

PROCEEDINGS.

THE MT. VERNON BAPTIST ASSOCIATION met with the Spring Creek Church, Lee county, at 11 o'clock a.m. Friday, September 30, 1881, Deacon H. P. Slaughter, Moderator, having by request, changed the place of meeting from Bible Union Church to the above named church.

The Association being called together by the Moderator, Elder W. H. Paslay, according to previous appointment, preached the Introductory Sermon, text, Genesis, 49: 23, 24.

On motion of Elder W. H. Paslay the Association proceeded to organize.

Elders J. W. Graham and M. K. McCarty being appointed by the chair, read the letters from the various churches, when the following messengers were enrolled:

Cypress Valley—W. A. Bobbitt, J. F. Langston.

Hopewell—John P. Farrar, sr.; John P. Farrar, jr.

Forrest City—E. E. Monroe, G. A. Grammar.

Spring Creek—R. A. Butts, W. D. Roane, H. P. Slaughter.

Pine Grove—S. W. Eddins, D. L. Cooper.

Clarendon—Henry Wardell, J. P. Careton.

Zion—B. F. Thomas.

Pine Fork—J. W. Grimes, W. R. Walston, John Burton.

Trenton—W. H. Porter.

Bethlehem—Thos. E. Knight.

Ash Grove—J. T. Copenon, J. B. Hardin.

Forrest Chapel—T. J. Hunt, J. B. Hodges, J. Harder, J. M. Whitehead.

Oak Grove—J. H. Spiney, E. T. Boardman, Wm. Ligon.

Salem—W. J. Scaife, Wm. Thompson, J. F. Jarrett.

On motion of Elder B. F. Thomas it was agreed to elect all the officers in one ballot, Elders B. F. Thomas and W. H. Paslay acting as tellers, announced Deacon H. P. Slaughter, Mod-

erator, Elder W. H. Paslay, Treasurer; and Elder G. A. Grammar, Clerk and Corresponding Secretary.

The Moderator appointed Deacon R. A. Butts, J. H. Spiner, W. J. Scaife, J. B. Hodges, Henry Wardell as Committee on Religious Exercises, when, on motion, the Moderator was added thereto.

The following Committee on Foreign Mission was appointed: Elder B. F. Thomas, Brethren J. P. Farrar, sr., George P. Taylor.

On motion of Elder W. H. Paslay, Brethren A. Hopkins and M. K. McCarty from Bethel Church were received as delegates from that church.

Elder B. F. Thomas read the report on Education, which, on motion, was adopted after addresses by Brethren B. F. Thomas, G. A. Grammar, W. D. Roane.

Your Committee on Education humbly submit the following report:

A report of this character is not expected to claborate any department of the subject; hence we call your attention to a few points under the general head. A new era is upon us on the subject of educating the masses. Each of the two great political parties are trying to make the impression on the public mind that it is the special friend and advocate of a better general education, and no doubt the result will be a large increase in the amount appropriated for that purpose and greatly improved methods of applying it. We as Baptists cannot afford to be indifferent in this matter. It will not do to fold our arms in our dignity and boast that we have the truth and that "truth is mighty and will prevail." We must make every possible effort to keep pace with this advanced state of intellectual development. Yea more, we must show the world that we are abreast of every grand wave of improvement, either physical, intellectual, moral or spiritual.

If we would have the pure and simple truths of the Gospel to gain a grand triumph over superstition, tradition, "science falsely so called," false theories and erroneous practices in all these chameleon hues and protean shapes, we must stand in the front ranks of literature prepared to cope with any power, however great their intellectual development, and contend with any organization however vast their numbers or extensive their resources. If we would reach the masses of the people we must be on a par with them in point of education. If we

would benefit the cultivated and refined we must be prepared to stand side by side with them in these respects. Yea, we must be prepared to meet their leaders, their reputed giants in intellect, and like Greek meeting Greek or steel meeting steel, show the superiority of truth over error, and of the principles and development of true science over the principles and development of "science falsely so called." Every reflecting intelligent Baptist will see with what intensified force these statements will apply to the importance of our preachers having every possible advantage in the way of a cultivated intellect as well as the highest possible attainment of knowledge, not only theological, but of every description.

G. A. GRAMMAR,

B. F. THOMAS,

Committee.

On motion of Elder B. F. Thomas, the order of business was suspended, and appointed correspondence as follows:

Big Hattie Association, Tennessee—Elders T. J. Hunt, B. F. Thomas, G. A. Grammar.

Grand Prairie Association, Arkansas—Brethren H. P. Slaughter, William Thompson, J. L. Wilson, J. W. Graham, G. A. Grammar.

Mt. Zion Association, Ark.—Elders E. E. Monroe, T. J. Hunt, B. F. Thomas, G. A. Grammar.

Caroline Association, Ark.—Brethren G. W. Reeves, L. K. Obenchain, R. A. Butts, G. A. Grammar.

State Convention—Brethren H. P. Slaughter, W. H. Paslay, G. W. Reeves, B. F. Thomas, J. W. Graham, J. H. Thompson, G. A. Grammar.

The Committee on Home Missions made the following report, which, after addresses by Brethren T. J. Hunt, W. H. Paslay, G. A. Grammar, B. F. Thomas, M. K. McCarty, was adopted.

On motion, after singing "My soul be on thy guard," and prayer by Brother T. J. Hunt, the Association adjourned till Saturday at 9 o'clock a.m.

At night Elder T. J. Hunt, as previously appointed by Committee on Religious Exercises, preached from Matt. 5: 13.

SATURDAY, 9 O'CLOCK A. M.

After singing No. 167 of Southern Psalmist, and prayer by Elder G. W. Reeves, the Association proceeded to business.

Minutes of yesterday were read, revised and adopted.

Letters from other churches not represented yesterday being called for by the Moderator, the following additional messengers were enrolled:

Helena—Elder G. W. Reeves.

Marvell—Brethren L. K. Obenchain, S. H. King.

Philadelphia—M. A. Thompson, H. H. Chalmers.

The Moderator appointed the following committees to report next session:

Sunday-schools—L. K. Obenchain, J. F. Langston, R. A. Butts.

Education—T. J. Hunt, B. F. Thomas, J. P. Farrar, sr.

Temperance—M. K. McCarty, W. A. Bobbitt, V. B. Izard.

Foreign Missions—W. H. Paslay, E. E. Monroe, W. J. Scaife.

Home Missions—G. A. Grammar, W. H. Paslay, B. F. Thomas.

Brother W. H. Paslay read the report on Sunday Schools which, after addresses thereon by W. H. Paslay, B. F. Thomas, G. W. Reeves, T. J. Hunt, L. K. Obenchain and W. J. Scaife, was adopted.

Your Committee on Sabbath-schools beg leave to submit the following:

Next to the preaching of the Gospel we regard the instruction in the Sunday-school as the best means of counteracting the vice, elevating the morals and evangelizing the youth of our country. Our hopes for the future prosperity of Zion are in the youth of our land, and unless greater efforts are made by parents and churches for their education, mentally, morally and spiritually, Ichabod may as well be written on the doors of our churches and the field abandoned to the enemy. Vice and immorality, skepticism and infidelity are increasing with alarming rapidity, while apathy and indifference characterize every effort. Is there no remedy for this? Can nothing arouse us? Will nothing awake us from culpable lethargy?

Resolutions, exhortations and suggestions as yet have accomplished nothing, or, at least, very little. Look at the letters from the different churches; only seven report any Sunday school, and our children are almost as ignorant of the Scriptures as the benighted sons of Africa. Brethren, we can if we will, do it better. Will we do it or still drift along at this different rate until our children are drowned in the cess pool?

infidelity. We would recommend that every minister and delegate of this Association, yet every friend of humanity, every lover of Christianity, make one more strenuous effort to establish a Sunday-school in every church or its vicinity, and when this is done the clouds that now hang so threateningly over us will disappear. God will again smile upon us, and anthems of praise will rise from every valley and be echoed from every hill in Mt. Vernon Association.

W. H. PASLAY,

J. W. GRAHAM,

W. D. ROANE,

Committee.

On motion adjourned, and heard preaching by Elder B. F. Thomas from Heb. 2: 3, after which proceeded to business.

Brethren John P. Farrar, sr., William Thompson and J. M. Whitehead were appointed a Finance Committee.

On motion of Brother T. J. Hunt, the report on Home Missions was reconsidered.

Brother T. J. Hunt offered a resolution on Home Missions to be appended to the report on Home Missions, which, after amendment by G. A. Grammar and speeches by W. H. Paslay, T. J. Hunt, G. A. Grammar, G. W. Reeves, L. K. Obenchain and others, was adopted.

REPORT ON HOME MISSIONS.

Brethren of Mt. Vernon Association:—No argument is necessary to prove to your body the pressing claims of the Home Mission enterprise, and your duty to do your utmost in supplying the destitution within your bounds with regular preaching. Throughout our whole Associational bounds there is vast destitution, with here and there a church like an oasis in the scorching desert. In some portions of our territory there are weak and struggling churches, which, with a little help, would build up and become strong in the Lord, but without help will go down entirely. Brethren, shall we help them, or shall we sit still and fold our arms in glorious ease and see those churches disband? Shall we hear thousands of our fellow-creatures at our very doors crying for the bread of life, and make no effort to give it to them?

We have no money to employ a missionary say you. Well, why have we not? Whose fault is it? So long as we make no effort to occupy those rich harvest fields, just so long will the enemy occupy them. We claim to have the truth; let us then

scatter it broadcast over the land, and let there not be a spot in our entire bounds where Baptist preaching is not regularly heard. Let the delegates from every church pledge for their churches an amount they think can be collected next year. On these pledges let the Executive Board employ a Missionary and instruct him to preach to those churches on the importance of supporting the preached word and letting those who preach the Gospel live of the Gospel and contribute all they can to the onward march of the cause of Christ.

May God arouse his people to do their whole duty, and may he hasten the time when every hill-top and every valley become vocal with the praises to our Redeemer.

M. K. McCARTY,

E. E. MONROE,

J. P. FARRAR, Secy.

Committee.

Resolved, That the delegates and pastors of the various churches now present do now pledge their church for Associational Missions, said pastors be requested to lay this subject before the churches at an early day, and that said amounts be collected at the earliest possible moment after the close of the Association, and be forwarded to Elder W. H. Paslay, Treasurer for Executive Board.

Resolved, That if the Executive Board can secure a Missionary upon these pledges, and deem it wise to do so, they be authorized to employ one as soon as a suitable man can be found.

In accordance with the above report, Elder W. H. Paslay made a call for pledges with the following response:

Oak Grove Church	\$10 00	R. A. Butts	50
Forest Chapel Church	10 00	J. P. Farrar, Secy. (paid)	50
Pine Grove Church	8 00	M. K. McCarty	50
Helena Church	10 00	F. M. Hill	50
Ash Grove Church (paid)	3 00	Henry Douglas	25
I. H. Wardell	10 00	C. F. Langston	25
Wm. Thompson	10 00	W. A. Babbit	25
W. J. Scaife	5 00	J. P. Farrar, Jr.	25
Mrs. L. C. Bush	5 00	W. H. Paslay	10 00
S. H. King	5 00	G. A. Grammar	10 00
W. H. Porter (paid)	2 50	H. W. Womble (paid)	25
H. P. Slaughter	5 00	J. F. Jarrett	25
W. D. Roane	5 00	C. E. Knights	25
M. A. Thompson	2 50	A. Hopkins	25
J. M. Whitehead	2 00	Miss Josie Scaife	50
J. W. Graham	5 00	H. A. Womble (paid 60 cts)	25
L. K. Obenchain	2 50	J. W. Grimes	50

Elder B. F. Thomas read the report on Foreign Missions which was adopted, and a cash collection of \$5 00 was taken up.

Elder B. F. Thomas read the following report on Foreign Missions:

Having been appointed after the organization of the Body, your committee have no means of securing statistics. The original plan of the Gospel commenced at home, but it never stopped short of foreign countries. Paul went to foreign fields and gloried in unfurling the banner of the Cross, and in triumphantly erecting its standard in those countries shrouded in darkness, and enveloped in the shades of spiritual death. The same might be said of Peter and others in his day. Therefore your committee would suggest the importance of recommending the churches to divide their contributions among the different mission fields according to their respective claims, after prayerful examination and due consideration. As a means of carrying out the above duty, we recommend the Foreign Mission Journal, published by our Board at Richmond, Va.

B. F. THOMAS, *Chairman.*

By S. H. King:—

Notice is hereby given that a motion will be made at the next meeting of this Body to change the time of meeting from Friday before the first Sunday in October, to Friday before the third Sunday in October.

Brother W. J. Scaife read the report on Temperance, which, after addresses by Brethren W. H. Paslay, W. J. Scaife, B. F. Thomas, L. K. Obenchain, G. A. Grammar and G. W. Reeves, was recommitted.

Brother G. A. Grammar offered the following resolution on Publications:

Addresses being made by G. W. Reeves, S. H. King, W. H. Paslay, B. F. Thomas, G. A. Grammar, the report was adopted:

RESOLUTION ON PUBLICATIONS.

WHEREAS, The potent influence of the press, for good or evil, can hardly be estimated, and while the ungodly and evil-minded are circulating and reading periodicals and papers, which are highly injurious to the morals of the people; therefore,

Resolved, That it becomes our imperative duty as Christians to secure for ourselves and family literature of a high, moral character, and we therefore recommend the Arkansas Evangel, published by the Arkansas Printing and Publishing Company of Little Rock, at \$2 00 a year, with Elders B. R. Wormack and J. B. Searcy, Editors, as an able exponent of Bible truths,

and a medium of communication between the brethren, believing it an almost indispensable necessity in every Baptist household.

Elder W. H. Paslay, as Treasurer, submitted the following report for 1880, which was adopted :

Received from Finance Committee	\$4 30
Received by Clerk additional amounts for Minutes and Missions.....	7 25
Paid for Minutes.....	26 55
Paid Clerk.....	10 00
Paid Baptist State Convention, Missions.....	15 00
W. H. PASLAY, Treasurer.	

On motion, the Clerk was instructed to have 400 copies of the minutes printed, and be allowed \$10 00 for his services.

On motion, after singing "Children of the Heavenly King," prayer by Brother J. W. Graham and benediction by Elder G. W. Reeves, adjourned till after preaching to-night.

SATURDAY NIGHT.

After preaching by C. A. Grammar from Zech. 4: 10, the Association met pursuant to adjournment.

Brother W. J. Scaife, Chairman of the Committee on Temperance, submitted the following report, which, after remarks by G. W. Reeves, W. H. Paslay, G. A. Grammar and B. F. Thomas, was adopted :

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

WHEREAS, We recognize the evil effects of intemperance, that it is contrary to the Scripture and should be abandoned. Therefore,

Resolved, That we earnestly advise churches to be more rigid in discipline, and in efforts to discontinue the use of all intoxicants as a beverage.

Resolved, That we approve of the present effort to enforce the law, suppressing the traffic in intoxicating liquors within three miles of school and church buildings.

J. K. OBENCHAIN,
/ W. J. SCAIFE,
Committee.

* The Committee on nominations made the following report through Brother R. J. Bickerstaff, Chairman :

Elder G. A. Grammar to preach the Introductory sermon; Elder T. J. Hunt, Alternate; Elder G. W. Reeves, the Missionary Sermon; Alternate, Elder W. H. Paslay; place of meeting, Salem Church Phillips county.

On motion, the following Brethren were elected as Executive Board of the Association:

L. K. Obenchain, J. H. Thompson, M. K. McCarty, W. J. Scaife, S. H. King.

By L. K. Obenchain:—

Resolved, That the thanks of this body be tendered to the Brethren and citizens of this community for the kind and hospitable entertainment of this body.

On motion, after prayer by Elder J. W. Graham, the Association adjourned till after preaching to-morrow.

SUNDAY—11 O'CLOCK A.M.

Elder G. W. Reeves having been appointed to preach the Missionary Sermon, a large audience assembled under the forest trees near the house, it being too small to hold the people. His text was Acts 13: 31.

Elder W. H. Paslay, after a brief but impressive talk, called for cash contributions, and \$18 00 was collected.

At night Elder L. K. Obenchain preached from 2 Corinthians, 5: 18.

The Committee on Finance reported as follows:

Your Committee on Finance would report:

Received for Minutes	\$38 10
Received for Missions	5 50
Pledges for Missions—paid	18 10
Public Collection for Missions	18 50
Collection for Foreign Missions	5 00
Total	\$85 20

JOHN P. FARRAR,
J. M. WHITEHEAD,
WM. THOMPSON.

On motion, the public collection of to-day was divided between the State and the Associational Board of Missions.

On motion, after singing the parting hymn and extending the parting hand, adjourned to meet with the Salem Church, Phillips county, on Friday before the first Sunday in October, 1882, at 10 o'clock a.m.

G. A. GRAMMAR, Clerk,
Forrest City, ARK.

H. P. SLAUGHTER, Moderator,
Spring Creek, Lee Co., Ark.

Ministers and Post Offices.

ELD. W. H. PASLAY, Wheatley Ark.	ELD. E. E. MONROE, Forrest City, Ark.
" J. C. COOK, "	" G. W. REEVES, Helena, Ark.
" P. C. CROW, "	" J. L. WILSON, Clarendon Ark.
" J. W. GRAHAM, "	" J. M. DAVIS, Brinkley, Ark.
" G. A. GRAMMAR, Forrest City, Ark.	" J. J. HUCKABY, Vineyard, Ark.
" T. J. HUNT, "	" M. K. McCARTY, "
" B. F. THOMAS, "	" L. K. OBENCHAIN, Marvell, Ark.

Licentiate T. E. KNIGHT, Clarendon, Ark.

CHURCHES.	CLERKS.	Baptized.	Received by Letter.	Dismissed by Letter.	Excluded.	Died.	Total.	No. in Sunday School	Con. for Minutes.	Con. for Missions.	POST OFFICE.	PASTORS.	DAY OF ME-T'G
New Hope No. 3.	Not represented.						22				Indian Bay.		
Marvell.	S H King, pro tem					1	19		12 00		Marvell, Phillips County.	Obenchain, L. K.	3rd Sunday.
Trenton.	R R King, pro tem					3	23		1 0		Trenton, Phillips County.	Obenchain, L. K.	1st "
Spring Creek.	W D Roache	157					14	40	2 50		Spring Creek, Lee County.	W H Paslay	3rd "
Oak Grove.	F L Gustavus	157	3	1		2	93		3 00		Moro, Lee County.	W H Paslay	1st "
Bethel.	Clerk not named.						50				Vineyard, Phillips County.	M K Mc'arty.	4th "
Cypress Valley.	J F Langston	4	4		2	3	40		2 00	5 00	Vineyard, Phillips County.	J J Huckaby	2nd "
Salem.	T F Dawson	4	2	1	1	1	48	33	5 20		Marvell, Phillips County.	L. K. Obenchain.	4th "
Helena.	L J Wilkes	3	3		1		10	50	2 75	50 00	Helena, Phillips County.	W W Reaves	Every Sunday.
Blackfoot.	Not represented.												
New Hope.	Not represented.										LaGrange, Lee County.	No Pastor.	
Philadelphia.	T R Rowland	9	4			1	37		2 00		Brinkley, Monroe County.	J M Davis.	3rd Sunday.
Ash Grove.	J W Garretson.	1	6	2	3	1	51		2 00		Saulsbury, Monroe County.	W H Paslay	4th "
Pine Fork.	J W Grimes	2	1		4	2	27	15	1 5	50	Moro, Lee County.	M K McCarty.	3rd "
Lynn Grove.											Holly Grove.		1st "
Bethlehem.	W M King	1	1	2		1	20		1 50		Clarendon, Monroe County.	J M Davis.	
Shiloh.	Not represented.												
Clarendon.	J T Barnes.	3	1	1	3	1	52		2 65		Clarendon, Monroe County.	J L Wilson	2nd "
Pine Grove.	W Eddins				1	1	31		2 00		Wheatley, St Francis Co.	P C Crow.	1st "
Mt. Gilead.											Marvell, Phillips County.		
Lone Chapel.													
Hopewell.	James Bennett.			2	1		41		1 50		Clifton.		
Forest Chapel.	George Rogers	5	4	2	1	2	25		3 00		Forrest City, St. Francis Co.	W H Paslay	2nd "
Forrest City.	J T Fondren		2		2		85	100	3 50		Forrest City, St. Francis Co.	G A Grammar	Every Sunday.
Bible Union.	William Elliot					4	21				Forrest City, St. Francis Co.	B E Monroe	1st "
Zion.	James Williams					1	23				Forrest City, St. Francis Co.	B F Thomas	3rd "
Total.		50	41	8	23	15	920	250	38 10	55 50			

† Amount contributed to State Board. * See note by Clerk.

Besides Churches in the table above that have no statistics, there are others where the membership is unknown so that we can truthfully state that the total amount of Baptists in the Association is over 1000. G. A. GRAMMAR, Clerk