

MINUTES of the Seventy-sixth Annual Session of the
Alabama River Primitive
Baptist Association

Held with Ben James
Church, Pierce County,
Georgia, Friday, Satur-
day and Sunday, Nov-
ember, 1, 2 and 3, 1918



OFFICERS

ELDER J. T. MINCHEW, Moderator

ELDER J. P. MIKELL
Clerk



**PROCEEDINGS OF THE 76TH ANNUAL SESSION OF
ALABAMA RIVER PRIMITIVE BAPTIST
ASSOCIATION.**

The introductory sermon was delivered by Elder H. W. Parrish, of the Union Association, from Galatians, 3rd Chapter, 8th Verse.

After thirty minutes intermission, the delegates assembled in the house. The Association was called to order by the former Moderator. Prayer by Elder Levi Starling, of the Union Association, and proceeded to business as follows:

1st. Read letters from nineteen churches, ministered their state and enrolled delegates named.

2nd. Re-elected Elders J. T. Minchew, Moderator, and J. P. Mikell, Clerk, by ballot.

3rd. Read the decorum and invited visiting ministers of our faith and order and practice to seats with us.

4th. Appointed Brethren I. F. Robinson, W. A. King, Matthew Carter with the delegates of Ben James Church, Brethren J. O. Waters and S. L. Youmans a committee on finance and preaching.

5th. Appointed Brethren W. D. Griffis, Jno. Roberts, Elder J. A. Osteen together with the Moderator and Clerk a committee on business.

6th. Called for correspondence from Sister Associations and received from the Union a package of minutes by Elder H. W. Parrish. From the Pulaski a package of minutes.

7th. Appointed Bro. R. W. Bennett to write the corresponding letter.

8th. Appointed Brethren J. O. Waters and J. P. Mikell to write the memoriam on deceased ministers and deacons.

9th. Then on motion adjourned until 8:30 a. m. Saturday.

SECOND DAY, SATURDAY, 8:30 A. M.

Met according to adjournment on yesterday, and after prayer by Elder H. W. Parrish, of the Union Association, called the roll and proceeded to business.

10th. Renewed the call for further correspondence from

Sister Associations and received Bro. B. B. Oliff, from the Oeklocknee without minutes, as messenger.

From the Union Association, Elders B. L. Starling and W. M. Tomlinson as visitors. All messengers and visitors being received by the Moderator extending to them the right hand of fellowship in behalf of our Association in token of our love and fellowship for their Associations.

11th. Called for the report of the business committee, which was read and approved by the Association.

REPORT OF BUSINESS COMMITTEE.

We, your Committee on Business, beg to make the following report:

We have examined corresponding minutes and find nothing objectional in them. We also recommend the same order of business as appear in our last year's minutes.

JNO. ROBERTS,
J. A. OSTEEN,
W. D. GRIFFIS,
J. T. MINCHEW,
J. P. MIKELL,

Committee.

12th. Called for marked letters and found two; and agreed to hold our next session with Rome Church, Ware County, Ga.

13th. Called for the corresponding letter which was read and approved.

CORRESPONDING LETTER.

We, the Alabama River Primitive Baptist Association, now in session with Ben James Church, Pierce County, Ga., to the Associations with whom we correspond, sendeth greetings:

Beloved in the Lord through the kind and tender mercies of an alwise God we have been spared and blessed to hold another session of our body in peace, and love. Our Churches are all represented, and all report perfect peace and love. Your ministers came to us laden with the good

news of "Salvation by Grace," which causes us to rejoice and take courage that we may be enabled by grace divine to press upward toward the mark of the prize of the high calling as it is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Dear Brethren: We desire a continuation of your "Brotherly Love" and Correspondence.

The next session of our body will be held, the Lord willing, with Rome Church, Ware County, Ga., commencing on Friday before the First Sunday in November, 1919. Two miles Southwest of Haywood, Ga., and about the same distance Northwest of Bolen, both on the A. B. & R. R., when, and where we hope to meet with you again, until then, Dear Brethren farewell.

R. W. BENNETT, Committee

14th. Returned correspondence as follows: To the Suwanee Association to convene with Mt. Zion Church commencing on Saturday before the Fourth Sunday in September, 1919, five miles South of Guilford, Fla., on the Palatka division of the G. S. & F. R. R. Brethren H. R. McGaullie, Ollie Knox and Elder J. A. Osteen.

To the Union, to convene with Olive Leaf Church, Clinch County, Ga., four miles Southeast of Dupont on the A. C. L. R. R., beginning on Saturday before the Third Sunday in October, 1919, Brethren Nathan Brown, Lawrence Yeomans and Elders R. A. Thomas and J. P. Mikell.

To the Ocklocknee, to convene with Harmony Church, 1½ miles East of Barwick, Ga., on the Georgia Northern R. R., Commencing on Saturday before the Fourth Sunday in October, 1919, Brethren J. O. Waters, Randal Davis and Elder W. D. Bryant.

To the Pulaski, to convene with New Hope Church, Wilcox County, Ga., 2½ miles South of Abbeville, on the Seaboard Railway, and 3 miles East of Browning, on the Abbeville & Waycross R. R., commencing on Saturday before the First Sunday in October, 1919, Elders B. A. Thornton and J. P. Mikell.

15th. Called for the report of Committee on Finance and

Preaching, which was read and approved.

**REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND
PREACHING.**

We, your Committee on Finance and Preaching, find \$91.85. We recommend that the Clerk be paid \$40.00 for 800 minutes and their distribution. Balance, \$51.85, be divided among visiting ministers and delegates and our own ministers.

I. F. ROBINSON,
MATTHEW CARTER,
S. L. YOUMANS,
W. A. KING,
J. O. WATERS,

Committee.

16th. On motion, the minutes was read and approved, and the Association adjourned to our next time and place.

ELDER J. T. MINCHEW,

Moderator

ELDER J. P. MIKELL, Clerk.

Prayer by Elder Wm. Tomlinson, of the Union Association.

ORDER OF PREACHING.

Friday Morning—Introductory sermon by Elder H. W. Parrish, of the Union Association.

Friday P. M.—Elder B. L. Starling, of the Union, followed by Elder R. A. Thomas, of our body.

Saturday A. M.—Elder B. A. Thornton, of our body, followed by Elder B. L. Starling, of the Union Association.

Saturday P. M.—Elder Wm. Tomlinson, of the Union, followed by Elder J. C. Hewett, of the Union.

Sunday—Elder H. W. Parrish, of the Union, followed by Elder B. L. Starling, of the Union, followed by Elder J. C. Hewett, of the Union. Conclusion by the Moderator.

MEMORIAM.

Deacon Jno. G. Griffis was born in Clinch County, Ga., June 9th, 1858. The youngest son of Chas. A. and Cassie Griffis. Was married to Miss Zilpha Corbitt in 1877. Was

baptized at old Providence Church in Ware County early in life, and soon after was ordained deacon of that church, which office he and his faithful companion served for many years. He died June 15, 1918, and was laid to rest beside his wife in Providence Cemetery.

Besides his children he leaves one brother, W. D. Griffis, of Blackshear.

Deacon Dan W. Griffis was born December 27, 1870. Was baptized August 4, 1906 at Big Creek, and was ordained deacon of that church shortly after, which office he filled faithful until his death which came October 29, 1918.

Deacon L. S. Guthrie was baptized at Mt. Pleasant Church, Bacon County, Ga., August 10, 1914 while in middle life and was ordained deacon of that church May 14, 1916 which office he filled with the best of grace until his death came as a shock to us all October 26, 1918 of that dreaded malady Spanish influenza.

In paying our tribute to these three departed saints, we will say that they have left an aching void the world can never fill, both in the church, and in their homes. But may God fill their vacancy with His abounding love, mercy and grace, and make us all willing to bear in humble submission our lot and portion that God has given us to bear, and remember that, "God's" will not ours, be done, and that our loss is their eternal gain.

We believe they died the death all Christians desire to die, and are now resting in the arms of a crucified and risen Redeemer, and at God's appointed time they will be escorted to that glory world to sing endless praise to the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, in that world where sickness, sorrow and death never enter. Amen.

J. O. WATERS,
J. P. MIKELL,
Committee.

DECORUM.

1. This 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 to speak 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 Associations; 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 four 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 observation of the Association, unless it be withdrawn by the person who made it by 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 depart from the subject.

13. No person shall speak more than three times on the

same subject, and shall not continue his speech 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 of the Association.

17. If any member shall break the rules of this Association he shall be immediately reprov'd 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 this 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 any other person, or in any society that is now or may be hereafter constitute 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 THE ASSOCIATION.

1. We believe in one only 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 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 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 the 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 presbytery.

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

CLERKS AND THEIR POST OFFICES.

Antioch—C. L. Byrd, Winoker, Ga.

Ben James—W. H. Bowen, Blackshear, Ga.

Bethesda—A. L. Brannen, Jesup, Ga.

Bethlehem—W. D. Griffis, Blackshear, Ga.

Big Creek—Geo. H. Mikell, Screven, Ga., R. 1.

Corinth—W. D. Murry, Odum, Ga.
Damascus—Geo. Heyers, Coffee, Ga.
Elim—R. W. Cole, Nicholls, Ga.
Mars Hill—J. J. Moore, Hoboken, Ga.
Mt. Pleasant, (Bacon Co.)—A. F. Lane, Alma, Ga.
Mt. Pleasant, (Ware Co.)—J. W. Eunice, Waycross, Ga.
Mt. Zion—J. F. Knox, Blackshear, Ga.
New Hope—J. J. Blocker, Hickox, Ga.
New Prospect—W. L. Mikell, Blackshear, Ga.
Providence—B. M. James, Manor, Ga.
Ramah—S. R. Jordan, Rockingham, Ga.
Rehobeth—Walter Smith, Waresboro, Ga.
Rome—A. M. Boyett, Beach, Ga., Route 1.
Satilla—P. J. A. Colson, Screven, Ga.
J. P. Mikell, Waycross, Ga., Box 636, Clerk of the
Association.

NAMES OF MINISTERS AND THEIR POST OFFICE.

Elder J. T. Minchew, Waycross, Ga., R. F. D. No. 1.
Elder W. P. Nunez, Blackshear, Ga., R. F. D., No. 1.
Elder H. J. Griffis, Odum, Ga., R. F. D. No. 2.
Elder W. M. Hyers, Patterson, Ga.
Elder B. A. Thornton, Hickox, Ga.
Elder J. J. Hayes, Surreney, Ga.
Elder W. D. Bryant, Coffee, Ga.
Elder T. J. Dilbon, Guisie, Ga.
Elder Banks Lewis, Alma, Ga.
Elder J. A. Osteen, Guisie, Ga.
Elder Simeon Thornton, Blackshear, Ga.
Elder R. A. Thomas, Patterson, Ga.
Elder J. P. Mikell, Waycross, Ga., P. O. Box 636.
Elder Jno. Byrd, Blackshear, Ga., R. F. D., No. 4.

LICENTATE.

Bro. S. W. Lyons, Hickox, Ga.

Churches	Counties	Messengers	Pastors 1918	Baptized	Received by Letter	Restored	Confession of Faith	Dismissed by Letter	Expelled	Dead	Total Membership	Contribution	Sabbath of Annual Meeting	
Antioch.....	Charlton....	S. P. Wainwright, C. L. Byrd.....	B. A. Thornton..	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	\$ 1.25	1	April.
Ben James.....	Pierce.....	J. O. Waters, S. L. Youmans.....	J. A. Osteen....	1	3	1	0	1	1	4	53	9.50	3	May
Bethesda.....	Wayne.....	A. L. Brannen, C. Edenfield.....	W. D. Bryant....	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	15	4.00	3	July
Bethlehem.....	Pierce.....	W. D. Griffis.....	Wm. Hires.....	0	1	0	0	3	0	1	22	5.50	1	May
Big Creek.....	Wayne.....	R. W. Bennett.....	W. D. Bryant....	8	3	0	0	1	1	4	67	10.00	1	Oct.
Corinth.....	Wayne.....	H. R. McGallie, J. D. Murry.....	Wm. Hires.....	0	0	0	0	0	1	9	2.00	3	Oct.	
Damascus.....	Pierce.....	Wm. Hires, L. P. Steedly.....	W. D. Bryant....	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	13	3.00	4	Aug.
Elim.....	Coffee.....	Jno. Roberts, Lester Cole.....	J. C. Hewett....	7	4	1	0	0	1	2	53	6.00	3	Sept.
Mars Hill.....	Pierce.....	Matthew Carter, J. J. Moore.....	J. A. Osteen....	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	24	4.50	1	March
Mt. Pleasant....	Ware.....	L. J. Strickland, J. P. Mikell.....	J. C. Hewett....	4	2	0	0	0	3	0	38	4.75	2	May
Mt. Pleasant....	Bacon.....	J. A. Osteen, A. M. Stewart.....	J. A. Osteen....	3	0	0	2	0	1	3	47	8.00	2	Oct.
Mt. Zion.....	Pierce.....	Nathan Brown, Randal Davis.....	J. A. Osteen....	1	0	0	0	5	0	1	28	6.00	2	April
New Hope.....	Wayne.....	B. A. Thornton, A. J. Petty.....	B. A. Thornton..	2	3	2	0	0	0	0	48	4.40	3	April
New Prospect...	Pierce.....	Matthew Roberson, M. C. Murry....	B. A. Thornton..	2	1	0	0	1	1	0	26	3.20	4	April
Providence.....	Ware.....	E. M. Cribb.....	J. T. Minchew...	1	3	2	0	3	0	1	25	2.50	2	Oct
Ramah.....	Pierce.....	W. D. Bryant, I. F. Robinson.....	W. D. Bryant....	4	0	0	1	2	0	0	54	6.50	2	Sept.
Rehobeth.....	Ware.....	C. C. Anderson.....	J. C. Hewett....	2	0	0	1	1	0	1	35	3.00	1	Sept.
Rome.....	Ware.....	W. A. King, J. T. Minchew.....	J. T. Minchew...	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	27	5.75	4	Oct.
Satilla.....	Wayne.....	Ransom Robinson, Stephen Moody..	Wm. Hires.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	2.00	2	July
Totals.....				39	20	7	4	21	9	19	613	\$91.85		







