom. 1:16.

After the sermon, followed a collection for Home Missions, which resulted in cash, \$29.25.

After dinner was served in abundance, the congregation assembled in the church for preaching by Elder M. D. Early; text, Psalm 133:1.

The Association adjourned to 8 o'clock P. M.

Prayer was offered by Brother Thomas.

SUNDAY NIGHT.

After the sermon by Elder B. N. Hultsman, text Jer. 31:31, the Association resumed business.

Report on Nominations read and adopted.

Report on Temperance read, and after discussion by Brothers Fitzgerald, Dixson, Wilson, Hewlet and others, the report was adopted. See Appendix.

Report on Obituaries read and adopted.

Report of Executive Board read and adopted. See Appendix.

Report of Treasurer read and adopted.

Report on Finance read and adopted.

On motion it was ordered that Elder L. K. Obenchain, Clerk, have ten dollars for his services, and that he have five hundred copies of minutes published.

On motion by Elder L. K. Obenchain, that the thanks of this body be extended to the brethren, sisters and friends of this community for their hospitality during the session of this body.

On motion by Brother Miles, that the thanks of this body be extended to the Moderator for the impartial and Christian like manner in presiding over this body, and to the Clerk for the faithful record of the business of this body during the session.

On motion, after singing "Sweet By and By" and extending parting hand, the body adjourned to meet with the Brinkley Baptist church, Brinkley, Monroe County, on Friday before the Third Sunday in October, 1886.

Prayer and benediction by W. H. Pasley.

B. N. HULTSMAN, *Clerk*,
Brinkley, Ark.

S. H. KING, *Moderator*,
Poplar Grove, Ark.

MINISTERS

And their Pastors.

W. H. Pasley, Wheatley, Arkansas.
G. A. Grammer, Forrest City, Arkansas.
B. F. Thomas, Forrest City, Arkansas.
P. C. Crow, Brinkley, Arkansas.
B. N. Hultsmán, Brinkley, Arkansas.
M. A. Thompson, Brinkley, Arkansas.
L. K. Obenchain, Marvel, Arkansas.
M. K. McCarty, Moro, Arkansas.
J. L. Wilson, Clarendon, Arkansas.
T. E. Night, Clarendon, Arkansas.

APPENDIX.

Your Committee on Domestic Mission would report the following:

Christ came upon earth to establish his church, to set up his kingdom; and he, as the great law giver and light of salvation, went about from place to place healing all manner of disease, casting out wicked spirits, removing error and superstition from the minds of the people and establishing the truth of his redemption in their hearts. He bore the cross, endured the shame, and, while hanging upon the tree, with bleeding hands, and riven side, and torn brow, uttered the awful groan—"My God! My God! Why hast Thou forsaken me?" He says to us: "Follow me, and if ye love me keep my commandments."

Brethren, the destitution in our bounds is great. Souls are famishing for the truth. Let us spend less money for that which is not bread; and less labor for that which satisfieth not; and put forth greater efforts to have the glorious gospel of the blessed God in all this destitution. We further recommend that the Board adopt the same plan in operation for two years past.

ELDER J. H. FITZGERALD, *Chairman.*

2.

TEMPERANCE.

We know of no evil that so greatly retards the progress of Christianity; no missile so powerful in the hands of the enemy to destroy the morals of our people, and sap the foundation of society, as that of the use of intoxicating liquor. It is the bane of society, the enemy of religion, and subversive of all good morals, and stands as a mighty bulwark against civilization.

It becomes our duty as Chistians, as followers of Christ, as friends of humanity, to do all within our power to suppress this mighty evil, spike the cannon of the enemy, and help destroy this dragon of society. We gladly note the stand our people are taking against this child of Satan, and urge upon them not to slacken in their efforts until they have succeeded in suppressing the manufacture and consumption of it by the people of the State.

J. H. FITZGERALD, *Chairman.*

C.

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

Your Committee on Foreign Missions beg leave to report that it is a matter of the first importance that every Christian should give something and do something to have the gospel preached in all the world. The history of Missions shows that the gospel of Jesus Christ is the only thing that ever has civilized, enlightened and refined human nature. The same history also demonstrates that in the same ratio that Christians give to Foreign Missions, they are prospered both temporally and spiritually at home. We close this report by endorsing the following appeal from the Southern Baptist Convention:

THE LORD'S COMMAND

To the 948,184 Baptists of the S. B. Convention: "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature"—Mark xvi: 15.

HOW WE GO—948,135 STAY AT HOME; 49 GO.

PEOPLE WITHOUT THE GOSPEL.	HOW MANY GO FROM US TO PREACH TO THEM?
Chinese Empire.....400,000,000	10 ministers, 15 ladies.
Turkey in Asia.....13,500,000	Not one.
Japan.....33,000,000	Not one.
Hindustan.....180,500,000	Not one.
Others of Asia.....124,000,000	Not one.
Islands.....10,000,000	Not one.
Africa.....191,000,000	5 ministers, 3 ladies.
Italy.....26,789,000	2 ministers, 1 lady.
Mexico.....9,000,000	3 ministers, 6 ladies.
Brazil.....11,780,000	2 ministers, 2 ladies.
Others of South America..16,812,000	Not one.

Ought not *you* to go?

What do we give in one year to have these Missionaries with forty-four native ministers and assistants preach the gospel? \$80.465.87; or *eight cents each*.

HOW CAN YOU HELP THE WORK IF YOU CAN NOT GO?

1. Give regularly, liberally and cheerfully to Foreign Missions. Phil. 4:15,16; 2 Cor. 11:8,9; 2 Cor. 9:6,7.
2. Pray daily that the gospel may be speedily preached to all the nations, and accepted wherever heard. Pray also for the lives and comfort of Missionaries, their access to the people, and their spiritual power. 2 Thess. 3:1,2.
3. Advocate the work. Having learned from God's word the condition of the heathen and the duty of Christians to them, urge these things, in the spirit of Jesus, upon Christians wherever you can, and especially upon your own church. 2 Pet. 1:13.
4. Get and circulate tracts, papers and books which encourage Christian Missions; and conscientiously distribute such literature when sent to you. Mark 4:14; Psalms 43:3. Christians are "children of light." When they know the truth about the condition and numbers of the heathen, the work done, and the work needful to be done, *they will help*.
5. Encourage in your church the adoption and faithful working of some system which will promote regular, liberal and cheerful giving to this work. 1 Cor. 16:2.
6. Encourage the regular observance of the monthly concert of Prayer for Missions. Psalms 72:15; Matt. 6:10.
7. Take a good religious newspaper, read the religious news, and, whenever there is an appeal for the cause of Jesus, *help*.

ELDER B. F. THOMAS, *Chairman*.

D.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

We, your Committee on Sabbath Schools, beg leave to submit the following:

We find that while the condition of the Sabbath schools is very much better than it has been for some years, yet there

is a lack of that deep interest upon the part of many older brethren and sisters, which should characterize the Christian life of every true follower of our Saviour. We find quite a number of our churches have no Sabbath schools—hardly fifty per cent. We have only thirteen Sabbath schools in the Association; average attendance, 540. There seems to be a disposition among our older brothers and sisters to think the Sabbath school is intended for the children only, therefore many of them manifest but little or no interest in Sabbath school work, not even to require their children to attend. We regard Sabbath school work as one of the grandest works of men—almost paramount to any other religious service. We most earnestly suggest that the churches bestir themselves in this direction and at as early a day as possible place the Sabbath school work on the high and firm basis which its importance demands. Again, we recommend that Baptist literature be used exclusively, and especially reject Cook's literature, published at Chicago, and that only believers be chosen as teachers.

L. J. WILKS, *Chairman.*

II.

PUBLICATIONS.

In as much as we believe the press has a mighty influence, either for good or evil, and, our country being flooded with obnoxious publications which are poisoning the minds of our youth, and damaging the good morals of our people; therefore we would urge and insist, that we make more strenuous effort in disseminating good sound literature among our people. Therefore we would recommend our State paper (*Arkansas Evangel*), to be taken by every Baptist in the State, and especially in our Association; also *Tennessee Baptist*, and the books and literature published by Book House in Memphis, Tenn. We also recommend that our Sunday schools use *Kind Words*, and the quarterly's published by S. Boykin, Macon, Ga. Also, *Little American*, published by Southern Baptist Convention.

J. R. BROWN, *Chairman.*

F.

EXECUTIVE BOARD.

Your Executive Board met at Marianna on Saturday before the fifth Sunday in May, and elected Brother J. H. Fitzgerald Missionary for the southern part of the Association, and Brother W. H. Pasley for the northern portion, employing them for two months at a salary of \$50.00 per month each.

The following is the report of Brother Fitzgerald: Number of weeks worked, 6; times preached, 47; prayer meetings conducted, 20; professions, 37; additions by experience and baptism, 23; by letter, 10; money collected on field, \$52.20.

Brother Pasley, owing to various reasons, could not devote much time to the work. Number of weeks worked, 2; professions, 12; baptisms, 7; by letter, 2.

The Board recommend the plan pursued the past two years, and owing to the great destitution would urge the churches to support the Board in enlarging the work next year. God has greatly blessed the efforts made, and this should stimulate us to make greater ones.

S. H. KING, *Chairman.*

G.

EDUCATION.

Your Committee on Education would report that the object of education demands, and has enlisted, the attention and efforts of the best minds and best men of all ages. To educate is, especially in this age of the world, an absolute necessity. We must educate or our cause will suffer loss. It is to be greatly lamented that the Baptists of this Association and of this State have so long neglected this important work. But we rejoice to know that an effort is now being made to establish a school of high order at some suitable place in the State of Arkansas, with reference to which we desire to offer the following resolutions:

Resolved 1st, That it is the sense of this Association that the establishment of a Baptist college at some central place in

Arkansas is a necessity to our greatest denominational prosperity.

Resolved 2d, That we are in hearty sympathy with the efforts now being made for this purpose by the State Convention to the extent of our ability, and we will encourage its establishment with our means.

Resolved 3d, That when it is established, we will give our influence, and sustain it by our patronage.

Resolved 4th, That a committee of three from this Association be appointed by this body to the State Convention to confer and co-operate with the Educational Commission now laboring to establish at some central point in our great State an institution of learning of which all shall be proud.

L. K. OBENCHAIN, *Chairman.*

III.

APPORTIONMENT.

We, your Committee to Apportion Churches received of this body to districts already formed, would recommend, by virtue of location, that Mars Hill, Prairie Shiloh, Poplar Grove, and Hopewell be added to the Third District, and Cypress to the First District.

L. K. OBENCHAIN, *Chairman.*

II.

FINANCE.

Your Committee on Finance would report that we have collected a fund as follows:

For Home Missions the past year.....	\$136 75
For Foreign Missions.....	7 30
For Minutes.....	47 00
For Home Missions for next year.....	12 00
Total	<hr/> \$203 05

Pledges not collected on last year.....	\$35 00
Individuals.....	10 00
Total due on promise.....	<u>\$45 00</u>

J.

NOMINATION.

Your Committee on Nominations recommend, first, that the Association meet with the Baptist church at Brinkley, Monroe County, Friday, before the third Sunday in October, 1886; second, we recommend the following Executive Board: Elder L. K. Obenchain, L. J. Wilks, J. P. Farrar, sr., C. W. Hickey and R. A. Butts; third, we recommend Elder J. H. Fitzgerald to preach the introductory sermon, Elder W. H. Pasley, alternate.

R. G. TURNER, *Chairman*.

K.

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 1884.

Received from Finance Committee.....	\$122 15
Paid for Minutes.....	31 25
Paid to Clerk.....	10 00
Foreign Missions.....	14 45
Home Missions.....	33 00
Brother J. H. Fitzgerald.....	10 00

RESOLUTION.

Resolved, That the thanks of this body be returned to the church and community generally for the hospitality and the manner in which they have entertained this body during its present session.

L. K. OBENCHAIN.

L.

STANDING COMMITTEES.

Sunday Schools.—L. J. Wilks, A. Flora, C. L. Belsha.

Education.—J. B. Miles, L. K. Obenchain, R. A. Butts.

Temperance.—Elder B. F. Thomas, Wm. Thompson, J. W. Witted.

Foreign Missions.—Elder W. H. Pasley, R. H. Sparkman, G. O. Dixon.

Home Missions.—J. P. Farrar, sr., J. L. Wilson, J. R. Brown.

Publication.—Elder B. N. Hultsman, G. B. Turner, P. C. Crow.

Obituaries.—Elder J. H. Fitzgerald, W. H. Pasley, G. A. Grammer.

Committee—to confer with Educational Commission Baptist State Convention.—S. H. King, Elder W. H. Pasley, Elder B. N. Hultsman.

Messengers Baptist State Convention.—Elders B. F. Thomas, W. H. Pasley, L. K. Obenchain, J. L. Wilson, B. N. Hultsman, S. H. King.

M.

OBITUARIES.

Since our last meeting of this body an All Wise God has removed from our midst Brother H. P. Slaughter. The deceased was born in Jasper County, Georgia, March 19, 1810; moved to this State in 1859, and died July 11, 1885. Brother Slaughter had been a deacon in the Baptist Church about forty years, and Moderator of this Association about twenty years, and by his consistent Christian life, his love for the Master, his consecration to his cause had greatly endeared him to the brotherhood at large of this body. We lament his loss, but not as those who have no hope. And while he has left a vacuum in our midst, we confidently believe he has taken his place in the kingdom of glory. Brethren, let us imitate his virtues, imitate his liberality; work for the Master he so greatly loved, that we may meet him by and by in the mansions of eternal glory.

Also, Brother W. J. Scaife was born in Union District, South Carolina, August 3, 1829; became a resident of Phillips County, Arkansas, in 1870, where he lived a consecrated life,

and a member of Salem Baptist Church until the time of his death September 3, 1885. Brother Scaife was truly one of the best men we ever knew. He was an affectionate husband, indulgent parent, a kind and generous neighbor, a devoted, zealous, self sacrificing Christian, and an efficient member of this body. We lament his death, but our loss is his eternal gain. May his consistent, consecrated life and happy exit stimulate us to greater usefulness. May it be our happy lot to meet him where parting is no more.

ELDER L. K. OBENCHAIN, *Chairman.*

