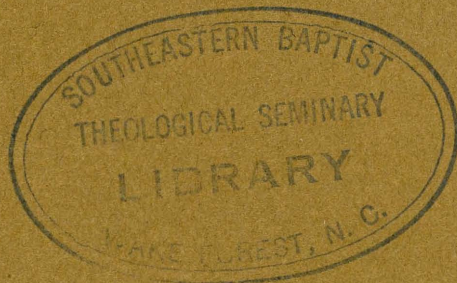
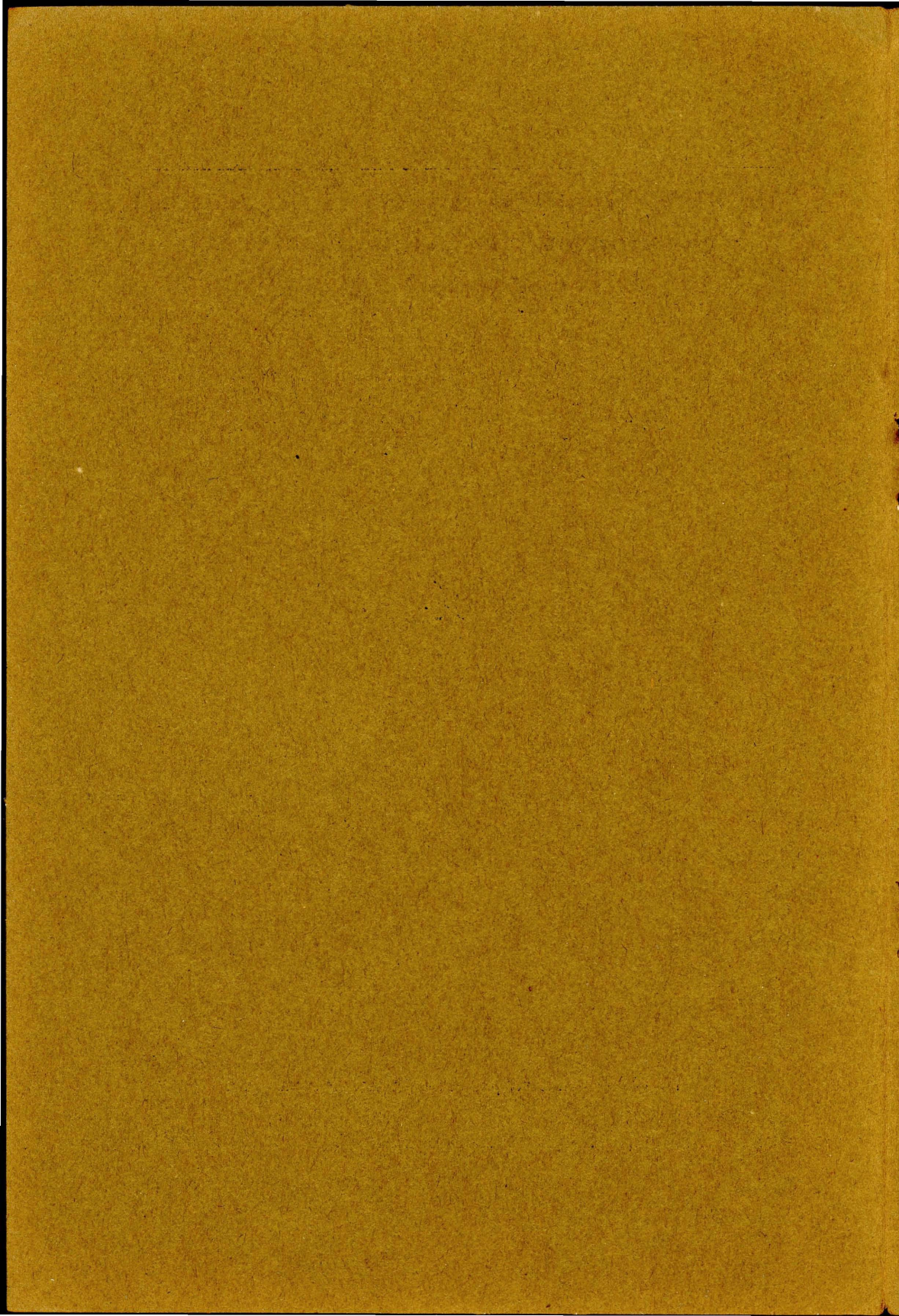


Minutes of the Eighty-third Annual
Session of the Alabama River
Primitive Baptist Association

Held with Bethlehem Church, Pierce
County, Ga., Friday, Saturday and
Sunday, October 30th and 31st, and
November 1st, 1925



J. O. WATERS, Clerk, Blackshear, Ga.



MINUTES of the Eighty-third Annual Session of the Alabama River Primitive Baptist Association

HELD WITH BETHELEHEM CHURCH, PIERCE COUNTY GEORGIA
FRIDAY, SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30 AND 31 AND
NOVEMBER 1, 1925.

The introductory sermon was delivered by Elder W. R. Rhoden, of Suwanee Association. Text 1st. Peter, 5:2, "Feed the flock of God which is among you."

After thirty minutes intermission the delegates assembled in the house. The association was called to order by the former moderator. Prayer by elder G. H. Fowler, of our body.

1. Read the decorum.
2. Read letters from eighteen churches minuted their State and enrolled delegates names.
3. Re-elected Elder W. M. Hyers moderator and J. O. Waters clerk by ballot.
4. Appointed committees as follows: On preaching and finance, I. F. Roberson, R. A. Griffin, F. S. McGee.
5. On Business, S. L. Youmans, J. E. Moody, A. M. Stewart.
6. To write corresponding R. W. Bennett.
7. Caller for correspondence from Sister Associations. Received from the Mt. Enon minutes by Elder M. L. Gilbert; from the Suwanee minutes by W. R. Rhoden.
8. Adjourned until Saturday morning, 9 o'clock.

SECOND DAY—SATURDAY

Met according to adjournment. Prayer by Elder J. P. Mikell of the Union Association.

1. Called the roll.
2. Called for petitionary letters.
3. Invited visiting ministers to seats with us.
4. Renewed the call for correspondence from Sister Associations. Received from the Pilgrims Rest Association, Minutes by Elder E. S. W. Holland; from the Union Association, Minutes by Elder J. P. Mikell and L. L. Register; from the Ocklocknee Association, by Elder A. L. Pearce, J. W. Gardner and R. C. Lastinger; from the Suwanee Association, Elder W. R. Rhoden and C. D. Duggar; from the Mt. Enon Association, Elder M. L. Gilbert, J. D. Hurst and R. R. Harrison.
5. All delegates and visitors were received by the moderator extending to them the right hand of fellowship.
6. Called for marked letters, and agreed to hold our next session with New Hope Church, Erantley County, Georgia.
7. Called for corresponding letter, which was read and received.
8. THE CORRESPONDING LETTER:

We, the Alabama River Primitive Baptist Association, now in session with Bethel Church, Pierce County, Georgia, to the associations with whom we correspond sendeth Christian love and esteem. Dear beloved in the Lord. We thank our God that we have been blest to hold another session of our body in peace and love, with a little exception. Our churches

were all represented, our correspondence was not as full as we desire, yet your ministers came to us laden with the good news of Salvation by Grace, knowing nothing among us save Jesus Christ and Him crucified which was a source of great comfort to us. Our next session, the Lord willing, will be held with New Hope Church, Brantley County, Ga., at Hickox, A. C. L. R. R. Until then dear brethren farewell—R. W. Bennett, committee.

9. On motion called for report of committee on business which was received:

We, the Business Committee, beg leave to make the following report: We have examined the minutes of the several Associations, and have found nothing objectionable, we recommed the same course of business as appears on our former minutes—J. E. Moody, S. L. Youmans, A. M. Stewart, Committee

10. Called for report on preaching and finance: We, your committee, beg leave to make the following report: We have received from the several churches \$97.15. We have allotted to our clerk \$40.00 for the printing of the minutes, the balance to be distributed among the visiting brethren—E. S. McGee, I. F. Roberson, R. A. Griffin, W. D. Griffis, Committee.

11. Returned correspondence to Sister Associations as follows: To the Suwannee Association, Elder B. A. Thornton, R. A. Griffin, S. M. Bennett, Lester Cole. To be held with Little Springs church, Union County, Florida, two miles southwest from Dukes, A. C. L. R. R. Commencing on Saturday before the fourth Sunday in September, 1926.

To the Union Association, Randal Davis, Elder W. D. Bryant, I. F. Roberson.

To Ocklocknee Assosiation, H. R. McGanley, J. E. Moody, J. O. Waters, J. J. Meeks, Elder B. A. Thornton and Banks Lewis, to be held with Pleasant Hill Church, Moultrie, Ga., commencing on Saturday before the fourth Sunday in October, 1926.

To the Pulaski Association B. A. Thornton, to be held with Christian Hope Church, Wilcox County, Ga., eleven miles north of Rochelle, Ga., S. A. L. R. R., two miles east of Pine View, commencing on Saturday before the first Sunday in October, 1926.

To the Mt. Enon Association, Elder B. A. Thornton, G. H. Fowler, R. A. Griffin, S. M. Benntt, to be held with Hopewell Church, commencing on Friday before the fourth Sunday in October, 1926.

To the Pilgrims Rest Association, Elders G. H. Fowler, B. A. Thornton and W. H. Bowen, R. A. Griffin and I. F. Roberson, commencing on Friday before the second Sunday in October, 1926.

12. On motion the minutes were read and approved, the association adjourned to our next time and place. Prayer by Elder M. L. Gilbert of the Mt. Enon Association,

W. M. HYERS, Moderator, Patterson, Ga.

J. O. WATERS, Clerk, Blackshear, Ga.

ORDER OF PREACHING

Introductory sermon by Elder W. R. Rhoden of the Suwanee Association.

Friday p. m., Elder E. S. W. Holland, followed by A. L. Pearce.

Saturday a. m., J. W. Gardner followed by Elder J. D. Hurst.

Saturday p. m., Elder O. A. Knight, followed by Elder M. L. Gilbert.

Sunday a. m., Elder W. R. Rhoden of the Suwanee, followed by Elder L. M. Guthrie, closed by the moderator.

NAMES OF MINISTERS AND THEIR POSTOFFICES

Elder J. T. Minchew, Waycross, Ga., Route 1.

Elder E. A. Thornton, Hickox, Ga.

Elder W. M. Hyers, Patterson, Ga.

Elder W. D. Bryant, Coffee, Ga.
Elder G. H. Fowler, Blackshear, Ga.
Elder Lester Cole, Nichols, Ga.
Banks Lewis, Alma, Ga.

LICENTIATES

Leo Bagley
A. H. Johnson

J. M. Carver
J. W. Eunice

R. W. Bennett.

NAMES OF CLERKS AND THEIR POSTOFFICES

Ben James, W. H. Bowen, Blackshear, Ga.
Bethesda, W. S. Lewis, Jesup, Ga.
Bethlehem, W. D. Griffis, Blackshear, Ga.
Big Creek, Alonzo Griffis, Screven, Ga.
Corinth, J. D. Murray, Odum, Ga.
Damascus, A. W. Bratcher, Coffee, Ga.
Elim, J. L. Meeks, Nichols, Ga.
Mars Hill, J. J. Moore, Hoboken, Ga.
Mount Pleasant (Ware County) P. C. Colson, Blackshear, Ga.
Mount Pleasant, (Bacon County) C. M. Bland, Alma, Ga.
Providence, B. M. James, Manor, Ga.
Ramah, S. R. Jordan, Rockingham, Ga.
Mout Zion, W. M. Tuten, Blackshear, Ga.
New Hope, R. A. Griffin, Hickox, Ga.
New Prospect, W. L. Mikel, Patterson, Ga.
Rehoboth, Walter Smith, Waresboro, Ga.
Rome, A. M. Byett, Jacksonville, Fla., Route 2.
Satilla, J. A. Moody, Screven, Ga.

DECORUM

1. The Association shall open and close with prayer.
2. Those members chosen by the churches of our union shall compose the Alabama River Primitive Baptist Association.
3. The members thus chosen shall produce letters from their respective churches, certifying their appointment, together with number baptized, received by letter, restored, dismissed, expelled and total number in fellowship since our last session.
4. This Association shall not have power to lord it over God's heritage nor infringe on any of the internal rights of the churches.
5. The Association shall have a Moderator and Clerk, who shall be chosen by the members present.
6. It shall be the duty of the Moderator to preserve order, to explain and put questions, and shall have the same right as any other member, provided the chair be filled, but shall not vote unless the body shall be equally divided.
7. It shall be the duty of the Clerk to keep a fair record of the proceedings of the Association; the minutes shall be read and amended, if needful, and signed by the Moderator and Clerk before the Association adjourns.
8. Any church petitioning by letter and delegates for admission into this Association shall be, if found orthodox and orderly, received by the Moderator extending the right hand of fellowship to her delegates.
9. Each church shall have the right to send two delegates to the Association, and no more.
10. Every query presented shall be fairly stated in writing and approved by a majority before being taken up.
11. Every motion made and seconded shall come under the observation

of the Association, unless it be withdrawn by the person who made it, by the consent of the Association.

12. Every person who speaks in debate shall rise from his seat and address the Moderator in an orderly manner and shall not be interrupted while speaking unless he departs from the subject.

13. No person shall speak more than three times on the same subject, and shall not continue his speech for more than ten minutes at a time without leave of the Association.

14. There shall be no talking or whispering in time of debate or public speech, nor reflection cast upon the speaker.

15. When a case is decided by vote, there shall be no more debating on the subject.

16. No member shall absent himself from the Association without leave from the Association.

17. If any member shall break the rules of this Association he shall be immediately reproved by the Moderator.

18. These rules shall be read at every Association previous to entering on business.

19. It shall be the duty of the Association to keep up a correspondence with other Associations of the same faith and order that a chain of connection may be preserved among the churches.

20. To give the best advice they can in matters of difficulty, and if the union be broken between any of the sister churches, to inquire into the cause of the breach and use their best endeavors to remove the difficulty; but if the breach cannot be healed, to withdraw from any church which they judge unsound in faith or immoral in practice until they be reclaimed.

21. To invite any of the ministers to assistance, if necessary.

22. It shall be the duty of the Association to provide for the general union of the churches, and not hold them in union that support any modern missionary, Bible or Sunday School union, society, theological school, either in themselves or in any other person, or in any society that is now or may hereafter be constituted under pretext of circulating the Gospel of Christ, or any secret order, nor will it correspond with any association that supports or is any of the above named societies.

ABSTRACT OF PRINCIPLES SUBSCRIBED TO BY THIS ASSOCIATION

1. We believe in only one true and living God; that there are three in the Godhead—Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

2. We believe the Scripture of the Old and New Testaments are the written word of God, and the only rule of faith and practice.

3. We believe in the doctrine of eternal and particular election.

4. We believe in the doctrine of original sin.

5. We believe in man's impotency to recover himself from the fallen state he is in by nature, by his own free will and ability.

6. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God only by the imputed righteousness of Christ.

7. We believe that God's elect shall be called, regenerated and sanctified by the Holy Ghost.

8. We believe that the Saints shall persevere in grace and never finally fall away.

9. We believe that Baptism, the Lord's Supper and washing the Saint's feet are ordinances, and believe that the only true mode of baptism is by immersion.

10. We believe that the punishment of the wicked shall be everlasting and the joys of the righteous shall be eternal.

11. We believe that no man has a right to the administration of the ordinance of Baptism and the Lord's Supper except such as are regularly called and come under the hands of the presbetry.

12. We believe in the resurrection of the dead and a general judgment.

| CHURCHES | COUNTY | MESSENGERS | PASTORS, 1925 | | | | | | | | Total Membership | Contributions | Sabbath of Annual Meeting |
|-------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------|----------|---------------------|---------------------|----------|------|------------------|---------------|---------------------------|
| | | | | Rec'd by Baptism | Rec'd by Letter | Restored | Confession of Faith | Dismissed by Letter | Expelled | Dead | | | |
| Ben James | Pierce | S. L. Youmans, J. O. Waters | G. H. Fowler | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 48 | \$8.00 | 3rd May. |
| Bethesda | Wayne | W. S. Lewis, C. Edenfield | W. D. Bryant ... | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 11 | 4.00 | 3rd July |
| Bethlehem | Pierce | W. M. Hyers, W. D. Griffis | W. M. Hyers | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 28 | 6.55 | 1st May. |
| Big Creek | Wayne | R. W. Bennett, J. J. Oliff | W. D. Bryant .. | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 69 | 10.00 | 1st Oct. |
| Corinth | Wayne | J. R. Westberry, H. R. McGauley .. | W. M. Hyers | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 11 | 3.00 | 3rd Oct. |
| Damascus | Bacon | S. F. Boatright, J. A. Carter | G. H. Folwer ... | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 21 | 5.00 | 4th Aug. |
| Elim | Ccffee | J. J. Meeks, Lester Cole | Lester Cole | 3 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 59 | 6.00 | 3rd Sept. |
| Mars Hill | Brantley | Mathew Carter, H. L. McCloud | J. T. Minchew .. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 18 | 3.00 | 1st June. |
| Mt. Pleasant | Ware | G. H. Fowler, J. W. Eunice | G. H. Fowler | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 40 | 3.50 | 2nd May. |
| Mt. Pleasant | Bacon | A. M. Stewart, Banks Lewis | Lester Cole | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 44 | 5.00 | 2nd Oct. |
| Mt. Zion | Pierce | E. S. McGee, Randal Davis | W. M. Hyers | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 26 | 8.50 | 4th Mrch. |
| New Hope | Brantley | B. A. Thornton, R. A. Griffin | B. A. Thornton . | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 47 | 4.20 | 3rd April. |
| New Prospect ... | Pierce | Matthew Roberson, M. C. Murray .. | G. H. Fowler ... | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 36 | 4.00 | 4th April. |
| Providence | Ware | E. M. Cribb, Randal Corbett | J. A. O'Neal | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 22 | 2.25 | 2nd Oct. |
| Ramah | Pierce | W. D. Bryant, I. F. Roberson | W. D. Bryat | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 64 | 7.50 | 2nd Sept. |
| Rehobeth | Ware | Walter Smith, Leo Bagley | Lester Cole | 0 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 33 | 5.00 | 1st Sept. |
| Rome | Ware | W. A. King, Walter Jordan | J. T. Minchew .. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 25 | 8.65 | 4th Oct. |
| Satilla | Wayne | J. E. Moody, W. H. King | W. M. Hyers | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 16 | 3.00 | 2nd July. |
| Total | | | | 17 | 9 | 5 | 0 | 8 | 6 | 11 | 618 | 97.15 | |

