PROCEEDINGS

-OF THE-

SALINE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

-HELD WITH-

SOUTH FORK CHURCH, GARLAND COUNTY, ARKANSAS,

OCTOBER 4, 5 and 6, 1877.

FIRST DAY.

South Fork Church, Octoher 4th, 1877.

The Saline Baptist Association met according to previous appointment, with South Fork Church, Garland county, on Thursday before the first Sunday in October, A. D. 1877, and had the following proceedings:

The appointee to preach the Introductory Sermon being absent, the Association appointed Elder John L. Hales to preach the introductory; which he did from Luke 12 ch. 43 vs.: "Blessed is that servant whom his Lord, when he cometh, shall find so doing."

After sermon, the Association took recess for refreshments until 3 o'clock p.m.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

3 O'CLOCK, P. M.

The Association met, and was called to order by the Moderatok. After reading the ninetieth Psalm, and singing, prayer was offered by Elder A. Files.

The letters from the Churches composing the Association were then called for, were presented and read and names of delegates enrolled. (See table of statistics.) The Association then went into the election of officers for the present session.

Appointed Brethren R. B. Clyde and Alex. Tucker tellers.

First ballot, no election. Second ballot, the tellers announced Elder R. M. Thrasher elected Moderator, and Wm. Daniel Clerk.

Called for petitionary letters, whereupon the following churches presented letters; letters read, churches received, names of delegates enrolled, to wit: Mount Harmony, New Prospect and Ebenezer.

Called for correspondence from sister Associations, whereupon received a letter from Caddo River Association and Messengers, Elders T. J. Welch, A. Nelson and J. F. Welch, and also Bro. Dunnahoo, Licentiate from New Hope church, Pine Bluff Association. Right hand extended by the Moderator, and they cordially invited to seats with us.

The Moderator appointed the following committees:

On Preaching-Levin L. Neighbors, John Guerin, L. A. Cook and Wm. J. Neighbors.

On Documents-Isaac Harrison, H. Rigsby, E. W. Gentry, O. H. P. Norwood and W. F. Rose.

On Home Missions-L. A. Cook, J. A. Verser, C. T. Glenn and S. Row.

On Foreign Missions-J. C. Henderson, Robert B. Clyde, Wm. Tucker and A. Files.

On Ministerial Education—J. L. Hales, C. F. Moore and Alexander Tucker. On Sunday Schools—James E. McGoveran, J. J. Adams and B. McDaniel On Prayer Meetings—Wm. P. DeBolt, D. F. Morrison and J. J. Yates.

On Finance-John Langford, Henry Hardy and D. K. McVay.

Adjourned until to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock.

SECOND DAY.

FRIDAY MORNING.

After devotional service, conducted by Elder C. F. Moore, the Association met pursuant to adjournment.

Read and adopted the minutes of yesterday.

On motion, a Committee on Temperance was appointed, to wit:

Wm. Tucker, Wm. Terry, C. F. Moore, D. Dawson.

On motion, a Committee on Religious Literature, to wit :

M. L. Nelson, J. A. Muse, O. J. Busick.

On motion, a Committee on Pastoral Support was appointed, to wit:

J. J. Yates, Win. Fowler and J. W. Johnson. Adjourned until 2:30 p.m.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

2:30 O'CLOCK P. M.

Met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Wm. Daniel. Called for Reports.

The Report on Documents was read by the Chairman, Isaac Harrison, and adopted, as follows:

We, your Committee on Documents, submit the following for your consideration: We find nine churches not represented, eight of which were not represented last year, namely: Antioch, Concord, Harmony, Mount Zion, New Hope (Grant), New Hope (Montgomery), Ouachita and Zion. We find also that three churches ask for the Associaton to be held with them the next session, to wit : Kentucky, Magnet Cove and Smith Creek. We recommend that the Association sustain the action of Marble Church in the case of James B. Neel.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

ISAAC HARRISON, Chairman.

On motion, Antioch, Concord, Harmony, Mount Zion, New Hope (Grant), New Hope (Montgomery), Ouachita and Zion be dropped from the list of churches of this Association for non-representation.

The Report on Ministerial Education was read by the Chairman and adopted, as follows:

Brethren, your Committee on Ministerial Education would recommend the report of the committee as set forth in the minutes of 1876. This, we believe, put into practice, would be a success. Respectfully submitted,

J. L. HALES, Chairman.

REPORT OF 1876.

DEAR BRETHREN-We find from a careful examination of the Scriptures and especially Paul's Epistles to Timothy and Titus, that if a man would be fully qualified to preach the Gospel, he must understand the language in which the Gospel is given to him, or else how can he preach or teach? Paul instructs Timothy to preach the Word, to exhort with all long suffering and doctrine. He commands Titus to speak those things which become sound doctrine. Now how, we ask, can a man preach that Word unless he understands it? Or, how is he to speak those things which become sound doctrine unless he knows what sound doctrine is? And how is he to know, if he does not understand the power or force of the language in which he finds that Word or doctrine contained ? Again, we find he must be apt in teaching, and that word apt means a great deal. First, a man must know; second, he must be able, by the proper use of words, to communicate that which he do is know, as words are the medium through which we convey our ideas one to another; and for these reasons we would urge it upon our brethren in the ministry that they give themselves wholly to the study of the Word of God; that they search the Scriptures that they may be able, with sound doctrine, to stop the mouths of gainsayers; and not only so, but that they may be able to feed the church of God, over which the Holy Ghost has made them overseers with the sincere milk of the Word, and that they may be able to declare the whole counsel of God, and we would especially encourage all who enter upon this work while young to carry their mental training to the highest degree possible,

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and seek a thorough knowledge of the language in which the Scriptures were originally written. We are happy to inform all the ministers of our Association, and of our state, who wish to take a partial or thorough course in literary studies, that arrangements have been made for them to attend Judsonia University free of charge for tuition; and similar liberal arrangements have been made with the Centennial Institute at Warren, Arkansas, and we would recommend all who car possibly do so to attend these Institutes.

The report on Temperance read by the chairman and adopted as follows :

The committee beg leave to submit the following: The New Testament which is our law, or should be, teaches us as Christians to avoid the appearance of evil. There are none so limited in knowledge as not to know that intemperand is one of the greatest evils in our land; that it is the original cause of crime in its diversified forms, incendiarism, and that it fills our penitentiaries, insane asylumi and that it brings poverty and want upon helpless women and children. Furthermore: Paul says plainly no drunkard shall enter into the Kingdom of Heavene Shall we be guilty of intemperance and expect an admittance into that kingdent! The Apostle Paul says in enumerating a list of crimes, among which is drunkens ness: "They shall not inherit the Kingdom of God." Solomon savs: "Touch not, taste not, handle not." Brethren, we know that even the wiser part of the world condemn the use of ardent spirits. Shall we encourage the use of this blight to society to the least degree ? Shall we encourage our children by our own example in dram drinking? Are our children to acquire that habit that will brin: them to an untimely grave, bringing eternal destruction upon themselves? We are exhorted to follow that which is of good report. We cannot follow what is termed moderate drinking without destroying our influence as Christians with the majority of the youths of our day. We know, brethren, that the use of ardent spirits, even a moderate use, unless it be for medicinal purposes, will bring reproach upon the cause of Christ. Let us have the same spirit of the Apostle Paul: Rom. xiv, 21-"It is good neither to eat flesh nor to drink wine, nor anything whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak.

Respectfully submitted,

WM. TUCKER, Chairman.

The report on Home Missions was read and discussed by several brethren, and adopted as follows :

Your committee on Home Missions beg leave to report as follows: Being aware of the great destitution in the bounds of our Association, we feel the necessity of renewed effort in the work of home missions. We learn of a number of churches in the north and northwestern portion of our Association that are without regular preaching, except the labor of one or two brethren. Therefore, we recommend this body to take the matter again under consideration, and if they can devise some plan by which we can renew our operations in that work, and if so, to ad opt such plan as they think most expedient. We recommend the ministers of this Association to take some time from their respective churches and visit the destitute as much as they can find time to do so, and we earnestly request the members of the churches to awake 'up to a sense of their duty, and that every member contribute something according to his ability to ald in the great work of the promulgation of the gospel, and send the same to the next meeting of this body. Respectfully.

L. A. COOK, Chairman

Adjourned until 8:30 a.m. to morrow.

THIRD DAY.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Elder J. C. Henderson.

On motion, the minutes were read, amended and adopted.

The report on Prayer Meetings was read by the Chairman and adopted, as follows :

Your committee, after hearing the several letters read, regr tto say that there is but a few churches that report a regular prayer meeting. And we further learn that a number of churches have requested the prayers of this body and at the same time do not pray for themselves. To such we would say, first pray for yourselves, then ask others to pray for you. And we would further say that all the churches that report regular prayer meeting are in a pro-perous condition, and we would recommend that every church in the boun's of the association meet as often as consistent in prayer, as prayer is the medium through which men bave communicated with God in all ages, and if the churches prosper they must pray to God to send refreshment from on high, and would, ther fore, that the brethren pray always without ceasing with uplifted hands.

> Prayer is the simplest form of speech That infant lips can try, Prayer the sublimest strain that reach The majesty on high.

WM, P. DEBOLT, Chairman.

Report on Sunday Schools read by the Chairman and adopted, as follows:

Your Committee on Sunday Schools beg leave to submit the following as their report: First-We are very sorry to note the fact that from the reading of the letters there is a great deal of neglect or of indifference on the part of the churches on this very important subject. Out of about forty churches represented in this body there is but five that report Sunday Schools. Some two or three report Sunday Schools a part of the time. Brethren, it does seem to us that this is not as it should be. Can we not assemble our children to ether once a week for the purpose of reading and expounding the Word of God to them? Surely, it looks to us like we might do this; and if this is done we have a Sunday School that is profitable to all. Further, brethren, we deem it a necessity that should not be lost sight of; a necessity from the fact that the children of to-day must soon fill our vacant places. Again, it is a necessity from the fact that the parents who desire to bring up their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, find in the Sunday School a very valuable help, to say the least. Again, through the Sunday School we may reach the associates of our children and perhaps make . good and lasting impressions on their minds and thus bring them to our assistance in the training of our own children. Again, through the instrumentality of the Sunday School we may reach and impart instruction to that too much neglected class of children, the orphan. Therefore, we recommend that this be the motto of every church composing this Association, a good Surday School in every church.

JAMES E. MCGOVERAN, Chairman.

The Report on Foreign Missions read by the Chairman and adopted as follows:

Your Committee on Foreign Missions report as follows: We find from re-

ports made at our last Association and at our State Baptist Convention a gran deal said about Foreign Missions, and something has been done; yet there is room for a great deal more for that part of the work. Now, it seems to us that all we can do is to recommend that the churches composing this Association to the several resolutions passed at our last Association and at our Baptist State Convention. We find from the statistics of this Association that there are about forty-two churches and about thirteen hundred members. Now, from this number, if each member would contribute as much as five cents every month in twelve months the sum would be about \$730. By comparing this amount with the small amount reported at our Association each year, shows how far we fail from doing our duty, or how much more than that we have done we could do if this matter was properly brought before the churches by their pastors or officer of the churches.

We find nothing further to report at this time, but would recommend the pastors of the several churches to keep this matter quarterly before their congrgations, and that collections be taken up at stated times during the next Assocition year, and that all sums so collected be forwarded as directed in the minutes of the last State Convention. Respectfully submitted,

JOHN C. HENDERSON, Chairman.

Report on Religious Literature, as adopted last year, as follows:

The circulation of Religious Literature is an important help in bringing mento a knowledge of the truth and in securing great zeal and efficiency in our churches. In order to be an intelligent people we must be a reading people; in order to expand our minds and broaden our sympathies and elevate our affections, we must bring ourselves into contact with the thoughts and sympathies of others. The world recognizes this, and is constantly influencing men by means of the press. If we would withstand the influence of evil and hurtful literature we must antidote the poison with a pure literature. Your committee would therefore urge upon the pastors of churches in this Association to make earnest efforts to induce the members of their churches to give more time and money to the diffusion of our denominational literature. It is only in this way that cur people can be properly instructed in regard to our peculiar views, and be enabled to stay the tide of error that threatens our land. Your committee would therefore earnestly recommend the following resolutions:

Resolved, That Religious literature should be abundantly circulated among our people as a means of religious growth and increased usefulness.

Resolved, That the Western Baptist is an ably edited denominational journal, a necessity among our people and deserving of their patronage and support.

Resolved, That the Southern Baptist Publication Society has our hearty sympathy in its efforts to supply our people with a sound denominational literature. M. L. NELSON, Chairman.

That for p maing ave hundred copies minutes	pou	00.	
Mailing same	1	70.	
Clerks fers per order of the Association	20	00.	
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Total.....

WM. DANIEL, Treasurer.

On motion, the Constitution and Rules of Decorum were read. On motion, suspended the regular business for resolutions.

On motion, adjourned for preaching to meet immediately after, and proceed to the business of the Association.

After preaching, the Association proceeded to business.

On motion, the amendment to the Constitution, as made last resession on the first article, be referred to the churches, and they report in their letters next year "to the Association whether they accept or reject the amendment made as follows: On motion, the Constitution was read, and the first article was changed to read "The Saline Baptist Association," instead of the "Saline Regular United Baptist Association." Two-thirds of the delegates present agreeing thereto.

Resolution read and adopted as follows:

Resolved, That the Association endorse the action of the last State Convention in regard to Domestic Missions; and,

Resolved, That we recommend that collections be taken np quarterly for Domestic Missions, and, that whatever amounts may be raised by this plan, be forwarded immediately by the churches to the Rev. T. P. Boone, at Fayetteville, Arkansas, secretary of Domestic Missions.

Resolved further, That we recommend to the Domestic Mission Board, Hot Springs Church as worthy of assistance, it being at a place of the first importance, not only in this Association hut in the State, as a center of influence.

Took up the regular order of business.

Report on Finance read and adopted as follows:

We, your Committee on Finance, beg leave to make the following report: We find the amount sent up by the churches for printing minutes to be \$59.60, and \$6 for Foreign Missions, all of which is collected and ready to be paid over to the Treasurer. Respectfully submitted,

JOHN LANKFORD, Chairman.

The Clerk is instructed to send the amount sent up by the churches for Foreign Missions to H. A. Tupper, Richmond, Virginia and name of churches, to-wit: Big Creek, 50 cents; Franceway, \$4.35; Ten Mile Creek, \$2.10.

Report on Pastoral Support read and adopted as follows:

We your Committee on Pastoral Support, beg leave to submit the following report: Brethren of the laity, is it our duty to support our Pastors? Let us search the Scriptures, and if they are silent on this subject, we are under no obligations to the Pastorate; but if we find it to be our duty to go forth in the discharge of this work, what shall we do then? Shall we go forth and do our duty? or shall we not have long halting between two opinions? If the Lord be God follow him; a.d if Baal, then follow him. Brethren, we are sorry that you did not assign this subject to abler advocates, although the Scriptures are before us, which are so plain that we have no excuse for an error therein. Brethren, we propose to take Christ for our pattern, both for the Pastorate and the laity. Now, brethren, let us examine some of the examples He has given us. In the first place, did Christ support the Ministry in his prayers? Read St. John

xvii, 9: "I prity for them" (sixth verse); "the men which Thou gavest me out of the world." Now, brethren. if God gave us a ministry out of the world, shall we support it in our prayers? or, shall we say, let somebody else pray for then ! In the second place, did He support his ministry with the bread of tempore life Read Matthew x, 9, 10: "Provide neither gold nor silver, nor brass in your purses, nor scrip for your journey, neither two coats, nor yet staves." Now, brethren, why were they not to provide for themselves, for the workman is worthy of his meat. Who would support them? Read St. John viii, 11: "And Jesus took the loaves," etc. He gave them their meat; but were there any ministers in the multitude? Read the fourteenth verse: "Then these men, when they had seen the miracle which Jesus did, said, This is, of a truth, that prophet that hould come into the world." Breth.ren, shall we support our Pastorate according to the means which God has given us ? or will we sit down, fold our hands, and say, let them alone; if they fail to support themselves God is the same God now that he was when he sent the ravens to feed Elijah; we still have ravens, and God will send them to feed our ministers? God forbid, brethren, let us remember that the days of miracles to this extent has expired; and we are instruments in God's hands in preaching the gospel. And how, brethren, are we to do this if we stand all the day idle? Now, in this connection, what are we to learn from Paul's teachings, commencing at I Cor. ix, 7? He says, "Who goeth a warfare any time at his own charges? who planteth a vineyard, and eateth not of the fruit thereof? or who feedeth a flock, and eateth not of the milk of the flock? Say I these things as a man? or saith not the law the same also?" Brethren, let us beware lest we fall into the hands of this law in the eleventh verse: "If we have sown unto you spiritual things, is it a great thing if we shall reap your carnal things ?" Brethren, can we stumble at such admonitions as these ? God forbid. In the fourteenth verse: "Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel." Brethren, shall we set at naught the or-Cinances of the Lord? and if so, why? Gal. v, 6: "Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things."

J. J. YATES, Chairman.

On motion, appointed correspondence to Sister Associations, as follows :

To Pine Bluff-Elder Wm. Tucker, J. J. Yates.

Judson-Bro. M. P, Goodman and Elder R. M. Thrasher to write a letter.

Red River-L. A. Cook. John Clem, J. A. Fenter.

Caddo River-Elder Wm. J. Neighbors, Elder J. T. Thornton and Wm. R. Thornton.

Called for resolutions.

Second resolution adopted, as follows:

Resolved, That we change the regular time of the meeting of this body from Thursday to Saturday before the first Sunday in October in each year.

On motion, appointed the place of meeting of the next Association, whereupon Magnet Cove Church was selected, and that the Association meet on Saturday before the first Sunday in October, 1878.

On motion, Elder Robert M. Thrasher was appointed to preach the Introductory Sermon at the next meeting of the Association, and Rufus M. Lindsey alternate.

Third resolution adopted, as follows:

Resolve 1. That the thanks of this Association be and the same is hereby tendend to the members of South Fork Church, and the friends in the vicinity. for the welcome and hospitable manner in which they have entertained this Association.

Fourth resolution adopted, as follows;

Resolved, That the thanks of this Association are due and are hereby tandered to our Brother Moderator, for the dignity and courtesy with which he has presided over our deliberations.

On motion, that the Clerk be instructed to superintend the printing of these Minutes, and that he have six hundred copies printed and distributed to the several churches, and that he have twenty dollars for his services.

On motion, the roll was called and absentees marked thus*.

The Minutes were then read and adopted.

The Moderator announced that the Association was ready for adjournment on motion. After prayer by Elder Stephen Row and singing, the parting hand was extended with much brotherly love. The Association adjourned to meet at the time and place above appointed.

R. M. THRASHER, Moderator.

WM. DANIEL Clerk.

REPORT ON PREACHING.

We, your Committee on Preaching, report the following: Friday, at 11 o'clock A.M., Elder T. B. Espy preached from I. Peter, I. 5-9. At 4 o'clock P.M., Elder Wm. Tucker preached from St. John, iii. 7. Saturday, at 11 o'clock A.M., El ier Isaac Welch preached from Romans, v. 1. At night, Elder James E. McGoveran, from John, xi. 24. On Sunday had no preaching, owing to the incessant rain in the morning. LEVIN NEIGHBORS, Chairma.

The following request is from Marble Church:

BRETHREN: Mr. James B. Neel, an ordianed Minister, has quit our Church and attached himself to the Campbellite Church, and, upon demand, he refuses to give up his credentials; and it was the order of our Church that he be advertised in the Western Baptist, and also published in our next Associational Minutes, to show to the world that he is not a Baptist; that his credentials are null and void and of no effect, and that he is preaching under false pretense. He says that he don't want any better authority to preach than that from the Missionary Baptist. The Clerk of the Association will please have the above put in our next Minutes.

Done by order of the Church in conference, on this 18th day of August, A.D. 1877. WM. J. NEIGHBORS, Moderator.

THOMAS A. BALDWIN, Clerk.

ORDAINED MINISTERS.

POSTOFFICES.

POSTOFFICES.

POSTOFFICES.

S. Row Hot Springs	J. E. McGovern
A. Files	C. F. MooreBenton
B. M. Phillips De Roche	R. M. Lindsey Fitzbugh's Mill
.J. T. ThorntonDe Roche	S. F. FunkMalvern
J. H. HowardMalvern	A. TuckerMalvern
J. ClemMalvern	Wm. Tucker
R. M. ThrasherMalvern	F. M. SanfordBen'on
J. J. Adams Harold	J. C, HendersonBenton
Wm. J. Neighbors Whittington	E. L. ManardNorthpeint
Wm. P. DeBolt Northpoint	J. L. Hales

LICENTIATES.

POSTOFFICES.

LITTLE ROCK, ARK :

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STATISTICAL TAI	BLE OF THE	CHURCHES	COMPO	SING	THE	SALINE	BAPTIS	T ASSOCIATION.
CHURCHES. COUNTIES	NAMES OF	DELEGATEN.	Rec'd by Letter Rec'd by Baptism.	Excluded Dismis'd by letter	Sabhath Meeting Total in Fellow- ship Dead	Contributions	STORS.	LERKS AND THEIR POST- OFFICES.
1 Brush Creek	J. Ritter, John Guer F. Morrison, G. W. Files, S. Row, Wm. T. Bray, N. Cothma D. Tramel, B. Crabl H. P. Norwood, S. I ohn Langford, A. J. N. Hodges, E. W. Gen .F Shockley, R. E. Cl Ym. Tucker, M. L. Ne V. R. Thornton, A. B. B. Clyde, J. B. Woo B. Wilson, N. Falkn mac Harrison, Wm. T .K, McVay, S. Clem .T. Glenn, D. Wilhit A. Verser, L. A. Coo etter and no delegate A. Muse, C. Cain, H F. Moore, D. R. Par . McDaniel, J. Hill, I L. Hales, J. H. Joh Mm. P. DeBolt, A. H V. T. Parker, M. P. G M. Crawford, J. A. . McCallum, R. M. T J. Adams, N. Beloat V. J. Neighbors, W. H B. Hutchingson, W.	iu, J. H. Ritter Smith. W. S. Bird. Farr	3 2 1 6 1 5 15 5 ardin 16 16 5 24 5 24 2 11 6 12 1 13 1 14 1 15 5 16 5 17 1 4 1 1 4 1 4 1 4 1 4 1 4 1 4 1 4 1 4 1 4 1 4 1 4 1 4 1 4 1 4 1 6 2 1 1 6 4 6 6 2 1 6 2 1 1 6 2 1 1 6 2 6 3 6 4 1	8 9 2 1 2 0 1 2 2 4 1 3 1	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	1 55 W. J. 1 50 J. L. 1 50 J. H. 1 00 J. H. 1 00 S. F. 1 00 J. H. 1 00 J. C. 2 00 W.M. 2 20 K. M. 1 00 C. F. 2 00 W.J. 2 00 J. J. 2 00 J. J. 1 00 C. F. 2 00 J. J. 1 00 J. C. 2 65 S. F. 3 30 R. M. 4 00 J. J. 3 20 J. C. 2 20 W. J. 3 20 J. C. 4 200 W. J.	, Neighbors T Hales	ames N. PageMalvern homas H. RitterHarold (, ElliottMalvern Ym. FarrHot Springs S. M. PhillipsDe Roche H. TramelDe Roche H. TramelDe Roch J. McCallisterLittle Rock J. Wiggins Malvern F. Shock eyMalvern F. Shock eyMalvern Malvern Malvern De Roche B. ClydeH. t Springs B. WilsonBenton V. T. HouseMalvern V. T. HouseMalvern M. Rat iff