

MINUTES
OF THE
FIFTY-NINTH ANNUAL SESSION
OF THE
TOWALIGA ASSOCIATION
OF
PRIMITIVE BAPTISTS,
HELD WITH
Concord Church, Jasper County, Ga.

Sept. 4, 5 and 6, 1897.

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2 Cor. 4:13.

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MILNER, GA:
TOWALIGA MESSENGER PRINT:
1897.

ORDAINED ELDERS.

Washington J. Oxford, Winfred, Ga.
Ira L. Gunter, White House, Ga.
Wiley F. Rogers, McIntyre, Ga.
William T. Godard, Barnesville, Ga.
John A. Wright, Zebulon, Ga.
J. G. Huckaby, Yatesville, Ga.
S. G. Ratliff, Elgin, Ga.
George W. Phillips, Hapeville, Ga.
J. Luther Hays, Hayston, Ga.
Andrew J. Brown, Clito, Ga.
W. R. Nicholas, Screven, Ga.

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LICENTIATES.

J. C. Daniel, Clara, Ga.
G. W. Cook, Zebulon, Ga.
J. M. Ellis, Jonesboro, Ga.
Dan Henderson, White House, Ga.
Dr. J. M. F. Barron, Liberty Hill, Ga.
Thomas M. Whatley, Orchard Hill, Ga.

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MINUTES.

CONCORD, JASPER COUNTY, GA., SEPT. 4th, 1897.

The introductory sermon was preached by Elder I. L. Gunter from 2 Cor. 4:13. "We also believe and therefore speak."

One hour's intermission.

Messengers and correspondents assembled in the house while preaching at the stand by Elders. L. M. Ball and J. J. Dempsey, of the Little River Association.

1. Singing and prayer by Elder T. E. Sikes of the the New Beulah Association.

2. Read letters and enrolled messengers' names.

3. Re-elected Elders I. L. Gunter, Moderator, and W. T. Godard, Clerk.

4. Received correspondence as follows: Little River, Elders S. J. Blackwell, L. M. Ball, J. J. Dempsey and W. C. Kelly, licentiate. Blue Ridge, package minutes; Brushey Creek Union, package minutes; Powell Valley, no tidings.

5. Appointed from the body, the brethren W. G. Lewis and W. M. Hartley to associate with the messengers of Concord Church, Elders S. G. Ratliff, W. P. Persons and R. J. J. Greer a committee to arrange divine services during the meeting.

6. Appointed Elder John A. Wright to write corresponding letter.

7. Adjourned to 8 o'clock Monday morning.

SUNDAY.

Prayer meeting at 9 a. m. led by Elder A. J. Brown of the body. Preaching by Elders Blackwell, Sikes, Morgan Brown of the Pulaski Association and Elder I. L. Gunter, in the order of their name, to a large, orderly and interested congregation, from great evidences to the good of all present and to God's glory.

MONDAY, 8 A. M. SEPT. 6th, 1897.

Met according to adjournment. Singing and prayer by Elder Morgan Brown, of the Pulaski Association.

1. Called the roll of messengers' names and omitted reading the Decorum.

2. Renewed the call for correspondence.

3. To Little River, Elders G. W. Phillips, S. G. Ratliff, J. L. Hays, and brethren H. J. Phillips, W. N. Leach, W. M. Hartley, S. J. Bennett, C. A. Tolls, M. S. Williamson and H. M. Vaughn. Blue Ridge, I. L. Gunter and J. A. Wright. Powell's Valley, Elders I. L. Gunter and J. A. Wright. Brushy Creek Union, Elder A. J. Brown and brother G. W. Nichols. Tenn., package minutes.

4. Appointed Union Meetings. 1st District with Mt. Nebo Church, Friday before 1st Sunday in July 1898. 2nd District with Lebanon Church, commencing on Friday before 1st Sunday in August 1898.

5. Appointed the sixtieth session of this body with Union Church, Monroe county, Ga., at Goggansville on Central Railroad to hold on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday after 1st Sunday in September 1898.

6. Appointed Elder W. T. Godard to preach next introductory sermon and Elder S. G. Ratliff in case of failure.

7. Appointed Elder G. W. Phillips to write next circular letter.

8. Read and adopted circular letter prepared by brother John F. Taylor.

9. Read and adopted corresponding letter prepared by Elder J. A. Wright.

10. Received contributions, as set forth opposite the name of the church in the general scale and ordered 1,200 copies printed; that the clerk reserve 450 copies for correspondents and general distribution; that 750 copies be distributed to the churches according to the funds sent in by each church and that the clerk have the remainder of funds for his services.

11. Received petition from our sister New Hope at the hands of brother T. J. Middlebrooks for a letter of dismission from this body. Adopted the following answer as the action of this body, to wit:—Our sister Church New Hope having petitioned this body for a letter of dismission from this body, and this body having received information through an informal source that her membership is not agreed on this petition a majority of whom being opposed to said petition and this body acknowledging her sovereign right to withdraw from this body if she so desires, therefore we refer this question back to her as a sovereign body to act in the premises as she deems best for the cause of truth and the glory of God.

12. The following appeal presented and read by brother W. M. Hartley, was unanimously adopted by this body.

AN APPEAL.

TO THE PRIMITIVE BAPTIST FAMILY—GREETING,

Dear Brethren in the Lord:—

We greatly deplore the sad divisions and unrighteous confusion which has so long prevailed among the dear family of God, and yet holds them in cruel bondage.

When we reflect when the great affliction we have endured for many years by reason of this unholy war our sorrowing hearts would turn in humble prayer to God for deliverance. While we look with tearful eyes and hearts of love to our brethren and sue for peace. Dear brethren hear us as in the name of Jesus and in Christian forbearance for our personal and organic imperfections. We freely acknowledge that some of our churches committed gross errors years ago in recognizing Missionary baptism under the advice and leadership of some inconsiderate ministers in whom the churches and brotherhood had the utmost confidence; but this our churches have long since officially renounced as may be seen by reference to our minutes of 1875, in the following preamble and resolution:

"Whereas, queries were sent up to the last (1874) session of the Towaliga Association from our sister churches Lebanon and Mt. Pleasant, asking: 'Can the churches of the Towaliga Association continue to recognize modern Missionary baptism as valid and maintain their consistency as Primitive Baptist?' And,

Whereas, said queries were sent back to the churches for their consideration and action with a request to report their action in the premises to the present session of this body: And,

Whereas, a large majority of the churches have by church action answered in the negative,—Therefore be it

Resolved, By the Association that the position of the churches thus taken be, and the same is hereby adopted by this body as her position on this subject."

And three years later in the minutes of 1878 our Association made additional confession and correction of errors as follows:

"On motion of Elder I. L. Gunter received and adopted a preamble and resolution in reference to the action of this body in 1867 that adopted the Four Articles of Settlement among the Baptist, adopted by a convention held at Union Church the same year (1867,) to-wit:

Whereas, this body did adopt and have published in her minutes of 1867 the following Four Articles of Settlement passed by the convention. And,

Whereas, We feel that it is the sense of this body that said adoption was an error on our part, in so far as it committed us to any associational communion or correspondence with the Missionary Baptist. Therefore,

Resolved, That we reconsider so much of the minute of 1867 as adopted the four articles of rescinding the same, in so far as the action committed us in any way to communion or correspondence with the Missionary Baptist and recommend our churches, who

ratified to rescind the same. Vote taken rising, yeas 38."

To which our churches have faithfully adhered to the present time. Thus organically repenting of our error in this particular and correcting the same as far as we could without organic destruction. Again we at our last (1896) session adopted and endorsed the summary of principles published by Elder Hassell in July number of *Gospel Messenger* of 1896 with such additional articles of doctrine and order as we deemed necessary to more specifically define our position as true Primitive Baptist. In which we especially declare.

"That we believe that the Church in her organic capacity and official relation and function is independent of and must be separate from all organizations, institutions and societies of men, and cannot be scripturally associated with or united with any of them. But having learned from various sources that our attitude toward secret institutions is still by some raised against us as a bar to organic union and correspondence."

Therefore, we as a body for the satisfaction of those who may be grieved with our meat in this particular, recommend and advise our brethren to abstain from affiliation with all such institutions in obedience to the scriptural injunction that, we should pursue the things that makes for peace and things whereby one may edify another, being assured that, "He that in these things serveth Christ, is acceptable to God and approved of men." We have also learned that complaint is made of our having received into fellowship excluded members of other churches. To this we would say that the peculiar attitude hitherto maintained toward us by our brethren has led up to, and been the main cause of the action of our churches in this matter. But we stand ready and will gladly correct any mistake we have made on this line whenever it shall be shown in any particular case that we did err. And now dear brethren, while we cannot for a moment entertain the idea or doctrine of the disintegration and reconstruction of our churches, nor the invalidity of our Gospel administration of the ordinances and while we cannot undo the errors of the past, we appeal to you for mutual forbearance and forgiveness for the past, and for mutual forgiveness and fellowship for the future. Dear brethren has not our unholy strife, organic alienation and personal prejudice and bitterness continued long enough? May God add His blessing.

13. On motion appointed the brethren Elder I. L. Gunter and W. M. Hartley to bear this appeal to the Upitot Association, and Elder W. T. Godard and Brother W. G. Lewis to New Beulah Association, also Elder W. T. Godard to bear this appeal to the Echeconnee Association.

14. Authorized any of our brethren who may be present at the sitting of any Primitive Baptist Association to present this appeal and sue for peace and union.

15. By Elder A. J. Brown, resolution of thanks to the church and community for their kindness and hospitalities.

16. Adjourned to meet with our sister, Union Church, Tuesday after 1st Sunday in September 1898.

Prayer and benediction by the brother Moderator.

W. T. GODARD,
Clerk,

ELDER IRA L. GUNTER,
Moderator,

By Elders T. E. Sikes of the New Beulah and Morgan Brown of the Pulaski Associations, closed by our venerable moderator. The Lord was manifestly present and that to help, own and bless our labors. May the Lord ever be praised.

CLERK.

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CIRCULAR LETTER.

To the Churches Composing The Towaliga Association of Primitive Baptists: Grace be unto you and Peace be multiplied.

BELOVED BRETHREN AND SISTERS:—

The time of our annual meeting (59th Session) has again rolled around, and, according to our custom, it will be expected that we address you by way of a circular letter, and for a subject for this humble address, we refer you to 2 Chronicles 28: latter clause, 9th verse. "For the Lord searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts; If thou seek him he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him he will cast thee off forever." In this subject you will find that Solomon was addressed by David his father, knowing the great responsibility that would be put upon him to build the temple of God. David himself desired to build this temple, but God told him not so, for you have been a man of war and have shed blood, Solomon thy son, I will choose him. So David's heart was moved towards his son the chosen of God, and addressed him in a very tender way. "And thou Solomon my son know thou the God of thy father," who has been my protector through these many years of trouble, even when I met the giant and slew him, the Lord was with me. And when my terrible conflict with Saul the king, when he exhausted all of his plans to slay me, I found favor in the presence of God, the one I trusted all to, his promise was the armour of my faith, give me that assurance that I feared no evil. For if I know my heart I serve him perfectly and with a willing mind.

So you learn here brethren, from the text, that the Lord knows all about us, and if we are a chosen generation and have been saved by his grace, and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began. So brethren, if we are of this number, what have we got to dread? If God be for us who can be against us? Peter said on one occasion to Jesus: "Thou hast the words of eternal life;" where else can we go. What a blessed Saviour who has done so much for us, how much the more that we should lay aside every weight that does so easily beset us, and run with patience the race set before us, looking only to God our Saviour and redeemer; for all that we need is in his bountiful store-house of mercy. If we seek him he will never turn any away empty when we go in the name of the Lord. Wherefore he saith: Awake thou that sleepest and arise from the dead and Christ shall give the light. Brethren if we are asleep, awake, awake, put on thy strength. O, Zion, put on thy beautiful garments. O, church, the night is far spent, the day is at hand, let us therefore turn our backs to the works of darkness

and put on the armour of light; and let us walk not in darkness and not in wantonness, nor in strife; and not in envying, for every man's work shall be made manifest, for it shall be tried, so as by fire, and if it stand not he will suffer loss. O, brethren, let us pray, that we may be united in the faith and works of the Lord, that we may be found in the way pressing onward and upward, till we all come in the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.

Your brother,

JOHN F. TAYLOR.

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CORRESPONDING LETTER.

*The Towaliga Association of Primitive Baptist to the Sister Associations,
Churches and Unions with whom she Corresponds.*

DEAR BRETHREN:—

Through the goodness and mercy of God, we have been blessed to hold our Fifty-Ninth Session in peace and love, and were made to rejoice and to thank God and take courage for the presence and labors of love of your welcome correspondents.

The next session of our body will be held with our sister church, Union, Monroe county, Ga., at Goggins, on Central Railroad, on Tuesday after first Sunday in September, 1898, where we hope to meet a goodly number of your bodies again. We have returned correspondence as set forth in the body of these minutes.

We would call your special attention to our Appeal in these minutes for mutual love, union and fellowship among the dear family of Primitive Baptist everywhere. May God, by his grace, love and mercy keep us in the ways of peace and everlasting life.

Yours in gospel bonds.

W. T. GODARD,
Clerk.

IRA L. GUNTER,
Moderator.

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ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Read letters and record messengers' names.
2. Elect Moderator and Clerk.
3. Invite visiting brethren to seats.
4. Call for petitionary letters.
5. Appoint a committee to arrange divine services.
6. Call for correspondence.
7. Appoint brother to write Corresponding Letter.
8. Call roll and read Decorum.
9. Appoint correspondents.
10. Appoint Union Meetings.
11. Appoint time and place for next Association.
12. Appoint brethren to preach next introductory sermon.
13. Appoint brethren to write Circular Letter.
14. Call for Circular Letter.
15. Call for Corresponding Letter.
16. Call for contributions.
17. Say how many minutes.
18. Fix Clerk's compensation.
19. Call Miscellany.
20. Read minutes.
21. Adjourn.

SCALE OF THE CHURCHES FOR 1897.

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	Union	Monroe.....	Goggansville ...	W. T. Godard, J. E. Taylor, T. J. Higgins.....	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	44	\$ 2 00	\$ 5 00	1	Wright.
2	Ozias.....	Henry	White House....	I. L. Gunter, G. W. Phillips, A. C. Gunter.....	3	4	.....	1	.....	1	103	1 50	3 50	3	Gunter.
3	Concord.....	Jasper.....	Winfred.....	S. G. Ratliff, W. P. Persons, R. J. J. Greer.....	1	.....	.....	.....	3	.....	63	2 00	10 75	4	Godard.
4	Friendship.....	Wilkinson.....	McIntyre.....	W. G. Lewis, N. E. Mason.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	35	1 00	2 00	2	Godard.
5	Bersheba.....	Henry.....	Locust Grove....	W. H. Spier, S. W. Gardner, M. L. Harris.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	1	41	1 50	3 50	4	Gunter.
6	Liberty.....	Wayne.....	Screven.....	Geo. W. Nichols.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	17	1 00	.....	4	Nicholas.
7	Flat Rock.....	Pike.....	Zebulon.....	J. A. Wright, W. M. Hartley, M. S. Williamson.....	1	.....	.....	.....	2	2	37	1 20	5 00	3	Godard.
8	Sandy Creek...	Butts.....	Flovilla.....	T. G. Preston, T. W. Edwards, S. J. Bennett.....	5	.....	.....	.....	3	2	56	2 00	8 00	3	Ratliff
9	Beulah.....	Spalding.....	McKibben.....	G. G. Head, S. M. Apples, R. W. Hamil.....	2	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	39	1 00	2 00	1	Ratliff.
10	Mt. Moriah.....	Newton.....	Hayston.....	J. L. Hays, W. N. Leach, J. W. Curtis.....	5	.....	1	1	.....	.....	20	1 00	2 00	1	Phillips.
11	Flint River.....	Upson.....	Rowland.....	J. B. Brown, R. F. Arington, J. M. Vining.....	.....	1	.....	.....	2	2	54	2 00	2 00	3	Phillips.
12	Liberty.....	Pike.....	Liberty Hill....	J. M. F. Barron, J. B. Bell, E. C. Akin, Jr.....	6	1	1	.....	.....	2	44	1 50	3 50	4	Wright.
13	Ocmulgee.....	Jasper.....	Flovilla.....	J. T. Goodman, J. B. Benton, W. S. Phillips.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	11	1 00	4 00	2	Ratliff.
14	Mt. Nebo.....	Glasscock.....	Mitchell.....	J. F. Walden.....	7	.....	1	1	.....	1	44	1 00	2 00	1	Godard.
15	Hebron.....	Henry.....	Jonesboro.....	J. M. Ellis, J. V. Mann, J. E. Ratliff	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	31	1 00	2 00	2	Gunter.
16	Phillipi.....	Bulloch.....	Portal.....	A. J. Brown.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	9	1 00	2 00	1	Brown.
17	Forest.....	Clayton.....	Astor.....	T. J. Stephens, J. A. Kuglar.....	.....	.....	.....	2	2	2	65	1 50	2 00	2	Wright.
18	Lebanon.....	Henry.....	Hampton.....	A. Payne, Lou Payne, J. A. Payne.	.....	.....	.....	5	4	.....	23	1 00	2 25	1	Gunter.
19	Bethel.....	Butts.....	Jackson.....	C. T. Mangum, H. M. Vaughn, Ira King.....	8	7	2	1	3	1	31	1 00	2 00	1	Hays.
20	New Hope.....	Upson.....	Yatesville.....	T. J. Middlebrooks, J. W. Burks, F. B. Blunt.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	42	1 50	1 60	4	Rowe.
21	Mt. Olives.....	Baldwin.....	Milledgeville...	T. A. J. Morgan.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	30	1 00	.....	.....	No supply.
22	Little Flock...	Fayette.....	Fayetteville....	Not represented.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	14	.....	.....	.....	Phillips.