

MINUTES  
OF THE  
LIBERTY  
BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

HELD WITH  
HOPEWELL CHURCH No. 1,  
UNION COUNTY, ARKANSAS,

1885.

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ARKANSAS EVANGEL PRINT,  
LITTLE ROCK, ARK.

# PROCEEDINGS

## OF THE

# LIBERTY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

The Liberty Baptist Association held its fortieth annual session with the church at Hopewell No. 1, Union county, Arkansas, commencing on Saturday before the second Sunday in September, A. D., 1885.

The introductory sermon was preached by Elder William Hunt, using as a text the 4th and 5th verses and 2d chapter of First Peter: "To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious.

"Ye also, as living stones, are built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ." Theme: Christ the life of His people. After which a recess was taken to partake of refreshments, bountifully furnished on the grounds.

2 O'CLOCK P. M.

The delegates from the several churches of the Association assembled in the church, and after prayer by Bro. J. M. Hollingsworth, were called to order by Elder J. M. Hart, former Moderator. The former Clerk, Bro. G. E. Murphy, being absent, on motion, O. G. Quinn was appointed temporary Clerk.

Delegates were called on for letters, which were read by Elder J. R. Bishop and Brethren H. T. Hawkins and L. W. Matthews, and names of delegates enrolled as per statistical table.

Called for petitionary letters, and the church at Blanchard Springs responded, which, on motion, was read, the church admitted into the Association, and names of delegates enrolled.

In order to a permanent organization, proceeded to elect a Moderator and Clerk.

A motion prevailed to elect by acclamation, whereupon Elder J. M. Hart was elected Moderator and O. G. Quinn, Clerk.

On motion, a committee on devotional exercises be appointed. Committee,—J. M. Gathright and A. E. Davis, with the deacons of this church.

On motion, the order of business of last session be followed at the present session.

By order of business—Ministers and visiting brethren are invited to seats in the body.

Called for correspondence:

Columbia Association responded in the persons of Elder J. R. Bishop and Bro. J. M. Hollingsworth.

Concord Association, in the person of Elder William Hunt.

Ouachita Colored Baptist Association responded by letter and delegates Brethren P. A. Henry, Moses Phillips and L. Sturges.

Returned correspondence:

To Columbia Association—Elder H. T. Britt and Bro. A. E. Davis.

To Concord Association—Elders J. U. H. Wharton and J. G. McCain, and Brethren G. M. Morgan, S. A. Jones and J. C. Langston.

On motion, Elder J. M. Hart was added to the above.

To Southwestern Association—O. G. Quinn.



To Ouachita Colored Baptist Association—Elders H. T. Britt and J. M. Hart, and Brethren A. C. Jones, J. K. Sheppard and S. A. Jones.

Appointed the following committees:

On Sabbath Schools—H. G. P. Williams, J. K. Sheppard and J. G. Burnside.

On Documents—G. M. Morgan, Elder W. J. Robinson and J. T. Howard.

On Foreign Missions—Elder H. T. Britt, T. H. Land and T. R. Ellen.

On Ministerial Education—A. C. Jones, W. T. Hudson and J. H. McKinnie.

On Nominations—D. W. Ward, S. A. Jones and E. Ward.

On Finance—E. M. Bull, F. L. Neal and E. H. Jones.

On Publications—H. T. Hawkins, W. W. Griffin, William Deason and L. W. Matthews.

A motion prevailed that the Moderator request Sisters Ida Moore, Ophelia Jones and Octavia Sheppard to bring before the body the subject of intemperance.

On motion, adjourned till 8:30 o'clock a. m. Monday.

#### SABBATH EXERCISES.

Prayer meeting at 10 o'clock a. m., conducted by Elder J. M. Hart.

Preaching at the arbor at 11 o'clock a. m., by Elder M. D. Early. Soon after this session commenced the rain began falling, which caused the congregation to disperse. Had no further services until after dinner, which was again furnished on the grounds. At 2 o'clock p. m. preaching was resumed by Elder M. D. Early. Succeeding the sermon followed a collection for State Missions, amounting to \$8.80.

#### MONDAY 8:30 O'CLOCK, A. M.

Prayer, by D. W. Ward. Association called to order by the Moderator.

Called for reports of committees in regular order. Committee on nominations made the following report, and on motion adopted:

We, your committee on nominations, would respectfully submit the following report:

We recommend that the Association holds its next session with the church at Spring Hill, Ark., Elder H. T. Britt to preach the introductory sermon; Elder J. U. H. Wharton, alternate. Time, Saturday before the second Sabbath in September, A. D. 1886.

D. W. WARD, Chairman.

On motion, proceed to elect delegates to the Baptist State Convention at Hope—Delegates chosen—Brethren W. W. Griffin and H. T. Hawkins, Elders J. U. H. Wharton, J. M. Hart (on motion) and W. J. Robinson.

Committee on documents made the following report, which, on motion, was adopted:

We, your committee on documents, submit the following report: The number of baptisms, 22; total number of members, 994. We find twenty-two churches represented by letter and delegates, and one by delegates without letter. Three churches (Camden, Pleasant Ridge and Mt. Olive) not represented. Six churches report Sabbath schools. No church has asked for the next sitting of the Association.

G. M. MORGAN, Chairman.

Committee on publications made the following report, which, on motion, was adopted:

Your committee would not underestimate the power of the press. In order that the rising generation may be provided with sound and profitable reading matter, your committee would call the attention of parents to the fact that much of the current literature of the day is corrupting to morals and tends to vice; hence the importance of care as to what reading matter we place in the hands of our children. We heartily recommend the Evangel as a denominational paper worthy of the confidence and support of the denomination, and earnestly commend it to our brethren; also, the Tennessee Baptist and other sound religious papers. We recommend the International Sunday-school literature of the American Baptist Publication Society, together with Kind Words, as proper and pre-eminently fitted literature for Sabbath-schools.

H. T. HAWKINS, Chairman.

Committee on ministerial education made the following report, which, on motion, was adopted:

Your committee on ministerial education have to acknowledge their utter ina-



bility to do justice to the subject, and beg to be excused from attempting anything like an essay or an adequate expression of their sense of its importance. It is of transcendent importance, because it involves a preparation for the noblest work, the discharge of the most momentous trust that has ever been committed by the Creator of the world to mortal man. The great commission delivered by our Savior to his Apostles, and transmitted by them to his ministers of today, "Go teach all nations," implies by its very terms a preparation for the work, for how can they teach unless they are themselves taught? It is to be regretted that the Liberty Association has done but little in the past, and for the last five years scarcely anything in this department of Christian work, but even the little we have done has yielded fruit of which we may well be proud. Witness the fact that two of the most efficient and ablest ministers of the south obtained their education under the fostering care and by the contributions of this body, namely, the Rev. J. D. Jameson, now of California, and the Rev. R. A. Venable, of Memphis, Tennessee.

It is true that some have complained that these brethren have chosen other fields of labor than the homes where they were nurtured, but is this a just cause of complaint? Nay, brethren. It is not for us to dictate their fields of labor. Doubtless the Master has directed them to their proper sphere.

We call attention to the above facts for the purpose of encouraging the Association to prosecute this work with more vigor, and especially with more liberality. If other young men should present themselves as worthy of your aid, let us not withhold it, and if possible keep in the hands of the executive board a sufficient sum to enable them to render this aid promptly.

Respectfully submitted.

A. C. JONES, Chairman.

Adjourned for preaching by Elder M. D. Early, after which continued collection for State Missions and received \$6, making \$14.80 collected during the two days. Refreshments on the grounds.

#### AFTERNOON SESSION.

House called to order by the Moderator.

The ladies requested to bring before the Association the subject of intemperance read the following essay written by Sister Ida Moore and indorsed by the other two sisters, which on motion was adopted.

#### INTEMPERANCE.

*Brethren and Sisters, Ladies and Gentlemen:*

The first question I will ask, Have we no evils? Yes. Fires, floods, famines, pestilence, sickness and death are evils. But these evils carrying with them no moral taints or qualities, we dismiss. Cast your eye on the world's broad disc, consult the pages of history, sacred and profane, and then ask yourselves this one question. What is the evil of this or former days? The answer will be intemperance. Yes, intemperance is the greatest evil with which our world has been cursed. Intemperance is evil and only evil, and that continually. Nor has it softening and redeeming qualities. Cyclones purify the air, dark clouds have their silver linings, but here is an evil, a self-imposed evil without one redeeming feature, a curse with no alleviation. It would be superfluous upon my part, yes, almost an insult to this enlightened and Christian audience to adduce arguments to show the evils flowing from the use of ardent spirits as a beverage. A simple portraiture of the evil is abundantly sufficient. Shall I speak of the cost of intoxicating liquors to the people of the United States? The lowest estimated annual cost is seven hundred and fifty millions. Enough money to pay off one-half of the nation's debt; enough to educate every child, white and black, in the land; enough money to educate and Christianize all heathen lands, if annually appropriated to that purpose. There are in the United States over one hundred and fifty thousand whiskey and beer saloons. Should they manufacture annually two drunkards each, you have the appalling number of three hundred thousand annually falling into and filling a drunkard's grave and a drunkard's hell. I think we should have more councils organized in our countries, to reclaim the fallen, to bring them back to usefulness, and restore them to their relations and friends. In all candor, I ask, Does not this cause address itself to your



favorable consideration? Would you be a patriot? The cause is grand and noble. Would you be a humanitarian? It is the cause of humanity. Are you a Christian? How can you drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of the devil? Has God any fellowship with Belial? Darkness with light? Virtue with vice? Is there one here who prepares the egg-nog on the Christmas morning, a day made memorable and sacred by the birth of the world's Redeemer, and offer it to his son? By so doing you may give strength to an appetite and to a downward course that will eventuate in the eternal destruction of that bright boy. He that causes the least one of these to go astray brings himself under that awful announcement, "It were better that a mill-stone was hanged about his neck, and he cast into the sea." Then, parents, how dare you present the tempting cup to your child? But, says one, "I drink my dram and do not get drunk, and am not responsible for the acts of others." But do not the Scriptures plainly teach us that we are our brother's keeper? "No man liveth unto himself and no man dieth unto himself." The great apostle said, "If meat causes my brother to offend, I would eat no meat while the world stands." The parable of the Good Samaritan, spoken of by our Lord while on earth, is a point here. Read it and from it learn a lesson of wisdom. Again the apostle exhorts us to shun the appearance of evil. The Word teaches us that no thief, no robber, no liar, no murderer, no drunkard shall inherit the kingdom of Heaven. I conclude my remarks by saying a few words to the ladies. It is said that the power behind the throne is greater than the throne. Woman has been first in every good word and work. She was last at the cross and first at the sepulchre. Let me entreat you, then, to exert your power and influence in behalf of the great cause of temperance. May it be said of each of us in this great conflict for the right, in the great day of assize, we did what we could. Finally, let us give heed to the admonition of the apostle, "Denying ourselves of all ungodliness and worldly lust, let us live holy, righteously and soberly in this present life to the end that we may reap eternal life in the world to come."

IDA MOORE.

On motion, a copy of the above essay be sent to the Evangel, with the request that the same be published.

The executive board made the following report, and on motion was adopted:

Your executive committee submit the following as their annual report:

There was pledged at the last Association for foreign missions \$76; of said amount we have collected \$58. Of this last amount we have forwarded to Dr. Tupper, Secretary Foreign Mission Board, \$50.75, leaving a balance on hand of \$7.25. There was pledged at the Association at Eldorado in 1883, for ministerial education, \$72, of which amount we have collected \$11. We have disbursed by order of last Association \$7 in the purchase of books for Bro. B. Green, leaving a balance of \$4 in our hands. We have had no candidate for ministerial education since the above pledges were made, hence some who made these pledges have not felt the necessity of paying them. We had on hand at the commencement of the present associational year the sum of \$38.60. We were unable to secure a suitable missionary to work in our bounds, hence we report the above amount on hand. We find collected by the finance committee from the churches for home missions \$25.15; collected on Sabbath and Monday of present session for state missions, \$14.80; paid to us by finance committee of present session for foreign missions, \$3.15.

Recapitulation—On hand for foreign missions, \$10.40; on hand for home missions, \$63.75; on hand for state missions, \$14.80; for ministerial education, \$4; total amount on hand for all purposes, \$92.95. Your committee are at a loss to know how to use the fund on hand for home missions. The amount is not sufficient to employ a suitable missionary to work in our bounds for any length of time, and we submit to you whether it will be better to hold these funds until the amount is increased, or to turn them over to the State Board to be used by them.

Respectfully submitted.

O. LAMAR,

H. G. P. WILLIAMS,

H. T. HAWKINS,

Committee.

On motion, the home and state mission funds now in the hands of the executive

board, amounting to \$78.55, be turned over to the State Board to the credit of J. M. Hart, pledged for \$100.

On motion, the same executive board is continued, with the addition of Elder J. M. Hart, as chairman of the board.

The finance committee made the following report, which was on motion adopted:

Use the committee on finance submit the following report: We find sent up:	
From the churches for minutes - - - - -	\$42 30
From the churches for foreign missions - - - - -	3 15
From the churches for home missions - - - - -	\$23 65
From L. A. S., Salem church - - - - -	1 00
From Mrs. J. B. Hawkins - - - - -	50
Total for home missions - - - - -	\$25 15
Collected Sabbath and Monday - - - - -	14 80
Total for all purposes - - - - -	\$85 40

E. M. BULL, Chairman.

Committee on Sabbath Schools made their report as follows, which was adopted:

Your committee on Sabbath schools respectfully report: That we learn from the letters of the churches composing the Association that only 6 churches out of 22 reported here have sustained Sabbath schools during the last associational year. It is sad to contemplate the seeming neglect and manifest indifference to this great work. The idea is too prevalent that the Sabbath school is a separate and independent work from the church. We do not entertain this view, but believe it is and should be inseparably connected with the church; that it should receive the aid and fostering care of the church; that it should be attended, not only by our children, but by the grown up people, both saint and sinner, as well. A Sabbath school thus organized we think would give us satisfactory results.

Respectfully submitted,

H. G. P. WILLIAMS, Chairman.

Committee on foreign missions made the following report, and, on motion, was adopted:

We, your committee on foreign missions, make the following report: We learn from the Bible that in all ages God has had a select and elect people, and these abide in all lands and all climes, and God has determined through the Gospel to gather them together unto Himself.

God's love has been made manifest in the interest of sinners by the gift of His Son, who through or by the grace of God should taste death for every man, and Christ's glorious benevolence stands out in the blessed proclamation of peace and pardon to all who call upon Him through faith in His name. But millions of them today are enveloped in the thick darkness of ignorance and superstition. Have we any sympathy for them? any desire to honor a blessed God who hath called us with an holy calling? If so, God has set us the church, a light in the world. Then the opportunity is large, and we would recommend to all Christians everywhere, and Baptists especially, to awake to their true positions. The Master says go work, and that today. How shall we work? By bringing out proper and efficient men and supplying them with the necessary means to support them in carrying out the great purposes of God in the salvation of mankind. Therefore, we recommend, as far as possible, not only a close culture of those lands now occupied by our missionaries, but search out new fields. And we would request our pastors and all Christian workers to carefully investigate the subject of foreign missions and press its claims closely upon the churches and people, and that this Association raise as much as possible of the amount called for to meet the wants of the State Convention, and that an uninterrupted co-operation be continued between the executive and foreign boards.

Respectfully submitted.

H. T. BRITT, Chairman.



On motion, the Clerk receive \$15 for his services and the balance of minute funds be used for printing and distributing minutes.

On motion, Clerk is instructed to have the minutes of the Association printed at the office of the Arkansas Evangel.

Resolutions read and adopted:

*Resolved*, That the first Sunday in October be set apart as a day of fasting and faithful prayer to God that He will send more laborers into the field.

W. W. GRIFFIN.

*Resolved*, That we tender our thanks to the brethren, sisters and friends of this community for their kind hospitality during this session of the Association.

D. W. WARD.

*Resolved*, That it is the sense of this body that a Baptist college, situated at some central place in Arkansas, is a necessary factor to our greatest denominational growth and prosperity; that we most heartily approve the efforts now being made by the Arkansas Baptist Convention to establish a school of high order in which we may educate our children; that when such a school shall have been established, that we shall encourage it with our influence and support it with our patronage.

J. M. HART.

On motion, adjourned.

J. M. HART, Moderator.

O. G. QUINN, Clerk.

NOTE.—Second district meets with New Hope church, embracing fifth Sunday in November. Third district meets with Cane creek church, Friday before the third Sunday in July, 1886.

CLERK.



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CHURCHES.

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Bethlehem	
Bethel No. 1	
Bethel No. 2	
Enon	
Friends'p N.	
Holly Spring	
Hickory Grove	
Macedonia	
Mt. Moriah	I
New Hope	W
Providence	L
Pleasant Sp'gs	E
Pleasant Hill	J C
Pleasant Grove	L Qn
Pleasant Ridge	J H W
Pine Bluff	A J Fa.
Spr'g Hill No 1	E Y A H
Spr'g Hill No 2	R C Rhod.
Star City	L Quinn
Sardis	T J Varnell
Zion	J H W Overtor

Centerville and Friends