

Proceedings

OF THE

Twenty-Fifth Annual Session

OF THE

Trace Ridge Association of Missionary Baptists

HELD WITH

SALEM CHURCH, SEARCY COUNTY, ARK.

September 26 to 29, 1914.

Officers

ELD. C. T. COTTON.....Moderator
Elberta, Arkansas.

ELD. M. B. McENTIRE.....Clerk
Murillo, Arkansas.

ELD. R. M. HAYS.....Treasurer
Rockey Hill, Arkansas.

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Proceedings

The Messengers of the churches composing the Trace Ridge Association of Missionary Baptists met with Salem Church, Van Buren County, Ark., Sept. 26, 1914.

The former Moderator, Eld. John Kimbell, having died the past year, the body was called together by the Clerk. Eld. C. T. Cotton was made Moderator pro tem.

A short devotional service was held by the Moderator. The Introductory Sermon was preached by Eld. H. A. McEntire from 1 Peter 5:2.

Bros. Jas. Tudor and A. M. Kimbrell read the letters from the churches as follows:

SALEM--R. B. Miller, W. B. Davenport, C. E. Roten.

RED HILL--A. L. Treadwell.

MOUNT NEBO--M. C. Ragland.

SHADY GROVE--By Letter.

SNOW BALL--T. E. Jones.

ARLBERG--Jas. Tudor, Grant Betts, Eliza Betts.

MOUNT PLEASANT--C. T. Cotton.

PLEASANT GROVE--Sister Belle McEntire, T. M. Ragland, R. B. Halstead.

LIBERTY--W. F. Hefner, J. H. Hargester.

PLEASANT VALLEY--J. M. O'Neal, J. W. and A. M. Kimbrell

BURR OAK--C. C. Milam.

GOOD SPRINGS--L. E. Autry, Dexter Arnhart.

PILGRIM'S REST--W. J. Cald.

PLEASANT EXCHANGE--J. P. Ford.

FAIRVIEW--By Letter.

PLEASANT HILL--By Letter.

The Moderator appointed a Devotional Committee as follows: T. M. Ragland, T. E. Jones, with deacons and pastor of Salem Church.

The body then was organized permanently by electing Eld. C. T. Cotton Moderator; Eld. M. B. McEntire, Clerk; Eld. R. M. Hays Treasurer.

Recess was taken to 2 p. m. Prayer by Bro. A. Roten.

EVENING SESSION

Met at 2 p. m. Prayer by A. L. Treadwell. The Moderator appointed the following Committees:

Destitution--A. L. Treadwell, A. M. Kimbrell, W. B. Davenport.

Associational Missions--H. A. McEntire, T. M. Ragland, C. C. Milam.

Sunday School--A. Roten, Jas. Tudor, M. C. Ragland.

Orphans' Home—R. B. Miller, W. F. Hefner, R. B. Halsted.

Pastoral Support—C. E. Roten, T. E. Jones, J. H. Hardgester.

Foreign Missions—R. M. Hays, S. E. Patton, J. P. Ford.

Publication—S. E. Patton, Jas. Tudor, R. B. Halsted.

Obituaries—T. M. Ragland, J. W. Kimbrell, W. B. Davenport.

Prohibition—A. Roten, C. C. Milam, J. W. Kimbrell.

Finance—A. M. Kimbrell, J. M. O'Neal, Grant Betts.

Resolutions—S. E. Patton, H. A. McEntire, W. F. Hefner.

Called for correspondence from other Associations. Bros. J. L. and E. W. Ward were received from United Association and seated in our body.

The following were appointed as correspondents:

To United Association—M. B. McEntire, S. E. Patton.

To Blue Mountain—C. T. Cotton, M. B. McEntire.

To Pee Dee—R. M. Hays, S. E. Patton.

Called for report of messengers to sister Associations. None reported.

Invitation given for visitors. Eld. H. A. McEntire and wife of Oswalt, Okla., accepted and were seated in the body.

The Committee on Sunday School made their report, which was laid over to Sunday morning, 9 o'clock.

The Committee on Destitution made their report which was adopted as follows:

REPORT ON DESTITUTION—We find a large amount of destitution in our bounds, to-wit: Richland, Denard, Fairview, Zion Hill, Oak Grove, Shady Grove, Red Hill, Pine Grove, Pleasant Grove, Trace Ridge, Archie Valley, Cooper Schoolhouse, Hart Suggs, and many other places. We ask to be supplied with Baptist preaching.—A. M. KIMBRELL, Chairman.

The report of the Committee on Associational Missions was adopted as follows:

ASSOCIATIONAL MISSIONS—We find many churches without pastors, many points destitute of gospel preaching, and we recommend to this body that we appeal to the churches to contribute of their means for the support of a strong gospel preacher, to travel in our bounds to indoctrinate the churches and take collections to preach the gospel to the destitute places in our bounds, and that this body elect a missionary and put him in the field for full time, and pay him for his services.—H. A. McENTIRE, Chairman.

By invitation Eld. J. M. Beavers was seated in our body as a visitor.

On motion adjourned to Sunday at 8 a. m.

Prayer by M. C. Ragland.

SECOND DAY

Met at 8 o'clock Sunday morning. Singing and prayer by H. A. McEntire.

The body held memorial services in behalf of Elds. J. M. Atkinson and John Kimbrell (deceased). Talks were made by H. A. McEntire, M. B. McEntire, A. L. Treadwell, A. Roten, S. E. Patton, J. P. Ford, J. M. Beavers, C. T. Cotton. Song, "Jesus, Lover of My Soul." Prayer by T. E. Jones.

Took up the discussion on the Sunday School report. Talks were made by H. A. McEntire, Jas. Tudor, A. Roten, J. P. Ford, M. B. McEntire, J. H. Hardgester and S. E. Patton. On motion the report was unanimously adopted as follows:

REPORT ON SUNDAY SCHOOL—From observation we find a great number of our people negligent and show little interest in Sunday School work. We urge that the churches take charge of the Sunday School work, and impress the necessity of the Sunday School and that Baptist literature be placed in the hands of as many young people as possible, and that Bible Baptist doctrine be urgently taught our children.—A. ROTEN, Chairman.

Took recess for preaching. The stand was filled Sunday at 11 o'clock by Eld. M. B. McEntire, from St. John 17:18; theme, Sent.

Took recess to 2 p. m.

Met promptly at 2 p. m. The body took up for evening discussion the great needs and destitution of our Association, and after much discussion and prayerful consideration it was agreed and voted to put two men in the field for half time each, and Elds. M. B. McEntire of Murillo, Ark., and R. M. Hays of Rockey Hill, Ark., were elected as missionaries, and both agreed to go to work at once.

Brethren W. B. Davenport, Jas. Rorie and S. E. Patton were elected as an Executive Committee to make contracts, collect funds and pay missionaries. Below is their report and contract with the missionaries:

We your Executive Committee have contracted with Elds. M. B. McEntire and R. M. Hays for half time each to travel in the bounds of Trace Ridge Association as missionaries for \$2.00 per day. They are to preach to the churches, take collections everywhere they go to get means to go and preach to the destitute places in our bounds, and report to us once every quarter. Our first meeting will be on Thanksgiving Day. Then we will meet quarterly to make settlement. Also we ask the pastor and deacons of each church to collect funds and send to the Treasurer, W. B. Davenport, Rockey Hill, Ark., for our missionaries.

The Committee on Prohibition reported as follows:

PROHIBITION—We are glad to know that Prohibition is gradually gaining ground. There are now 14 states that have state-wide prohibition, and we pray all others may follow. There is a strong sentiment in our national congress for national prohibition. We urge that all people agitate this question until we have created such a strong sentiment against this, the worst of all evils, until our nation will be rid of this monster and give us nation-wide prohibition.—A. ROTEN, Chairman.

This report was spoken to by A. Roten, J. L. Ward, J. H. Hardgester, A. M. Kimbrell, and was adopted.

On motion adjourned to 8 a. m. Monday. Prayer by L. E. Autry.

THIRD DAY

Met Monday at 8 a. m. Prayer by the Moderator.

Read and corrected the minutes.

Petitionary Letters were called for. None presented.

The Committee on Pastoral Support reported and was adopted as follows:

PASTORAL SUPPORT—In the first place it is the duty of the whole church to attend regularly on the administration of the pastor, and we would advise that the deacons of each church see after the support of the pastors better, that they may stand on the wall continually. We believe the support of our pastors is too often neglected and we advise the churches to look after this duty more closely, and we recommend this plan: that each male member pay at least one dollar a year or more, and that each female pay 25 cents per year or more.—C. E. ROTEN, Chairman.

On motion Liberty Church, in Van Buren County, 25 miles northwest of Clinton, and 20 miles southwest of Leslie (nearest railroad point), was chosen as place for next meeting. Time, Saturday before the fourth Sunday in September, 1915.

Committee on Obituaries reported as follows:

OBITUARIES—We find that God, this past year, in his infinite wisdom, has called from labor to rest the following brethren and sisters: Snowball—Sister Ardella Gilliam; Salem—Sister Ettie Barton; Mt. Pleasant—Sister Dot Harris; Pleasant Valley—J. M. Atkinson; Fairview—Eld. John Kimbell; Pleasant Exchange—Jasper Maynard; Burr Oak—Bake Tyler.—T. M. RAGLAND, Chairman.

When this report was received the house was led in prayer by Bro. T. E. Jones of Snowball.

Committee on Orphans' Home reported as follows:

ORPHANS' HOME—We recommend that our Orphans' Home at Texarkana, Tex.-Ark., be supported, and we ask that collections

be taken in the Sunday Schools and churches and send to Eld. J. W. Sims, Marvell, Ark., the Treasurer, of the Home, and report the amount sent in our annual letters to our Association.—R. B. MILLER, Chairman.

Report of Finance Committee

Received from the churches for minutes.....\$16 00
Orphans' Home 3 00

A. M. KIMBRELL, Chairman.

Committee on Publication reported as follows:

PUBLICATION—We recommend first of all a thorough study of the Bible and The Baptist, published at Little Rock, Ark., and The Baptist Flag, Fulton, Ky., and we advise that our pastors read our Articles of Faith twice a year in our churches, also our Church Covenant.—S. E. PATTON, Chairman.

Committee on Foreign Missions reported as follows:

FOREIGN MISSIONS—The Lord commanded us to preach the gospel to all the world. We should first begin this work at home, and then put forth our efforts and means in sending the gospel to all the world.—S. E. PATTON, Chairman.

On motion the Finance Committee was ordered to turn over the minutes funds to the Clerk to have as many minutes printed as the money will pay for after retaining \$5.00 for his services.

Eld. S. E. Patton was chosen to preach the Introductory Sermon at our next meeting on Saturday at 10 o'clock a. m. Eld. A. L. Treadwell alternate.

On motion the Association rescinded the act of receiving Arlberg Church into our body, on account of her retaining in her membership one James Tudor, who is unsound; and we further ask Zion's Light Church to call for his credentials (as she is the church ordaining him).

Took recess for preaching. After preaching by Bro. J. P. Ford a resolution of thanks was offered as follows:

Resolved, That we tender our thanks to Salem Church and settlement for their kindness during our stay among them. Also that we as Baptists enter our protest against the encroachment of Roman Catholicism and all other isms and sins against our government and churches.—S. E. PATTON, Chairman.

REPORT ON COMMITTEE ON DIVINE SERVICE—Preaching; Saturday, 11 a. m.—Eld. H. A. McEntire; Saturday night—Eld. A. L. Treadwell; Sunday, 11 a. m.—Eld. M. B. McEntire; Sunday night—Eld. S. E. Patton; Monday, 11 a. m.—J. P. Ford.—T. M. RAGLAND, Chairman.

(During this session of Trace Ridge Association the good sisters

prepared dinner on the ground every day, which was greatly appreciated by all present and helped us much in dispatching the work of the body. Better grub, better homes, a better hearted people I never met with before.—CLERK.)

On motion adjourned to meet with Liberty Church, Van Buren County, Ark., on Saturday before 4th Sunday in September, 1915, at 10 o'clock a. m.

Sang that good old song, "My Christian Friends," took the parting hand, no doubt for some of us as last year, never in this world to meet again; but we'll meet in our home above.

Thus closed one of the very best meetings we have had during our 24 years of work in this world.

ELD. C. T. COTTON, Moderator.

ELD. M. B. McENTIRE, Clerk.

STATISTICAL REPORTS

SNOWBALL—Pastor, L. Long; Clerk, R. A. Plant; baptized 1, died 1; excluded 5, restored 2, for minutes \$1.50; P. O. Snowball, Ark. Total 87.

SHADY GROVE—Total members, 27; for minutes 25c; Clerk, L. E. McEntire; P. O., St. Joe, Ark.

SALEM—Pastor, S. E. Patton; Clerk, C. E. Roten; P. O., Retreat; baptized 7, received by letter 2, restored 2, dismissed 2, excluded 3, died 1, total 110; pastor's salary, \$27.53; for minutes, \$1.75, good Sunday School.

PLEASANT GROVE—Pastor, M. B. McEntire; Clerk, J. M. Willbanks; P. O., Atlas, Ark. Total members, 28; for minutes \$1.00.

PILGRIM'S REST—Clerk, C. S. Mainord; P. O. Leslie, Ark. Total members, 20; dismissed 2; for minutes, \$1.00.

MOUNT NEBO—Pastor, A. L. Treadwell; Clerk, Tom Etherley; P. O., Zack, Ark. Dismissed 1; total 18; for minutes, \$1.00.

RED HILL—Pastor, A. L. Treadwell; Clerk, Mary Horton; P. O., Marshall, Ark. Baptized 2, dismissed 1; total, 32; for minutes, \$1.00.

BURR OAK—Pastor, W. W. Horton; Clerk, H. E. Guillian; P. O., Snowball, Ark.; baptized 1, received by letter 3, dismissed 3; total, 16; died, 1; for minutes, 50c.

GOOD SPRINGS—Pastor, L. E. Autrey; Clerk, J. H. Denny; P. O., Crabtree, Ark.; for minutes, 70c.

MOUNT PLEASANT—Pastor, C. T. Cotton; Clerk, M. B. Thomas; P. O., Leslie, Ark.; baptized 5, received by letter 1, relation 1, died 1, for minutes \$1.00; total members, 40.

PLEASANT HILL—Pastor, M. B. McEntire; Clerk, C. M.

Church; P. O., Nogo, Ark.; baptized 9, received by letter 6; for minutes, \$1.00; total members, 45.

LIBERTY--Pastor, R. M. Hays; Clerk, C. B. Hefner; P. O., Murillo, Ark.; baptized 1, restored 1, dismissed 1, excluded 2, for minutes \$1.25, total 49.

FAIRVIEW--For minutes \$1.00; Clerk, W. J. Garrison; P. O. Marshall, Ark. (Have no letter from this church, but money for minutes handed in.--Clerk.)

PLEASANT VALLEY--Pastor, M. B. McEntire; Clerk, J. M. O'Neal; P. O., Watts, Ark.; for minutes \$1.50; paid to pastor \$21.00, total members 25; died 1, dropped from roll 3.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

I. We believe that the Bible was written by inspiration from God, therefore has God for its author, salvation for its end, and un-mixed truth for its matter. And it must now and to the end of time remain the true center of Christian doctrine and life; and by it all creeds, conduct and opinions will be tried. Phil. 3:16; 2 Tim. 3:16, 17.

II. Trinity. There is only one true God, whose name is Jehovah, revealed to man in three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, equal in divine perfection, and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the redemption and government of mankind. John 4:24. Ps. 73:18; Matt. 23:19.

III. The Fall of Man. Man was created holy and under the law of God. By voluntary choice he fell from his holy state and brought all mankind under the curse of sin. Not by choice are his descendants sinners, but by nature, being void of holiness, inclined to evil, and therefore under just condemnation without defense or excuse. Romans 5:19; Eph. 2:1-3; Rom. 1:19, 20.

IV. Salvation. Sinners are saved wholly by grace, through Christ's mediation. He took our nature upon himself, honored God's law by obedience, and by his death made full atonement for our sins, and then rose from the dead for our justification, and now intercedes for us at the throne of the Father, thus becoming a suitable and all-sufficient Savior. Eph. 2:8-10; John 3:16; Heb. 7:25.

V. Justification. Justification includes the pardon of sin and promise of eternal life on principles of righteousness bestowed wholly through faith in the Redeemer's blood, by virtue of which faith his righteousness is imputed to us of God; securing to us peace, favor with God, and every needed blessing for time and eternity. Acts 13:39; Rom. 5:9; Rom. 4:4, 5. Rom. 5:1, 2.

VI. **Salvation Free.** The Gospel makes salvation free to all who accept it by cordial, repentant and obedient faith. Its rejection is therefore voluntary and involves the impenitent in aggravated condemnation. Isa. 55:1; John 5:40; John 3:19.

VII. **Regeneration.** In order to be saved, sinners must be born again—regenerated. This birth consists in giving a holy disposition, and is effected in a manner above our comprehension, through the Holy Spirit, in connection with divine truth, thereby securing our voluntary obedience to God's word and its presence is proved by repentance, faith, love and a godly life. John 3:3; 2 Cor. 5:17; 1 John 5:1; 1 John 4:7.

VIII. **Repentance and Faith.** Repentance and faith are inseparable graces wrought in us in regeneration, whereby we confess our guilt, believe in Jesus Christ, and turn to God in contrition, confession and prayer, receiving Christ as our prophet, priest, king and only Savior. Mark 1:15; Rom. 10:9, 10.

IX. **Election** is the eternal purpose of God to regenerate, sanctify and save sinners through the agencies he has ordained and which are in harmony with freedom of will and comprehend all the means in connection with God's sovereign goodness, holiness, justification and mercy, and to ascertain it with regard to ourselves deserves our utmost diligence. 2 Thess. 2:13, 14; 1 Thess. 1:4-10; 2 Peter 1:10, 11.

X. **Sanctification** is the process by which we are made partakers of God's holiness. It begins in regeneration and is carried on in the heart of the believer by God's appointed means, study of his Word, prayer, self-denial, and watchfulness. Prov. 4:18; 2 Cor. 7:1; Eph. 1:4.

XI. **Preservation** of all true believers marks them from superficial professors. God keeps his adopted children by his power through faith unto salvation. Rom. 8:28; Phil. 1:6; 1 John 2:19; Ps. 37:23, 24.

XII. **God's law** is the eternal rule of his moral government, which is holy, just and good. Man's failure to keep it arises from his love of sin. The establishment of the church was designed to preach the Gospel and by it bring men to unfeigned obedience to God's law, through Jesus Christ as their mediator. Rom. 8:7, 8; Romans 8:2-4.

XIII. **A Gospel Church** is a congregation of baptized believers, associated by a covenant in faith and fellowship in the Gospel; observing the ordinances of Christ, governed by his laws, exercising the gifts, rights and privileges invested in them by his Word. To whom he gave his commission and committed the keeping and

propagation of the Gospel and its ordinances. These gifts and responsibilities cannot be transferred or delegated to any other body or individual. It may co-operate with sister churches, but cannot, by the co-operation, surrender elicitation, combination and control of its energies to any. Its energies belong to Christ. Its officers are pastors and deacons, whose duties are defined in Timothy and Titus. 1 Cor. 1:1, 2; Acts 2:41, 42; 1 Cor. 11:2; Acts 11:22; Acts 13:1-6; Matt. 28:18-20.

XIV. Baptism is immersion in water of a believer in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Its object is to illustrate the burial and resurrection of the dead and our new birth. This immersion is by authority of the church, and at the hands of a properly authorized administrator. Acts 8:36-38; Rom. 6:4; Mark 1:5; Matt. 28:19, 20.

XV. The Lord's Supper commemorates the death of our Savior and is to be observed with bread and wine by the members of the church, preceded by solemn self-examination. Acts 2:41, 42; 1 Cor. 11:26; 1 Cor. 11:28.

XVI. The Lord's Day is the Christian's day of rest and worship, being the first day of the week and the fulfillment of the "year of jubilee." Its observance should be by abstaining from secular labor and recreation, and by devout worship, both private and public, thus preparing for that rest that remaineth for the people of God. Hosea 2:11; Col. 2:14; John 20:18; John 20:26; Acts 20:7.

XVIII. Civil government is of divine appointment for the good order of human society, and its officers are to be prayed for, honored and obeyed, except only in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only Lord of the conscience, and the Prince of the kings of the earth. Rom. 13:1-7; Matt. 22:21; Acts 5:39; Matt. 23:10.

XVIII. The Righteous and the Wicked are essentially and radically different. Only those who are justified by faith in the Lord Jesus, and sanctified by the Spirit of our God, are truly righteous; while all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are in God's sight wicked and under the curse. This distinction holds both in and after death. Mal. 3:18; Prov. 14:32; Luke 16:19-31; Matt. 25:46.

XIX. The Judgment Day will end the probation of man. The separation on that day will be final. The righteous gathered to reign with Christ. The wicked cast into hell, their final abode. 1 Peter 4:7; Acts 24:15; Matt. 13:49; Rev. 22:11.