MINUTES

OF THE

TWENTY-SIXTH ANNUAL SESSION

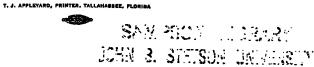
MIDDLE FLORIDA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

HELD WITH

MIDWAY BAPTIST CHURCH

Lee, Fla., Oct. 20-21, 1925

The Next Session of the Association to Convene at Macedonia Baptist Church, Five Miles East of Madison, Fla., at 10 o'clock A. M. Tuesday After 3rd Sunday in October, 1926.



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TWENTY-SIXTH ANNUAL SESSION MIDDLE FLORIDA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

HELD WITH

Midway Baptist Church

Lee, Fla., October 20-21, 1925.

OFFICERS

A. J. PRESTON, Moderator	. Madison,	Fla
CARL W. BURNETTE, Clerk	. Madison,	Fla
F. B. WILLIAMS, Treasurer	Lee,	Fla

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The Next Session of the Association to Convene at Macedonia Baptist Church, Madison, Fla., at 10 O'clock A. M., Tuesday After 3rd Sunday in October, 1926.

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ARTICLES OF FAITH

ASSOCIATION DIRECTORY

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Dr. A. J. Preston, Moderator, Madison, Fla.; Carl W. Burnette, Clerk, Madison, Fla.; F. B. Williams, Treasurer, Lee, Fla.; Dr. A. J. Preston, Member State Board of Missions, Madison, Fla.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

A. D. Townsend, Day, Fla.; A. N. Woodard, Lec. Fla.; W. B. Davis, Perry, Fla.; G. F. Andrews, Greenville, Fla.; A. T. Camp, Greenville, Fla.; J. F. McCall, Madison, Fla.

DELEGATES TO SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

A. T. Camp, Greenville, Fla.; Alternate, Dr. A. J. Preston, Madison, Fla.

DELEGATES TO STATE CONVENTION

J. E. Cook, Perry, Fla.; W. C. Wells, Madison, Fla.; E. W. Kinsey, Pinetta, Fla.; A. M. Warren, Madison, Fla.; A. M. Parker, Pinetta, Fla. Article 1. We believe in one and only one, true and living God, and that there are three persons in the God-head, God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

Article 2. We believe that the Holy Scripture, composed of both the Old and New Testament, are the Word of God, and the only rule of faith and practice of God's people.

Article 3. We believe the doctrine of Sovereign, particular and eternal election.

Article 4. We believe in the doctrine of original sin.

Article 5. We believe in man's impotency to recover himself from the fallen state in which he is by nature, by his own free will and ability.

Article 6. We believe that we are justified in the sight of God, only by the imputed righteousness of Christ, which is the consequence of faith in Christ.

Article 7. We believe that God's elect shall be called, regenerated and sanctified by the word of God and the Holy Spirit.

Article 8. We believe that the saints are preserved by grace and persevere in grace and will never finally fall away.

Article 9. We believe that Baptism and the Lord's Supper are the only ordinances of a New Testament church, that immersion is the only Scriptural Baptism, and believers are the only Scriptural subjects for Baptism, and none but baptised believers who are members of Missionary Baptist churches in good standing are entitled to partake of the Lord's Supper.

Article 10. We believe in the resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked dead, and that both will be judged according to the deeds done in the body.

Article 11. We believe that the punishment of the wicked will be everlasting and the joy of the righteousness will be eternal.

Article 12. We believe that no minister has a right to administer the ordinances except such as are Divinely called, having been ordained by prayer and the imposition of the hands of a presbytery duly authorized by a missionary Baptist church.

('UNSTITUTION OF THE MIDDLE FLORIDA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Article 1. This Association shall be known by the name of the Middle Florida Baptist Association. The object of this Association shall be to conduct the work of missions, colportage, Sunday School enterprises and other work that will tend to the spread of the Gospel.

Article 2. This Association shall be composed of members chosen by the respective churches in this union in the proportion of two members for each church of fifty members or less, and one additional delegate for every twenty-five members of over fifty and all ordained ministers of this Association in good standing. No church, however, shall have over four delegates.

Article 3. The letters sent by the churches at each session of the Association shall designate their respective members in full fellowship, those baptised, received by letter, restored, dismissed, excommunicated, and dead since last session.

Article 4. Believing it to be proper, on account of the diversity of opinion among men as to the import of the Scriptures contained in the Old and New Testaments, to declare our belief and understanding thereof, we therefore append our belief in twelve articles, and present them with our Minutes to the Baptist denomination.

Article 5. The Association, when convened, shall be governed by a regular and proper decorum. A Moderator and Clerk shall be chosen by votes of the members present, who shall hold their office until the next session of the body, and until their successors are elected. The Moderator shall preside at the meetings of the Association. (The Clerk shall record the proceedings thereof and prepare them for the press.)

Article 6^{-} The Association thus organized shall be no power to lord over God's heritage nor infringe upon the eternal rights of any church.

Article 7. Newly constituted churches may be admitted to this union on application by letter and delegates, and if, upon examination, found to be orthodox, shall be received by the Association and the hand of fellowship extended to the delegates by the Moderator.

Article 8. The Association shall furnish the minutes of the proceedings in proportion to the funds set up for that purpose by the churches.

Article 9. Any amendment or alteration of this Constitution may be made by the votes of two-thirds of the members present at any two successive regular meetings of the Association. All questions coming before the Association shall be decided by a majority vote of the delegates present.

Article 10. The Association shall have power:

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First. To provide for the general union of the churches.

Second. To give the churches advice in matters of difficulty.

Third. To inquire into the cause of any church failing to be represented at the meeting of the Assoviation.

Fourth. To withdraw all connection with any church or churches in the union that shall violate the rules of this Association, or shall deviate from the orthodox principles of the revealed word of God.

Fifth. To appropriate the money contributed and sent to the Association, as specified by the churches, and when not specified it shall be appropriated to promote the best interest of the Master's cause.

Sixth. To adjourn to any future time and place they may deem most convenient to the churches in the union.

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MINUTES

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The 26th Session of the Middle Florida Association met with Midway Baptist Church at 10 o'clock, October 20, 1925. The Moderator being absent, Dr. A. J. Preston, of Madison, was elected Moderator pro tem. The following messengers were enrolled : Athena—By letter. Antioch-D. M. Dees and E. H. Morgan. Aucilla-Central-Mr. and Mrs. M. E. Montgomery, Mrs. E. A. Horne and W. A. Dutton. Brewer Lake-F. P. Parker, J. A. Wilder and Knox Ward. Beulah-L. C. Purvis, L. A. Morris, Elizabeth Glover Walker, Mrs. Bessie Lucas, Mrs. Emma Walker and Lee Standley. Friendship-Not represented. Greenville-Mrs. C. L. Leggett, A. Reams, G. F. Andrews and G. I. Inglish. Hopewell-S. Newbern, L. F. and O. S. Rutherford. Lee-W. N. Webb and B. W. Hamrick. Lamont-R. J. Carroll and C. J. Reams. Midway-D. E. Thomas, Billy Terry and D. L. Hicks. Mayo-Mrs. Edler Winburn, Mrs. N. L. White, Mrs. R. K. Taylor and R. R. Ware. Macedonia-G. I. Tindall, F. B. Williams and Orvin McCollough. Mt. Gilead-H. G. Watts and W. G. Vann. Madison-B. Willoughby, W. L. Tooke, W. C. Wells and W. F. McCall. Moseley Hall-Mrs. A. E. Sanders, Rufus Sapp and M. M. Pickles. New Macedonia-R. B. Warren. New Hopeful-G. S. and W. L. Humphrey. New Home-Jim Devane, Jno. Devane and Willie Barrow. _ New Prospect—W. L. Bass. Oak Grove-Willie Ranew and G. W. Young. Oakland-F. M. Woods, A. J. McFail, Mrs. Ida Woods and Miss Myrtle McFail. Pisgah—A. J. Parker and W. D. Powell. Perry-T. N. Jones, Geo. D. Bishop, Mrs. S. C. Rhoden and Mrs. T. N. Jones. Pine Grove-J. F. D. Hughey and B. L. Rains. Pinetta-W. W. Corbett and J. D. Downing. Pleasant Grove (Taylor Co.)-G. C. Lewis, S. W. Tedder and T. A. Goodman.

Pleasant Grove (Layfette Co.)—S. C. Buchanan, T. A. Ezell, Mrs. Folsom and J. L. Harris.

Riverside—Walter Allen, Edna Fryer, T. M. Fryer and A. U. Mills.

Sirmans-L. H. Bailey and H. M. Vickers.

San Pedro-F. E. Carrin, H. S. and Julia Parker.

Motion made and carried that Bros. A. J. Preston and C. W. Burnette be made Moderator and Clerk.

F. B. Williams as Treasurer.

Rev. W. B. Parshley and W. E. Findley and wife, of Suwanee Association, were recognized; also W. C. Famell and wife, of Mercer Association; Mrs. W. L. Harrell, W. M. U. field worker. The Moderator appointed G. F. Andrews and J. T. Woodard

to assist the Treasurer.

The Introductory Sermon was preached at this time by Dr. A. J. Preston.

TUESDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Devotional services led by Bro. A. T. Camp.

Motion made and carried that committee be appointed to examine the Articles of Faith, etc., of Forest Grove Church. Committee, W. B. Davis, W. L. Tooke and J. E. Cook, Jr.

Drs. Finley and Parshley were appointed by the Moderator to read letters.

Bro. J. P. Edmonds, of S. S. Board; Bro. J. J. Bullen, of the State Board of Missions; Bro. Caudle, representing the Florida Baptist Witness, were recognized.

The Moderator appointed the following committees:

Committee on Nominations—B. Willoughby, Fred Parker, D. E. Morgan.

State Missions—A. M. Parker, C. Bush, M. J. Fowler. Home Missions—A. J. Preston, W. B. Davis, S. G. Ward. Foreign Missions—A. T. Camp, A. Reams, G. F. Andrews. Orphanage—H. M. Vickers, A. N. Woodard, G. W. Young. Education—R. R. Ware, W. B. Davis.

Relief and Annuity—A. J. Preston, A. T. Camp, A. M. Parker, Sunday Schools—T. N. Jones, F. E. Carrin, Will Ranew. Ministerial Support—J. T. Woodard, O. A. Henderson, E. W. Kinsev.

B. Y. P. U.—Henry F. Bird, M. J. Fowler, D. E. Thomas. Periodicals—E. W. Kinsey, F. B. Williams.

Temperance-Geo. D. Bishop, W. L. Tooke, M. M. Pickles.

Deceased Ministers-A. J. Sparks, J. F. Russell.

Laymen's Movement-W. A. Dutton, J. F. McCall, Walter Allen.

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Woman's Work-Mrs. C. L. Leggett, Mrs. R. R. Ware, Mrs. N. L. White.

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Time and Place—J. T. Woodard, G. F. Andrews, W. L. Tookc. Report of Executive Committee read and discussed by T. N. Jones, and adopted.

Report on State Missions read by A. M. Parker.

Report on Home Missions read by Judge W. B. Davis.

Report on Foreign Missions read by Rev. A. T. Camp.

The above reports were very ably discussed by Bros. Bullen and Findley, and adopted.

It was moved and carried the Clerk send Dr. Rogers the following telegram of sympathy from this body:

"Dr. S. B. Rogers,

"Jacksonville, Fla.

"Mindful of your sorrow and burdens, the Middle Florida Association sends sympathy and prayers."

Moved and carried that the services for tonight be omitted.

WEDNESDAY A. M.

Devotional services led by Bro. Fowler.

Body called to order by Moderator.

Report on Periodicals read by E. W. Kinsey; discussed by Dr. J. E. Cook, Jr., Bro. Caudle, Bro. A. N. Woodard and Dr. Bullen, and adopted.

Report on Nominations read by Bro. Fred Parker, and adopted.

Report on Education read by the Clerk; discussed by Dr. A.

T. Camp, Dr. Brittain, Bro. Caudle, Bro. Findley, Mrs. Harrell, Bro. Parshley, and adopted.

Report on Orphanage read by Rev. A. N. Woodard, and adopted.

The Committee on Forest Grove Baptist ('hurch's petition made their report and same adopted.

Motion made and carried that Dr. Brittain preach the Missionary Sermon instead of Dr. Cook at this hour.

WEDNESDAY P. M.

Devotional led by J. L. Odom.

Report on B. Y. P. U. read by Bro. Bird.

Report on Sunday Schools read by Bro. Geo. D. Bishop.

Both reports were discussed together by Bro. Edmunds, Rev.

A. N. Woodard, Rev. A. M. Parker, and adopted. Report on Relief and Annuity read by Dr. A. T. Camp; discussed by the Moderator and Dr. Brittain, and adopted. Report on Ministerial Support read by the Clerk; discussed by A. M. Parker, G. F. Andrew, and adopted.

Report of Committee on Time and Place that next Association meet with Macedonia Church was adopted.

Committee on Apportionment made their report; discussed by Dr. Brittain and Rev. S. G. Ward, and adopted.

Report on Laymen's movement read and discussed by Rev. A. T. Camp, and adopted.

The report on Deceased Ministers not being available, the Moderator asked A. M. Parker and A. N. Woodard to prepart report. Same was read by the Clerk, and adopted.

Report on W. M. U. read by Mrs. Harrell, and adopted.

Report on Temperance read by Bro. Geo. D. Bishop; discussed by him, Bro. Fred Parker, G. F. Andrews, the Moderator and others, and adopted.

Motion made to pay Clerk same amount and have Minutes printed by Mr. Appleyard and pay Witness balance due.

Bro. J. E. Cooke, Jr., offered the following resolution, and same was adopted:

"Resolved, That we, the messengers and visitors to this the 26th Session of Middle Florida Association, extend to the pastor, Midway Church and good people of this community our hearty and sincere thanks for the splendid entertainment accorded us while in their midst.

(Signed) "J. E. COOK, Jr."

There being no further business, the Association adjourned to meet with Macedonia Church on Tuesday after the third Sunday in October, 1926.



REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF MIDDLE FLORIDA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

We held our first meeting in Greenville, Flu., on January 4th. Those present were Brothers C. L. Leggett, A. D. Townsend, J. H. Sparks, T. W. Woodward and T. N. Jones. Meeting opened with prayer by Brother l'otet. Motion carried electing T. N. Jones, secretary.

Application presented by Forest Grove Church in Taylor County asking for aid from the State Board of Missions for \$50 a year, which was approved and recommended by your committee.

Motion made and carried recommending that the Executive Committee go on record as approving the effort of the State Board of Missions to work out some plan by which the Board might be able to help some of our rural preachers obtain better educational advantages.

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned to meet the 1st Sunday in February.

The committee also had a meeting on the 1st Sunday in February in Greenville. Those present were Brothers C. L. Leggett, A. D. Townsend and T. N. Jones. At this meeting the committee had the pleasure of listening to a report from Brother Portet of the doings of the State Convention. Another meeting was called at this time to meet with the Church at Daytown on Friday before the 5th Sunday in March. There being no other business the meeting adjourned.

Friday before the 5th Sunday in March, at Daytown, Fla.

There not being a quorum present were unable to transact business. Those present were A. D. Townsend and T. N. Jones.

Your committee finds that there were churches in our Association, perhaps too small membership to be able to support a preacher. In many instances these churches are close enough to other congregations to make it possible to consolidate. Where we have two churches not being served by a minister this consolidation would make it possible to support a minister and have a good, live organization at work for the Master and His Kingdom. We realize that before the days of good roads and the modern transportation it was not possible to consolidate community churches, but today it is as easy to attend church a distance of 10 miles or further as it was 25 years ago to travel 3 miles. Your committee thinks it would be a good idea, where churches are so sitnated, to consider some plan of this kind.

T. N. JONES, J. T. WOODARD.

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TREASURER'S REPORT

F. B. Williams in account with The Middle Florida Baptist Association.

October 22, 1924-Received from Association	\$95.91
October 22, 1924—Received from insociation	
March 10, 1925—Paid postage on Minutes	4.00
March 10, 1925—Paid Witness for printing	61.91
Total	\$95.91
Balance-Nothing.	

F. B. WILLIAMS, Treasurer.

REPORT OF APPORTIONMENT COMMITTEE ...

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(Note: Apportionment Committee was composed of Executive Committee and, in addition, J. E. Cook, Jr.)

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON FOREST GROVE CHURCH

We, your committee on application of Forest Grove Baptist Church for membership in this body, beg leave to report as follows:

We have examined the petitionary letter and Articles of Faith of the Forest Grove Baptist Church and are satisfied as to their cligibility for membership. We, therefore, recommend that this Church be received as a member of our Association, and that the Moderator extend to the messengers the right hand of fellowship.

Respectfully submitted.

W. B. DAVIS. J. E. COOK, Jr.. W. L. TOOKE.

REPORT ON MINISTERIAL SUPPORT

Madison, Fla., October 20, 1925.

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We, your committee, submit the following report:

First, we find there has been a large increase this last Associational year in this line of work. There are several churches that are taking care of their Pastors and several have almost doubled what they have been doing heretofore, but there is still a great need for a better support.

We note that the Bible plan is for them to give their whole time to the work, and how can they do this unless the churches give them their support?

We recommend to the Churches to give them a better support and you will find that they will give better service to their churches, for "The laborer is worthy of his hire." The Lord has abundantly blessed us this year and may we give liberally to His cause.

J. T. WOODARD. O. A. HENDERSON. E. W. KINSEY.

REPORT ON RELIEF AND ANNUITY BOARD

The report of the Relief and Annuity Board for the last Convention year closed May 1st, 1925, was one of the fairly good years in the Board's history, notwithstanding the great financial depression and shortage of receints.

The relief beneficiaries received during the year \$127,021.35; the beneficiaries of the Annuity Fund received \$10,103.58, making a total of \$137,124.93, which is more than the Board has paid out in bunefits in any one year.

The Board repeated itself last December in sending out Christmas checks to beneficiarits, the amounts ranging from 50.00 to 10.00 cach. according to the circumstances. The Board hones to make this an annual habit.

The Board is now carrying on its roll 1.086 beneficiaries: (i00 aged ministers, 386 widows and about 100 orphan children.

The Board is also rendering aid to States which are wholly unable to provide for their retired preachers. It is spending thousands of dollars annually in this specific kind of aid. There was but little hope for a large class of dependent preachers until the Relief and Annuity Board was organized. The total amount donated to these States within the period of five years during the 75 Million Campaign was \$53,838,72.

The great, immediate and all but desperate need of this Board is a fund that will yield for general relief alone \$100,000,00 per year in addition to what the Board would get from the regular budget. This statement has been made over and over again through our denominational press for the past two years. It is the one outstanding, glaring need of our Board, and should not be difficult of attainment. We must continue to press this particular need. The Board can never begin to do the adequate thing until this fund is obtained. If some of our rich people could only see their way to make some large gifts to this Board, or to remember us in their wills.

Every minister, of course, knows that sooner or later, if he lives, he will have to retire to private life. It is sweet and assuring to know that when the time comes he can do so without being the humiliated object of charity; that he can still hold up his head and walk with selfrespect among his brethren of the calling, because there has been pro-

vided by the gratitude and thoughtfulness and generosity of the people he served, at least a small competence to supplement his own meager mans, so that in the latter days of his earthly life he will not have to eke out a bare existence. Now, what we are trying to do is to bring just such a situation into our Southern Baptist ministry. The new plan, when once in operation, will absolutely do that.

Respectfully,

A. J. PRESTON. A. M. PARKER, A. T. CAMP.

REPORT ON PERIODICALS

We, your committee, report as follows:

We recommend the reading of only the best literature that can be obtained by our people. There never has been a time when it behooved those of us who are in earnest for the true light and truth to be spread. al road in the hearts and minds of our people, and especially the young people, to earn: stly seek and pray for the very best literature to be placed in their reach than it is today, and upon investigation we find our Boards and printing presses are better able and are well equipped to furnish the right kind of reading matter than they have ever leen befor:

Our Boards are not only able to furnish us with this kind of books and periodicals, but they stand ready to offer suggestions and give advice to those who are seeking for such and will ask. We sul mit the names of a few h: rewith, such as the "Royal Service," "Kind Words," "(Jirls Weekly," and "Heme and Foreign Fields." Also the Baptist Witness: we especially recommend it to every Baptist family in the State, and that when each individual church makes up its annual budget we recommend that you include the Baptist Witness for every family that constitutes that church. And last, but not least, we recommend the daily r ading of the Bible and admonish our brethren and sisters to ponder its pages, for in them you may find eternal life.

Respectfully submitted.

E. W. KINSEY, Chairman; F. B. WILLIAMS.

REPORT ON B. Y. P. U. WORK

1. The B. Y. P. U. work of this Association:

There are five B. Y. P. U.'s in this Association: 3 senior unions and 2 intermediate unions; 2 unions are A-1.

2. The B. Y. P. U. work of our State:

There is a total of 529 B. Y. P. U.'s in the State of Florida with a total enrollment of 14,723 members, with a total gain of 1,155 members in 1924: 66 unions are A-1; 135 unions have received A-1 awards. 3. The B. Y. P. U. work of the South:

In the South there is a total of 17,665 B. Y. P. U.'s. The total enrollment is 546,193, with a gain of 51,044 in 1924. There are 1,661 A-1 unions and 3.097 have received A-1 awards.

4. The B. Y. P. U. work of our Forcign Fields:

We are gratified that the B. Y. P. U. idea is taking hold in the foreign fields. Unions have already been set up in China, Roumania, Japan, South America, and quarterlies are being printed in Spanish and in Chinese.

Our need is for more extensive work. We urge, therefore, a more intense following of the educational work of the B. Y. P. U., namely: systematic Bible reading, and systematic giving.

HENRY F. BIRD, Chairman: M. J. FOWLER, D. E. THOMAS.

REPORT ON ORPHANAGE

In submitting our report to the Association we acknowledge with thanksgiving the divine obligation resting upon us to participate in the work being done at Arcadia in our Children's Home for the one hundred and twenty-two boys and girls enjoying the benefits of our home at the present time.

This year the management has found it necessary in order to take care of the work and meet the monthly current expenses to go afield for support. Information from the office at the Home tells us that the 17½ per cent given the Home from the 1925 budget plan would not be sufficient to pay all the expenses of the Home and the small amount received each month from the amount paid in on the budget would have brought suffering in the work if churches and friends had not come to the support of the work this year in independent contributions.

We are supporting at the Home at present, as stated above, one hundred and twenty-two children. Our Home is a home in the true sense of the word and is not a home-finding society. The children in our Home are given everything needful to their growth and proper development and are nurtured, cared for and trained for a useful, independent life. Special attention is given to the religious training and development of the children.

According to the budget suggested by the Board of Trustees in their report to the Convention last December for the 1925 support, they asked for \$2,200.00 a month for current support and asked in addition for \$15,000.00 for necessary improvements and other needs. We find that they are very badly crowded for room. In order to accommodate the large boys in their dormitory the Superintendent had to build a sleeping porch across the west end of the boys' building, and in order to accommodate the school the Superintendent had to divide the library and assembly room, making a school room out of half of the children's parlor. We find that a new boys' building in which fifteen or sixteen little boys can be cared for is one of the greatest needs of the Home at present.

The Superintendent reports good health among the children. He reports a cordial reception and liberal contributions from the different churches visited this year, carrying children with him for a service in the interest of the Home and he reports that it has been the unanimous opinion of the churches visited that such visits would not in any way interfere with the churches' part in the budget.

We have these boys and girls and at the present time a very valuable piece of property in Arcadia on which is located their home, and we must support the institution and give these boys and girls an equal chance with our children to make their way in life. Your committee regrets to report that the enlargement in the institution in order to take care of more children has not been as rapid as it should have been on account of the limited means going into the treasury of the Home, but we rejoice to report that under the plan this year our work at Arcadia is being taken care of each month and some small improvements have been made and a nice amount paid on the old indebtedness on the Home. We would urge every church, Sunday school and department of our work to have some definite part in the upkeep and enlargement of our work for our orphan boys and girls at Arcadia, and that we remember constantly and carnestly this department of our work in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

H. M. VICKERS, Chairman; A. N. WOODARD, G. W. YOUNG.

Committee.

ASSOCIATION REPORT ON HOME MISSIONS

The Home Mission Board presented its eightieth annual report to the Southern Baptist Convention last May in Memphis, Tennessee. Eighty years of service by this Board since its organization in 1845 constitute a real romance in Home Missions. Through many vicissitudes and steady and unvarying purpose for the salvation of the lost and the upbuilding of the Kingdom in our Southland, and the Home Mission Board presents an unbroken history of fidelity and spiritual conquest.

It has been for Southern Baptists the one great constructive, co-operative and unifying agency. It has been the foster-mother of our weaker enterprises, the founder and support of thousands of our churches and the forerunner of most all our State Conventions and a stimulating factor in their organization and progress.

For the last twenty-five years the advance in Home Missions has been at times remarkable and always continuous and healthy. It reached its highest point in 1920, the first year of the 75 Million Campaign. Since that time, due to various causes but chiefly to the falling off in receipts. the Board has made severe and drastic retrenchment in many phases of its work. In some instances such severe retrenchment has brought the work to the verge of calamity. The Board has had to stand still in the face of countless calls and unwonted opportunities. Fields ripe for the harvest have cried out for the sickle of the reaper and the Board has not been able to thrust laborers sufficient into harvest fields to garner the grain.

At the recent annual meeting in June, on account of the heavy and burdensome debt, and the Board had to still further retrench. Enlargement, on the contrary, is called for in every direction:

First. In an increase of forces; second, in better equipment.

The Board has need for at least fifty capable young women and as many men in the field at home and a half dozen young women in Cuba.

The greatest need of the Board just now is a mighty increase in financial receipts to lift the heavy burden of debt and prepare for the recovery of lost ground and to enter new fields that are white unto harvest.

Notwithstanding the retrenchment made, the Board presents a year of wonderful results.

With 1,077 missionaries, they report 49,219 weeks of labor; 2,381 churches and stations; 144,087 sermons and addresses; 80,027 additions by baptisms; 4,896 by letter; total additions, 50,354; 210 churches constituted; 355 church houses built or improved; 608 Sunday schools organized; distributed 12,995 Bibles and Testaments.

The Home Mission field was never so great and urgent as now. To save our own land is a condition of saving the lost in distant lands. Home Missions furnish the great base of supplies for the work at home and afar.

Let's remember the Board, and all its work, in our prayers, and come with greater liberality in our gifts!

A. J. PRESTON, Chairman. S. G. WARD, W. B. DAVIS, Committee.

REPORT ON EDUCATION

We, your Committee on Education, beg to report that during the past year W. C. James has resigned and J. W. Cammack has been elected to be Secretary of the Board of Education of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Schools have increased from 65 in 1900 to 118 in 1925. Students from 11,000 in 1900 to 38,000 in 1925. Property and endowment from 7½ million in 1900 to 48 million in 1925.

The number of Baptist colleges in the South to become fully accredited by the highest standardizing agencies increased from 3 to 13 in the past 5 years, with the prospect of 5 others being added to the list this year.

The Education Board arranged with 118 Baptist schools in the South to have a special religious service in each school at 12 o'clock on Wednesday, April 15th. After careful preparation these services were held at the same hour all over the South with very definite results. Scores of students at that hour professed faith in Christ. Several hundred definitely committed themselves for special religious work.

Over 20,000 students and faculty members agreed to try earnestly this summer to by personal work lead some one to accept Christ. The Education Board has begun plans to have a course of stewardship introduced into all our schools.

The Education Board owns and operates a South-wide summer assembly at Ridgecrest, N. C. The program extends from June 16th to September. In addition to making it a place where "Recreation is Capitalized for Ohrist," every phase of religious activity of Southern Baptist is discussed from week to week by the ablest men and women from South and North.

Beginning in 1926, there will be conducted a boys' and girls' camp for six weeks. Full information can be had at any time by writing Southern Baptist Assembly, Ridgecrest, N. C. The Education Board owns property there consisting of 950 acres of land, hotel, auditorium and other buildings valued at \$450.000.00. Southern Baptist now constitute the most numerous single religious organization of evangelical Christians in the world, and we need many leaders trained in our Baptist Colleges to make efficient our large numbers.

> R. R. WARE, W. B. DAVIS.

REPORT ON FOREIGN MISSIONS-1925

God has blessed our work abroad. Last year was a triumphant year. The fact that our missionaries baptized 12.184 people into the membership of our churches on our foreign mission fields is an achievement which should set our hearts aglow with joy. In order to illustrate other triumphs, we quote here some paragraphs taken from some of the reports from the various fields to the Foreign Mission Board:

"This being the year of our Diamond Jubilee of our work in Africa, we look back with rejoicing and thankspiving for all that God has done in this land. A great expansion has taken place during the last few years all over the country, especially in the outlying districts. Much of this has been the result of Home Missionary effort on the part of the independent churches.

"Where the evangelistic spirit reigns new churches spring up. For example, there have been eighteen new churches organized north of the State of Bahia, Brazil, during the year. Not only have new churches been organized, but the old ones have developed in every line of activity. They have made marvelous strides in Sunday school work. Many of the churches have built or bought houses this year. One church in Bahia built a new house, outgrew it, and enlarged it all in one year.

"Two years ago a Chilean Home Mission Board was organized to carry the Gospel into the frontier. The Board is composed of five missionaries and five Chileans named by the Convention, and administers the funds raised by the churches supplemented by an equal amount from the Richmond Board. During the past year they have supported three missionaries who are doing a great work in the 'regions beyond.'

"Many feel and say that the anti-Christian movement in China has come too late. There is too large and strong an army of Christian men and women from the mission schools for such a movement to make much progress. It is true that Christianity thrives on persecution. Our Christian people are rising up and showing where they stand. Well written English articles by Chinese who have been educated in mission schools are appearing in the newspapers in highest praise of missionaries and their work.

"It is also encouraging to note that many of the better class of Chinese do not seem to sympathize with this movement and take no part in it. There seems to be no need for discouragement on account of it, but rather reason to feel that it will help and not hinder the spread of the Gospel.

"Our China Baptist Publication Society is one phase of our Foreign Mission enterprise which serves every phase of our work and contributes in a vital way to every department of our church life. The Society is publishing tracts for general distribution, books of many kinds, including theological text-books, books for training courses in Sunday School and B. Y. P. U. work, biographies of noted Kingdom leaders, complete Bibles. New Testaments and Scripture portions for easy use, a full line of Sunday School literature, the True Light Magazine, Kind Words and the New East. During the year the society has sent out of the above publications 1,791,236 copies, with a grand total of 37,693,155 pages.

"This year (1924) has been the best in the Italian Mission since the outbreak of the World War. The largest number of baptisms ever reported in our Mission consoles us no little. Two hundred and fourteen new members baptized into Christ and a large number of inquirers for 1925 make us more hopeful for the future. Last year we had twice as many baptisms per member as either Virginia or Georgia had, while the difficulties are immensely greater. This represents an increase of 64 per cent over 1928. Our present church membership is 2,210, while we have a greater number outside of our fold who sympathize with us, many of whom actually attend our services and contribute materially to the advancement of our work. There is also a growing sense of responsibility and earnestness among our pastors, who ardently desire to evangelize the public and to develop the spiritual life of our Italian brethren."

"Established April 11, 1916, with 105 students and a teaching force of twelve, the Willingham Memorial School for Boys at Fukouka, Japan, has grown until we have today a school with three departments, viz.: Middle School, College and Theological Seminary, with a total enrollment of 635 students and more than fifty teachers.

"The religious life finds expression in the Gethsemane Band, two B. Y. P. U.'s, regular Bible study in the classroom, special Bible classes. street preaching, mission Sunday schools in nearby mining towns, night schools and special work among the social outcasts. The work is all carried on by the students under the supervision of some of the teachers. The school has its own church and Sunday school, and the dormitory hoys are required to attend the services. Good meetings were held from time to time during the year and sixteen of the students received baptism."

"As to our work in Jerusalem. The energy with which Jews resent missionary work among them prevents much publicity. The Lord brought Brother Volkovitch, our Jewish worker, into this work during the latter part of 1923. First there was a period during which he and his friends had opportunity to sound the sentiments concerning Jesus of a large circle of young Jews. Many were found who believe He is the Messiah. Few were found willing to avow their convictions before their people. In the middle of the summer enemies of Volkovitch began to persecute him. He was scorned and reviled on the streets, his family isolated. Several times matters came near to violence, there were threats against his life, and his work seemed to go to pieces. It was hard, but it also furnished many opportunities for the finest kind of testimony. Now a new day is breaking. The storm is passing. He is still witnessing. A small number of those who are willing to pay the price of confession are rallying around him. This means a little group which can sing 'How Firm a Foundation.'"

It makes us sad to be forced to turn from such triumphs as these to call attention to the embarrassment our Foreign Mission Board is now experiencing on account of the failure of the churches to support it properly.

The Board reported to the last Southern Baptist Convention a debt of \$1,250,000. This debt came through no extravagance on the part of the Board. In fact the Board has been cutting its appropriations severely for the last three years, and is now holding back more than one hundred volunteers who are ready to go to the front. It has also denied for two years any additional equipment to the missionaries. This debt grew because our Baptist people are not giving adequately. The large program of the Board cannot be maintained upon the amounts they are now giving.

What is the remedy for the present distressing situation? The simple remedy is for the churches to put on the 1925-26 program. Let the churches make the Every Member Canvass, and support the great program, including all the interests fostered by Southern Baptists, and our Foreign Mission Board will be cared for along with all the others. The practical and the effective thing for the churches to do is to put on the 1925 program NOW. In co-operating with our brethren we will serve and strengthen our foreign mission enterprise.

> G. F. ANDREWS, Chairman. A. T. CAMP, A. BEAMS.

REPORT ON DECEASED MINISTERS

We, your committee, report with sadness that the Lord has seen fit to remove from our midst the following brethren:

Rev. J. T. Farnell.

Rev. W. M. Tampling.

Rev. J. M. Conner.

We, your committee, recommend that a blank space be given in our Minutes to their memory, and the Association extend to their families our heartfelt sympathies.

A. M. PARKER, A. N. WOODARD.

REPORT ON STATE MISSIONS

We, your Committee on State Missions, report as follows:

Our State Mission Board this year has made wonderful success, regardless of the heavy burdens it is under, due to the fact that our brethren and sisters throughout the State have failed to send in their contributions regularly.

Our Board is aiding one hundred and forty-two (142) churches in supporting their pastors. The results for the first six months of 1925 was 447 by baptism and 497 by letter, making a total of 944 accessions to these churches. During this time these churches contributed to missions and benevolences \$3,886.08, and for building and improving on their own field \$6,120.96; but the greatest results of all are spiritual growth and conquest.

We have in our State 83 pastorless churches, that our Board cannot aid because our Baptist brotherhood have failed to bring the Lord's money into His treasury. We have 102 churches without a home. We are building on the Mission fields of the State 108 houses of worship. We are completing through our Board annually about forty houses of worship. Our Board is still in debt approximately forty thousand dollars. Brethren and sisters, this debt can easily be paid if each Baptist in the State will do his or her part.

Our opportunities are great; statistics show approximately one million two hundred and ninety-three thousand people in the State; three hundred and thirteen thousand are affiliated with some creed, including Catholics. This leaves approximately nine hundred and eighty thousand without any church affiliation at all. What a task! What a challenge!

We have in Florida approximately one hundred and seventy-five thousand Baptists, white and black. It is estimated that forty-two per cent of the total population are either Baptist, or are inclined to be. This means that more than three hundred and forty thousand of the present population are inclined towards the Baptist churches that have no affiliation with them whatever.

We, your committee, earnestly appeal to the pastors, churches, W. M. S., B. Y. P. U., and Sunday schools to make your 1926 budget large enough to take care of every phase of our work.

Respectfully submitted,

A. M. PARKER, Chairman; M. J. FOWLEB, C. BUSH.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

We, your committee, beg to report as follows:

Introductory sermon by A. T. Camp; alternate, J. E. Cook.

2nd. Missionary sermon by A. J. Preston; alternate, A. M. Parker.

Srd. Member of State Board, Dr. A. J. Preston.

4th. To go to State Convention, W. C. Wells, E. W. Kinsey, A. M. Warren and A. M. Parker.

5th. To go to Southern Baptist Convention, A. T. Camp; alternate. A. J. Preston.

Executive Committee—A. N. Woodard, A. D. Townsend, W. B. Davis, A. T. Camp, G. F. Andrews, J. F. McCall.

Respectfully submitted.

B. WILLOUGHBY,

F. P. PARKER,

E. H. MORGAŃ.

REPORT ON SUNDAY SCHOOLS ·

In making a survey of our Sunday School work, it is very gratifying to find that this very important department of the Lord's Kingdom is making great progress, both in our Association and our State.

Data compiled from the State Convention minutes show that we have an enrollment of 65,623 pupils, or a gain of 3,183. In looking over the minutes of the Southern Baptist Convention we find we have an enrollmont of 2,536,953, or a gain of 155,336 for the year, or almost 3,000 new pupils for each Sunday during the year.

We wish to call special attention to the fact that when churches put their Sunday School work in its proper place it is possible to build out of it a wonderful organization that carries out part of our Lord's great commandment "To teach as well as preach."

We find from investigation the churches that have well organized and evangelistic Sunday Schools are the ones who are doing great things in the Master's Kingdom.

One of the great hindrances in our Sunday School activity is the fact that so few of our church houses have made adequate provisions for their Sunday School. Your committee would like to suggest that all the churches in this Association that anticipate building new churches would at least arrange separate rooms for children under 12 years of age, if they are not able to provide for other departments. Experience has shown us that much better results are obtained by having departmental work.

We would like to say a word in regard to literature. It is found that the International prescribed course can be obtained from the Southern Baptist Convention, and it is used by most of our churches throughout the Southland.

As there has been some discussion as to the qualifications of Sunday School teachers, your committee respectfully recommends that none of our schools should have teachers who are not consecrated members of a Baptist Church. While the knowledge of the Bible might be necessary, yet a knowledge of the saving power of Jesus Christ is the essential.

In looking back over the records of our achievements we find that our work has grown, and let this be an incentive for greater achievement in the future.

Т.	N.	JONES,
F.	E.	CARRIS.
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CHAIRMEN STANDING COMMITTEES

State Missions—J. E. Cook, Jr. Home Missions—A. T. Camp. Foreign Missions—W. B. Davis. Orphanage—J. F. Russell. Education—J. F. McCall. Nominations—G. F. Andrews. Periodicals—R. R. Ware. Temperance—J. T. Woodard. Sunday School—A. M. Parker. B. Y. P. U.—B. Willoughby. Ministerial Support—T. N. Jones. Laymen's Movement—S. G. Ward. Deceased Ministers—W. L. Tooke. Relief and Annuity—A. N. Woodard. Woman's Work—Mrs. Ellison.

ORDAINED MINISTERS

Rev. W. S. Kelly, Madison, Fla.
Rev. S. W. Scott, Greenville, Fla.
Rev. S. K. Wilson, Carbur, Fla.
Rev. J. L. Rutherford, Lee, Fla.
Rev. G. C. Jackson, Perry, Fla.
Rev. M. J. Howell, Carbur, Fla.
Rev. J. L. Odom, Perry, Fla.
Rev. J. T. Montgomery, Aucilla, Fla.
Rev. A. N. Woodard, Lee, Fla.
Rev. M. J. Fowler, Day, Fla.
Rev. S. G. Ward, Day, Fla.
Rev. M. J. Frier, Mayo, Fla.
Rev. S. C. Warren, Madison, Fla.
Rev. J. E. Vann, Vero, Fla.

OUR HONORED DEAD

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Sister A. W. Shackelford, Madison, Fla. Sister Eliza Johnson, Carbur, Fla. Sister Carrie Ivy. Sister Mary E. Barrs. Sister Eliza Rodgers, Dowlings Park, Fla. Sister Adelia Revels, Mayo, Fla. Sister Mary Howard, Madison, Fla. Sister R. C. Jordan, Madison, Fla. Sister Amanda Sparks, Greenville, Fla. Sister Ella Monroe, Lamont, Fla. Bro. John Wesley Hunter, Perry, Fla. Bro. Colon Lewis, Shady Grove, Fla. Bro. James Pickles, Ebb, Fla. Dr. Jas. N. Simmons, Madison, Fla. Bro. Julian Touchton, Madison, Fla. Bro. W. H. Shortridge, Greenville, Fla. Bro. Charlie Driggers, Madison, Fla. Rev. W. M. Tampling, Lee, Fla. Rev. J. M. Conner, Lee, Fla. Bro. J. P. Lewis, Aucilla, Fla. Bro. J. J. Whitfield, Carbur, Fla. Bro. A. J. Scruggs, Aucilla, Fla. Bro. Lee Montgomery, Aucilla, Fla. Bro. D. L. Ezell, Mayo, Fla. Bro. R. K. Taylor, Mayo, Fla.

This Page Dedicated to the Memory of

REV. J. M. CONNOR REV. T. J. FARNELL REV. W. M. TAMPLING

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REPORT OF SECRETARY OF MIDDLE FLORIDA ASSOCIATION FOR YEAR ENDING OCTOBER 21, 1925.

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TABLE NO. 1. MEMBERSHIP AND CHURCH PROPERTY OF MIDDLE FLORIDA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, STATE OF FLORIDA, FOR YEAR ENDING OCTOBER 21, 1925.

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1 1 1	Town, City or Country's When Constiluted.	Pastors and Post Offices.	Regular Dars of Meetlug.	Baptisuns.	Letters.	Statements.	ltestorations.	Letters.	Exclusions.	Dentha. Tutal Present Members.	Revival Meetings Held During Year.	Observances of Lor Supper During Yes Fumilles Receiving State Baptist	Paper. When Built	Material Used.	Persons Seated.	Number of Rooms.	Value of Church B and Grounds.	Indebtedness on Property.	Insurance Carried.	Value of Pastor's Home.	Total Value all Ch Property.
Athena Ta Brewer Lake Ta Brewer Lake Ta Breulah Co Central Ta Bilzabeth Co Groenville Ta Hopeweil Co Lamont Ta Lee Ta Macedonia Co Macedonia Co Mase Co Makedonia Co Moseley Hall Co Nadison Ta New Hopeful Co New Hopeful Co New Hopeful Co New Prospect Co Oak Grove Ca Oakland Co Pileasant Grove (Lafayette Co.) Co Pine Grove Co Pilersant Grove (Taylor Co.) Co Pinetta Ta Riverside Co Sirmans Ta	untry 190 wm 189 wm 189 wm 189 wm 190 untry 190 wm 185 untry 185 untry 185 untry 188 untry 188 untry 192 untry 188 untry 192 untry 188 untry 192 untry 192 untry 188 untry 192 untry 192 untry 192 untry 188 untry 191 untry 191 un	 S. K. Wilson, Perry, Fla. A. M. Parker, Pinetta, Fla. E. O. Floyd. S. S. Proctor, Lake Butler, Fla. P. N. Shepherd, Thomasville, Ga A. T. Camp, Greenville, Fla. A. J. Preston, Madison, Fla. J. L. Odom, Lee, Fla. J. L. Odom, Lee, Fla. J. L. Odom, Lee, Fla. J. F. Russell, Mayo, Fla. S. G. Ward, Day, Fla. Willie Barrow, Madison, Fla. J. L. Odom, Lee, Fla. J. D. Odom, Lee, Fla. S. G. Ward, Day, Fla. Wille Barrow, Madison, Fla. J. L. Odom, Lee, Fla. J. J. Preston, Madison, Fla. J. J. Preston, Madison, Fla. J. J. Howell, Carbur, Fla. J. J. Howell, Carbur, Fla. A. J. Preston, Madison, Fla. J. F. Russell, Mayo, Fla. M. J. Howell, Carbur, Fla. J. J. Russell, Mayo, Fla. A. M. Parker, Pinetta, Fla. J. L. Odom, Lee, Fla. J. J. Howell, Carbur, Fla. J. J. Russell, Mayo, Fla. A. M. Parker, Pinetta, Fla. A. M. Rowe, Ebb, Fla. A. M. Rowell, Carbur, Fla. A. M. Rowe, Ebb, Fla. 	. 184 Sunday 2nd Sunday 3rd Sunday 2nd Sunday 2nd Sunday 8very Sunday 3rd Sunday 4th Sunday	4 10 6	9 3 18 18	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		9	4 5 1 1 1 1 	8 1 2 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 2 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	58 19 24 67 67 4 24 67 4 24 57 50 75 17 4 50 50 75 17 4 50 50 74 50 50 74 50 50 50 74 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50			Wood	250 2007 250 250 200 800 800 400 200 800 400 200 200 150 100 500 200 200 200 200 200 200 200 200 2		400 900 1.875 1.000 15.097 1.000	\$ 225 2,827	\$10,000	5,000	50 60 50 1,00 70 95 50

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TABLE NO. 2. FINANCES OF MIDDLE FLORIDA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, STATE OF FLORIDA, FOR YEAR ENDING OCTOBER 21, 1925.

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				SUNDAY SCHOOL ENROLLMENT									SPECIAL INFORMATION						٩.	
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TABLE No. 3. SUNDAY SCHOOLS OF MIDDLE FLORIDA ASSOCIATION, STATE OF FLORIDA, FOR YEAR ENDING OCTOBER 21, 1925.

TABLE NO 4	B.Y.P.U. OF	MIDDLE	FLORIDA	BAPTIST	ASSOCIATION	
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and the second
CHURCHES	Presidents of B. Y. P. U.'s and Postoffices	Senior Unions	Intermediate Unions	Junior Unions	Total Unions	Seniors Enrolled	Intermediates Enrolled	Juniors Burolled	Total Enrolled	Unions Reaching A-1 Standard	Number Dally Bible Readers	Unions Taking Study Courses	Total Systematic Givers in All Unions
Athena Brewer Lake Hopewell Mago Perry	W. J. Howard, Carbur, Fla Vera McMullen, Day, Fla Fannie Newbern, Madison, Fla. M. C. Woodard, Madison, Fla. Lera Taylor, Mayo, Fla C. D. Pepper, Perry, Fla Total				Just 1 1 2 2 7	(83	80		68		80 30 81 91	 18 25 81 74	28 80 82 90