

MINUTES
OF THE
FIFTY-SIXTH ANNUAL SESSION
OF THE
TOWALIGA ASSOCIATION
OF
PRIMITIVE BAPTISTS,
HELD WITH
Liberty Church, Pike County, Ga.,

Sept. 1, 2 and 3, 1894.

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Ps. 127:1.

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MILNER, GA:
TOWALIGA MESSENGER PRINT.
1894.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Read letters and enroll messengers' names.
2. Elect Moderator and Clerk.
3. Call for petitionary letters.*
4. Invite visiting brethren to seats.
5. Call for correspondence.
6. Appoint a committee to arrange service.
7. Appoint some brother to write Corresponding Letter.
8. Call the roll and read the Decorum.
9. Appoint Correspondents.
10. Appoint Union Meetings.
11. Appoint time and place for next Association.
12. Appoint some brother to preach next Introductory Sermon.
13. Appoint some brother to write Circular Letter.
14. Call for Circular Letters.
15. Call for Corresponding Letter.
16. Call for contributions. Say how many minutes shall be printed: fix clerk's compensation.
17. Call for miscellaneous business.
18. Read minutes and adjourn.

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ORDAINED ELDERS.

Washington J. Oxford, Winfred, Jasper Co., Ga.
Ira I. Gunter, McDonough, Henry Co., Ga.
Wiley F. Rogers, Commissioner, Wilkinson, Co., Ga.
John Rowe, Butler, Taylor Co., Ga.
William T. Godard, Milner, Pike Co., Ga.
John A. Wright, Zebulon, Pike Co., Ga.
J. G. Huckabay, Tobler, Upson Co., Ga.
S. G. Ratliff, Eula, Ga.
W. R. Nicholas, Sereven, Ga.
G. W. Phillips, Atlanta, Ga.

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LICENTIATES.

Andrew J. Brown, Rocky Ford, Ga.
J. C. Daniel, Astor, Ga.
R. W. Daniel, Rowland, Ga.
L. C. Dickey, Prattsburg, Ga.
Jesse McElroy, Jackson, Ga.
G. W. Thurston, Jackson, Ga.
J. Luther Hays, Hayston, Ga.

MINUTES.

LIBERTY CHURCH, PIKE CO., Ga., Sept. 1st, 1894.

The introductory sermon was preached by Elder John Rowe from Psalm 127:1. "Except the Lord build the house they labor in vain that build it, except the Lord keep the city the watchman waketh but in vain." Followed by Elder S. G. Ratliff.

One hour's intermission.

Messengers and correspondents assembled in the house, while service was conducted at the stand by Elders L. M. Ball and G. W. Phillips.

1st. Singing and prayer by Elder J. M. Davis of Blue Ridge Association.

2nd. Read letters and enrolled messengers' names.

3rd. Re-elected by acclamation, Elder I. L. Gunter, Moderator, and Elder W. T. Godard, Clerk.

4th. Called for petitionary letters and received one by the hands of her messenger, J. K. Hendrix, from Phillippi, a new constitution in Bullock Co., Ga., which was received a component member and sister church of this body, and was manifested by the brother Moderator extending the right hand of fellowship to her messenger.

5th. Received correspondence as follows:—Blue Ridge, Elders J. M. Davis and J. R. Garrett. Little River, Elder L. M. Ball.

6th. Received petitions from sister bodies of our faith and order for correspondence as follows:—Brushy Creek Union. Letter by the hands of Elders James Gibbs and J. A. Sutton and brethren J. E. Porter, M. L. McMillan and J. W. Whiddon. Record was investigated and correspondence opened and was manifested by the brother Moderator, extending the right hand of fellowship to her messengers. Powell's Valley of Tennessee by letter which was heartily accepted and correspondence officially opened.

7th. Appointed brother J. M. Stanly and T. J. Preston from the body to associate with the messengers of Liberty church to wit: T. M. Whatley, J. B. Bell and M. D. Spruce, a committee to arrange divine services during the Association.

8th. Appointed the brother Moderator to write corresponding letter.

9th. Appointed correspondents, to wit: Blue Ridge, Elder I. L. Gunter and brother J. K. Hendrix. Little River, Elders S. G. Ratliff and I. L. Gunter and brethren B. S. Akin, Jesse McElroy, John Barnet, and licentiate, J. Luther Hays. Brushy Creek Union Elders W. F. Rogers and S. G. Ratliff. Powell's Valley, Elders John Rowe and W. T. Godard. Blue Ridge meets Friday before 1st Sunday in October 1894. Little River meets Friday before 3rd Sunday in August 1895. Brushy Creek Union, meets Friday before 3rd Sunday in June 1895. Powell's Valley, meets Friday before 3rd Sunday in August 1895.

10th. Appointed Union meetings, as follows. 1st District: Sandy Creek, Friday before 5th Sunday in June 1895. 2nd District: Forest, on Friday before 2nd Sunday in July 1895.

11th. Appointed next session of this body, with Mt. Nebo on Saturday before first Sunday in September 1895.

12th. Appointed Elder S. G. Ratliff to preach introductory and W. T. Godard alternate.

13th. Adjourned to 8:30 a. m. Monday

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 1894.

Prayer meeting at 9 a. m. conducted by J. Luther Hays. Preaching at 10 a. m. by Elder J. M. Davis, of Blue Ridge, from St. John 5:25, followed by Elder W. T. Godard from Rom. 6:23

Afternoon, preaching by Elder I. L. Gunter from II Tim. 2:19 to a large and orderly congregation and to all appearance to good and glorious effect.

Monday 8:30 a. m.

The body assembled in the house according to adjournment, while prayer meeting exercises were conducted at the stand by brother Jesse McElroy, followed by preaching, by Elder James Gibbs. Singing and prayer by brother J. W. Derick of this body.

1st. Called the roll.

2nd. Appointed Elder J. A. Wright to write next circular letter.

3rd. Called for the circular letter for this session, prepared by brother J. W. Derick which was read, received and adopted.

4th. Called for corresponding letter prepared by the brother Moderator, which was read, received and adopted.

5th. Received contributions, for minutes \$35.55, for ministers \$56.95, by public collection \$11.34. Ordered 1200 copies of these minutes printed and distributed and that the clerk have the over plus of funds for his services.

6th. Received, read and accepted a resolution of thanks by Dr. J. M. F. Barron to this body and recommended its publication in *Towadiga Messenger*.

7th. By brother W. M. Hartley, *resolved*, that this body tender its thanks to this church and community for their preparations and kindness toward us while with them.

8th. Minutes read, received and adopted, prayer and praise by Elder John Rowe.

I. L. GUNTER, Moderator.

W. T. GODARD, Clerk.

Monday afternoon. Closing sermon by Elder L. M. Ball and the brother Moderator. May God be praised for this session of love.

Clerk.

DECEASED MEMBERS.

BERSHEBA:—Deacon G. W. Welch, 69 years old baptized by Elder I. L. Gunter, a member of the church nine years. Mrs. Sarah King Moseley, 78 years old, a member forty-two years. Mrs. Mary A. Crumbly, 73 years old, forty-one years a member. Mrs. Mary A. Welch, 54 years old, eleven years a member, baptised by Elder W. J. Oxford. Mrs. Elisabeth Coker, 60 years old, a member twenty-one years.

SANDY CREEK:—Mrs. M. J. Plymale, united with the church June 15, 1889, deceased August 15, 1894.

FLAT ROCK:—Brother Z. W. Wilson, 69 years, united with the church May 7, 1887, baptized by Elder I. L. Gunter. Brother John B. Green, 67 years old, a member twenty-seven years, baptised by Elder J. P. Lyon.

LIBERTY, PIKE COUNTY:—Mrs. Ida C. Jackson, nee Akin, died May 7, 1894, a member of the church five years, baptized by Elder W. T. Godard. Brother M. F. Willis, a member 26 years, baptised by Elder J. P. Lyon.

BEULAH:—Sister Elisabeth Bell, died December 6th, 1893, one among the most highly prized members of our church. "Truly a pillar of Zion."

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CORRESPONDING LETTER.

The Towaliga Association of Primitive Baptists, to the Sister Association and Unions, of the same Faith and Order with whom she Corresponds.

DEAR BRETHREN:—

Through the abounding mercy of God, we have been permitted to hold this, the Fifty-Sixth, session of our body in peace and love, and were much encouraged and edified by the presence of your corresponding letters and messengers. We greatly desiring a continuance of the same, have returned correspondence by sending you, this, our corresponding letter and appointed messengers, whose names appear as such in the body of our minutes. Dear brethren, we earnestly desire a continuance of this pleasant correspondence, so long as we shall be considered worthy, and pray that it may be long continued to our mutual edification and God's glory.

The next session of this Association will be held (D. V.) with the Church at Mt. Nebo, Glasscock county, Ga., one mile from Mitchell, on the *Augusta & Southern* R. R. fifty miles Northeast from Macon, commencing on Saturday before the first Sunday in September, 1895, where we hope, again, to meet your messengers.

Yours in Jesus,

W. T. GODARD,
Clerk.

I. L. GUNTER,
Moderator.

CIRCULAR LETTER.

*The Towaliga Association of Primitive Baptists to the Churches and
Brotherhood of which she is composed, together with all who
are called to be saints. Grace, mercy, and peace be
multiplied.*

BELOVED BRETHREN:—

We have met again according to appointment and have had considerable happiness in the company and conversation of our brethren, but have great reason to be concerned at the long continued declension of religion among almost all the churches in our Union, an earnest solicitude to know the cause of this declension should exercise every Christian heart. Perhaps among many, that of the neglect of family worship and secret prayer may not be the least.

Brethren by prayer you manifest your obligation to, and dependence upon your heavenly Father for every common and special favor. By prayer you keep up communion with God and live in His immediate presence. But when you neglect prayer does it not argue the greatest indifference as though you were careless whether God blessed you or your families, and that everything He had to bestow was not asked for? Is it any wonder that when you restrain prayer you should be afflicted with leanness and barrenness of soul? For the Lord hath declared that He will be sought unto. You also give up one of the evidences of the sincerity of your profession, and make yourselves the subjects of divine wrath. Remember that awful address of the prophet to God: "Pour out thy fury on the heathen and the families that call not upon thy name, and that the Lord doth, and will continue to resent such contempt you have the greatest reason to fear. Dear brethren quit yourselves like men of God, be steady, constant spiritual and zealous in every duty and ordinance which the good and gracious Lord has enjoined on you, manifest that the service of the Lord is perfect freedom. Yea that it is your meat and drink to do the will of your heavenly Father. Such conduct will be an evidence of your love to Him, and regard for His honor. Remember the dying Saviour hath said that if you love me you will keep my commandments; and is not this one, that men should always pray and not faint? Suffer the word of exhortation; let your houses be the houses of prayer; say with, and resolve to do like good old Joshua, as for me and my house we will serve the Lord.

Repent and do your first works that you may obtain your first love, lest the light of the blessed gospel be removed from you. Do not only pray in your families, but in your souls. But dear brethren in vain will be all your prayers if you regard iniquity in your hearts. You must cease to do evil and learn to do well, and then come boldly to a throne of grace, that you may obtain mercy and find grace to help in every time of need. Now unto Him that is able to sustain and keep you, the all-wise, all-glorious three-one God, we commit and commend you.

WM. T. GODARD,
Clerk.

IRA L. GUNTER,
Moderator.

SCALE OF THE CHURCHES.

Number.	CHURCHES.	COUNTIES.	POST-OFFICES	MESSENGERS' NAMES.	Baptized.	Rec'd by Letter.	Rec'd on Confession of Faith.	Restored.	Excluded.	Dis'd by Letter.	Dead.	Total.	Minute Fund.	Minister's Fund.	Time of Meeting.	PASTORS.
1	Concord.....	Jasper.....	Winfred.....	S. G. Ratliff, R. J. J. Grier, W. P. Persons.....	9	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	1	62	\$ 2 50	\$10 00	4	Ratliff
2	Bersheba.....	Henry.....	Locust Grove...	J. H. Colvin, W. H. Spier, W. J. Coker.....	6	1	.....	.....	1	.....	5	41	1 50	3 50	4	Gunter.
3	Friendship.....	Wilkinson.....	Commissioner...	W. F. Rogers, W. G. Lewis.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	37	2 00	3 00	2	Rogers.
4	Mt. Moriah.....	Newton.....	Hayston.....	J. Luther Hays, W. S. Kirkpatrick.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	12	1 00	1 00	1	Ratliff.
5	Lebanon.....	Henry.....	Hampton.....	J. W. Derick, John Barnet, J. R. Smith.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	4	.....	33	1 00	3 00	1	Gunter.
6	Mt. Pisgah.....	Upson.....	Yatesville.....	T. J. Middlebrooks.....	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	47	1 50	1 50	1 50	3	Huckaby.
7	Mt. Olive.....	Baldwin.....	Milledgeville...	By Letter.....	2	.....	1	.....	.....	1	34	1 00	.....	.....	2	Ratliff.
8	Ocmulgee.....	Jasper.....	Flovilla.....	J. T. Goodman, S. M. Harden.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	1	10	75	1 70	2	Huckaby,
9	Mt. Nebo.....	Glasscock.....	Mitchell.....	J. F. Waldeu.....	4	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	1	34	1 00	2 00	1	Rogers.
10	Little Flock.....	Fayette.....	Fayetteville.....	H. J. Knglar.....	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	24	1 00	3 50	4	Huckaby.
11	Hebron.....	Clayton.....	Jonesboro.....	Noah McMullen J. E. Ratliff.....	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	1	6	23	1 00	2 00	2	Gunter.
12	Sandy Creek.....	Butts.....	Flovilla.....	T. J. Preston, J. T. Thaxton.....	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	45	2 00	2 00	1	Godard.
13	Flat Rock.....	Pike.....	Zebulon.....	J. A. Wright, B. S. Akin, W. M. Hartley.....	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	43	1 05	4 00	3	Wright.
14	Liberty.....	Pike.....	Liberty Hill...	T. M. Whatley, J. B. Bell, M. D. Spruce.....	3	2	.....	.....	.....	7	2	39	1 50	3 50	4	Wright.
15	Bethel.....	Butts.....	Jackson.....	Jesse McElroy, J. A. McElroy, S. King.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	1	4	23	75	50	3	Ratliff.
16	Ozias.....	Henry.....	White House....	I. L. Gunter, N. J. Carroll, A. C. Gunter.....	1	7	2	.....	.....	.....	1	90	1 50	3 50	3	Gunter.
17	Forest.....	Clayton.....	Astor.....	J. M. Stanley, D. Lites, T. J. Stephens.....	2	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	64	2 50	.....	2	Wright.
18	Beulah.....	Spalding.....	McKibben.....	D. M. Bell, C. A. Wooten, S. N. Apples.....	2	.....	1	.....	1	2	1	42	1 50	1 00	1	Wright.
19	Union.....	Monroe.....	Goggansville...	W. T. Godard, J. F. Taylor, I. Middlebrooks.....	2	.....	.....	.....	2	7	.....	40	2 00	6 25	4	Godard.
20	Flint River.....	Upson.....	Rowland.....	John Rowe, L. C. Dickey, J. B. Brown.....	2	.....	1	.....	.....	1	61	2 00	3 00	3	Godard.	
21	Liberty.....	Wayne.....	Clock.....	By Letter.....	2	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	10	1 00	.....	.....	4	Thornton
22	Phillippi.....	Bulloch.....	Portal.....	J. K. Hendricks.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	9	1 00	2 00	2	Godard,	
					42	17	7	1	8	37	17	823	\$31 05	\$56 25		

