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MINUTES

OF THE

Seventy-Seventh

Annual Session

—OF THE—


Towaliga Association

of Primitive Baptists

—HELD WITH THE—


Church at Liberty, Pike County, Georgia.

August 21-22-23, 1915.



ELDER DAN HENDERSON, Moderator,.....McDonough, Ga.

W. M. HARTLEY, Clerk,.....Zebulon, Ga.



Introductory
.. By ..

ELDER DAN HENDERSON

“What is Truth?”

LIBRARY

NEW ORLEANS BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

NEW ORLEANS, LA.

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 committees to arrange Divine Service.
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 letters.
16. Call for contributions.
17. Say how many minutes.
18. Fix Clerk's compensation.
19. Call for miscellany.
21. Adjournment.

MINUTES

OF THE

TOWALIGA ASSOCIATION

SEVENTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL SESSION OF THE TOWALIGA ASSOCIATION OF
PRIMITIVE BAPTISTS, HELD WITH THE CHURCH AT LIBERTY, PIKE
COUNTY, GEORGIA, AUGUST 20-21-22, 1915.

FIRST DAY—FRIDAY.

Introductory sermon preached by Elder Dan Henderson, St. John 18 chapter 38th verse. What is Truth?

After an hour off for refreshments the Ministers, Messengers and Correspondents met in the house and was called to order by the clerk who announced that owing to the severe illness of the daughter of Elder A. C. Elliott the Moderator, could not be present. On motion and seconded, Elder Dan Henderson was made temporary Moderator. Then after singing song prayer was led by Elder Walter Blackwell of the Little River Association.

1st. Called for letters from the Churches and appointed Brethren Walter Blackwell, R. L. Barron and Geo. D. Godard to read letters.

2nd. On motion elected Moderator and Clerk by ballot, result: Elder Dan Henderson, Moderator and W. M. Hartly, Clerk.

3rd. Invited visiting brethren and sisters to seats of which there were a large number present.

4th. Call for Petitionary Letters.

5th. Appointed committees to arrange divine services during the session, to-wit: R. W. Davis and T. G. Preston of the Body, and J. M. Simms Eddie Akin and — Crumley of the Church.

6th. Called for correspondents, when Elders S. J. Blackwell and Walter Blackwell and Brethren W. R. Cochran and A. J. Purcell of the Little River Association came forward and was received by the Moderator.

7th. Appointed Elder J. A. Wright to write corresponding letter.

8th. Adjourned to 8:30 Saturday morning

SATURDAY, AUG. 21.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment. After singing prayer was led by Elder S. J. Blackwell of Little River Association.

1st. Appointed correspondence to Little River Association as follows: Elders D. Henderson, R. L. Barron, J. A. Wright, T. M. Whatley, S. G. Ratliff, Brethren J. T. Hendon, W. J. Hartly, C. R. Prichett, Jack Blount, R. W. Davis, Hamp Gilbert, J. B. Bell and J. F. Willingham.

2nd. Appointed Union meetings as follows: For the first district at Friendship beginning Tuesday after the second Sunday in July 1916. Second district Bursheba beginning Friday before the fifth Sunday in July 1916.

3rd. Appointed the next session of this body to be held with Flint River Church, eight miles west of Thomaston, Upson county, beginning Friday before the first Sunday in September 1916.

4th. Appointed Elder J. A. Wright to preach next Introductory sermon with Elder R. L. Barron, Alternate.

5th. Appointed Bro. R. W. Davis to write next circular letter.

6th. Called for circular letter which was read and on motion, received and adopted.

7th. Appointed committees on Distribution as follows: B. S. Akin, J. B. Bell and D. A. Castlelaw.

8th. Called for Corresponding letter which was read and adopted.

9th. Ordered eight hundred copies of these minutes printed and distributed. Made up a Supplement fund for the Clerk, four dollars and eighty-five cents.

10th. Miscellaneous business. A letter of request of Dismission from this body from our sister Church Lebanon was read and Lebanon was granted her request of dismission.

11th. On motion a resolution of thanks to Liberty Church and friends for their kind and generous hospitality was ordered printed,

Resolution of Thanks.

Be it resolved by us the Towaliga Association now assembled with Liberty Church that we extend to them, the brethren and sisters of this Church and to our friends the sincere thanks of this body praying that God may abundantly bless them and their children for their kind and generous hospitality to us while in session.

Correspondance Letter.

(The Towaliga Association to the Little River, with whom she corresponds.)

DEAR BRETHREN:- We feel to thank God after another Association we have been permitted to meet one another in the 77th Annual session of our body and that He has put it into your hearts to be with us on this occasion. The presence of your ministers and brethren is a source of pleasure and encouragement to us, and the preaching of your able ministry both comforts and edifies us. We pray that these visits of your people may be continued, that our people may have the pleasure of hearing the Gospel Ministry elsewhere. In these minutes will be found the time and place of our next annual communication where we trust by Gods grace to meet you again.

J. A. WRIGHT.

Order of Services During Session.

Friday 11 A. M.—Introductory by Elder Dan Henderson, 3 P. M.—Preaching by Elder J. L. Hayes.

Saturday 9:30 A. M.—Prayer services led by Bro. J. T. Hendon, 11 A. M.—Preaching by Elder Walter Blackwell, 3 P. M.—Preaching by Elder R. L. Barron.

Sunday 9:30 A. M.—Prayer service by Bro. W. J. Hartley, 11 A. M.—Preaching by Elder S. J. Blackwell, 3 P. M.—Preaching by Elder J. A. Wright.

Ordained Ministers.

Elder J. A. WRIGHT,	_____	Zebulon, Ga.
Elder J. L. HAYES,	_____	Mansfield, Ga.
Elder A. C. ELLIOTT,	_____	McDonough, Ga.
Elder DAN HENDERSON,	_____	McDonough, Ga.
Elder S. G. RATLIFF,	_____	Flovilla, Ga.
Elder J. M. F. BARRON,	_____	Milner, Ga.
Elder T. M. WHATLEY,	_____	Griffin, Ga.
Elder J. F. TAYLOR,	_____	Barnesville, Ga.
Elder R. L. BARRON,	_____	Zebulon, Ga.

Unordained Ministers

W. M. TAYLOR,	_____	Jackson, Ga.
ELLIS DANIEL,	_____	Thomaston, Ga.
GEO. D. GODARD,	_____	Milner, Ga.
J. T. HENDON,	_____	Flippin, Ga.

Circular Letter.

Brethren another Association year has rolled around and we have met together to worship God, as we trust. At our last Association I was appointed to write a Circular letter. When I was appointed this expression of the scripture appeared to my mind, "Worship God." This was the command of the Angel to John. (Revelation 22-9.) After the Angel had shown John all the glory of the heavens and what is to be John fell down at His feet to worship Him and the Angel said unto John see that those do it not, etc. Worship God. Man from the beginning has been of a worshipful nature but in his sinful state he is prone to worship the works of his own hands. Man in his lost state cannot worship God, he is an alien to God and a stranger to grace.

We notice the two first born on the earth, one offering up the fruits of his hands, the product of the earth which was rejected. The other offering up the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof which was accepted. The lamb typifying the offering that was to come. We hear the Apostle Paul in 11th chapter of Hebrews declare by faith, Abel offered up a more excellent sacrifice unto God by which he obtained witness that he was righteous. God testifying of his gifts that he was righteous.

The Apostle again says that without faith it is impossible to please Him for he that cometh unto God must believe that he is and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him. Now in

order to worship God we must have faith, and how shall we obtain faith. Here the Apostle again declares that faith is the gift of God. (Eph. 2-8.) For by grace are ye saved through faith and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God. We hear Christ when here upon earth declare that God is a spirit and seeketh such to worship Him, as worship Him in spirit and in truth, (Jer. 4,) This declaration was made to the woman of Samaria. Now Brethren in order to worship God we must have faith and we must worship in spirit and in truth. We see around us and in the midst of us a spirit of worship that does not appear to be the fruits of faith and of the spirit. We are commanded to try the spirit and see if they are of God.

We hear Christ declare in Mathew 15. "This people draw nigh unto me with their mouth and honoreth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me. Teaching for doctrines the commandments of men."

Christ when upon earth gave to His Apostles and to us a perfect rule by which we could worship God. He says I and my father are one. So if we worship God, we must worship Him through Christ Jesus the Mediator. We must first be born of the spirit. Born into the kingdom of God, then are we qualified to worship in that kingdom, first by going home to our friends (the Church) telling them what we hope the Lord has done for us, following Him in baptism, showing forth the death, burial and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, partaking of the supper, washing the saints feet and by so doing we declare to the world we are followers of Christ. God gave to His chosen people, the Jews, certain laws of obedience that they were to observe when they came into the promised land, which laws they were to diligently teach their children. God through His law given, told them that they should not make any marriages with the nation around about them. Neither were they to bow down and worship with them, but they were to worship only Him. They were not to have of the Graven Images of the nations around them, they were not to go after other Gods, for God declared he had chosen them for a special people and promised them as long as they obeyed Him and kept His laws He would bless them and their enemies should not hurt them. So in like manner Jesus our Lord when here upon earth set up a home for His chosen spiritual Israel, He gave her everything that would be for her good and His glory.

He has told us when He delivered us from under the bondage of sin to go home to the church and tell them how He has delivered us and we shall find rest. He also places a new song in our mouth and tells us to sing it. He tells us to worship only Him and He will bless us.

Brethren of the Towaliga Churches let us examine ourselves collectively and individually. Do we as Churches and individuals worship Him in spirit and in truth? Do we walk in all His ordinances? Do we keep ourselves unspotted from the world? Do we bow down

to any other God or altar set up by man? Have we tried to be like any of the nations around us? Have we any idols of men or graven? If not, why are we so cold? Why are our Churches not prospering? Why so much skepticism and division? Why are our children and our neighbors joining in among the idolatrous nations around us? Brethren, let us awake to righteousness. Let us put on the whole armor of God. Let us say as did Joshua of old: "But as for me and my house we will serve the Lord. Let us lay aside every weight and the sin that doth so easily beset us." Let us run and not be weary. Let us pray for a revival among our Churches. Let us humble ourselves and acknowledge our sins and transgressions. Let us from this day worship only God through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Let us present our bodies a living sacrifice unto God, then shall we have peace and love shall flow from breast to breast and union from heart to heart.

W. M. HARTLY.

DECORUM

1. The churches composing the Towaliga Association shall not be confined to any set rule as to the specified number of Messengers they shall have in the body, but shall have the right to name in their letters as many as they may choose and in addition all orderly male members of any of the churches being present shall be entitled to seats in the body as Messengers of their respective churches, with all the rights and privileges of the same.

2. The Messengers thus assembled shall be denominated the Towaliga Primitive Baptist Association.

3. For the purpose of historical information and statistical edification, the churches are requested to state in letters, the total numbers of members in fellowship, the number received by baptism, by letter, by confession of faith, the number dismissed, excluded and dead since last session; also the time of their meeting, their pastoral supply, and the amount of money contributed for ministers and other purposes, together with any other information they may deem appropriate for the edification of the Saints and the glory of God.

4. This association shall have no power to answer queries; give advice, or dictate to the churches in any case, or to lord it over God's heritage, nor any power by which she can directly or indirectly infringe on the internal rights of the churches, or censure and try any church or member in reference to faith and practice, or determine upon the validity of gospel ordinances. These things shall rest entirely with the churches; but henceforward our annual meeting shall be only for the purpose of hearing from each other, and the worship of God and the mutual comfort and edification of the Saints. To this we reserve the privilege annually the first week of September or at such other time as may be agreed upon with any church that may invite us, having due regard to priority of claims and the good of the cause. To protect our own stand while in session from heresy and dishonor; to recognize and invite Primitive Baptist ministers and lay brothers to worship with us that we may deem proper; to request the brethren of our own body to visit other churches or bodies in our behalf with whom we may desire to cultivate Christian fellowship; to publish a minute of our proceedings.

5. Each session of the body shall have a Moderator and Clerk who shall be duly chosen according to the rules hereinafter prescribed, and who shall hold office until a re-election.

6. Any orderly member of any church belonging to this body when convened being present shall be eligible to election as Moderator and Clerk, or sit on any committee appointed by the same.

7. In all elections or questions that may be necessary to determine by vote, the vote shall be taken by churches, each church being entitled to three votes for any number of members less than one hundred, and one additional vote for every fifty or fraction thereof above the first hundred; but the Messengers of each church as a body may divide her vote as they see proper.

8. All elections or questions coming to a vote shall be determined by a majority of the votes cast, and it shall be the duty of the minority to acquiesce in the decision thus reached.

9. If new churches desire to be admitted into this union they shall petition by letter and Messengers, and if vouched for or recommended by one or more sister churches, orderly, they shall be received by the voice of the body and manifested by the Moderator giving the Messengers the right hand of fellowship.

10. Any motion or resolution introduced, clearly inconsistent with the above rules, shall be promptly ruled out of order unless withdrawn by the mover.

11. Any Messenger being ruled out of order by the Moderator shall have the right of appeal to the body on the question of order, if sustained shall be allowed to proceed; but if not shall take his seat.

12. Our meetings being held in the name of Christ and the worship of God, each Messenger is expected to observe due and proper order therein.

13. It will not be considered good order for any Messenger whose name has been enrolled as such to abruptly break off or absent himself from the Association without leave.

14. The Moderator shall be entitled to the same privilege of speech as other members, provided the chair is filled.

15. The minutes of the Association shall be read and approved by the body, and signed by the Moderator before adjourning.

16. The Association shall be opened and closed with prayer.

17. Amendments to these rules may be made at any time by a majority of the union voting by churches when they deem it necessary, provided such amendments do not compromise the sovereignty of the churches, nor have a tendency to give this body undue power or jurisdiction over them.

ARTICLES OF FAITH AND SCRIPTURAL PROOF

Article 1. We believe in one, the true living God, and a trinity of person in the Godhead; Father, Son and Holy Ghost: Deutoronomy iv. 39, Isaiah 16; Mark xii. 32, John i. 14., Colossians i. 15-17, Philipians ii. 6-18., 1 John i. 5-7., John xvi., John x. 30.

Article 2. We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testamenty are the word of God and the only rule of faith and practice. Proof: 2 Timoths iii. 16-17, 1 Peter 19-21, Revelation xvii. 18-19.

Article 3. We believe in the doctrine of Eternal and Personal Election of a definite number of the human race, chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world that they should be holy and without blame before Him in love. Proof: Ephians i, 4-6, Thessalonians ii, 13, John xv, 16, 1 Peter i, 2, Ibid ii, 9.

Article 4. We believe in a Covenant of Redemption, ordered in all things and infallibly sure, ever existing between God, the Father and God, the Son. Proof: Isaiah ixix, 2-4, Samuel xxiii, 5, Zachariah ix, 11. Luke i, 72, Hebrews xiii, 20, 1 Peter xviii, 20, Revelation v, 9.

Article 5. We believe in the fall of man and the communication of Adam's corrupt nature to his posterity by ordinary generations, and their impotency to recover themselves from the fallen state they are in by sin and wicked works by their own free will and ability. Proof: Genesis iii, 6-24, Romans v. 12, Ibid iii. 19, Psalms 151. 5, Ibid 58. 3, 1 Corinthians xv. 22.

Article 6. We believe that all chosen in Christ shall hear the voice of the Son of God, and the effectually called, regenerated and born again, and that all thus born again are justified in the Spirit of God alone by righteousness of Jesus Christ imputed to them and received by faith. Proof: John i. 27-29 1 John iii 9, Ephesians i. 4, 2, Timothy i. 9, John vi. 27.

Article 7. We believe that all the saints of God thus called by the Holy Spirit are justified by righteousness of Christ shall be preserved in grace and none of them finally fall away so as to be lost. Proof: James ii. 22, Romans v. 1, Ibid viii. 37-39, Colossians iii. 3, John x. 28, 29.

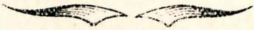
Article 8. We believe in the doctrine of the resurrection both of the just and unjust and a general judgment, and that the joys of the righteous will be eternal and the punishment of the wicked everlasting. Proof: John v. 28-29, Acts xvii. 31, 1 Corinthians xv. 21-23, Revelations xxx. 12-15, Matthew xxv. 45, 46.

Article 9. We believe that the church of Christ is a local body of professing and baptized believers who has gained Christian fellowship with each other and have given themselves up to the Lord and one to another, and have covenanted together to keep house for God agreeable to the rules of the gospel, and should therefore be kept especially separate and distinct from, and independent of, the world and its institutions, and is the highest and only ecclesiastical authority known to the Word of God. Proof: Matthew xvi. 18-19, Ephesians i. 22, Ibid v. 24-27, Colossians i. 8, Matthew xviii. 17, Ephesians ii. 19-22, 1 Corinthians vi. 4, Acts xv. 14, John xv. 18-19.

Article 10. We believe that Jesus Christ is the Great Head of the church, and her only law giver; that government is with the church itself and is the privilege of each member; that the discipline cannot be legally extended beyond her own Scriptural jurisdiction and is intended for the reclamation or expulsion of those members who may be disorderly either in principle or practice, and must be faithfully kept up for God's glory and the peace and unity of the church until his second coming. Proof: Mark i. 14, Colossians i. 24, Ephesians v. 23.

Article 11. We believe that water baptism, the Lord's Supper and washing the Saint's feet are ordinances of the Lord and are to be administered by the authority of the church until His second coming. Proof: Mark i. 14, John iii. 2-3, Acts viii 38, Ibid ix. 18-28, Matthew xxvi. 26-28, Mark xiv. 22-24, Luke xxii. 19-20, Acts ii. 42, John xiii. 1-7, 1 Timothy v. 10.

Article 12. We believe that none but regularly ordained ministers have the right to administer these ordinances; that professed believers in Christ who in the judgment of the church are true Christians are the only proper subjects of baptism, and immersion is the only proper mode; that none but regularly baptized and orderly church members have a right to commune at the Lord's table. Proof: Hebrews v. 4, John ii. 27, Timothy iv. 14, Titus i. 5, Acts vi. 6, Ibid xiii. 2-3.



STATISTICAL AND FINANCIAL TABLE.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	NAMES OF MESSENGERS.	Rec'd by Exp. and Bap.	Received by Letter	Restored	Dismissed by Letter	Excluded	Deceased	Total Membership	Sunday of Meeting	Contribution Ministers	Clerk and Minutes
Mt. Nebo	Whatley & Godard	J. F. Walden	13					4	50	1	\$2.00	1.00
Lebanon	Cglesby	W. W. George						50	4		2.50	.50
Concord	Oglesby	C. M. Falkner, A. J. Person, W. P. Person						67	1		10.00	2.00
Flint River	Whatley & Godard	A. J. Self, Ellis Daniel, R. H. Arrington	2					48	2		2.00	1.00
Flat Rock	H'derson & Barron	Whole Church	8			1		91	4		5.00	1.50
Bursheba	R. L. Barron	D. Henderson, C. Prichett, Jeff Tingle		1				262	4		3.50	2.50
Ozias	Elliott	J. T. Hendon, J. F. Willingham, J. B. Mosley				16	5	3	60	3	10.00	3.00
Friendship	Whatley & Godard	J. J. Sheppard, H. A. Waters						39	2		3.50	1.50
New Hope	Whatley & Godard	J. H. Blount, T. M. Corley, W. O. Blount	1	1				62	3		4.00	1.00
Ocmulgee	S. G. Ratliff	J. B. Benton						16	2		3.00	.50
Forest	Henderson	R. W. Davis, Hamp Gilbert						87	2		5.50	2.00
Mt. Mariah	Whatley & Hayes	J. L. Hays, P. D. Leach, J. C. Hayes	3	2				128	4		3.50	1.50
Sandy Creek	Henderson	T. G. Preston, Ed Preston						170	3		5.00	2.50
Bulah		S. G. Ratliff						16				
Union	Taylor	J. F. Taylor						22	3			.50
Hebron		T. M. Brown						14				.50
Bethel	Elliott	By Letter						21	2		3.00	1.00
Liberty	Henderson	Whole Church				2		74			10.00	1.50



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