# **MINUTES**

OF THE

# FIFTY-FIFTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

# WEST FLORIDA Baptist Association

HELD WITH THE

# BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH

Holmes County, Fla.

October 18, 19, and 20

1901

#### **OFFICERS**

Moderator, W. A. BRYAN Clerk, W. M. FARRIOR Treasurer, M. L. DEKLE

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

H. G. GREEN E. N. DEKLE M. F. BOONE M. L. DEKLE R. J. FOXWORTH

Next session meets with Bethlehem Baptist Church, Jackson County, Fla., four miles south of Cottondale, on Thursday before the third Sunday

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American Baptist Publication Society

# MINUTES \*

of the

# Fifty-Fifth Annual Session

OF THE

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Bethel Baptist Church, Holmes County, Florida, October 18, 19 and 20, 1901.

#### OFFICERS.

Moderator, W. A. BRYAN, Chipley, Fla. Clerk, W. M. FARRIOR, C hipley, Fla. Treasurer, M. L. DEKLE, Marianna, Fla.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

H. G. GREEN.

M. F. BOONE. M. L. DEKLE. W. C. LOCKEY, R. J. FOXWORTH.

Next session meets with the Bethlehem Baptist Church, Jackson county, Florida, four miles south of Cottondale, on Thursday before the third Sunday in October, 1902.

> BAPTIST WITNESS BOOK PRINT, OCALA, FLA

#### ORDER OF BUSINESS.

- 1. Call for petitionary letters.
- 2. Inviting visiting brethren to seats.
- 3. Call for correspondents.
- Appointment of Committees on Preaching, Nominations, Aged Ministers, Publications, Deceased Ministers, Sunday Schools, Missions, Documents, Temperance, Finance, Education, Ministers' Assurance Association, Woman's Work, Decorum, Destitution.
- 5. Arrange for meeting and adjourning.
- 6. Appoint correspondents.
- 7. Elect Executive Committee and Treasurer.
- 8. Elect delegates to State Convention.
- Call for reports of committees: 1, Executive Committee; 2, Missions; 3, Finances; 4, Temperance; 5, Sunday Schools; 6, Education.
- 10. Call for report of missionaries.
- 11. Call for report of Treasurer.
- 2. Call for report on Documents.
- 13. Call for report on Publications.
- 14. Call for report on Deceased Ministers.
- 15. Call for report on Nominations.
- 16. Call for report on Ministerial Education.
- 17. Call for report on Ministers' Assurance Association.
- 18. Call for report on Woman's Work.
- 19. Call for report on Aged Ministers.
- 20. Appoint general meeting.
- 21. Appoint time and place for next meeting.
- 22. Read and adopt minutes.
- 23. Adjournment.

#### ORDAINED MINISTERS.

PRVAN W
Old I AN. W. A
Charleson Clarkson
SCOTT, T. S.
PETTIS, Z. W.
RICHARDSON, W. P. Clarkson.
HARR.S. ROBERT
JOHNSON, J. W. Graceville.
WILLIFORD, S. B
LOCK, C. S
NIXON, J. E
LAWRENCE, R. C. B
POSEY, A. T
McINTOSH, W. H
LOUDERMILK, S. L
CRUTCHFIELD, J. H
SAPP. WILLIAM
KNOWLES, T. N
NELSON E D
NELSON, E. D
RICHARDSON, J. F
LOCK S W
LOCK, S. W
ROGERS, S. B
LEWIS, R. W
CRAMER, F. W
McRAE, GEO. W
LAND, J. M
O'CONNOR. JNO. B
ALDRIDGE, JNO. W
WALCHOB, J. SWausan.
LICENSED MINISTERS.
SHIRLEY, H. K
TATLOR, J. J. E. W
HELMS, R. C
LAWRENCE, H. W Dellwood
WHITE, J. H

## MINUTES.

Graceville, Fla., October 18, 1901.

The West Florida Baptist Association met this day in the Betnel Baptist Church. Divine services began by singing, "How Firm a Foundation," J. D. Forester leading in prayer.

The introductory Sermon was preached by Rev. S. L. Loudermilk. Text, 2 Peter 1:4: "That by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature." It was a great feast to many souls.

It was announced that dinner was prepared on the grounds and all were invited to partake. The Moderator requested the delegates to meet at 2 p. m. for business.

#### Afternoon Session.

At the appointed hour the messengers reassembled, singing, "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name." The Moderator read Psalm 73 and the body was led in prayer by Rev. Joseph Smith. At the request of the Moderator, Brethren W. H. McIntosh and J. T. Carter collected the letters and they were read by Brethren M. F. Boone, A. M. Mathews and J. D. Forester. The following churches and messengers were enrolled:

Bethlehem-J. W. Rawls, B. T. Brookins.

Bethel—J. W. Richardson, Rufus Womble, W. P. Richardson.

Bascom-J. W. Godwin, Rubert Bevis, W. H. Bevis,

Bethany-Jno. B. O'Connor, J. A. Ethridge, Jno. W. Aldridge, Isaac Courtney.

Bonifay-J. S. Coleman, A. M. Mathews, J. F. Holoman.

Campbellton-C. R. Jones, H. H. Hinson, J. M. Christmas.

Chipley - J. D. Forester, J. R. McColskey, P. A. Wickizer, W. M. Farrior, J. M. Harper.

Cromaton-By letter.

Damascus-J. T. Carmichael, J. H. Crutchfield, H. H. White.

Ebenezer-E. W. Sapp, J. T. Carter.

Econfina-By letter.

Ephesus-W. A. Christmas, J. J. Norman.

Friendship—J. L. Anderson, J. M. Stevens, E. V. McDaniel, Mrs. M. D. Stevens.

Graceville-E. O. Womble, Dr. W. M. Milligan, M. Crutch-field.

Greenwood-M. F. Boone, Rev. G. W. McRae, E. H. Anderson.

Hickory Level-R. J. Foxworth, W. W. White.

Lovedale-G. W. Phillips, Wilton Lawrence, J. P. Norris.

Marianna-T. A. Horne.

Macedonia-A. Gilbert, John Nelson.

Mt. Olive-S. C. Manned, S. W. Lock.

New Salem--J. H. Caley.

Mt. Ida-S. W. Robinson.

New Orange-P. L. Horne.

Orange Hill-T. L. Daniel, C. S. Mercer, D. F. Carter.

Oaky Ridge-C. C. Lock.

Pilgrim's Rest-Jno. A. Shouppe, H. L. Sapp, John Parish, C. S. Shiry, M. Woodel,

Piney Grove-J. B. Shores, C. S. Lock, J. W. Holly.

Pleasant Hill-Dallas Nixon, S. L. Loudermilk.

St. Andrews-By letter.

Sneads-N. J. Carpenter, J. G. Stuart.

Unity-L. H. Deal, R. C. Crofton, J. D. Railey, Geo. W. Crofton, W. W. Evans.

Wewahitchka-N. L. Connell, Mrs. N. L. Connell.

White Pond-J. M. Land.

Melville-Sylvester Singletary.

Upon motion, the churches and messengers enrolled were recognized as the body of the Association.

Rev. W. A. Bryan was nominated and elected by acclamation to preside over the body. W. M. Farrior was elected Clerk.

Time was allowed the Moderator and Clerk to make up committees to report at this session, S. L. Loudermilk and J. M. Stevens acting Moderator and Clerk pro tem.

The Committee on Preaching consisted of A. M. Mathews and messengers of Bethel church.

The Moderator appointed Bro. N. L. Connell as chairman of Committee on Decorum and S. L. Loudermilk on Destitution, to report at this session.

Report of Committee on Preaching: Rev. G. W. McRae tonight, 7:30, at Bethel; S. L. Loudermilk, 7:30, at Graceville; S. W. Lock, at Arbor, 11 a. m.

Call for petitionary letters. No response. Call for visiting brethren. Rev. Joseph Smith responded from Rock Creek Association, and Bro. Daniel Williams, from Columbia. Correspondents; none.

It was agreed that the body should meet at 9:30 a.m. and adjourn at will.

Rocky Creek correspondents-Wilton Lawrence, M. F. Boone.

BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

W. P. Richardson, G. W. McRae, John Coley, J. G. Stuart, N. J. Carpenter.

Columbia - B. P. Cain.

Geneva-J. M. Christmas.

Graves-C. S. Lock, J. B. Shores.

The election of an Executive Committee was appointed to take place after the report of present committee. Also election of Treasurer. Adjournment.

#### SECOND DAY-Morning Session.

At the appointed hour the messengers reassembled. Devotional exercises were conducted by Rev. S. B. Rogers. The 133d Psalm was read.

Call renewed for visitors and petitionary letters. M. Osham was a visitor from Geneva Association.

Report on Aged Ministers read by Rev. W. P. Richardson. After remarks by Brethren S. B. Rogers, W. A. Bryan and W. M. Farrior, also a collection by Brethren W. P. Richardson and W. H. McIntosh, report was adopted.

#### Report on Aged Ministers.

This Association has four aged ministers who were in their early ministry when the whole country was an unsubdued waste and out of harmony with Him whose servants they were. They sowed the good seed of the Gospel from which we are now reaping such an abundant harvest. They suffered all the privations of a wilderness country of which we know so little. Yet we know enough of their hardships to say, "God bless them!" They have done a great deal for the cause we so love and for that soulliberty we so appreciate, and now let us by our liberality care for their feeble old age.

#### W. P. RICHARDSON, Chairman.

Report on Publications was read by J. D. Forester. After remarks by Brethren J. D. Forester, S. B. Rogers and J. C. Porter. it was adopted as amended.

#### Report on Publications.

We, your Committee on Publications, would earnestly recommend the Florida Baptist Witness, published at Ocala, Fla.; the Baptist Herald, Milligan, Fla.; the Foreign Mission Journal.

Richmond, Va.; and the Home Field, Atlanta, Ga. Also the Southern Baptist Convention literature. Then last, but not least, we earnestly and sincerely recommend the Bible as the Book of books for the earnest consideration of our people.

J. D. FORESTER, Chairman.

On motion, the body adjourned for dinner. Everybody was cordially requested to partake.

#### Afternoon Session.

At the appointed hour the messengers reassembled. After singing, the body was led in prayer by Rev. J. W. Aldridge.

The Committee on Preaching reported that Rev. W. A. Bryan would preach tonight at Bethel; Rev. S. B. Rogers at Graceville, and Rev. S. L. Loudermilk at Damascus.

Report on Documents was read by J. M. Harper and adopted.

#### Report on Documents.

We, your Committee on Documents, find four churches petitioning for the next session of the Association, to-wit, Lovedale, Piney Grove, Pilgrim's Rest and Bethlehem. We find twelve Sunday schools in operation. Respectfully submitted.

J. M. HARPER, Chairman.

Collection for aged ministers was \$16.55.

The report of the Committee on Deceased Ministers was read by J. D. Forester. Bro. G. W. McRae was requested to lead in prayer. The report was then adopted.

#### Report on Deceased Ministers.

We praise God that we can say all of our ministers have been spared this year.

J. W. RAWLS, Chairman.

The Moderator appointed Rev. Joseph Smith to preach at Arbor.

Report on Ministerial Education was read by S. B. Rogers. Remarks by S. B. Rogers, J. C. Porter, S. L. Loudermilk and G. W. McRae. The body was led in prayer by Bro. H. K. Shirley. A collection of \$7.43 was then taken for ministerial education. The report was then adopted.

#### Report on Ministerial Education.

For the past century perhaps no question has so absorbed the minds of the world, or been more conducive to its general uplifting than that of education. In it, every citizen has a common interest, one that is vital to his earthly and eternal interest, for upon the care and vigilance with which we foster the education of the present and coming generations will depend the solidity, strength and prosperity not only of the Baptist denomination, but of this whole commonwealth.

Feeling sure, as we do, that upon the education of the young rests the only foundation of a just and strong government, and that upon this predicate only can we hope to lay the foundation of a happy home, a strong government or an undefiled religion we therefore appreciate the efforts of this State to follow the example of older ones in giving us one of, if not the finest, systems of common schools to be found anywhere in this Southland. The rapid decrease of illiterate boys and girls in our own section and State, the manifest interest of parents in educating their children at any sacrifice, the disposition upon the part of our towns to burden themselves to erect better buildings and offer better facilities for lower as well as higher education-is a source of deep gratification to your committee, but knowing that educational and moral development must go hand in hand, and believe ing that our higher education and intellectual culture can never develop the higher and nobler attributes in our boys and girls, unless it builds its foundation on that wisdom which cometh down from above, and that in order to build that system of education from which we anticipate so much, we must build on God. We therefore urge our Baptist brethren, as Christian citizens, to use their utmost endeavors to correct every defect which may be observed in our common schools. We should not only expect, brethren, but we should demand the purity of character and the faithful discharge of duty of every school officer and teacher throughout the entire State. In order, then, that our schools may attain that high standard for which we so confidently look, we urge every Baptist to give to his or her local school their earnest and most zealous support and faithful co-operation.

As an institution of higher learning, Stetson University, at DeLand, Fla., has no equal in the State, and no peer in this Southland, an institution of which we are justly proud. Heavily endowed by John B. Stetson and others, equipped with modern facilities and the best of teachers, enrolling nearly 300 students. and belonging solely to the Baptists of Florida, how else could we feel? To those seeking a collegiate education for their chil-

dren, we not only heartily recommend this institution, but earnestly insist that you give it your patronage and prayers.

For ministerial education we heartly recommend our Southern Theological Seminary, at Louisville, Ky. We patiently wait and pray for the time when every association in this land shall maintain a student at that institution. It is the most important factor today in our spiritual progress. It is the earnest prayer of your committee that the time may speedily come when there cannot be found in our ministerial ranks one who is not faithfully equipped mentally and spiritually to do God's great work, to perform faithfully that great command: "Go preach my Gospel to every creature."

S. B. ROGERS,

Chairman.

Report of Finance Committee was read by Chairman M. F. Boone and adopted. (See tables.)

The report of the Executive Committee was read by Bro. M. F. Beone and adopted.

#### Report of Executive Committee.

Your Executive Committee held its first business meeting the last of October, 1900. After discussing the subject of missions and suitable men, we employed Rev. H. A. Guinn to do mission work on the bays in connection with his pastoral work at \$5 per month, beginning November 1st. We met again in December and also in January. We employed Bro. G. W. McRae for eight and a half months for three-quarters of his time at \$39.60 per month, commencing February 1st and ending October 15th, to do work principally between the Chattahoochee and Choctawhatchee rivers on the line of the L. & N. Railroad.

Your Treasurer will render to your body a detailed financial statement showing all receipts and disbursements of funds. Your missionaries will also render a report of work done.

M. F. BOONE,

Chairman Executive Committee.

The Treasurer's report was read by Bro. M. F. Boone, and adopted.

JOHN B. STETSON UNIVERSITY
DELAND -: FLORIDA

#### Treasurer's Report.

M. L.	Dekl	e. Treasurer, in account with the West Florida B	apt	ist
	A	ssociation:		
1900.		Dr.		
Oct.	1.	By balance of last report\$	18	15
1.0	22.	Cash from Association	357	10
	26,	Cash from C. A. Bevis	5	00
Nov.	27,	Received from J. H. Stephens	5	0.6
1901.				
Jan.	24,	Ca h from W. M. Farrior	6	50
Apr.	2.	Collected at Cottondale by G. W. McRae	1	50
64	2,	From Bonifay by McRae	7	()+)
May	17.	From Bonifay by McRae	7	50
June	3,	From Bonifay by McRae	7	00
**	3,	From Cottondale by McRae	2	25
July	13.	From Cottondale by McRae	2	00
**	13,	From Bonifay through McRae		75
Aug.	10.	From Bonifay by McRae		45
Sept.	9,	Cash from Bonifay by McRae		00
**	9.	From Cottondale by McRae		25
**	30,	From Bonifay by McRae		00
	30.	From Cottondale by McRae		00
4.1	30.	From Grand Ridge by McRae		00
1900.		Cr.	1	0.0
Dec.	10,	To amt. sent W. N. Chaudoin, foreign missions.\$	20	3.5
**	10,	Sent W. N. Chaudoin, home missions		70
11	10,	Sent to same, State missions		00
44	10,	Sent to same, for ministerial education	-	50
4.4	10,	Sent to same for aged ministers	-	42 g
++	10,	Paid Clerk		005
. **	10,	Printing minutes		0.0
1901.				*
Feb.	4,	Paid cash order H. A. Guinn	15	0.0
Apr.	2,	To cash order Geo. W. McRae		60
**	17,	Cash order Geo. W. McRae		00
**	17,	Cash order H. A. Guinn		00
May	17.	To Geo. W. McRae		60
June	3,	Paid Geo. W. McRae		60
**	20,	Paid Geo. W. McRae		00
July	13,	Paid Geo. W. McRae		60
44	18,	Paid Geo. W. McRae		00
Aug.	10,	Paid same		60
**	31,	Paid same		90
Sept.	9,	Paid same	10	60
			1.77	4141

" 19 Paid same	95	00
" 30. Paid same	40	00
" 30. Paid same	34	40
" 30, Balance of account	64	48
Total		-
Ralance on hand	\$493	45
Oct. 18, Cash from Cottondale, \$6; Bonifay, \$10	10	00
, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	16	00
		-
	\$ 80	48
Mar. 1. To cash to G. W. McRae for February	20	en
,	99	90
Dy halan Land to the		-
By balance brought down on hand	\$ 40	88
Respectfully submitted. M. L. DEKI		00
Tre	asur	er.

Bro. J. W. Godwin pledged five dollars for Bro. Osborne from Greenwood Church. Also a personal pledge of five dollars and three dollars cash for last year.

The Mcderator appointed Bro. W. H. McIntosh to confer with the Graves Association and report Bro. Osborne's need. A cash conjection of \$9 was taken and turned over to him.

Missionary Report No. 1 was read by Rev. G. W. McRae. After remarks by Brethren McRae and Rogers, it was adopted.

#### Report of Missionary No. 1.

At a meeting of your Executive Committee in January last I was employed as a missionary pastor at Bonifay, Cottondale, Grand Ridge and Sneads at a salary of \$50 per month, Sneads Church becoming responsible for \$10.40 per month and the committee for \$39.60. On February 1st I entered upon my work in said field. At Bonifay I found a faithful few, but in an unorganized condition. The work there has been a most difficult one, owing to the peculiar conditions on the field, but withal encouraging. Bonifay has one of the best Sunday schools in the Association and bids fair to be one of the best churches. I have been given an indefinite call to the pastorate of the church and Bonifay feels able to support herself.

At Cottondale I found a small membership, much discouraged, having been without a pastor some time. I found but little miler out of which to make Bartists. Our convergations have been small, but appreciative. Some of God's elect are there and I feel that much good has been accomplished in carrying out the fourth command in the Great Commission.

At Grand Ridge we have no house of worship and but few members. Subscriptions are being taken to build this winter. I have also preached from house to house and a considerable spirit of missions has taken hold of the people, causing two churches to ask dismission from the Rocky Creek Association, owing to its anti-missionary spirit.

At Sneads the work is encouraging. We have paid some old debts and hope to complete the building this winter. We have a good Sunday school and the weekly prayer meeting is well attended. I have been given an indefinite call to its pastorate and they now feel able to become self-sustaining. I have also preached one afternoon each month at Cypress and a few times at Bethlehem, besides special appointments at various places. There have been added to the churches served: By baptism, 19: by letter, 24; by restoration, 1. Total, 44. There has been raised on the field for support of missionary, \$206.60; for build ings, \$78.25; Sunday schools, \$38:18; home charities, \$17.50; church music, \$20.00; incidental expenses, \$4.37; ministerial help, \$15.00; state missions, \$8.80; foreign missions, \$11.66; Associational missions, \$13.00. Total, \$408.36. I have preached 99 sermons, besides lectures and exhortations, and have received for services, \$425.

The work has been hard and at times discouraging, but upon the whole God has blessed our efforts at all points, for which we praise and magnify His name. "Even so let it be, Lord Jesus." GEO. W. McRAE, Missionary.

Missionary Report No. 2 was read by Brother M. F. Boone and adopted

#### Missionary Report No. 2.

Began work November 1, 1900, and closed May 1, 1901. Preached at West Bay, 6 times, collected \$8.75; North Bay, 15 times, collected \$15.51; Parker's school house, 6 times, collected \$2.80; St. Andrews, 3 times. Total sermons preached, 30. Received by restoration, 1; by letter, 1; by baptism, 1. Total amount collected, \$27.06. Received from Executive Committee, \$30. Total for six months, \$57.06.

Respectfully submitted.

H. A. GUINN, Missionary

Report on Ministers' Assurance Association read by Rev. S. W. Lock Remarks by Rev. J. C. Porter. Adopted.

482.06

#### Report on B. M. A. A.

We, the Committee on the Baptist Ministers' Assurance Association, would recommend it as the best plan for providing for the temporal needs of the widows and children of our deceased ministers, and would urge not only the ministers but the lay orethren to join it and thereby help the widow and orphan in time of need.

S. W. LOCK, Chairman.

Report on Nominations was read by Brother P. L. Horne and adopted as amended.

#### Report on Nominations.

We nominate Rev. G. W. McRae to preach the introductory sermon at the next session of the Association; W. H. McIntosh, alternate. Rev. W. A. Bryan to preach the Missionary Sermon; Rev. S. L. Loudermilk, alternate. As delegate to the Southern Baptist Convention, S. L. Loudermilk; alternate, E. N. Dekle. Delegates to the State Convention: S. L. Loudermilk, John Coleman, W. C. Lockey, J. D. Forester, N. L. Connell, G. W. McRae, W. H. McIntosh, T. A. Horne, S. B. Rogers and W. A. Bryan.

Executive Committee: M. F. Boone, M. L. Dekle, H. G. Green, W. C. Lockey, R. J. Foxworth.

We suggest that any brother visiting the State Convention be recognized as a delegate in the absence of any others appointed from this body.

R. J. FOXWORTH.

Chairman.

Report on Woman's Work read by Mrs. N. L. Connell. Renarks by Rev. S. L. Loudermilk, S. B. Rogers, J. W. Richardson. A. M. Mathews and J. G. Stuart. The Mission Society paid \$1.75 to the Association. Report adopted.

#### Report on Woman's Work.

We find woman's work increasing, but regret that so few of the churches in this Association are engaged in it. We would suggest that the sisters in every church organize themselves for this delightful and much needed work at once and God speed the time when all shall become interested in this work.

MRS. N. L. CONNELL.

Chairman.

#### Bro. Loudermilk's Resolution.

Resolved. That this Association request the sisters of the various churches to organize Women's Missionary Societies in each church during the coming year and send a delegate from each society to the next session of this Association and organize a Woman's Missionary Union auxiliary to the Association.

It was decided that the report on Sundary Schools be made the special order for 3:30 Sunday morning; on Temperance at 10; Missions, 10:30.

Report on Destitution was read by Bro. S. L. Loudermilk. Remarks by H. L. Sapp, G. W. McRae and S. L. Loudermilk. Adepted.

#### Report on Destitution.

Your committee is very much impressed with the wide and important destitution that exists in our bounds. The largest section which is almost entirely destitute of Baptist preaching and work is the territory from Chipley southwest to Point Washington, some 20x75 miles. In this section is located Vernon, the county seat of Washington county, the little church there having almost ceased to exist. The Association must take hold of that place with a strong and persistent hand before we can establish our cause there permanently. The Mormons are working in the section toward Point Washington.

There is also considerable destitution between Marianna and St. Joseph along the proposed line of the new railroad from Dothan to St. Joseph, especially around East Bay, at Farmdale and Parker, etc. There is also considerable destitution west of Bethel along the Choctawhatchee river, from Careyville to Geneva county.

We would recommend that the Executive Committee at once investigate and select the most needy and important points and select the man or men that are best calculated to meet and supply the needs of those points, and as far as able to employ his or their services as soon as possible.

We also recommend that the Executive Committee employ a near to do evangelistic work in the more needy parts of the Association among the weaker churches to still them up in doctrine and missions during the latter part of the Associational year, if the committee is financially able, for there is much destitution even among many of our churches.

S. L. LOUDERMILK,

Chairman.

#### SUNDAY-Morning Session.

At the appointed hour the messengers reassembled, singing "Some Sweet Day." Dévotional exercises conducted by the Moderator. Isaiah 55, was read as a lesson and H. W. Lawrence led in prayer.

The Moderator then appointed Brethren G. W. McRae, S. B. Rogers and S. L. Loudermilk to draft constitution and by-laws for the next session.

Report on Sunday Schools was read by J. M. Stevens and after remarks by Brethren J. M. Stevens, S. L. Loudermilk, J. D. Forester, A. M. Mathews, Rubert Bevis, Jno. B. O'Connor and S. B. Rogers, the body was led in prayer by Bro. Rubert Bevis. Report adopted.

#### Report on Sunday Schools.

We, your Committee on Sunday Schools, are glad to report that we think there is some improvement in Sunday school work 19 cur bounds, but sorry that many of our churches have not yet come up to the discharge of duty on this line. Brethren, we believe the Sunday school work to be one of the important duties of the church; that every member should feel a deep interest in the same and do all they can to maintain a Sunday school in every church. We fear that a great majority of Baptists do not feel the importance and necessity of the work and do not put forth the effort and manifest the interest they should. So far as our observation extends, there are but few of the members of the church, even where there are schools, that take an active part in them, but leave the work to only a very few of the members of the church and the children, when it should be the work of all. Some are so indifferent, they do not even encourage their children to attend the school.

Brethren, we long to see the day when all Baptists will take a lively interest in this great work of the church and when all parents, together with their children, will be regular attendants of the Sunday school, but we are at a loss to know what to say that will awaken such an interest. We beg that every representative of the churches will go home and do all he can to stimulate his brethren and sisters to greater diligence in the work, and where there is no school, try to organize and maintain one from this time on.

We are aware of the fact that one drawback to many Sunday schools is the need of good teachers—teachers that will study

and prepare themselves so they can instruct and interest their classes. So many of those who are appointed as teachers seem to think that all they are to do is to ask the questions, and many of them are not able to answer them. If all of our schools could be supplied with good, live, energetic teachers it would awaken a lively interest in Sunday school work. And we would recommend that this Association take some steps to organize a Sunday school teachers' institute or something whereby the teachers can become better informed and better prepared for the work. This work might be associated with our ministers' and deacons' institute.

J. M. STEVENS.

Chairman.

#### Resolution.

Resolved, That this Association request all our churches to take active steps to organize and maintain good Sunday schools, and also to send their teachers and officers to attend and cooperate with the ministers' and deacons' institute for the purpose of instructing and training their Sunday school teachers and workers.

The report of the Committee on Temperance was read by P. A. Wickizer. Remarks by Brethren J. D. Forester, George Crofton, W. H. McIntosh, M. F. Boone, S. W. Lock, J. C. Porter, S. B. Rogers, J. G. Stuart and H. Womble. It was adopted as amended by Rev. S. L. Loudermilk.

#### Report on Temperance.

Realizing that intemperance is the greatest enemy of spirituality and that the laws of our country permit, nay, encourage the sale of that which destroys health and manhood; body and soul, and that our efforts against this all-powerful liquor traffic have failed to accomplish the overthrow of alcohol, we believe the only hope of Christian people against this evil is in the proper education of the youth of our land, not only in the Sunday school, but by the distribution of literature calculated to impress upor young minds the evils of intemperance. As the Catholic seeks to control the education of the child's earliest years, knowing that early impressions are most lasting, so let us in our Sunday schools, B. Y. P. U. and other kindred organizations seek to educate along this line from the earliest years. Believing that the time has come when a decided stand must be taken, we leave

this important matter with the body. Remembering that no drunkard shall enter Heaven, sow not seeds by the wayside today. Plant them in good ground.

P. A. WICKIZER.

Chairman.

The report on Missions was read by Bro. G. W. McRae, and after discussion a motion was carried to have the Missionary Sermon by Bro. J. C. Porter before its adoption.

#### Report on Missions.

The spirit of missions is a natural instinct of the Christian. Indeed, every man who has been "born of the Spirit" has within him the spirit of missions, though he may not confess it. The mission spirit is that within a man that causes him to desire tnose whom he loves to receive the great benefit that has come to him through Christ. A man may be so selfish that he desires rone to be saved but his own house, as that may be all he loves. But if a man loves his community he wants it saved, if he loves his fellow countrymen he wants them saved and if he loves a human soul wherever he finds it, he wants all saved. There is no difference in home and foreign missions. It is simply the question of how big a man's heart is when he has been "born again." The day is near when an anti-missionary Christian will be a thing of the past, though no doubt we will always have many omissionaries. Just before our Savior mounted the heavenly chariot and vanished in the misty sky, He met the faithful eleven on a little mount in Galilee. After telling them that all power on earth and in Heaven had been given into His hand. He commanded them, saying: "Go ye, therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father. Son and Holy Ghost. teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have comrnanded." With our means accompanied by our prayers, we must take part in the first three commands in the commission. viz., go, preach and baptize. But for us who labor here in this field, the great work is carrying out the fourth command, "teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded."

Our Associational work seems to be in a prosperous condition and your committee urges the churches to take collections during the year for missions. Our State Board has had a successful year. The Home Board suffered a great loss in the death of its secretary, Dr. F. H. Kerfoot, this year. Dr. F. C. McConnell, of Virginia, has been elected to fill the vacancy. He is well qualified for the place. The Home and Foreign Boards made

good reports at New Orleans, showing an advance in the work. The war in China is over and God has used it for the furtherance of His cause. This committee wishes to remind your body of its great responsibility in helping evangelize the world and urges greater efforts and more prayers for the cause of missions.

GEO. W. McRAE, Chahman.

It was decided that the body should meet with Bethlehem Church at its next session.

Ordered that the Clerk be paid \$20 for his services and that he have one thousand copies of the minutes printed and draw on Treasurer to pay for same.

Moved and carried that the Association meet on Thursday before the third Sunday in October, 1902.

Committee on Preaching reported that Rev. J. C. Porter would preach the Missionary Sermon at 11 o'clock.

#### Resolution.

Resolved, That any member of a Baptist church signing a barroom petition, drinking to drunkenness, or in any way encouraging this most powerful enemy to religion, this source of crime, poverty, degradation, ignorance and superstition, filling our jails, renitentiaries, poorhouses and insane asylums and wrecking the homes of our land—that such inconsistent member be subject to strict church discipline.

#### Resolution of Thanks.

We are taught in God's Word to be given to hospitality; to be not slow to entertain strangers, for some have thereby entertained angels unawares. As messengers and visitors to this Association, we are profoundly grateful to God for the spiritual feast we have enjoyed during the sessions of this body, and language fails us to tell of our heartfelt thankfulness and appreciation of the whole-hearted and bountiful hospitality shown the members and all the visitors to this Association by the members of Bethel Church and the citizens of this community. May the richest blessings of our Heavenly Father abide with them and their children.

The body adjourned to the arbor to hear the Missionary Sermon by Rev. J. C. Porter. After a song, he read the 53rd chapter of Isaiah. The body was then led in prayer by Rev. S. B. Rogers. The text was Acts 1:8, "But ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me

both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." It was truly a missionary sermon. A collection was then taken for missions amounting to \$22.08.

While the parting hymn was being sung, the messengers enjoyed the usual handshaking. Prayer was offered by the Moderator and the body stood adjourned, to meet with Bethlehem at its next session, having held a very harmonious and prosperous raeeting.

W. A. BRYAN.

W. M. FARRIOR, Clerk.

Moderator.

#### BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

#### ARTICLES OF FAITH.

- 1. We believe in one true and living God, and that there is a trinity of persons in the Godhead—the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit; and yet there are not three Gods, but one God.—Mark 12:23; Matt. 16:17, 18:19; 1 Tim. 1:2-5; Exod. 20:1-3; John 1:1-4, 5:23, 10.30.
- 2. We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament are the Word of God and that they are the only rules of taith and practice.—2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:21; 2 Sam. 23:2; Rev. 22:18-19.
- 3. We believe in the fall of Adam, the imputation of his sin to his posterity; in the corruption of human nature, and the impotency of man to recover himself by his own free will and ability.—Isa. 1:5-6; Psa. 14:1-3; Rom. 5:12; John 6:44; 1 Cor. 15:20; 1 Job 14:57; Eph. 2:8-10.
- 4. We believe in the everlasting love of God to His people, and eternal election of a definite number of the human race to grace and glory, and that there was a covenant of grace of redemption made between the Father and the Son before the world began, in which their salvation is secure, and they in particular are redeemed.—John 15:16-17; Isa. 11:8-9; Eph. 1:4-5-11; Acts 13:48; 2 Thess. 2:13; Pet. 1:2; Rom. 8:29-30, 9:11-12-23, 11:4-7; 2 Tim. 2:9.
- 5. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God only by the righteousness of Christ imputed to them.—Rom. 3:21-5-59; Psa. 14; John 10:9-15; Rom. 5:1-10; Cor. 1:30.
- 6. We believe that all those who are chosen of God in Christ will be effectually called, regenerated, sanctified and supported by the spirit and power of God so that they shall persevere in grace, and not one of them be finally lost.—John 10:29-30, 6:27; Phil. 1:6; 1 Pet. 1:3-9; Heb. 6:16-20; John 17:2-3; 2 Tim. 1:9-10; Tit. 4:4-7; Eph. 2:45; Rom. 8:28-31
- 7. We believe that good works are the fruits of faith, that they follow after justification, and they only justify us to the sight of men and are only evidences of our Christianity.—Eph. 2.10; James 2:13, 3:13; 1 Pet. 2:3-5; Matt. 5:16.
- 8. We believe there will be a resurrection of the dead, and a general judgment and that the happiness of the righteous and the punishment of the wicked will be eternal.—Mark 12:24-27; 2 Cor. 5:10; 1 Cor. i5:12-29; Acts 17:31; Matt. 25:46; John 5:28-29; Thess. 1:7-10.
- 9. We believe that the church of Christ is a visible congregation of baptized believers who have gained Christian fellow-

ship with each other, and that immersion is the only scriptural mode of baptism.—Rom. 6.

- 10. We believe that Jesus Christ is the great Head of His church and the only Lawgiver, and that the government is with the body, and is the privilege of each individual, and that the discipline of the church is intended for the reclamation of those Christians 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.
- 11. We believe that water baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of the Lord; and are to be continued until His second coming.
- 12. We believe that none but those regularly baptized and who are in fellowship with the church have a right to commune at the Lord's table.

#### CONSTITUTION.

- Article 1. Those members who are regularly chosen by the churches, ministers and pastors in our union shall compose the Association.
- Art. 2. The members so chosen shall produce letters from their respective churches, certifying their appointment, together with their number in fellowship, those baptized, received by letter, restored, dismissed, excommunicated and dead, since the last Association; also a statement of the amount of funds sent up by the messengers, and for what purpose, and any other contribution made during the year.
- Art. 3. The members thus chosen and convened shall be denominated the West Florida Baptist Association.
- Art. 4. The Association shall have a Moderator and Clerk, who shall be chosen by the members present.
- Art. 5. This Association shall have no power to lord it over Ged's heritage, nor by which she can infringe upon any of the internal rights of the churches.
- Art. 6. If newly constituted churches, or others, desire to be admitted into this union, they shall petition by letter and messengers; and if found, upon examination, to be orthodox and orderly, shall be received by the Association, and such reception shall be manifested by the Moderator giving to the messengers the right hand of fellowship.
- Art. 7. Each church in this Association shall be entitled to two messengers, and when her number of members shall reach twenty-five she shall be entitled to three, and for every additional increase of twenty-five members she shall be entitled to an additional messenger.

- Art. 8. Every query sent to the Association by any of the churches in this union shall be read and put to a vote by the Moderator whether it shall be discussed, and if there is a majority for discussion, it shall be taken up and considered. If not, it shall be withdrawn; provided, always, those be considered that affect the union of the church.
- Art. 9. Every motion made and seconded shall come under the observance of the Association, except it be withdrawn by the member who made it. The last motion shall be first in order.
- Art. 10. Every person who speaks in debate shall rise from his seat and address the Moderator, and shall not be interrupted while speaking, except he depart from the subject.
- Art. 11. No person shall speak more than three times on the same subject without permission of the Association.
- Art. 12. There shall be no talking or whispering in time of public speech, nor shall any reflection be cast by the speaker.
- Art. 13. No member shall absent himself from the Association without first obtaining permission from the body, or Moderator, and the Moderator shall only have power to act while the body is not in session. The Association is not considered closed until after the farewell sermon is preached.
- Art. 14. If any member shall break the rules of this Constitution he shall be immediately reproved by the Moderator.
- Art. 15. It is the business of the Association, first, to provide for the general union of the churches; second, to keep up a correspondence with associations of the same faith and order, that the chain of communication may be preserved among the churches; third, to give churches the best advice in matters of difficulty, and if the communion between any of the sister churches be broken, to inquire into the cause of the breach and use the best means to remove the difficulty; but if the breach cannot be made up, to withdraw from any church whom they look upon as unsound in principle or disorderly in practice, until she be reclaimed; fourth, to admit any of the brethren in the ministry as assistant, if they deem it to be necessary; fifth, to appoint a Clerk to keep the record of every meeting of the Association; sixth, to have the minutes read and corrected, if need be. before the Association rises, and have them printed if they think proper; seventh, to amend this plan of government at any time when the majority of the Association may deem it necessary; eighth, to adjourn to any time or place considered most proper.

#### SUNDAY SCHOOL STATISTICS.

CHURCHES.	SUPERINTENDENTS.	Postoffices.	Officers.	Pupils.	Expenses.	Missions.
Bethelem Bethlehem Bonifay. Campbellton Chipley Cottondale Friendship, Graceville Gracenwood Lovedale Marianna Mt. Ida. Pleasant Hill St. Andrews Sneads	J W Richardson G E Whitehurst M Mathews C R Jones J D Forrester J L Massey J M Stevens E O Womble M F Boone M L Dekle Jesse Rodgers D Nixon B V Brock J U Wilson	Apalachicola Wright's Graceville Kynersville Bonifay Campbellton Chipley Cottondale Bolton Graceville Greenwood Dellwood Marianna Wausau Nixon St. Andrews Sneads Wewahitchka	111 5 4 7 7 7 4 10 6 9 6 5 11 6 7 6	84 35 12 37 137 23 148 35 60 72 35 30 45 42 35 56	\$ 55 68 2 00 4 00 2 90 19 18 1 00 4 50 6 00 9 24 3 70 27 32 1 6 0 9 0 9 0	

# REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE.

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	S L Loudermilk E D Nelson	Geo W McRae	S L Loudermilk	William Sapp	J D Courtney	I D Courtney	J S Wachob	E English	J H Crutchfield		J S Wachob	E D Nelson	Geo W McRae	J J White	J W Johnson	W A Bryan	W H McIntosh	S.L Loudermilk	G W McRae	J E White	G W McRae	W P Bichardson	W H McIntosh	Geo W McRaner	PASTORS.
DUITIS Nent	JR Hollinger	N.J. Carpenter	D W Nixon	J B Shares	7	W H Slav	W F Howe	S C Maund	Singletary	J C Davis	WH Pyke	W W White	N Barefoot	J M Stevens	J O Bruner	W B Simmons	N J Ph Ilips	E S Kinner	H	R A Renfro		J W Richardson	H C Neel	J Z Johnson	Cleeks.
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#### HISTORICAL TABLE.

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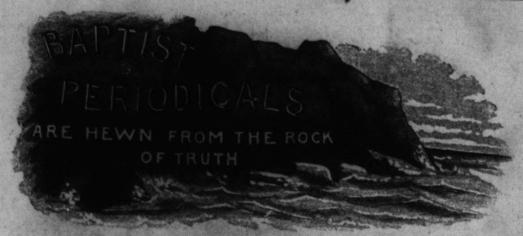
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