



MINUTES

OF THE

FORTY-THIRD ANNUAL MEETING

OF THE

Big Creek Missionary
Baptist Association

HELD WITH

ENTERPRISE CHURCH

Pickren Hall, Ark.

September 20 and 21

1917

OFFICERS

Moderator, ELD. W. H. BOWLING, Viola, Ark.

Clerk, OSCAR E. ELLIS, Salem, Ark.

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PROCEEDINGS

Big Creek Missionary Baptist Association met with Enterprise Missionary Baptist Church on Thursday, September 20, 1917, at 10 o'clock a. m., and the Devotional Services were by W. H. Bowling, reading the 92d Ps., and prayer by W. R. McEwen.

S. M. Oliver being absent, R. I. Hiner was selected and preached the Introductory Sermon. Text: Matt: 26:39.

The association adjourned until 2 p. m.

Thursday Evening Session.

At 2 o'clock the association was called to order and J. T. McElmurry and J. D. Cochran were appointed reading clerks, and letters from the following churches were read and the messengers enrolled: Salem, O. E. Ellis and Mrs. O. E. Ellis; Enterprise, M. I. Iverster, Z. T. Grisso, and Sarah Jones; Oak Grove, J. T. McElmurry and P. C. Collins; Mt. Zion, J. D. Cochran and Perry Prewett; Shady Grove, Ida Foster and Annie Foster; Elizabeth, R. L. Hodges and W. B. Hodges; County Line, J. K. Powell and Ora Lester; Viola, Edgar Burns and John Springer; Macedonia, Lee Bryant and Peter Bray.

W. R. McEwen and T. F. Neil were appointed to take the vote for moderator and clerk, respectively, and they announced thereafter that W. H. Bowling had been elected moderator and Oscar E. Ellis clerk; whereupon the moderator appointed the various committees. Z. T. Grisso, M. I. Iverster and J. T. McElmurry were appointed as the Committee on Devotional Services, and they reported that R. L. Hodges would preach at 7:30 p. m.

Call was made for visiting ministers; whereupon, W. R. McEwen of Jonesboro, Arkansas, General Missionary for Northeast Arkansas, and R. I. Hiner of Muskogee County Association, Oklahoma, came forward and were seated in the body. Sister J. L. Burns of Jonesboro, Arkansas, representing the women's work, also came forward and was seated in the body.

The association adjourned with prayer led by R. I. Hiner, until 7:30 p. m.

Thursday Night Session.

Preaching by R. L. Hodges. Subject, "Faith." Text: Heb. 11:1.

The committee announced that W. R. McEwen would preach at 11 o'clock a. m. tomorrow.

Friday Morning Session.

After a song service conducted by E. I. Hiner, and prayer by M. C. Burton, J. N. McElmurry came forward as a corresponding messenger and M. C. Burton as a visiting minister. Both were from Rocky Bayou Association and were seated in the body.

The committee on Foreign Missions reported as follows:

"Last year was the greatest year in Southern Baptist history of Foreign Mission achievement. A total of \$961,970.48 was raised, which included \$180,000 debt, amount contributed to Judson Centennial and to current support. If we had raised \$38,092.52 more, we would have reached the round million-dollar mark! Obeying the wish of the convention, which met in New Orleans in May, the board assumed obligations by far larger than current support last year. Everyone is earnestly besought to increase support to this work to enable the board to enter new fields to which Providence has thrown the doors open and waving harvest invites us.

H. L. Hodges, Chairman."

After being discussed, was adopted.

The committee on Home Missions reported as follows:

"Our Home Mission Board at Atlanta, Georgia, has the distinction of reporting yearly more converts and baptisms through the work of its missionaries than have ever been reported by another Home Mission Board in America, though several of these expend more money than our board does. We would encourage our board in incurring expenses required for efficiency. The great world war is a challenge to every moral and spiritual resource in America. The American farmer must feed the world. The farmer's church, already in need of inspiration and new methods that it may serve a new rural

world, must be the center from which the farmer shall gain added understanding and courage to do his part for God and for country. Southern Baptists must do their full share to save and to serve the religious needs of our American boys in the camps, and to protect them from the foul birds of prey that gather in the wake of every army."

After being moved, adopted and seconded, was adopted.

The committee on State Missions reported as follows:

"The way for a Baptist church to become 'a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing' is for it to be intensely missionary in doctrine and practice. State Missions may be defined as the united efforts of Arkansas Baptists to get everybody in Arkansas saved and into Baptist churches. We believe the Great Commission was given to Baptist churches. There are a million lost souls in Arkansas. And the obligation rests upon the Christian people of Arkansas to give them the gospel. The amount raised last year for State Missions was \$25,598. Your committee would recommend that every pastor get all possible information about State Missions to his people and endeavor to secure an offering from every church member; and that the churches of this association do their very best to raise at least the amounts asked of them by the Executive Board.

Respectfully,

R. I. Hiner, Chairman."

After being discussed was adopted.

The committee on Associational Missions submitted the following:

"Big Creek Association has done nothing since last year, therefore, we entreat the messengers to tell their churches when they return that we humbly beg of them to be about our Father's business and to be good and faithful stewards of our means in God's business.

Respectfully,

J. K. Powell, Chairman."

After being discussed was adopted.

The Committee on Sunday Schools submitted the following:

“Believing that the Sunday School work is one of the means Christ has ordained for the teaching of His truths and the saving of the lost, we earnestly request the churches of Big Creek Association to see to it that they keep alive this phase of the work. We also recommend the use of Baptist literature to supplement the teaching of God’s Word.

Respectfully,

J. D. Cochran, Chairman.”

After being read and discussed was adopted.

The Committee on Deceased Members submitted the following:

“We find that deaths have occurred to Sister Ruth Case, Elizabeth Church, Brother Bob Suggs and Sister Sallie Suggs, Mt. Zion Church; Rev. T. G. Hawkins, Salem Church, and Roe Grisso, Enterprise Church. We are made to sorrow over the loss of loved ones, but our loss is their gain.

Respectfully,

J. T. McElmurry, Chairman.”

After being read was adopted.

The Committee on Stewardship submitted the following:

“Every human being of sound mind is a steward. The things we possess are not our own. They belong to God. ‘A man can receive nothing except it has been given him from heaven.’ ‘What hast thou that thou didst not receive?’ We recommend that the pastors preach often on stewardship, taking pains to teach what the Bible says on this subject; and that every member of every church in this association strive to be a ‘good steward of the manifold grace of God.’

Respectfully,

W. R. McEwen, Chairman.”

After being read and discussed by W. R. McEwen in a sermon on “Stewardship” was adopted.

The Association now adjourned until 2 o’clock p. m.

Friday Evening Session.

The Association was called to order at 2 o'clock by the moderator and the Committee on Baptist Literature submitted the following:

"We recommend that extreme caution be exercised as to the kind of literature permitted to come into the homes of our people. A great deal of pernicious and misleading reading matter is being published in the name of Christian Religion, and is circulated to exercise great influence on the young people. We recommend our Baptist papers and as many of the Baptist books as possible, such as Grace Truman, Theadocia Earnest, and The Little Baptist. But above all, 'The Book' should have the first place in our hearts and minds. Search the Scriptures.

Respectfully,

R. I. Hiner, Chairman."

After being read and discussed was adopted.

The Committee on Orphans' Home submitted the following:

"God, who is a 'Father to the Fatherless,' has provided for the care of the orphans. Visiting the widows and orphans in their affliction is declared to be 'pure and undefiled religion.' In accord with God's plan we have been caring for the orphans at the Monticello Home for twenty-two years. More than 600 of these unfortunate children have shared a place in our Home. We recommend that regular monthly offerings in every Sunday School be taken, and the amount forwarded promptly to J. S. Rogers, General Secretary, 410 Donaghey Building, Little Rock, and that a cash and pledge offering be now taken for this purpose. Every Baptist is expected to do his bit for the orphans.

Respectfully,

M. I. Iverster, Chairman."

After being read and discussed was adopted and an offering was taken and the amount of \$12.75 was raised.

The Committee on Temperance submitted the following:

“We recommend temperance in thought, action, word and diet and in regard to strong and intoxicating drink we urge total abstinence and ask our Baptist Churches to do all they can for a rigid enforcement of all our liquor laws.

Respectfully,

J. T. McElmurry, Chairman.”

After being read and discussed was adopted.

The Association elected J. T. McElmurry, J. K. Powell, Oscar E. Ellis, J. D. Cochran and M. I. Iverster as the Executive Board for the next associational year. W. H. Bowling was elected messenger from the Association to the Southern Baptist Convention and Oscar E. Ellis was elected alternate.

The Association adjourned until 7:30 o'clock p. m.

Friday Night Session.

The Association was called to order by the moderator and prayer was offered by J. K. Powell.

The Committee on Christian Education submitted the following:

“Without well-equipped Baptist schools all of our Baptist work would suffer and come to a standstill. We look to them for our trained worker in pulpit and pew. We have two great colleges—Ouachita, for boys and girls, at Arkadelphia; Central, for girls, at Conway. We also have two mountain schools—one at Maynard and the other at Mountain Home. This committee hopes that all of our preachers will preach often each year on the needs and benefits of Baptist schools, that every church in the Association will make a good offering to our schools and for the education of young preachers this year, and that our people will send their children to our Baptist schools.

Respectfully,

R. I. Hine, Chairman.”

After being read and discussed was adopted.

Rev. M. C. Burton preached. Text: St. John, 14th chapter, 6th verse.

The Committee on Finance reported that it had \$9.95 to pay for the printing of the minutes and a collection was taken to supplement this amount and \$2.20 was raised.

J. T. McElmurry and Oscar E. Ellis were selected as corresponding messengers to Rock Bayou Association and W. B. Hodges and W. M. Fouts were selected as corresponding messengers to White River Association.

Viola was selected as the place for the next association, which will be on Thursday at 10 o'clock before the fourth Sunday in September, 1918. R. K. Pope was selected to preach the introductory sermon and R. L. Hodges alternate. Three hundred copies of the minutes were ordered printed and distributed among the churches.

Constitution.

Article 1. This Association shall be known by the name of Big Creek Baptist Association, and shall be for the purpose of creating a stronger bond of love and fellowship among the members of the churches composing it.

Article 2. The members composing the annual meeting of the Association shall consist of messengers sent by the churches.

Article 3. The messengers sent by the churches to the annual meeting shall not exceed four from each church.

Article 4. The Association shall meet annually at such time and place as shall have previously been appointed.

Article 5. The officers of this Association shall consist of a moderator, clerk and treasurer, who shall be chosen by a majority of the messengers annually at the annual meeting of the body.

Article 6. This Association shall have no power to control or regulate the internal affairs or discipline of any church, but it may adopt or recommend all such measures as shall be considered best calculated to pro-

duce the harmony and prosperity of the churches and advise and consult upon the matter as the churches may at any time present for their consideration and advice. It may receive churches into this Association or dismiss from this body, or inquire into religion in its bounds and suggest measures for its advancement and be a common bond of union among the churches, but shall not exercise any legislative power among the churches.

Article 7. This constitution may be amended at any regular meeting by a vote of two-thirds of the members present, provided notice has been given at a previous meeting.

Sunday Schools in the Association with Superintendents and Clerks.

Salem—Superintendent, Oscar E. Ellis; Clerk, Audra Livingston, address, Salem, Arkansas.

Oak Grove—Superintendent, J. T. McElmurry; Clerk, Lola Claxton, address, Moody, Missouri.

County Line—Superintendent, A. S. Gailbreth; Clerk, Eva Hall, address, Bakersfield, Missouri.

Macedonia—Superintendent, David Roark; Clerk, Clara Fields, address, Byron, Arkansas.

B. Y. P. U. with President and Secretary.

Salem—President, L. R. Osburne; Secretary, Emma Foster, address, Salem, Arkansas.

STATISTICAL TABLE

Names of Churches.	Names of Pastors	Church Clerks and Addresses	Days of Meeting	Baptism	Letter	Restoration	Exclusion	Letter	Deaths	Total Membership	Value of Property	Paid Pastor	Paid Minutes	Orphans' Home	Pupils in S. S.	Paid Mission	S. S. Expenses
Oak Grove.....	W. H. Bowling...	H. P. Walker, Moody Mo.....	2	13	1	*	*	4	0	80	\$ 600	\$ 60	\$ 1.50	0	40	\$ 7.50	\$ 6.00
County Line.....	R. K. Pope.....	Secil Cooper, Bakersfield, Mo...	*	0	0	1	*	*	0	81	*	17	1.50	0	50	7.50	8.80
Enterprise.....	R. K. Pope.....	Atha Franks, Viola, Ark.....	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	46	300	40	1.25	0	*	*	*
Salem.....	J. J. Ivie.....	Bertha Carter, Salem, Ark.....	4	10	2	1	0	2	1	92	900	0	1.50	\$7.04	57	50.45	12.25
Elizabeth.....	*	W. B. Hodges, Elizabeth, Ark..	1	3	0	0	0	*	1	27	*	0	.50	*	*	5.00	*
Mt. Zion.....	W. M. Cooper....	Sam Miller, Union, Ark.....	*	5	4	0	1	0	2	121	*	65	2.00	*	*	16.80	*
Macedonia.....	C. T. Soden.....	J. W. Jones, Byron, Ark.....	2	5	2	0	1	2	0	55	*	*	1.00	*	*	*	*
Shady Grove.....	S. M. Oliver.....	R. E. Richardson, Viola, Ark...	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	42	150	*	.50	*	*	*	*
Viola.....	*	Mary Cain, Viola, Ark.....		*	*	*	*	*	*	23	*	*	1.00	*	*	*	*
Diamond Spring..	*																
Union Hill.....	*																
Flora.....	*																
Liberty.....	*																
Highland Park...	*																
Hall's Chapel....	*																
Pleasant Grove...	*																
Totals				36	9	3	2	9	5	567	\$1950	\$182	\$10.75	\$7.04	147	\$87.35	\$27.05

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