

Minutes of the Tenth Annual Session of the

BETHEL
Primitive Baptist
Association

Held with Bethel Church, Heard County, Ga.,
September 29, 30 and October 1, 1925.

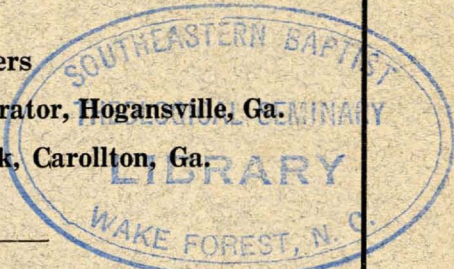


Officers

Elder F. L. Fuller, Moderator, Hogansville, Ga.

J. H. Burson, Clerk, Carrollton, Ga.

Next session will convene with the church at
Emmaus, Carroll County, Ga., Friday, Saturday
and first Sunday, September, 1926.



Proceedings of the
Bethel Primitive Baptist
Association

FIRST DAY—TUESDAY

Tuesday, September 29, 1925, Bethel Church met. Prayer by licentiate W. P. Davis, of Mt. Zion Association. The introductory sermon was preached by Elder N. P. Vandiver of the Upper Wetumka Association, Ala. Text: "Ye are a chosen generation" (1 Pet. 2:9). Followed by Eld. T. J. Head, of Yellow River Association.

The church went into conference.

Invited visiting members of our faith and order to seats. Prayer by Eld. W. B. Denney, of the Hillabee Association, Ala.

Elected Brother J. H. Burson clerk.

Read letters from all churches composing the Bethel Association and all members invited to seats.

Appointed the following committees:

On preaching—Brethren L. H. Burson, W. C. Shadinger, J. N. Kirk, with the messengers of Bethel church.

On contributions—Brethren L. H. Burson, R. C. Merrell and J. E. Burson.

To write corresponding letter—Eld. W. P. Merrell.

Called for correspondence from sister associations and received—

From the Yellow River, Elders T. J. Head, Lee Hanks and J. C. Hewitt.

From the Marietta, Elder W. E. Hembree.

From the Mount Zion, Elders B. G. Parker, J. E. Yancey and licentiate W. P. Davis.

From the Hillabee, Elders H. H. Goodman and W. B. Denney.

Received visitors as follows:

From the Primitive Western, Elders F. L. Fuller and wife, Reese Prather and Morgan Williams.

From the Echeconnee, Eld. W. O. Meeks.

From the Bear Creek, N. C., Eld. J. M. Bagwell and wife.

From the Beulah, Brethren J. C. Hearn and W. R. Head.

From the Upper Wetumka, Eld. N. P. Vandiver.

From the Sequatchie Valley, Tenn, Eld. R. O. Raulston.

Adjourned to meet Wednesday, 9 a. m.

SECOND DAY—WEDNESDAY

Wednesday, 9 a. m., the church reconvened her conference. Prayer by Brother J. C. Hearn of the Beulah association.

Called the roll.

Renewed the call for correspondents and visitors.

Appointed correspondents to sister associations as follows:

To the Yellow River, Brethren M. M. Mulloy, W. C. Shadinger, Greene Burson, C. M. Denney and J. H. Burson.

To the Marietta, Brethren J. E. Burson, T. Z. Head and D. R. Veal.

To the Oconee, send minutes.

To the Mt. Zion, Brethren J. H. Burson, L. H. Burson, M. M. Mulloy, R. H. Duke; Elders W. P. Merrell and J. N. Arnett.

To the Hillabee, Brethren J. B. Denney, M. M. Mulloy, J. H. Burson, R. H. Burson and J. A. Meigs.

Agreed to petition correspondence with the Primitive Western Association by messengers:

Brethren W. C. Shadinger, C. M. Denney, J. B. Copeland, T. Z. Head, J. B. Copeland, R. C. Merrell, T. W. Todd, W. J. Arnett and M. A. Kennemore.

Appointed next union meeting to be held with Tallapoosa Church, Friday, Saturday and second Sunday in August, 1926.

Agreed to hold next session of this body with Emmaus Church, 4½ miles southeast of Carrollton, Ga., Friday, Saturday and first Sunday in September, 1926.

Corresponding letter read and unanimously adopted by all Primitive Baptists present.

Report on contributions: For minutes, \$18.75; for ministers, \$68.75.

Agreed to have 500 copies of these minutes printed and to send a package to all visitors present.

On motion, a vote of thanks was extended to Bethel church and the good friends for their kindness while in their midst.

Minutes read and adopted.

ELDER F. L. FULLER, Moderator.
J. H. BURSON, Clerk, assisted by
ELDER LEE HANKS.

ORDER OF PREACHING

Tuesday a. m.—Elder N. P. Vandiver; 1 Pet. 2:9.
Tuesday a. m.—Elder T. J. Head.
Tuesday p. m.—Elder J. C. Hewitt; Isa. 27:13.
Tuesday p. m.—Elder W. E. Hembree.
Wednesday a. m.—Elder H. H. Goodman; 2 Tim. 1:9.
Wednesday a. m.—B. G. Parker; Rom. 2:1-13.
Wednesday a. m.—Elder W. B. Denney; Tit. 3:1-10.
Wednesday p. m.—Elder W. O. Meeks; 2 Tim. 4:1.
Wednesday p. m.—Elder J. E. Yancey; Heb. 9:12.
Prayer by Elder J. M. Bagwell.
Thursday a. m.—Elder R. O. Raulston; Eph. 2:10.
Thursday a. m.—Reese Prather; Matt. 28:19, 20.
Thursday a. m.—Morgan Williams.
Closed by the moderator.
Prayer by Elder J. E. Yancey.

There was perfect peace and unity throughout the meeting, and we have never heard the gospel preached more ably and in demonstration of the spirit and of power. Praise God from whom all blessings flow. L. H.

VISITING MINISTERS PRESENT

Elder H. H. Goodman, Ashland, Ala.
Elder W. B. Denney, Ashland, Ala.
Elder Lee Hanks, 2 Edwin Place, Atlanta, Ga.
Elder T. J. Head, Atlanta, Ga.
Elder J. C. Hewitt, Luxomini, Ga.
Elder F. L. Fuller, Hogansville, Ga.
Elder Reese Prather, Grantville, Ga.
Elder Morgan Williams, Chipley, Ga.
Elder W. O. Meeks, Lorain, Ga.
Elder B. G. Parker, Cullman, Ala.
Elder J. E. Yancey, Birmingham, Ala.
Elder J. M. Bagwell, Monroe, N. C.
Elder N. P. Vandiver, Birmingham, Ala.
Elder W. E. Hembree, Alpharetta, Ga.
Elder R. O. Raulston, Chattanooga, Tenn.
Licentiate W. P. Davis, Cullman, Ala.

HOME MINISTERS

Elder W. P. Merrell, Roopville, Ga.
Elder J. N. Arnett, Carrollton, Ga.

CORRESPONDING LETTER

The Bethel Primitive Baptist Association in our tenth session, to her sister associations with whom we correspond, sendeth greeting:

Dear Brethren in the Lord.— We have held another session of our body in sweet peace and unity. Your correspondents and visitors have come to us richly laden with the gospel of Christ for which we thank God.

While we are a young association, we have ever been satisfied with the old paths and have ever contended for salvation wholly by grace from start to finish and that in regeneration, the child of God is

wholly passive, but in obedience, he, by enabling grace, is active. We as an association have ever opposed and condemned Arminianism, Universalism, Russellism, Morganism, non-resurrection of the body, predestination of sin and wickedness, and all kindred heresies, and our doors are closed against all who hold the above heresies.

We love and greatly appreciate our corresponding and visiting brethren and associations, and desire a continuation of your lovely correspondence.

Our next session will convene with Emmaus church, 4½ miles south of Carrollton, Ga., where we hope to be greeted again by your lovely correspondence.

ELDER F. L. FULLER, Moderator.
J. H. BURSOM, Clerk, assisted by
ELDER LEE HANKS.

ABSTRACT OF PRINCIPLES

1. We believe in only one true and living God, and that there are three that bear record in Heaven—the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost, and these three are one. (John 1:1; 1 John 5:7).

2. We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the written word of God, and the only rule of faith and practice. (2 Peter 1:21; 2 Tim. 3:16).

3. We believe that God elected or chose his people in Christ before the foundation of the world, that they should be holy and without blame before Him in love. (Eph. 1:4, 5; 1 Peter 1:2; Rom. 8:29, 30; Psalm 68:4).

4. We believe the doctrine of original sin, and of man's impotency to recover himself from the fallen state he is in by nature, by his own free will and ability. (Rom. 5:12; John 6:44; Rom. 3:9-23).

5. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God only by the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ. (Rom. 5:19; 1 Cor. 1:30; Rom. 3:24; 4:5; 7, 8, 24).

6. We believe that God's elect shall be effectually called, regenerated and sanctified by the Holy Spirit and shall be preserved in grace and never fall finally away. (2 Tim. 1:9; John 6:63; Rom. 8:29, 30; John 10:27-30; 1 John 3:9).

7. We believe that baptism, the Lord's Supper, and washing the saint's feet are ordinances of Jesus Christ, and that true believers are the only subjects of these ordinances and the true mode of baptism is immersion. (Mark 1:9; Rom. 6:4; Matt. 26, 27; John 13:5).

8. We believe in the resurrection of the dead or physical body and a general judgment and the punishment of the wicked will be everlasting and the joys of the righteous will be eternal. (John 5:28, 29; Matt. 25:46; 1 Cor. 15:12-40).

9. We believe that no minister has the right to administer the ordinances only such as are called by God, as was Aaron and come under the imposition of the hands by a Presbytery and is in fellowship with the church of which he is a member. (Mark 3:14; 1 Tim. 4:14).

10. We believe that God has ordained good works, that His children should walk in them, and that good works are only such as God commanded in His word and not such as without the warrant thereof, are devised of men out of blind zeal, or any pretense of good intentions. (Matt. 28:19, 20; 2 Tim. 3:16; Eph. 2:10; Tit. 3:8).

11. It is and has been the sense of the churches composing the

Bethel Primitive Baptist Association not to hold in fellowship any church, member or minister who holds the following: boards, conventions, Missionary societies, Sunday schools, theological schools, Epworth leagues, instrumental music in the worship of God, a salaried ministry or assessing or taxing the members, Freemasonry, Odd Fellows, or other secret orders or religious societies that do now exist or may hereafter exist, founded upon the wisdom of men, together with any of the modern attempts to reform the church of God, or the heretical doctrines of sin being a fruit of God's decree or denying endless punishment for the wicked.

12. We hold it to be disorderly and a public offense against the church of God in the aggregate to receive members from a sister church on confession of faith, even if the church has error in it, until Gospel labor has been bestowed and the church has been scripturally withdrawn from. We further hold that it is gross disorder to receive an excluded member from a church until a church has been deposed or has gone out of existence. We hold it to be disorder for an association to usurp authority over her own churches, Associations and ministers of sister associations as dictators and regulators. We further hold that discipline belongs exclusively to the church and the church cannot transmit or delegate her authority to any man or set of men to discipline members or churches.

MEMORIAL

IN RESPECT TO OUR DEAD

With sadness of heart we note the following true, faithful men of God have been called to their eternal home which causes us great grief, but our loss is their eternal gain.

Brother J. T. Burson, of Bethel church, born July 29, 1852, died July 22, 1924.

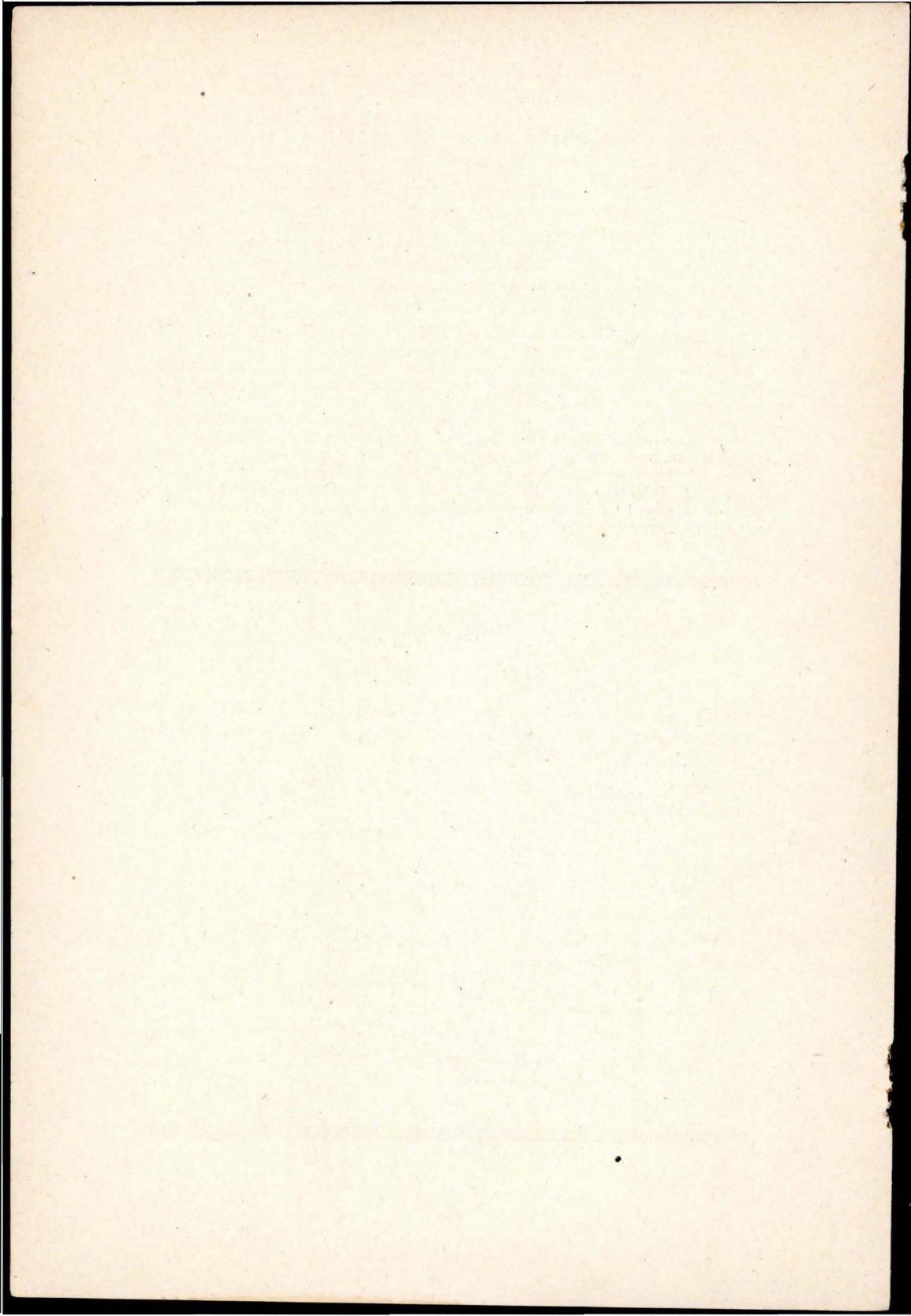
Deacon J. W. Arnett, member of Canaan church, born Jan. 8, 1851, died Aug. 14, 1925.

Deacon J. H. Harris, member of Bethel church, born March 2, 1877, died Aug. 12, 1925.

Brother J. M. Lee, member of Tallapoosa church, born Dec. 1, 1859, died May 12, 1925.

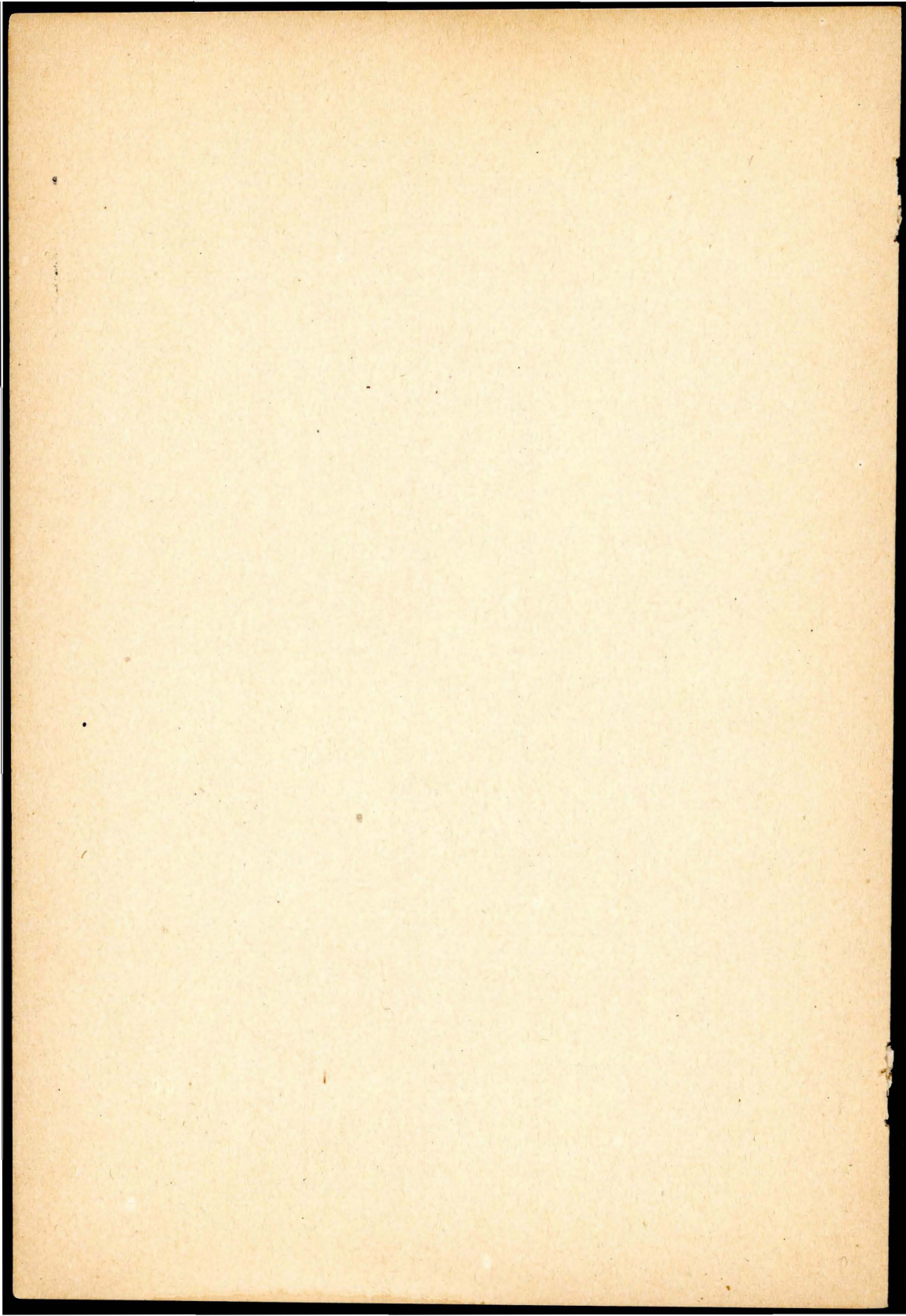
Brother W. T. Lee, member of Tallapoosa church, born Oct. 17, 1861, died April 9, 1925.

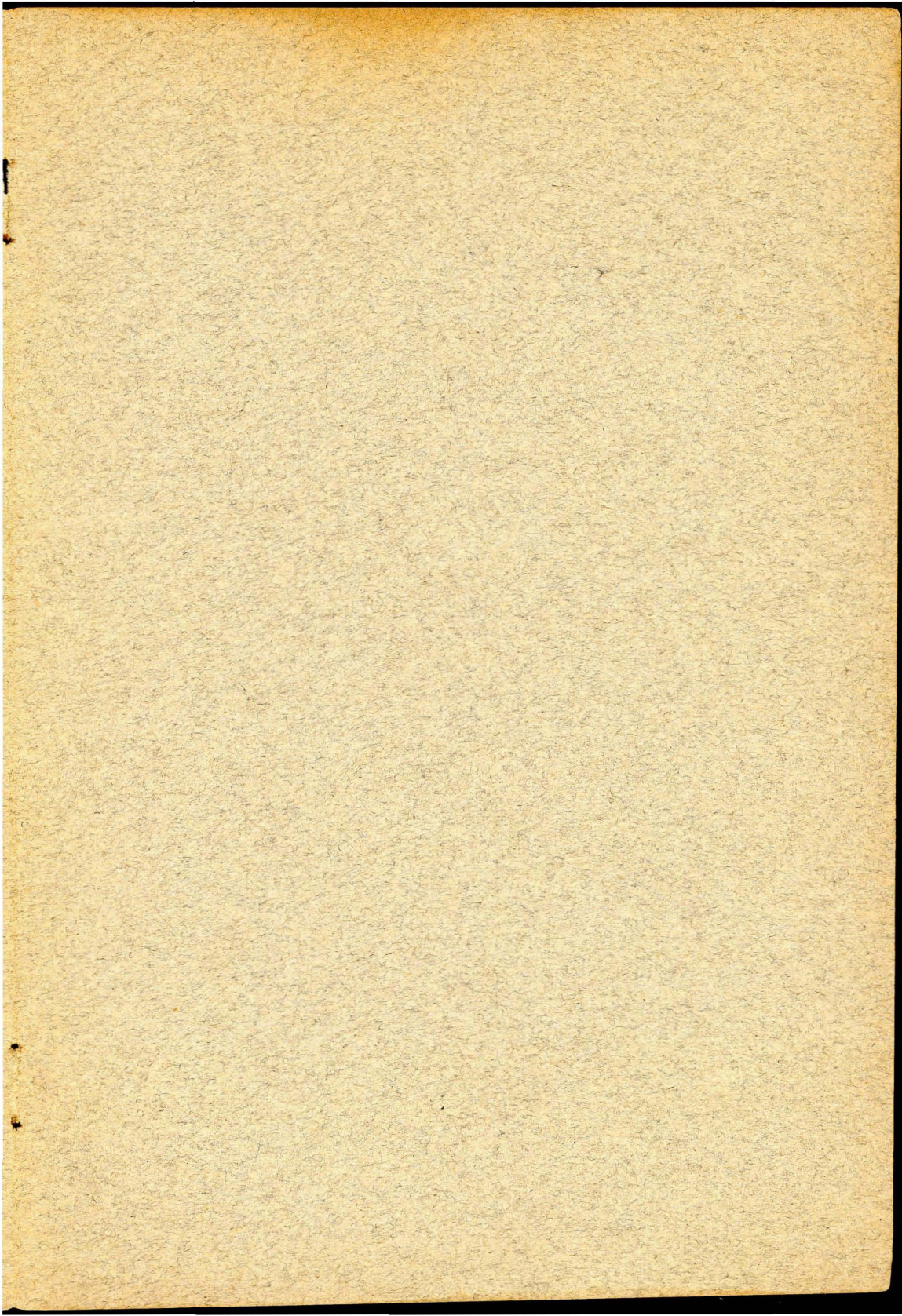
“Asleep in Jesus, blessed sleep
From which none ever wake to weep”
“Death is the gate to endless joy.”



STATISTICAL TABLE

CHURCHES	PASTORS	CLERKS AND THEIR POSTOFFICES	NAMES OF MESSENGERS	Rec'd by Exp. and Bap.	Rec'd on Con. of Faith	Rec'd by Letter	Restored	Dismissed by Letter	Excluded	Deceased	Total Membership	Sunday of Meeting	Con. for Minutes	Con. for Ministers
Tallapoosa.....	Lee Hanks.....	L. H. Burson, Bowdon, Ga....	M. M. Mulloy, L. H. Burson.....	6	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3	44	25.00	.....	.....
Canaan.....	Lee Hanks.....	J. N. Kirk, La Grange, Ga....	J. W. Arnett, W. F. Williamson and J. N. Kirk	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	20	12.25	.....	.....
Bethel.....	F. L. Fuller....	J. E. Burson, Roopville, Ga...	J. E. Burson, G. W. Merrell.....	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	1	36	34.00	.....	.....
Hopewell.....	J. N. Arnett...	C. R. Denney, Roopville, Ga.	J. B. Denney, C. R. Denney .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	19	22.50	.....	.....
Emmaus.....	W. P. Merrell.	N. E. Denney, Carrollton, Ga.	R. C. Merrell, W. C. Shadinger .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	5	.....	19	45.00	.....
Hillabahatchee Valley Grove..	J. N. Arnett...		T. Z. Head, G. W. Drummond	13	5.00
			Contribution to Ministers.....	5	\$68.75





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