

**MINUTES**  
**OF THE**  
**50<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SESSION**  
**OF THE**  
**GAINESVILLE**  
**MISSIONARY BAPTIST**  
**ASSOCIATION**



**HELD WITH THE**  
**FRIENDSHIP MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH**  
**OF GREENE COUNTY, ARKANSAS**  
**OCTOBER 22, 23, 24, 1919**

## Minutes of the Fiftieth Annual Session of the Gainesville Missionary Baptist Association



THE Fiftieth Annual Session of the Gainesville Missionary Baptist Association was held with the Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, in Greene County, Arkansas, October 22, 23, and 24, 1919. The Association met promptly at 10:00 o'clock, a. m., and opened by singing, which was followed by prayer, led by Elder J. A. Styer.

The moderator being present, the body chose C. H. Bishop, temporary clerk.

Elder Edward L. Stovall, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Piggott, Arkansas, preached the annual sermon from the subject: "The Meaning of the Baptist Seventy-Five Million Campaign." Quotations: Isaiah 45:22; John 3:16; Second Timothy 2:15; Malachi 3:10; Luke 6:38; and Matthew 28:19,20.

On motion the Association adjourned until 1:30 p. m.

### Afternoon of the First Day

At 1:30 o'clock, the Association reassembled, and after singing, and prayer led by Elder L. M. Webb, the body began its regular order of business.

Reading clerks were chosen by the moderator as follows: Elder G. E. Holt and Elder L. W. Russell, who read the letters presented by the churches, and the following messengers were enrolled:

... Grove—W. F. Robinson and W. L. Owens.  
 ... chlehem—B. M. Parsons, J. W. Vowel, and Henry  
 ...  
 Big Creek—G. E. Bishop, C. H. Bishop, Virgil Earp.  
 Black River—Miss Bessie Garrett, J. D. Kerley, and  
 John Molencupp.  
 Blooming Grove—J. W. Gossett, C. B. Gatewood, and  
 E. R. Crews.  
 Brown's Chapel—H. J. McDaniel, J. L. Rogers, and  
 J. F. Saine.  
 Center Hill—Jim Little, W. D. Emmutt, Jim Keasler.  
 Epsaby—Herman Williams, John Cole and N. R. Cole.  
 Fairview—Mrs. Ania Russell, Miss Fannie Russell,  
 Ada Thomason. Alternates: W. M. Russell, M. L. Sam-  
 mons, and J. W. Thomason.  
 Friendship—Elder J. D. J. Faulkner, J. J. Burton,  
 and W. F. Walden. Alternates: L. A. Johnson and Orman  
 Faulkner.  
 Gainesville—Jim Church, M. F. Cotton, Sister Ham-  
 mond, and Sister Heathcock.  
 Greenway—Walter Bowden, Lillian Bell, and Sadie  
 Thomas.  
 Hopewell—J. J. Gardner, J. H. Johnson, and Willis  
 Edwards.  
 Marmaduke—Elder L. W. Russell, Oscar Gossett, and  
 J. B. Walden. Alternates: J. R. Hall, T. L. B. Thorne,  
 and Claudie Thorne.  
 Mainshore—No report.  
 Mount Pleasant—E. A. Hinman, J. B. McDonald, and  
 J. C. Fletcher.  
 Mount Tabor—No report.  
 New Haven—Daily Fletcher and Eugene Bonham.  
 New Home—W. N. Stairs, Arthur Brewer, and T. N.  
 Hopper. Alternates: James Robertson, John Stairs, and  
 A. J. Brewer.

New Hope—Ernest Forrest, J. W. Johnson, and H. C. Nettles. Alternates: J. A. Stairs, J. H. Latta, and C. E. Grider.

New Light—Walter Rogers, Cora McCrady, and May Rogers.

Paragould (Second)—E. R. Alsey, Ora Maberry, C. Adams, Andrew Collier; Sisters Ila Collier, Done Bowlin, and Sallie Bryant. Alternates: A. J. Limber, W. L. Weatherford; Sisters L. E. Bowden, Lura Adams, Ethel Lucas, and Bettie Jamison.

Piggott—E. L. Stovall, J. W. Griffith, and Mrs. Lura Brown. Alternates: H. E. Potter, Mrs. E. L. Stovall, and Mrs. W. F. Hale.

Pleasant Hill—Ruben Dial, Calvin Gibson, J. Bolin.

Post Oak—A. J. Holcomb, W. F. Alexander, and C. D. Holcomb. Alternates: E. Garrett, A. Walker, and F. Bennett.

Providence—Gussie Harrison, B. Brewer, J. T. Nowell.

Peach Orchard—No report.

Pleasant Grove—No report.

Rector—Elder T. B. Rouse, Elder G. E. Holt, and Sisters T. B. Rouse, G. E. Holt, F. J. Winchester, E. J. Teague, and Brother W. K. Neely.

Rock Hill—J. T. Rogers, J. G. Rogers, C. D. Morrice. Alternates: C. R. White, Gertie Rogers, and J. L. Craig.

Salem—No report.

Spring Grove—No report.

Saint Francis—F. H. McDonald, F. G. Evans, and Bula Boyd. Alternates: Sisters J. P. Covey, Lula Evans, and Brother John Jones.

Union Grove—T. N. Barr, H. T. Rowe, and Maude Faulkner.

Wanders Home—Edie Pitman, Gessie Garrett, and G. L. Settlemoir. Alternates: Carl Brady and H. Collins.

**Bomer—No report.**

**Mounds—No report.**

A motion was entertained to go into the election of officers of the Association. The body chose by acclamation Brother T. B. Rouse, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Rector, Arkansas, as moderator, C. H. Bishop as permanent clerk, and Brother J. B. Walden as treasurer.

After organization, Brother Rouse spoke for a short time, very earnestly, in regard to the business of the Association.

The moderator appointed the following committees; Finance Committee, G. L. Settlemoir and Claude Dover; Committee on Order of Business, Elders L. W. Russell, E. L. Stovall, and W. L. Weatherford.

The Committee on Divine Services selected Brother T. B. Rouse to preach at 8:00 o'clock, p. m. Committee: Brother Russell and the deacons of the church.

By motion and second, the order of business as used in 1918 was adopted and used as follows:

### **Order of Business**

1. Introductory sermon. 2. Reading of letters and enrolling messengers. 3. Electing officers. 4. Recognition of corresponding messengers and visitors. 5. Report of the executive board. 6. Report of associational missionary. 7. Report of associational missions. 8. Report of state missions. 9. Home missions. 10. Foreign missions. 11. Temperance. 12. Orphans' home. 13. Sunday schools. 14. Hospital work. 15. Prayer meetings. 16. Ministerial and Christian education. 17. Publication. 18. Obituaries. 19. Bible schools. 20. Woman's work. 21. Finance. 22. Ministers and postoffices. 23. Infirm ministers. 24. Unfinished business. 25. Miscellaneous. 26. Queries and resolutions.

The sermon delivered by Brother T. B. Rouse at the

night session was very instructive and inspiring. Text: First chapter of John and the sixth verse.

At the close of the sermon the body resumed its order of business.

## Reports of the Committees

The Executive Board presented the following report by G. C. Jernigan, secretary and treasurer:

We, your Executive Committee, beg leave to make the following report:

Owing to the fact that our former missionary wished to enter college and could no longer serve, your Executive Committee unanimously elected Brother G. E. Holt, of Hamburg, Arkansas, who accepted the call and began the work January 1, 1919, at a salary of \$125.00 a month. The State Board, however, very generously agreed to pay \$50.00 per month of the above amount.

While it is true Gainesville Association is entirely a new field to Brother Holt, I believe all who have watched him closely will agree that he has carried the work on as though he had been on the field always, as will be shown by the following figures:

Miles traveled on the field .....	4035
Total miles traveled .....	5231
Churches and missions visited .....	93
Religious visits made .....	402
Meetings held .....	9
Sermons preached .....	291
Prayers in homes .....	51
Sinners bowing for special prayer .....	198
Professions of faith .....	84
Baptisms .....	53
Additions by letter .....	1
By restoration .....	3
Total additions .....	57
Money collected for Home and Foreign	
Missions .....	\$90.15
For Associational Missions .....	557.93

Considering the heavy rains which visited us during the first part of the year, the bad roads, and the general mark of unrest that is so prevalent among the people at this time, we believe a greater

report could not have been made than the one we are humbly making—and to our beloved missionary and our Great Creator lies all the credit.

We thank God for such men as <sup>to</sup> Brother Holt, who has so unselfishly sacrificed home and loved <sup>ones</sup> and has put forth every ounce of energy at his command in order <sup>that</sup> God's great message might be carried to lost humanity.

Our Association has never been in greater need of the Gospel than now; and we beg, yes plead, in God's name for your prayers and your co-operation in this great work. Brethren, we have just been playing with the Master's work. Isn't it high time that we should arouse from our slumber and do some real work for the Master?

We need more funds to carry on this work; but, above all, we need your prayers. Brethren, pray for this work; pray for Brother Holt and for your Executive Committee, that we may be directed as God would have us go.

It would be very ungrateful, indeed, should we not say that a more strenuous year's work has never been done than the one just brought to a close by our missionary. He has labored untiringly, almost night and day, and we are under great obligations to him. Fruits of his labors will be seen for many years to come, and we trust and recommend that the new Executive Committee do all in their power to secure his services on and on.

Respectfully submitted,

G. C. JERNIGAN,

Secretary and Treasurer.

## Report of the Treasurer

Paid by the Treasurer .....	\$225.33
Collected on the field .....	411.53
Total paid Brother Holt to date .....	436.86
Bal. due Bro. Holt to Oct. 20, 1919,	88.14
Due Bro. Morris for borrowed money,	100.00
Balance on hand October 20, 1919 .....	44.97
Bal. due in full to October 20, 1919,	143.17

Will state that a shortage of \$10.00 was made for printing the minutes, and that this sum was paid by the treasurer.

Respectfully submitted,

G. C. JERNIGAN,

Treasurer.

On motion the report was received and discussed by the brethren, and was adopted.

Motion carried to adjourn until the following day at 9:00 o'clock. Benediction.

## **Second Day**

On Thursday, morning, October 23, 1919, the Association was called to order by the moderator at 9:00 a. m.

Song by the body, and prayer by Bro. J. J. Gardner.

Minutes of the first day's proceedings read, corrected and adopted.

Report on State Missions was made, as follows:

### **State Missions**

While great progress has been made in our State work in the last few years, yet it seems that the work is still in its infancy. Many places in our beloved State are still destitute of Baptist preaching and teaching.

During the last conventional year, the State Board helped to support twenty-one associational missionaries. The churches of the Gainesville Association should appreciate very highly the help that we are receiving from the State Board to support our missionary on our very needy field.

If the Baptists of Arkansas succeed (as we verily believe they will) in raising the \$3,200,000.00 in our present campaign, that will give us \$700,000.00 for state and associational missions; so we recommend a very hearty co-operation of the churches of this association with our state workers in this present campaign.

Committee:

L. M. WEBB,  
J. W. VOWELL,  
E. R. ALSEY.

This report was discussed by Brethren L. M. Webb and J. W. Vowell, and same was adopted.

The report on Associational Missions was as follows:

### **Associational Missions Report**

God has very graciously blessed the work of the Board this year. One man was employed for all the time and labored nine months and

twenty days, beginning the work January 1, 1919. Our missionary has traveled on the field 4033 miles, and to the convention 1196, a total of 5231 miles traveled; churches and missions visited, 93; religious visits, 382; meetings held, from 5 to 2 weeks each, 10; sermons preached 201; prayers in homes, 51; sinners bowing for special prayer 198; professions of faith, 84; baptisms, 53; additions by letter, 1; by restoration, 3; total, 57. Special meetings attended: Bible School, Mission Rally, Central College Campaign, Evangelistic Campaign, all in Little Rock; Central College Campaign meeting at Blytheville, and the Southern Baptist Convention at Atlanta. Letters written in interest of work, 88; cards, 31. Books sold: Bibles, 4; New Testaments, 22; Little Baptist, 5; Theodosia Earnest, 2; Ray's Baptist Succession, 5; Grace Truman, 3; Pendleton's Manual, 1; Pilgrim's Progress, 6. Books given away: New Testaments, 3; Grace Truman, 1; Pilgrim's Progress, 1; Ray's Succession, 1. Money collected on field by missionary: For books sold, \$50.45; Orphan's Home, \$1.80; subscription to Baptist Advance, \$4.00; Home and Foreign Missions, \$90.15; Associational Missions, \$411.53. Total collections by missionary, \$563.93.

When we consider the difficulties under which our missionary has worked, we consider this a great report.

We find conditions and destitution in this Association, at least in many respects, appalling and alarming. In some sections there is no Baptist preaching. Some five or six churches are not only dead but have just about been swallowed up by other denominations. A number of our churches have no pastor, and some have had none for a year or more. Twelve or more churches are actually begging for preaching, while we have twenty-eight or thirty ordained preachers in our Association, and about twenty of them seldom, if ever, preach. While we have many true, loyal men and women who are interested in and are heroically standing by the work and the workers, yet it is a sad, deplorable and lamentable fact that many, many of our Baptists, and even some churches are indifferent to the work; and one of the saddest features is, the great mass of the people are caught in the whirlpool of commercialism which is catching many of our people. Also the spirit of worldliness that is engulfing the people in its deadly vortex is affecting hundreds and hundreds of our Baptist Zion and is destroying their religious fervor and Christian usefulness. And, taking advantage of this awful state of affairs, the devil is insiduously and surely working and weaving in the heresies or isms of this perilous age with alarming effect.

Therefore, the field in Gainesville Association is, indeed, white unto the harvest and the laborers are few. We need a missionary in both Clay and Greene counties; men whose souls are on fire with love for God, His glory, and for lost men; men led by the Holy Spirit, and with a backbone, who will preach the whole truth in love. Less is to fail to do our duty, and is criminal. But as our people are not aroused to their duty, we recommend that one man be employed for all his time for missionary, and that the board and missionary who may be elected employ an efficient man to assist the missionary in singing the gospel in revival meetings.

Committee:

G. E. HOLT,  
J. F. BISHOP,  
J. B. WALDEN.

This report was ably discussed by Brethren G. E. Holt, L. M. Webb, and L. W. Russell, and was adopted.

This finished the order of business for the morning Motion prevailed to adjourn until 1:30 p. m.

## **Second Day, Afternoon Session**

At 1:30 p. m., after song service and prayer led by Brother F. B. Emmons, the Association was called to order by the moderator.

By a suggestion of Brother Weatherford, the Association made a freewill offering to our associational missionary to the amount of \$72.85.

The body also entertained a motion with a second to add to this \$72 85 the \$4.78 balance from the treasury, this being the "over the top" money. Total of gift, \$76 63.

Report on Home Missions was offered by Elder L. W. Russell, as spokesman for the committee:

### **Home Missions Report**

We, your committee on Home Missions, report the following:

Our Home Missions task is in many respects the greatest and most important before Southern Baptists. We would respectfully call your attention to the wise, energetic, and increasingly successful work of our Home Missions Board in meeting the demands of this great task of preaching the gospel in every nook and corner of our

Southland, Cuba, and Panama, establishing Baptist churches in the center of every community and fostering Baptist schools and colleges for the education of our young people under proper religious influences instead of growing up in ignorance or being subjected to the infidelity, atheism, and agnosticism of our State schools on the one hand or to the false doctrine and liberalism of the schools of the other denominations on the other.

The Board with very limited means began its work first with our great cities. Here we find the darkest and most benighted spots, in a religious sense, to be found in our American civilization. The Home Board has helped to establish and maintain several churches in these cities that have become as "cities set on a hill", and this work continues with great success.

Next they took up mission work among the foreigners who came in great numbers to our chief ports every year. Many of these have been made Christians by this work and have become useful members of our churches, while all of them have been greatly helped by our faithful missionaries in their social, moral and religious life.

Then the Board turned its attention to our great and needy mountain sections of country, where the people were mostly all Baptists but worshipped in log houses for the most part without stoves, doors, windows, and in some cases not even floors. They had no Sunday schools and had made no progress in their church work in three hundred years. The Home Board by its evangelistic and educational efforts is dotting this whole section of the country with beautiful and comfortable churches which are centers of religious influences that are destined to bring this whole section under the influence of the truth. The Board is also covering these sections at strategical points with academies and junior colleges that are helping mightily in the evangelization and training of these regions of hill country. We now have three of these schools in Arkansas, with two more in contemplation and promised certainty.

The latest work of the Board is the evangelization and training of our vast and too long neglected Negro population of the Southland. The Board has for some time been employing a number of competent evangelists to preach to these people, and it now contemplates and is preparing to establish a great seminary at Nashville, Tennessee, for the better training of the Negro ministry.

These are all great and important tasks that hold great promises for the future.

The fifteen per cent of the seventy-five million dollars to be raised in our five-year campaign will all be needed to meet present needs. Let's make this campaign a great success that our Home Mission task may not fail.

Signed by,

L. W. RUSSELL,  
F. B. EMMONS,  
JOHN B. KERLEY.

This report was discussed very extensively by Brethren L. W. Russell and G. E. Holt, and was adopted.

The report on Foreign Missions was as follows:

### **Report on Foreign Missions**

Any just appreciation of the Foreign Mission Board's work and responsibilities, and any effort to provide adequate resources for this work must be based upon a knowledge and just consideration of the extensive fields which the Board is cultivating, the conditions on these fields, the variety of work that is being conducted and the necessities of the work which we have allowed to accumulate through the years.

The Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention is charged with propagating the gospel in Japan, China, Africa, Italy, Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, Chile, etc. Such numerous and extensive mission fields put this work out of comparison with anything else we are doing.

On these fields there are vaster numbers of human beings than the human mind can grasp. The population in these lands mounts into the hundreds of millions—some of them white, some black, some yellow; but all of them the objects of God's love.

The condition of these millions as compared with the people whom we know adds emphasis to the appeal of the great field and the great numbers. These multitudes, whether in pagan or papal lands, are handicapped by ignorance and superstition, by physical suffering, and above all by aggravated sin for which they have found no remedy. If there is any pity in the Christian heart, it ought to be provoked by the deplorable conditions under which millions of our fellow beings on these mission fields are spending their lives while we enjoy the blessings of the gospel and of a Christian civilization which it has produced.

But we shall not properly appraise Foreign Missions if we overlook the fact that it includes the evangelization of the lost, the education of the ignorant, the training of the saved, the healing of

the sick, the housing of feeble mission churches. Indeed, all that we are doing at home through the state mission boards, home mission boards, education boards, orphanages, sanitarium and the rest, we are doing through the Foreign Mission Board. No adequate provision can be made for a work so extensive, so varied and so comprehensive, if we put Foreign Missions on a parity with any single Christian enterprise which we are conducting at home.

There is another fact (and a great fact it is) which must be taken into consideration if we are to meet our obligations to this great work at this time. The war immeasurably enlarged our international Christian duty. The heroic efforts and sacrifices which we made to set the world free from the extraordinary restraints of autocracy creates for us a new and larger duty to promote everywhere the internal constraints of the gospel of Christ. The unrestrained freedom of unregenerated human nature inevitably menaces the world. The extraordinary world situation which we have created with our guns lays upon us the most serious responsibility to send the gospel into all nations.

The Convention at Atlanta in May recognized the new obligations which this extraordinary world situation laid upon Southern Baptists and authorized the Board to undertake reconstruction work in Europe, to hasten the gospel into disturbed and endangered Russia, and to set up the banner of Christ in Persia, Syria, and in Galilee, from whence the blessings of Christ's life and death have flowed down through centuries to us, and to which we are under peculiar obligations. In the new work thus designated for the Foreign Mission Board, its tasks and its needs have been well-nigh doubled. Let the churches and the individual givers lay to heart these facts in making future contributions to this work.

It is fitting to say that as poorly as we have supported this great world enterprise, the blessings of heaven have been upon it. Some of the results of the work last year were five thousand six hundred thirty-five converts baptized, forty-one churches organized, two churches assuming self-support, sixty-one thousand five hundred eighty-eight patients treated, and one hundred twenty-nine thousand two hundred ninety-eight treatments administered.

The world fields are ripe unto the harvest, but much of the bending grain will be lost if we do not quickly thrust in the sickle. The world has never seen the universal human mind so expectant, so ready to make great decisions; and, therefore, such need for quick and decisive action by those who would turn that mind to the right

things and lead the world by the highway of the cross back to God. Foreign Mission duty was never so imperious as just now.

The Foreign Mission Board furnishes for free distribution the best tracts and can fill orders for the best books on Foreign Missions. We would, therefore, recommend to our people that they cultivate an acquaintance with the Literature Department of the Board and seek to promote among our church membership a better knowledge of the work.

While the 75-Million Campaign has been presented to the body in another report, your committee on Foreign Missions would add its endorsement of this movement and its admonition to the churches of the Association that there be no failure to give this campaign the most unqualified, faithful and enthusiastic support. The success of the Campaign will help everything that we are doing and its failure would hurt everything. We have set for ourselves a task worthy of a great people and shall prove ourselves worthy of our inheritance if we accomplish it. The eyes of our Lord and of the world are upon us, and we must succeed in this great thing to which we have laid our hands.

Committee:

ED. L. STOVALL,  
W. L. WEATHERFORD,  
T. S. ROGERS.

By motion and second this report was adopted, and it was discussed by Elder E. L. Stovall and others.

The Committee on Temperance reported as follows:

### Report on Temperance

We, your Committee on Temperance, beg leave to make the following report:

We believe in temperance, that temperance is a bliss to any nation or people; and we earnestly believe that woman's work has done a great deal to help drive this evil from our land.

The women have been faithful and loyal in our church work. They have not been slackers by any means, and we earnestly pray that the pastors and lay members will help these good ladies in the temperance movement, that "Temperance" may be the motto in every home.

J. A. STAIRS,  
W. J. ROGERS,  
C. D. HOLCOMB.

Motion carried to adopt report, and it was discussed by Elders J. A. Stairs and E. L. Stovall.

## Financial Report

CHURCHES	Associational Missions	State Missions	Home Missions	Foreign Missions	Orphans' Home	Ministerial Education	Christian Education	Minutes	Ministers' Aid	Total
Rock Hill	\$32.40	12.00			15.50		12.00	3.00		74.90
Wanders' Home	5.00				5.00			1.00		11.00
Paragould (2nd)								4.00		4.00
Mount Pleasant		5.00		1.00	10.00			2.50		18.50
Blooming Grove					5.00			3.00		8.00
Brown's Chapel	15.50	5.55						2.00		23.05
Greenway	10.00							2.00		12.00
Piggott	50.00							10.00		60.00
Post Oak					5.00			1.50		6.50
New Hope	13.00				11.00			3.00		27.00
New Home								1.25		1.25
Gainesville			.50					2.00		2.50
Hopewell								1.50		1.50
New Light					5.00			1.50		6.50
Black River		5.00	5.00	5.00	10.00	1.00		1.00	1.00	28.00
Marmaduke								5.00		5.00
Friendship								5.00		5.00
Providence								2.50		2.50
Epsaby			1.50	1.50	1.00			1.50		5.50
Union Grove								2.00		2.00
Beech Grove								1.00		1.00
Fair View	1.00				2.00			1.50		4.50
Pleasant Hill		2.00	2.50	2.00				.50		7.00
St. Francis		2.86						1.65		4.51
Bethlehem	5.55				6.25			2.25		14.05
Big Creek	16.50			10.00				2.00		28.50
Total	148.95	32.40	9.50	19.50	75.75	1.00	12.00	64.15	1.00	364.26

Rector will pay \$7.50 more, to be added to minutes and clerk.

Committee:

G. L. SETTLEMOIR,  
CLAUD DOVER.