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FORTY-FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING

OF THE

Big Creek Missionary
Baptist Association

HELD WITH

VIOLA CHURCH

Viola, Ark.

September 19 and 20

1918

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 Viola Church on Thursday, September 19, 1918, at 3 o'clock p. m., and the Devotional Exercises were conducted by J. N. Weaver.

Letters from the following churches were read and messengers enrolled: Salem Church, Oscar E. Ellis; Oak Grove Church, P. C. Collins, G. H. Lewey, L. L. Claxton and Bert Claxton; and Enterprise, W. D. McElmurry, Sarah Jones and Mrs. M. I. Iverster; whereupon it was decided to go into the organization and W. R. McEwen and J. N. Weaver were appointed to take the vote for moderator and clerk respectively and W. H. Bowling and Oscar E. Ellis were elected moderator and clerk, respectively.

Call was made for visiting ministers; whereupon Rev. J. N. Weaver, of Hardy, Ark., special representative of the State Board, and W. R. McEwen, general missionary for Northeast Arkansas, came forward and were seated in the body. W. R. McEwen, J. N. Weaver and Oscar E. Ellis were appointed as a Committee on the Camp Pastor Situation and instructed to report at the night session. The moderator appointed the various committees. R. K. Pope and R. L. Hodges neither being present, the committee reported that J. N. Weaver would preach at 7:30; whereupon the association adjourned until that time with a prayer led by W. R. McEwen.

Thursday Night Session.

After a short song service and prayer by the moderator, J. N. Weaver was introduced and read the first chapter of Acts and preached a sermon from the 49th verse. The Committee on Camp Pastor Situation reported:

“That the following be sent to Doctor Keppel:

“ ‘The Big Creek Association of Missionary Baptists to Doctor Keppel, third assistant Secretary of War, Washington, D. C.:

“ ‘Being creditably informed that you have, by and under the advice of a certain advisory committee, issued

an order removing all camp pastors, we, while expressing to you our unquestioned faith in the United States Government and while reaffirming our readiness to do all in our power to help bring to a successful end the war in which we are now engaged, do most solemnly protest against the operation of said order, which we firmly believe violates our inalienable and constitutional rights as American citizens, and we do most respectfully ask that said order be revoked that we may enjoy the "free exercise" of our religion in preaching the gospel to our own boys in the various military encampments.'

W. R. McEwen,
J. N. Weaver,
O. E. Ellis,
Committee."

After being discussed by W. R. McEwen was adopted. The association adjourned until 8:30 tomorrow morning.

Friday Morning Session.

The association convened and letters and messengers from the following churches were read and enrolled: Shady Grove, R. E. Richardson, Tom Foster, N. L. Light and Dealie Beaver; Viola Church, G. E. Burns, C. H. Dixon and Mary Cain; Mount Zion Church, J. D. Cochran, J. T. Cochran and O. P. Prewett; County Line Church, Mr. and Mrs. W. Fore; Elizabeth, Jake Hodges, R. L. Hodges and W. B. Hodges. The Committee on Home and Foreign Mission reported.

Home Missions:

"The most urgent mission task of today is spiritualization of life of the New South. The increase of the South's wealth will crush the souls of the people, if they are not strong enough to master it for spiritual ends. The following figures give some idea of work being done by the Home Board: Number of workers, 1,498; churches and stations supplied, 5,106; mountain schools, 36; pupils in them, 5,190, of whom 110 were preachers; baptisms, 30,982; total additions, 51,949. For this work the Baptists of the South gave directly \$589,987 and the conven-

tion instructed the board to outline its work for this year on a million dollar apportionment."

Foreign Missions:

"The Southern Baptists' convention at Hot Springs in May decided that Southern Baptists should be requested to give \$1,500,000.00 to Foreign Missions before the next meeting of the convention. God's blessings are upon Foreign Missions. Even the war is helping this great enterprise. There are a number of figures to prove the importance of this work. We are conducting theological schools in foreign lands. We have but few doctors under appointment, and yet these gave more than 100,000 treatments last year. Eighteen new missionaries were appointed in June and many others are greatly needed.

W. R. McEwen,
O. P. Prewett,
W. D. McElmurry,
Committee."

After being discussed by J. N. Weaver these reports were adopted.

The Committee on State Missions reported as follows:

"The object of State Missions is to bring all the affairs of all the people of the state under the control of Christ. To fail in our support of State Missions is to fail in our support of the boys who are offering their all at the battle front. This work is carried on through the Executive Board. The report of this board to the convention last year showed great results, thus: 91 workers, 4,384 conversions, 29 churches and 111 Sunday Schools and B. Y. P. U.'s organized, and \$44,800 given for State Missions, and many other items worthy of mentioning. This year the work has been greatly enlarged, 189 workers being used. We are spending thousands of dollars to win the soldier boys to Christ. It will be necessary to raise in the State Mission Campaign not less than \$50,000.00 if we go to the convention at Helena with all State Mission obligations paid. Arkansas Baptists are abundantly able to give this and more. That a careful study of the board's catechism be made by all the pastors and

churches; that every church in the association do its very best to raise at least the amount asked of it by the Executive Board and that each church add special gifts for the work among the soldiers at Camp Pike.

J. N. Weaver,
G. E. Burns,
G. H. Lewey,
Committee."

After being discussed by W. R. McEwen was adopted.

The Committee on Sunday School reported as follows:

"We would recommend: 1—That we do our own Baptists' Sunday School work in the association. 2—That we organize, at the earliest possible time, a Sunday School Convention with an annual convention at some centrally located place in the association. 3—That we push State Mission Day in the Sunday School, September 29th, and make our offering as large as possible. 4—That we organize a teacher training class in every church possible.

W. R. McEwen,
C. H. Dixon,
Committee."

After a discussion by W. R. McEwen and Oscar E. Ellis was adopted.

At 11 o'clock a. m. the Committee on Stewardship reported:

"Much interest is being aroused on this subject. Our people are seeing as never before that they must put all life on a stewardship basis. Each one of us belong to God; all our possessions are God's property rather than our own; the very strength, skill and ability that we use belong to God.

"We recommend: 1—That every pastor preach to all his people several times during the year on some phase of stewardship. 2—That tracts and books on this subject be circulated and read by our people as widely as possible.

“Free literature on Stewardship and Tithing can be had, by writing J. S. Compere, 405 Donaghey Building, Little Rock, Ark.

J. N. Weaver and
Oscar E. Ellis.”

After a reading of the report W. R. McEwen preached a sermon on “Stewardship.” Report was adopted.

Association adjourned until 1:30 p. m.

Friday Evening Session.

After the association was called to order by the moderator and prayer by R. L. Hodges, letters were read from the following churches and messengers enrolled: Flora, Marion Risner and wife and Albert Taylor; Diamond Spring, Ira Hickman, Herman Tanner, W. M. Fout and Allen Wilkins; Macedonia, P. G. Bray, W. M. Talley, Alice Talley and Oscar Soden.

The Committee on Temperance reported as follows:

“We recommend temperance in thought, action, words and diet and in intoxicating drink we urge total abstinence and ask our Baptist churches to do all in their power for the rigid enforcement of all our liquor laws.

J. T. Cochran,
W. Fore.”

Said report was adopted without discussion.

The Committee on Christian Education sent up the following report:

“The Baptists of Arkansas have two well-established colleges—Ouachita, at Arkadelphia, and Central, at Conway. We also have three mountain schools—Mountain Home College, at Mountain Home; Maynard Academy, at Maynard; and Montview Institute, in Carroll County. Our total property in educational institutions is estimated to be worth \$400,000. Ouachita College and our mountain schools are of very special importance in the matter of training men for the ministry. We ought to encourage and help our young preachers to attend our own Baptist institutions of learning. Let no church fail to make con-

tributions every year to Ministerial and Christian Education.

W. R. McEwen,
J. D. Cochran."

After being discussed by W. R. McEwen and J. N. Weaver was adopted.

The Committee on Associational Missions and the Executive Board of Big Creek Association submitted the following reports:

"Big Creek Association has done nothing along this line for the past year and there is destitution all around us, therefore we recommend that for the next year that the Executive Board do all it possibly can in the way of Associational Missions and that this association here and now pledge its support and loyalty both in prayers and money to whatever the board in its judgment may do.

J. T. Cochran,
Oscar E. Ellis."

The Executive Board as follows:

"1. We state that we were unable to do anything last year in the way of Associational Missions because of no available man for a missionary.

"2. We recommend that the association retain an Executive Board for the next year.

"3. That the members of the present board be retained as a part of the members of said board.

"4. That the membership of the board be increased from five to ten.

"5. That the new members on said board be R. L. Thompson, W. B. Hodges, Z. T. Carroll, G. W. Bray and W. H. Bowling.

"6. That this board be instructed and directed to secure whatever financial aid possible from the State Board and to employ some man as associational missionary for next year.

J. T. McElmurry,
J. D. Cochran,
O. E. Ellis."

After some discussion both reports were adopted. The Executive Board was authorized to put on a campaign in the association for State Missions.

The Committee on Deceased Members reported:

"We find the following deaths: Macedonia Church, Sister Jessie Gaither; Enterprise Church, Sister Sarah Grisso; Elizabeth Church, Sister Effie Owens.

L. L. Claxton,
O. P. Prewitt."

The Committee on Orphans' Home reported as follows:

"The Orphans' Home at Monticello has been in operation twenty-two years, and has been a blessing to perhaps 1,000. The Home will need \$7,500.00 to meet all obligations, and go to the convention clear of debt.

"We recommend:

"1. That every church and Sunday School make regularly monthly offerings to this work of mercy.

"2. That a cash and pledge collection be now taken for the Home.

W. R. McEwen,
J. D. Cochran."

A collection was taken from which \$25.00 was realized in cash and pledges. The report was adopted.

The Committee on Finance reported \$14.65 for the printing of the minutes and a collection in cash was taken to supplement this and \$4.49 was raised.

J. D. Cochran and G. W. Bray were sent as messengers to Rocky Bayou Association and J. G. Hodges was sent as messenger to White River Association. Oak Grove was selected as the place for the meeting of the next association and R. L. Hodges was selected to preach the introductory sermon, with W. H. Bowling as alternate. The clerk was instructed to have printed 300 copies of the minutes and distribute them. The Committee on Devotional Exercises reported that R. L. Hodges preach tonight at 7:30.

The association adjourned to meet at Oak Grove on Thursday at 10 o'clock a. m. before the fourth Sunday in September, 1919.

Friday Night.

R. L. Hodges preached. Subject, "What Shall I Do to Be Saved?"

Sunday Schools in the Association with the Superintendents and Clerks.

Mount Zion—Superintendent, J. T. Cochran; Clerk, Fannie Caruthers, Union, Arkansas.

Oak Grove—Superintendent, L. L. Claxton; Clerk, Edith Lewey, Moody, Missouri.

Diamond Spring—Superintendent, Allen Wilkins; Clerk, Eva Hickman, Hand, Arkansas.

Salem—Superintendent, Owen S. Jones; Clerk, Bertha Woods, Salem, Arkansas.

P. S.—Every member is earnestly requested to read without fail the reports of the Committee on Associational Missions and the Executive Board and the action of the association thereon and to give their whole-hearted support thereto.

Oscar E. Ellis, Clerk.

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 produce 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.

Isom Hodges, Elizabeth
M. L. Burton, Cross Roads, Ark
Union, Ark.

STATISTICAL TABLE

Names of Churches.	Names of Pastors.	Church Clerks and Addresses.	Days of Meeting.	Baptism.	Letter.	Restoration.	Exclusion.	Deaths.	Total Membership.	Value of Property.	Paid Pastor.	Paid Minutes.	Orphan's Home.	Paid Missions.	Pupils in S. S.	S. S. Expenses.		
Salem.	None.	Bertha Carter, Salem, Ark.	2	4	0	4	0	0	5	0	123	\$ 900	\$ 0	\$ 1.50	\$3.10	\$ 0	60	\$10.51
County Line.	R. K. Pope.	J. P. Hall, Bakersfield, Mo.	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	81	*	48.15	3.00	*	*	*	*	
Oak Grove.	W. H. Bowling.	L. L. Claxton, Moody, Mo.	2	0	0	*	1	3	*	75	600	60.00	1.50	0	0	50	5.00	
Enterprise.	Isom Hodges.	Atha Franks, Viola, Ark.	3	2	6	*	0	1	1	54	300	33.00	1.65	*	*	0	0	
Elizabeth.	R. L. Hodges.	W. B. Hodges, Elizabeth, Ark.	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	27	*	18.00	1.25	*	*	*	*	
Diamond Spring.	R. L. Hodges.	Herman Tanner, Hand, Ark.	4	3	0	*	0	1	*	83	*	19.50	1.00	*	*	*	*	
Flora.	None.	Lula Scott, Viola, Ark.	0	0	0	0	2	1	35	*	*	*	1.00	*	1.00	*	*	
Shady Grove.	R. M. Hively.	Danie Beaves, Salem, Ark.	3	5	5	2	0	2	0	52	250	*	1.25	*	*	*	*	
Macedonia.	C. T. Soden.	J. D. Cothran Union	2	6	1	1	0	0	1	64	*	*	1.00	*	*	*	*	
Mt. Zion.	*	Mrs. J. W. Cain Viola	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Viola.	*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Union Hill.	*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Liberty.	*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Highland Park.	*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Hall's Chapel.	*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Pleasant Grove.	*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Totals			16	19	3	2	14	4	594	\$2050	\$178.65	\$12.65	\$3.10	\$1.00	110	\$15.51		
			A. W. O' Bryant, Pastor, Salem															
			* Means not represented or not reported.															

* Means not represented or not reported.

A. W. O' Bryant, Pastor, Salem, Ark

Highland Park. E. J. Bratcher, Lanton, Mo.
Pleasant Grove — No one to be reached. Moko, Ark
Hall's Chappel No one to be reached. Diamond Spring, Ark

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— Davis. Address unknown

1 Pleasant Grove, 2 Hall's Chappel, 3 Highland Park, 4 Liberty, 5 Union Hill, have not been represented in past 3 years.

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