

MIDDLE FLORIDA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Florida

1975 – 1976

Seventy-Seventh Annual Session

October 14, 1976
BREWER LAKE BAPTIST CHURCH

October 15, 1976
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH LEE



Seventy-Eighth Annual Session of The Association
will convene with
First Day, Elizabeth
Second Day, Lamont
October 13-14, 1977

Table of Contents

REPORTS:	
American Bible Society.....	24
Annuity Board and Retirement Centers.....	16
Articles of Faith.....	35
Baptist Women's Report.....	26
Baptist Brotherhood.....	20
Budget.....	21
Calendar of Activities.....	7
Campus Ministries.....	17
Church Training.....	23
Colleges and Seminaries.....	19
Constitution.....	40
Department Officers of Association.....	3
Elbert C. Tyner Association Camp.....	25
Evangelism.....	18
Executive Committee Meetings.....	13
Florida Baptist Foundation.....	27
Florida Baptist Children's Home.....	26
Florida Baptist Witness.....	15
Historical Table of Association.....	105
History of New Home Church.....	31
Map of Association.....	42
Memorial—Carl Webb.....	33
Messengers to the Association.....	34
Middle Florida Assembly.....	25
Minutes of Annual Session.....	12
Missions, Foreign, Home and State.....	23
Music.....	22
Nominating Committee.....	4
Our Departed Loved Ones.....	28
Radio & Television.....	30
Record of Ministers.....	3
Resolutions and Time and Place.....	31
Sunday School.....	19
State Directory.....	3
Statistical Tables.....	43
Stewardship.....	29
Table of Contents.....	2
Treasurer's Report.....	20
United Christian Action.....	18
Youth Rally.....	22
The History of the Middle Florida Baptist Association, by E. B. Browning, Sr.....	52-106

State Directory

President Florida Baptist Convention

John L. Pelham,	PO 130, Palatka, Fla. 32077
Executive Secretary and Treasurer	
Dr. H. C. Bennett,	1230 Hendricks Ave., Jacksonville, Fla. 32207
Brotherhood Department	
Dr. Robert Rowell,	1230 Hendricks Ave., Jacksonville, Fla. 32207
Evangelism and Missions Department	
James A. Ponder, Dir.,	1230 Hendricks Ave., Jacksonville, Fla. 32207
Woman's Missionary Union	
Miss Bernice Popham,	1230 Hendricks Ave., Jacksonville, Fla. 32207
Church Music Department	
Mr. Paul Bobbitt, Dir.,	1230 Hendricks Ave., Jacksonville, Fla. 32207
Sunday School Department	
Mr. James E. Frost, State Sec.,	1230 Hendricks Ave., Jacksonville, Fla. 32207
Church Training Department	
Robert S. Cook, State Sec.,	1230 Hendricks Ave., Jacksonville, Fla. 32207
Florida Baptist Witness	
Dr. Edgar Cooper, Ed. & Mgr.,	1230 Hendricks Ave., Jacksonville, Fla. 32207
Baptist Retirement Centers	
W. H. Lord,	Vero Beach, Florida 32960
Camps and Assemblies	
Paul W. Glore, Dir.,	1230 Hendricks Ave., Jacksonville, Fla. 32207
Florida Baptist Children's Home	
Walter R. Delamarter, Exec. Dir.,	P. O. Box 1653, Lakeland, Fla. 33802
Florida Baptist Foundation	
Gus Johnson, Exec. Sec. & Treas.,	1230 Hendricks Ave., Jacksonville, Fla. 32207
United Christian Action	
Robert A. Parker, UCA Dir.,	1230 Hendricks Ave., Jacksonville, Fla. 32207
Annuity Board Representative	
Richard Barber,	1230 Hendricks Ave., Jacksonville, Fla. 32207

Associational Directory

OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION 1976-77

Moderator (tel. 938-2173),	Rev. I. T. Carter, Rt. 3, Box 124, Jasper, 32052
Vice-Moderator (tel. 973-6378),	E. B. Browning, Sr., P. O. Box 55, Madison, 32340
Clerk (tel. 971-5463),	Robert Bellflower, Rt. 1, Lee, Fla. 32059
Treasurer (tel. 973-6443),	W. T. Coody, P. O. Box 215, Madison, 32340
Dir. of Missions (tel. 973-2547),	Phil Maxwell, P. O. Box 307, Madison, Fla. 32340
Office Secretary (tel. 973-2547),	Mrs. Marjorie Woodard, P. O. Box 724, Madison, 32340

ORDAINED MINISTERS

(Other Than Those Listed Under the Church Staff Directory)

Brewer Lake,	Rev. M. J. Fowler (R), P. O. Box 33, Day, 32013
	Rev. C. B. Goodwin (R), P. O. Box 31, Day, 32013
Faith,	Rev. Clinton Harris (I), Rt. 2, Box 1954, Madison, 32340
	Rev. Quinton Dryden (PI), P. O. Box 123, Madison, 32340

Rev. Tony Green (PI), 920 N. Lake Ave., Apt. 195-C, Lakeland, 33801
 Greenville. Rev. Marvin Day (PI), Rt. 1, Box 27-B, Greenville, 32331
 Madison, First. Rev. J. C. Moore, P. O. Box 443, Madison, 32340
 Pine Grove. Rev. W. H. Woodard, PO 724, Madison, 32340
 Pleasant Grove T. Rev. Marcus Morrison, Rt. 2, Box 135, Madison 32340
 Rev. C. J. Lewis, Rt. 1, Greenville, 32331

LICENSED MINISTERS
 (Now Members of the Church)

Lee, First. J. T. Payne, Rt. 1, Box 93, Lee, 32059
 Pine Grove. Marjell Dobbs, Rt. 2, Madison, Fla. 32340

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT AND CHAIRMAN OFFICERS
 1976-77

American Bible Society. Mrs. L. R. Woodard, P. O. Box 267, Madison, Fla. 32340
 Assembly Committee. Mark McCoy, Rt. 1, Box 222B, Monticello, Fla. 32344
 Annuity and Retirement Center. J. T. Entzminger, P. O. 6, Greenville, Fla. 32331
 Baptist Lit. and Bapt. Witness. Carl W. Burnett, Rt. 2, Box 177, Madison, Fla. 32340
 Budget. W. T. Coody, P. O. Box 215, Madison, Fla. 32340
 Calendar of Activities. I. T. Carter, Rt. 3, Box 124, Jasper, Fla. 32052
 Colleges and Seminaries. J. V. Cason, Rt. 3, Box B, Madison, Fla. 32340
 Children's Home. Mrs. Audrey Wood, Rt. 2, Box 250, Madison, Fla. 32340
 Evangelism. Richard Miley, Rt. 1, Box 115, Madison, Fla. 32340
 Fla. Bapt. Foundation. L. R. Woodard, P. O. Box 267, Madison, Fla. 32340
 Missions. Marcus Morrison, Rt. 2, Box 135, Madison, Fla. 32340
 Nominations. J. H. Phillips, Rt. 1, Box 66, Lee, Fla. 32059
 Clayton Deas, Day, Fla. 32013
 Kelly Bailey, Rt. 2, Madison, Fla. 32340
 Our Departed Loved Ones. Mrs. Pat Reams, Greenville, Fla. 32331
 Radio and Television. E. B. Browning, Sr., P. O. Box 55, Madison, Fla. 32340
 Resolutions. Walter Bailey, Rt. 1, Box 84, Lamont, Fla. 32336
 Time and Place. Wesley Downing, Rt. 1, Box 2, Pinetta, Fla. 32350
 Stewardship. Howard Money, PO 117, Pinetta, Fla. 32350
 United Christian Action. Walter Bailey, Rt. 1, Box 84, Lamont, Fla. 32336
 Program Committee. Moderator, Clerk, Secretary, plus two or more others
 and Billy Goodwin.

ASSOCIATIONAL MISSIONS COMMITTEE

Philip Howell. Rt. 1, Box 120 Madison, Fla. 32340, 5 years
 George Burnett, Jr. Rt. 3, Box 127, Madison, Fla. 32340, 4 years
 Joe Miller. Rt. 1, Lee, Fla. 32059, 3 years
 Norman Hartsfield. Rt. 1, Box 179, Monticello, Fla. 32344, 2 years
 Bernard Wilson. Rt. 3, Box A, Madison, Fla. 32340, 1 year

SERMONS: October, 1977

Doctrinal. Howard Mooney, P. O. Box 117, Pinetta, Fla. 32350
 Alternate. Richard Miley, Rt. 1, Box 115, Madison, Fla. 32340
 Missionary. B. E. Humes, P. O. Box 307, Madison, Fla. 32340
 Alternate. Layton Daughtry, Rt. 1, Box 32, Lee, Fla. 32059

DEPARTMENT HEADS

Sunday School Director..... Gene Stokes, Rt. 1, Box 119, Lee, Fla. 32059
Church Training Director..... Edgar Barrs, Jr., P. O. Box 194, Lee, Fla. 32059
Brotherhood Director..... Bill Grant, 215 N.W. Fraleigh Dr., Madison, Fla. 32340
WMU Director..... Mrs. John Collins, Rt. 3, Box 158, Madison, Fla. 32340
Music Director..... Mrs. Herbert Demott, Rt. 1, Box 197A, Monticello, Fla. 32344
Youth Rally President..... Phyllis Sevor, PO Box 267, Lee, Fla. 32059
Campus Ministries Volunteer Dir..... Billy Goodwin, P. O. Box 111, Madison, Fla. 32340

WOMAN'S MISSIONARY UNION OFFICERS

1976-77

Director..... Mrs. John Collins, Rt. 3, Box 158, Madison, Fla. 32340—Cherry Lake
Assistant Director..... Mrs. Emma Barnes, Rt. 3, Box 88, Madison, Fla. 32340—Cherry Lake
Secretary and Treasurer..... Mrs. Pat Reams, Rt. 2, Box 25, Greenville, Fla. 32231—Grnvl.
Baptist Young Women.... Mrs. Jimmie Ragans, Rt. 1, Box 307A, Madison, Fla. 32340—M. O.
Mission Study Chmn..... Mrs. Gene Stokes, Rt. 1, Box 119, Lee, Fla. 32059—Faith
Mission Action..... Mrs. Paul Lewis, Rt. 1, Box 233, Monticello, Fla. 32344—Central
Acteen Director..... Mrs. Tom Poole, P. O. Box 612, Madison, Fla. 32340—Faith
GA Director..... Mrs. Eddie Hale, Rt. 2, Box 1504, Madison, Fla. 32340—Midway
Mission Friends Dir.... Mrs. Norman Howard, Rt. 1, Box 270, Madison, Fla. 32340—Midway
Song Leader..... Mrs. William Fouracre, Rt. 1, Box 39, Pinetta, Fla. 32350—Pinetta
Pianist..... Mrs. Magdalene Land, P. O. Box 158, Mayo, Fla. 32066

BAPTIST BROTHERHOOD OFFICERS 1976-77

Director..... J. W. (Bill) Grant, 215 NW Fraleigh Dr., Madison, 32340—Madison
Sec. and Treas..... Wayne McCall, P. O. Box 613, Madison, Fla. 32340—Madison
RA Leader..... Wayne Walker, Rt. 2, Box 905, Madison, Fla. 32340—Madison

YOUTH RALLY OFFICERS

1976-77

President..... Phyllis Sevor, P. O. Box 267, Lee, Fla. 32059—Lee
Vice President..... Betty Bellflower, Rt. 1, Box 148, Lee, Fla. 32059—Macedonia
Sec. & Treas..... Iris Sapp, Rt. 1, Box 156, Madison, Fla. 32340
Assistant Treas..... Cindy Bell, P. O. Box 253, Lee, Fla. 32059
Song Leader..... Calvin Millner, Rt. 3, Madison, Fla. 32340—Cherry Lake
Assist. Song Leader..... L. David Wesson, Rt. 2, Box 194-C, Madison, Fla. 32340
Pianist..... Betty Bellflower, Rt. 1, Box 148, Lee, Fla. 32059—Macedonia
Assistant Pianist..... Lisa Kay Kelly, 1107 Park Circle, Madison, Fla. 32340—Mt. Olive
Pastor Advisor..... Ronnie Combass, Rt. 1, Box 128, Lee, Fla. 32059—Beulah

MUSIC OFFICERS

1976-77

Director..... Mrs. Herbert (Linda) Demott, Rt. 1, Box 197-A, Monticello, 32344
Assn. Choir Director..... Billy Goodwin, P. O. Box 111, Madison, Fla. 32340—Madison
Dir. of Instrumental Activities..... Mrs. Jim (Phyllis) Dietrich, Rt. 3, Madison, 32340
Dir. of Children Act..... Mrs. Billy Goodwin, PO Box 111, Madison, 32340
Dir. of Ensembles..... Clyde Cruce, Rt. 1, Box 75, Monticello, 32344
Secretary..... Bill Andrews, Rt. 2, Box 582, Madison, Fla. 32340

SUNDAY SCHOOL OFFICER

1976-77

Director..... Gene Stokes, Rt. 1, Box 119, Lee, Fla. 32059—Faith

CHURCH TRAINING OFFICER

1976-77

Director..... Edgar Barrs, Jr., P. O. Box 194, Lee, Fla. 32059—Lee

NFJC BAPTIST CAMPUS MINISTRY

Volunteer Director..... Billy Goodwin, P. O. Box 111, Madison, Fla. 32340

Church Directory

Executive Board Members—1976-77

	NAME	ADDRESS
BETHEL CREEK.....		none listed
BEULAH.....	Rev. Ronnie Combass, Rt. 1, Box 174, Lee, Fla. 32059	James Roebuck, Box 246, Lee, Fla. 32059
BREWER LAKE.....	Marvin Buchanan, Rt. 1, Box 111, Mayo, Fla. 32066	
CENTRAL (AUCILLA).....		none listed
CHERRY LAKE, FIRST.....	V. A. Genton, Rt. 3, Box 67, Madison, Fla. 32340	A. C. Gentry, Rt. 3, Box 261, Madison
ELIZABETH.....	Norman Hartsfield, Rt. 1, Box 179, Monticello, Fla. 32344	
ERIDU.....		none listed
FAITH.....	J. V. Cason, Rt. 3, Box B, Madison, Fla. 32340	
GREENVILLE.....	J. L. Pate, Rt. 2, Box 1135, Madison, Fla. 32340	
HOPEWELL.....		Cary Lamb, Rt. 1, Madison, Fla. 32340
LAMONT.....	Harold Reams, Lamont, Fla. Rt. 1, Box 41, 32336	
LEE, FIRST.....	Ed Smith, Jr., Rt. 1, Box 254, Madison, Fla. 32340	
MACEDONIA.....		Ray Williams, Rt. 1, Box 155, Lee, Fla. 32059
MADISON, FIRST.....	W. T. Coody, P. O. Box 215, Madison, Fla. 32340	
MAYO.....		none listed
MIDWAY.....	Sidney Jordan, P. O. Box 185, Lee, Fla. 32059	
MOSELEY HALL.....		Homer Bailey, Rt. 2, Greenville, Fla. 32331
MT. OLIVE.....	Tommy Matheny, Rt. 2, Box 238, Madison, Fla. 32340	Clyde Thomas, Box 265, Lee, Fla. 32059
	Rev. T. R. Kelly, 1107 Park Circle, Madison, Fla. 32340	
NEW HOME.....	Phillip Howell, Rt. 1, Box 120, Madison, Fla. 32340	
NEW HOPEFUL.....		none listed
NEW MACEDONIA.....	Tommy Barclay, Rt. 1, Box 273, Greenville, Fla. 32331	
PINE GROVE.....	Marjell Dobbs, Rt. 2, Box 575, Madison, Fla. 32340	
PINETTA, FIRST.....	Cecil Crafton, Rt. 1, Box 40, Pinetta, Fla. 32350	
PLEASANT GROVE L.....		none listed
PLEASANT GROVE T.....	Franklin Aman, Rt. 1, Box 107, Greenville, Fla. 32331	
RIVERSIDE.....		none listed
ST. JOHNS.....	Shorty Norris, Rt. 3, Greenville, Fla. 32331	Clifton Floyd, Rt. 3, Greenville, 32331
SIRMANS.....	Johnny Carroll, Rt. 2, Box 211, Greenville, Fla. 32331	J. L. Jackson, Rt. 1, Box 230, Greenville, Fla. 32331

- 16 Youth Rally, 7:30 P. M.—Moseley Hall
- 20 Prayer for Cooperative Program
- 21 Brotherhood Meeting, Lamont, 7:30 P. M.
- 27 Prayer for Cooperative Program
- 28 Church Music Workshop, Pinetta, 7:30 P. M.
- 28 Brotherhood Workshop—Middle Fla.
- 31 Great Day in Florida Baptist Churches (SS)

NOVEMBER—1976

- 5-7 State Baptist Student Convention, Lake Yale
 - 9 Assoc. Music Leaders Supper, Elizabeth, 7:30 P. M.
- 8-13 RA Week
- 12-13 State RA Rally, West Fla. Assembly
- 15-17 Fla. Baptist State Convention, Daytona
 - 18 WMU Mission Study—Faith
 - 20 Youth Rally, 7:30 P. M.—New Home
 - 21 PraiSing in Every Church
 - 25 Thanksgiving
 - 29 Assoc. Council Meeting, Faith
- 28-Dec. 5 Week of Prayer For Foreign Mission and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

DECEMBER—1976

- 5 Foreign Missions Day in Sunday School
- 6 “M” Night, Madison, 7:30 P. M.
- 20 Executive Committee Meeting, Lee, 7:30 P. M.
- 18 Youth Rally, 7:30 P. M.
- 22 Carol Sing in Every Church
- 25 Christmas
- 26 Student Day at Christmas, Local Churches
- 31 Watch Night (CF)

JANUARY—1977

- 1 New Year’s Day
- 3-7 January Bible Study Week—in Romans
- 9 Witnessing Commitment Day
- 11 WMU Rally—Mayo, 10:00 A. M.
- 15 Youth Rally, 7:30 P. M.
- 17-18 Evangelism Conference, Tampa
 - 20 Brotherhood Meeting, New Home Baptist Church
- 21-22 Bible Teaching/Learning Workshop Lake Yale (SS)
 - 23 Baptist Men’s Day
- 28-29 WMU Prayer Retreat, Lake Yale
 - 29 Music Festival, First Baptist, Madison, 6:30 P. M.

FEBRUARY—1977

- 5 Young Adult Banquet—Madison Primary School
- 7 Executive Committee, Lee Church, 7:30 P. M.
- 11-12 Bible Teaching/Learning Workshop for West Fla. (SS)
- 13-19 WMU Focus Week
- 17-18 State Bus Outreach—Evangelism Conf. Gainesville (SS)
- 18-20 Senior High Acteens Cometgether, Lake Yale
- 19 Youth Rally
- 24-28 Evangelism Rally
 - 25 Regional Church Training “Exploring Discipleship” Conference, Live Oak
- 25-26 State Young Musician’s Festival, Lake Yale
- 25-26 Youth Revival Training, Lake Yale (Evangelism)

MARCH—1977

- 4-5 State Young Musician's Festival, Lake Yale
- 4-6 Renewal Retreat for Couples, Lake Yale (Evangelism)
 - 5 BYW Conference, First Baptist Church, Defuniak Springs
- 6-13 Week of Prayer for Home Missions and Annie Armstrong Easter Offering
- 7-9 Renewal Retreat for Church Staff-Couples, Lake Yale (Evangelism)
- 7-10 Bold Biblical Stewardship Conference
- 11-12 State Young Musician's Festival, Lake Yale
- 11-13 Renewal Retreat for Couples, Lake Yale (Evangelism)
 - 12 BYW Conference, Southside Baptist, Lake City (WMU)
- 13-20 Youth Week
- 14-16 Interfaith Witness Advance Training, Lake Yale
- 14-16 Mission Pastors' Conference, Lake Yale
- 14-15 State VBS Clinic, West Florida
- 17-18 State VBS Clinic, Lake Yale
 - 19 Assoc. Career Fairs and Youth Night (CT)
 - 19 Youth Rally
 - 21 Stewardship Conference, Pinetta, 7:00 P. M.
- 21-24 Bold Biblical Stewardship Conference, Live Oak
 - 24 Florida Baptist Children's Home Area Conferences, Live Oak
 - 25 Regional Sword Drill and Speakers' Tournaments, Monticello
 - 26 State Praifest & Solo Competition, Stetson University, DeLand
- 28-30 Youth Evangelism Leadership Conference, Lake Yale

APRIL—1977

- 1-2 Pastor/Deacon Chairmen & Wives Conference, Lake Yale (Education Div.)
 - 3 New Day for Training
- 4-8 Baptist Doctrine Week
- 8-9 RA Congress, Lake Yale
- 10 Easter Sunday
- 11 VBS Clinic, Cherry Lake, 7:00—10:00 P. M.
- 12 WMU Rally, Midway, 10:00 A. M.
- 15-17 Baptist Campus Ministry Leadership Training Conference, Lake Yale
 - 16 Youth Rally
 - 17 Cooperative Program Day
- 19-20 Annual WMU Session, Titusville
 - 21 Brotherhood, Beulah, 7:30 P. M.
 - 24 Association Choir Rehearsal 2:30 P. M. New Home
- 25-28 Bold Biblical Stewardship Conferences
- 29-30 Baptist Men's Encampment, West Florida
 - 29-May 1 Single Adult Retreat

MAY—1977

- 1-8 Christian Home Week
- 1-29 Family Money Management Projects in Churches
 - 1 Association Choir Rehearsal, Lamont, 2:30 P. M.
 - 2 Executive Committee Meeting
- 6-7 Baptist Men's Encampment, Lake Yale
 - 8 Mother's Day
 - 8 Mother's Day Offering, Florida Baptist Children's Home
 - 14 Association Choir Rehearsal Cherry Lake 3:00—5:00 P. M. and 6:00—8:00 P. M.
- 16-20 Associational Emphasis Week
- 19-21 Association Leadership Planning Conference, Lake Yale
 - 21 Youth Rally
 - 21 Performance of Musical at Youth Rally by Associational Choir
- 27-28 Family Money Management Church Retreats
 - 30 Memorial Day

JUNE, 1977

- 13-18 GA Camps, Lake Yale and West Fla. Bap. Assemblies
- 14-16 Southern Baptist Convention, Kansas City, Missouri
 - 18 Youth Rally
 - 19 Father's Day
- 20-25 GA Camp, Lake Yale and West Florida
- 20-25 RA Camp, Lake Yale
- 27-29 Missions and Fellowship Conference
 - 27-July 1 Area Stewardship Studies
 - 27-July 2 GA Camps, Lake Yale and West Florida
 - 27-July 2 RA Camp, Lake Yale
- 28-30 "Super Summer—'77" (Evangelism)

JULY—1977

- 1-2 Youth Evangelism Conference
 - 3 Freedom Sing in Every Church
 - 4 Independence Day (Monday)
- 4-9 GA/Acteen, Lake Yale
- 4-9 RA Camp, Lake Yale
 - 12 WMU Rally, Lee, 7:30 P. M. Family Night
- 11-14 SS Leaders Assembly, Lake Yale
- 11-16 GA/Acteens Camp, Lake Yale
- 11-16 RA Camp, Lake Yale
- 15-16 SS Leadership Mini Conference, Lake Yale
 - 16 Youth Rally
- 18-23 Youth Music Camp, Lake Yale
- 18-23 GA Camp, Lake Yale
- 18-23 RA Camp, West Florida Assembly
 - 21 Brotherhood Meeting, Ladies' Night, Madison, First Baptist
- 25-30 GA Camp, Lake Yale
- 25-29 State Music Assembly, Lake Yale
- 25-29 Young Musician's Camp, Lake Yale
- 25-29 RA Camp, West Florida
- 25-30 GA Camp, Lake Yale

AUGUST—1977

- 1-3 Bible Conference for Younger Youth, West Florida Assembly (SS)
- 1-5 National/Southern Baptist Church Leadership Training Conf. Lake Yale (Coop—Miss)
- 1-5 Elbert C. Tyner Youth Camp, Middle Florida, Pickett Lake
- 1-6 GA/Acteens Camp, Lake Yale
- 4-6 Bible Conference for Older Youth, West Florida (SS)
- 5-6 Y. E. S. '77
 - 6 Association Song Fest, St. Johns, 7:30 P. M.
- 8-13 Youth Assembly, Lake Yale (CT)
- 8-10 State Library Convention & Workshop, Lake Yale (CT)
- 8-13 Harmony Bay Youth Music Camp, West Florida
- 11-13 Church Training Leadership Retreat, Lake Yale
- 19-20 Sunday School Leadership Mini Conference, Lake Yale
- 19-20 Sunday School Leadership Mini Conference, West Florida
 - 20 Youth Rally
- 21-28 Church Music Week in Every Church
- 22-24 WMU Leader's Conf., Lake Yale
- 22-26 Area Stewardship Cong.
- 26-27 Sunday School Leadership Mini Conference, Lake Yale
- 26-27 WMU Leaders' Conference, West Florida
- 29-30 Church Council Planning Workshop, Lake Yale (Ed. Div.)

SEPTEMBER—1977

- 3-5 Baptist Women Retreat, Lake Yale
- 4-11 Special State Mission Season of Prayer and Offering
- 5 Labor Day
- 9-10 Church Training Library and Recreation Leadership Retreat, West Florida
- 11 On-to-College Day, Local Churches
- 17 Youth Rally
- 12-13 State Sunday School Spectacular, First Baptist, Tallahassee
- 19-23 Wide-Area Church Training Age Group Institute, Tallahassee
- 23-24 Adult Choir Member's Retreat, West Florida
- 25-Oct. 2 Sunday School Preparation Week

OCTOBER—1977

- 5 Prayer for Cooperative Program
- 7-8 Brotherhood Leadership Conference, Lake Yale
- 11 WMU Rally, Cherry Lake, 10:00 A. M.
- 12 Prayer for Cooperative Program
- 13-14 Annual Session, Elizabeth 1st day, Lamont 2nd day
- 14-15 Pastors/Deacon Retreat, Pickett Lake
- 14-15 Brotherhood Leadership Conference, West Florida
- 15 Youth Rally
- 19 Prayer for Cooperative Program
- 20 Brotherhood Meeting
- 26 Prayer for Cooperative Program
- 28-30 Single Adult Retreat, Lake Yale
- 30 High Attendance Day in Sunday School

NOVEMBER—1977

- 4-6 State Baptist Student Convention, Lake Yale
- 6-12 Royal Ambassador Week
- 11-12 State Royal Ambassador Rally
- 14-16 Florida Baptist State Convention Annual Session, St. Petersburg
- 18-19 Youth Leaders Bible Conf. Lake Yale (SS)
- 20 A Thank Sing in Every Church
- 24 Thanksgiving
- 28 "M" Night (CT)
- 29-30 West Florida Bible Conference, West Florida

DECEMBER—1977

- 2-3 State Vocational Guidance Conf. (CT)
- 4-11 Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions
- 18 Student Day at Christmas
- 21 A Carol Sing in Every Church
- 25 Christmas Day (Sunday)
- 31 Watch Night (CT)

Minutes

Of the Seventy-Seventh Annual Session
Of The Middle Florida Baptist Association
Met With Brewer Lake Baptist Church

Afternoon Session

1. Song Service led by Mrs. Iris Thomas, Brewer Lake.
2. Devotional by Rev. Howard Money, Pinetta.
3. Welcome by Clayton Deas, Brewer Lake.
4. Response by Mrs. Cordie Welch, Macedonia.
5. Call to order by Moderator, Rev. I. T. Carter, Lee.
6. The printed program with such changes as needed was adopted as order of Business for this session.
7. New pastors recognized were: Rev. Howard Money, Pinetta; Rev. Layton Daughtry, Midway; Rev. Lamar Harris, Macedonia; and Rev. B. E. Humes, Madison. Rev. R. A. Kelly, who is serving Mayo Church was recognized.
8. Committee Reports were as follows:
 9. Executive Committee, Robert Bellflower, Macedonia.
 10. Evangelism, Rev. Lamar Anderson, Brewer Lake.
 11. Florida Baptist Witness, Carl W. Burnett, Macedonia.
 12. State Speaker, Rev. Keith Vaughn, Baptist Bible Institute.
 13. Campus Ministries, NFJC, Billy Goodwin, Madison.
 14. United Christian Action, Rev. Walter Bailey, Moseley Hall.
 15. Sunday School Report, Rev. Richard Miley, New Home.
 16. Colleges and Seminaries, Gene Stokes, Faith.
 17. Annuity and Retirement, J. Thad Entzminger, Greenville.
 18. State Speaker, Rev. Phil Maxwell, State Annuity Representative.
19. A motion was made and carried that the above reports be adopted.
20. A motion was made by J. Thad Entzminger to send a telegram to Mr. Joseph P. Kelley who is 102 years old and others at the Florida Baptist Retirement Center in Vero Beach, letting them know that we are thinking of them. A motion was made and carried that the Association pay for the telegram.
21. Special music was a solo given by Mrs. D. F. Allen of Brewer Lake.
22. Rev. Tom Poole of Faith brought the Doctrinal Sermon.
23. Adjournment prayer by Gene Stokes, Faith.

EVENING SESSION

24. PraiSing led by Mrs. Iris Thomas, Brewer Lake.
25. Devotional by Rev. Lamar Harris, Macedonia.
26. Committee Reports were as follows:
 27. Treasurer's Report and Budget Report, W. T. Coody, Madison.
 28. Music, Mrs. Herbert Demott, Elizabeth.
 29. Director of Missions, Rev. Phil Maxwell.
 30. Church Training, Rev. Lamar Harris, Macedonia.
 31. Youth Rally, Phyllis Sevor, Lee.
32. Foreign, Home and State Missions Report was adopted in the absence of the chmn. Marcus Morrison, Pine Grove.
33. On motion made and carried, the above reports were adopted.
34. Special Music by the King's Messengers Quartet.
35. Inspirational Speaker, Rev. J. Thad Entzminger, Greenville.
36. Adjournment prayer by Robert Bellflower, Macedonia.

MET WITH LEE CHURCH
FRIDAY MORNING SESSION

37. Song service led by Rev. I. T. Carter.
38. Devotional by Rev. Layton Daughtry, Midway.
39. Welcome by Mrs. Bob Guthrie, Lee.
40. Response by Mr. Carl Burnett, Macedonia.
41. Committee Reports were as follows:
42. Elbert C. Tyner Youth Camp, by Rev. Mark McCoy, Cherry Lake.
43. Middle Florida Assembly Grounds, Rev. Francis Cruce, Lake City.
44. American Bible Society, Mrs. L. R. Woodard.
45. Historical Society, Mr. E. B. Browning, Sr., Madison.
46. Radio and Television, Mr. E. B. Browning, Sr., Madison
47. Woman's Missionary Union, Mrs. Norman Howard.
48. Children's Home, Mrs. Audred Wood, Pine Grove.
49. Digest of Letters, Robert Bellflower, Macedonia.
50. Florida Baptist Foundation, L. R. Woodard, Madison.
51. The Vice Moderator served as Moderator when the Calendar of Activities Report was given by Rev. I. T. Carter.
52. Brotherhood, Bill Grant, Madison.
53. On motion made and carried the above reports were adopted.
54. During the miscellaneous business session, Mrs. Emily Phillips, who has been in a wheel chair for 65 years, gave her testimony and sang a solo.
55. Special Music, solo, Rev. I. T. Carter, Lee.
56. Rev. Mark McCoy, Cherry Lake, brought the Missionary Sermon.
57. Adjournment prayer and blessing for the food was given by Rev. Mark McCoy.

AFTERNOON SESSION

58. Song service led by Mrs. Herbert Demott, Elizabeth.
59. Special music, solo, Mrs. Herbert Demott, Elizabeth.
60. Devotional, Rev. B. E. Humes, Madison.
61. Committee Reports were as follows:
62. Nominations by J. H. Phillips, Lee.
63. Our Departed Loved ones, Rev. Mark McCoy for Mrs. Pat Reams.
64. Stewardship Report, Rev. Howard Money, Pinetta.
65. Resolutions, Rev. Walter Bailey, Moseley Hall.
66. Time and Place, Rev. Howard Money, for Mr. Wesley Downing, Pinetta.
67. On motion made and carried, the above reports were adopted.
68. A motion was made and carried to send \$100.00 to the American Bible Society.
69. A plea was made for the churches and pastors to support and promote the Youth Rally.
70. Association officers were elected as follows:
Moderator..... Rev. I. T. Carter Clerk..... Mr. Robert Bellflower
Vice Moderator.... Mr. E. B. Browning, Sr. Treasurer..... Mr. W. T. Coody
71. All Senior Servants were given special recognition. Mr. Henry Messer of Madison, was the oldest man and Mrs. Parker of Mayo was the oldest woman.
72. At the conclusion of the Annual Session, this being our Bicentennial Year, we inaugurated the old custom of giving "The Parting Hand".
73. Benediction prayer was given by Rev. Glenn Collins, Pastor, St. Johns.

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

February 9, 1976

Moderator introduced Rev. B. E. Humes to the Association. Minutes approved as read. Reports of Sunday School, WMU, Music and Treasurer's report were approved as read.

Treasurer's Report:

Balance as of 10-1-75	\$1,828.76	Pier Fund Pickett Lake	\$64.40
Collections from 10-1-75 to 2-8-76	<u>1,530.71</u>	Side walk fund	225.00
	3,359.47		
Paid Out	1,739.78		
Bal. Gen. Fund—2-8-76	<u>1,619.69</u>		

Rev. I. T. Carter suggested that the \$60.00 set up in the Budget for the Moderator's expenses to the Florida Baptist Convention be transferred to the new building at Pickett Lake. A motion was made and carried that an additional \$40.00 be taken from the Treasury, making a total of \$100.00, be given on the expenses of this building.

The moderator appointed Rev. B. E. Humes to serve as a member of the Board of Directors of the Middle Florida Baptist Assembly.

A motion was made and carried that Mr. E. B. Browning, Sr. write the History of the Association, without charge on his part, and that the Association would defray the extra expenses.

EXECUTIVE COMM. REPORT, MAY 3, 1976—Lee Baptist Church

Devotion and prayer by Rev. Money. Reports were given as follows: Sunday School—On April 12th an Assoc. VBS Clinic was conducted by those previously attending the state clinic.

WMU Report, Music Report—On March 13, the first Associational Choir performed at Elizabeth. On March 20 the Assoc. Choir performed at Madison at the Youth Rally with over 300 people attending.

Missions Report—A motion was made and carried that Bro. Hartsfield contact Dr. Woodrow Fuller by telephone immediately to get this program operating and to report back to the Moderator by May 7, if possible.

Treasurer's Report:

Balance as of 2-8-76 for Sidewalk at Pickett Lake		225.00
Collections		<u>125.00</u>
		\$350.00
Bal. as of Gen. Fund 2-8-76	\$1,330.25	
Collected	318.15	Pier Fund as of
Paid Outs	485.62	5-3-76 \$64.44
Bal. as of 5-3-76	\$1,162.78	

All reports were adopted as read:

A motion was made and carried requesting that Mrs. Linda Demott, Music Director attend the Leadership Planning Meeting in Lake Yale. A motion was made and carried that the Executive Committee meeting continue to meet at Lee Baptist Church.

The new pastor from Midway, Rev. Layton Daughtry, was introduced and welcomed to the Association.

CALLED EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Lee Baptist Church, May 20, 1976

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss securing a Director of Missions. Mr. Norman Hartsfield, Chmn. of the Missions Committee, reported his finds from Dr. Fuller, stating that there was no money available at this time from the state to pay a Director of Missions. Dr. Fuller recommended that our Association employ a secretary, stating that there is \$100.00 a month available to our Association for that salary.

A motion was made that the Missions Committee secure a Dir. of Missions, providing the state office supplements the salary. Motion carried.

A motion was made that if the Association cannot get the supplementary money (3600) then the Missions Committee employ a Secretary. Motion carried.

CALLED EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Lee Baptist Church, June 28, 1976

The Executive Committee met in a Called Session Monday night, June 28, and voted to proceed with our Director of Missions program. Our Missions Committee is authorized to contact someone who will serve our Association on a part-time basis. We are thinking that 1% of the income of each Church will finance this program. This will be in addition to our regular Associational budget. The State Missions Office has said it would give us \$3,600.00 and we will forfeit this if we don't come through with our part. We think that we can secure a part-time man for about \$6,000.

The Executive Committee elected Rev. Howard H. Money as Stewardship Chairman for the remainder of the year.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Lee Baptist Church—August 9, 1976

Minutes were adopted as read:

Reports were given as follows:

Music:

Sunday School:

Treasurer:

Bal. as of 5-3-76 Gen. Funds	\$1,162.78
Collections as of 5-3-76 to 8-9-76	
Total	<u>1,089.88</u>
Paid Outs	<u>\$2,252.66</u>
Balance Gen. Fund as of 8-9-76	343.05
Sidewalk Fund	\$1,909.61
Pier Fund as of 8-9-76	\$ 350.00
	64.44

The Moderator appointed Rev. Mark McCoy to fill the vacancy as a member of the Board of Directors of the Assembly Grounds.

A motion was made and carried that the Association pay for the typing of the Manuscript of the Middle Florida Association History by Mr. E. B. Browning, Sr.

A motion was made and carried that we order 1500 copies of our Association Minutes which will include the Middle Florida Association History with a full-color picture of Macedonia Baptist Church on the cover.

A motion was made and carried that the Association extend to Bro. Phil Maxwell an invitation to serve as our Director of Missions beginning on October 1, 1976. The Association would raise \$2400.00 the first year toward the salary of the Director of Missions. After he begins serving he and our Missions Committee will draw up a job description.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Bellflower, Clerk

FLORIDA BAPTIST WITNESS

The FLORIDA BAPTIST WITNESS has a goal. We want to reach 100,000 circulation. Figuring three to a family, this would mean 300,000 readers each week. This in turn would mean a better informed Florida Baptist constituency, which always leads to greater participation and success in missions. Our people will work and give for what they know about and when they are convinced their efforts are supporting good causes. This is the ministry of the Witness to inform, inspire and indoctrinate.

Interest in your state paper is increasing. Pastors and congregations are becoming more

vitality aware and concerned about denominational activities. In a day when so much of our work depends on cooperation with all Southern Baptists, ignorance cannot be defended as bliss. It is wrong for any congregation to be isolated from the great body of Southern Baptist fellowship. We are to bear one another's burdens and pray for each other, but how can we unless we know the successes, failures and problems of our brothers and sisters in Christ.

The present circulation of the WITNESS is approximately 78,000. One thousand fifty-one churches and missions send the paper each week to at least part if not all of their church families. We regularly encourage the churches to place the state paper in the budget and include every family on the subscription list.

Subscription prices for the WITNESS are very reasonable. Individuals can place an order for \$2.75 per year. Club groups (five or more) can obtain the WITNESS for \$2.25 per year. Churches on the budget plan sending the paper to every family can still get the paper for \$2.00 per subscription per year. The budget plan puts a WITNESS into each home for only four cents per copy.

The Witness office has several plans for helping churches promote the paper, to get it started or expand a subscription list. There is no charge.

The FLORIDA BAPTIST WITNESS is offered free to newly-constituted churches. The offer is for one year on the basis that the church agrees to include the Witness in the budget the following year for each family. This plan is made possible through the joint efforts of the Florida Baptist Witness Commission and the Florida Baptist Convention. Actually a new congregation has the opportunity to enjoy the FLORIDA BAPTIST WITNESS for two years for the price of one.

The church page is a new service inaugurated by the WITNESS for churches that can meet the requirements. We are now helping the churches by printing church bulletin material on the front and back of the Witness and sending it into the homes from the plant in Jacksonville. The members receive local church information and WITNESS news in one publication.

Details for all our promotional plans and services can be obtained by calling 904-396-2351 or writing the Florida Baptist Witness at 1230 Hendricks Ave., Jacksonville, Florida 32207.

Respectfully submitted,
Carl W. Burnett, Sr., Chairman

ANNUITY OFFICE

The primary function of the Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention is two-fold: (1) to provide an unexcelled program for the eligible Baptist people; (2) to encourage churches, agencies and institutions to provide this protection for their salaried related people. Although the majority of Florida churches participate in the Southern Baptist Retirement Program, most of these churches have done very little in upgrading the programs.

Inflation is the big enemy of a retirement plan, and during the last ten years, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the cost of living in Florida has risen 70 percent. During this period of time, the churches have increased costs by giving larger sums of money to missions, evangelism, education and almost every other area of our Baptist life. However, during this same period of time, most of the churches that were in the retirement program are giving the same amount of money today as they were ten years ago. Experience has shown that the best way to offset the effects of inflation in the retirement field is to set aside an amount equal to ten percent of total compensation for each salaried person in a church.

The churches are urged to make a thorough study of what pastors and church staff members now have in retirement benefits and to move rapidly to bring these benefits up to an acceptable level. If a pastor retires with a livable income, it is because the churches he served had the wisdom and foresight to set aside enough money for retirement purposes. If a pastor retires without an adequate income, it is because the churches did not make provision for him. Although the Florida Baptist Convention contributes up to \$200 a year for career personnel who participate, the primary responsibility for an adequate annuity rests with each Florida Baptist church.

The year 1976-77 will be a great time for every church in our state to place special emphasis on the retirement needs of the God-called men and women who serve as pastors and church

staff members in Florida.

40,000 persons share in benefits from a total trust of 4,401,135,261. Total Benefits paid to retirees \$15,734,003.00 in 1975.

For additional information, write to the Florida Annuity Representative, 1230 Hendricks Avenue, Jacksonville, Florida 32207.

Respectfully submitted,
J. Thad Entzminger, Chmn.

FLORIDA BAPTIST RETIREMENT CENTER

Florida Baptists provide in the Retirement Center at Vero Beach a meaningful place to live for our senior adults who have a need that can be served by a retirement center. The Florida Baptist Retirement Center is located in a beautiful setting that is convenient to churches, shopping areas and medical facilities.

Living units are so arranged that assistance is always near if needed. This feature contributes to a resident's security.

Daily devotionals are conducted by the Center's chaplain, and each Friday a minister from the Indian River Baptist Association conducts the devotional for that day. We are grateful for these men who have been so willing and gracious to come and share with the residents. During 1976 Chaplain T. O. Baldwin retired and William J. Crowder were enlisted as interim chaplain.

There are 68 residents living at the Center, 17 men and 51 women. The current age range is from 69 to 102 years.

We are grateful to Florida Baptists for their support of our ministry here at the Retirement Center.

Inquiries regarding information about the Center may be addressed to William H. Lord, Sr., Resident Manager, Florida Baptist Retirement Center, PO Box 460, Vero Beach 32960.

Respectfully submitted,
J. Thad Entzminger, Chmn.

BAPTIST CAMPUS MINISTRY

NFJC

Florida Baptists minister to their college youth through several significant avenues: the church, the Student Department of the Florida Baptist Convention, and the campus organization, Baptist Campus Ministry.

The Student Department encourages churches to help prepare students for college as well as maintain continuous contact with them through special programs. Two such programs are On to College Day and Student Day at Christmas. Contact with churches on behalf of collegians is also maintained through the associational student work committee.

The Baptist Campus Ministry is the organization on campus which involves students in personal, spiritual development through Bible study, worship, mission action and evangelistic outreach. The Baptist Campus Ministry organization can be found on 40 college and university campuses across Florida.

Some examples of Baptist Campus Ministry programs during the past year on the campus of North Florida Junior College in our Association are:

Raised money for starvation in Bangladesh

Raised money for state summer missions

Had a two night Share Seminar

Had Weekly Bible-studies

Sponsored an evangelistic outreach film "The Road to Armageddon"

Were represented at Lake Yale—Fall Student Convention and

Leadership Training Conference.

As a part of the State Baptist Campus Ministry Summer Missions Program, our students had

a part in providing, over and above their usual church gifts, transportation expenses and scholarships for summer missionaries who served in Florida, Illinois, Kentucky, Michigan, New England, New York, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah and Chile, Gaza and Singapore. One student summer missionary wrote of her experiences, "The Lord has used my small knowledge of sign language to help the kids remember scriptures, the Ten Commandments, plus the way to grow in Jesus' love and understanding. I have taught them 'Jesus Loves Me' in sign language—all 130 of them."

North Florida Junior College Baptist Campus Ministry appreciates the support given by the association. Without it much would have gone undone for our Lord. Thank you so much for having such a part in our college program.

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Jordan

UNITED CHRISTIAN ACTION

Robert A. Parker became Executive Secretary-Treasurer of United Christian Action September 1, 1975. He succeeds Jack Eppes who served effectively for twenty-one years. The present director comes to Florida from Arkansas where he served as pastor of Southern Baptist Churches for approximately a quarter of a century.

Under his leadership, United Christian Action continues to be an agency concerned primarily with the prevention of problems related to beverage alcohol, hard drugs, gambling and pornography. With existing governmental and private programs of rehabilitation, there is dire need in our nation for such state encompassing organizations as United Christian Action with prevention as the main objective.

The work of United Christian Action continues to call for involvement in the legislative process of seeking to influence the formulation of new laws, and the amending or doing away with old laws regarding the above mentioned moral problems. As did his predecessors, the new director stayed in Tallahassee the larger portion of April and May. He sought to represent the thinking of concerned Christian people of Florida.

These problems and solutions to them have been presented through sermons and conferences in most state-wide programs of the Florida Baptist Convention. Thousands of copies of materials related to the above problems have been distributed during these meetings, at youth camps, in individual church services, and by the director in his travels over the state. These materials have also been mailed upon request to many individuals and church groups. Since United Christian Action is inter-denominational in scope, the director has also spoken in several churches of other denominations.

United Christian Action has also extended leadership and acted as a resource agency for several Florida counties involved in local option elections.

The gracious, generous and prayerful financial support of Florida Baptists is deeply appreciated and urgently requested.

Respectfully submitted,
Walter E. Bailey

EVANGELISM DEPARTMENT

In the year 1974-75, Florida Baptists baptized 29,390 in the 1,515 churches. There were 34 churches baptizing over 100, and 26 churches baptized 1 person for every 4 church members or less. There were 25 associations projecting an increase in baptisms above the previous year.

For the fifth straight year, Southern Baptists reached the 400,000 mark in baptisms with 421,809 converts being baptized into the membership of the churches.

Using the Bicentennial theme, Witnessing Commitment Day, January 11, 1976, launched the calendar evangelism on the special theme, which continued through the Evangelism Conference in January, the Associational Freedom Rallies in February, the Proclamation '76 Simultaneous Revivals in March and April and the Youth Evangelism Conference in July.

The Evangelism Department has given active promotion and preparation assistance for area crusades and church revivals, as well as direction to nine teams recruited, trained and supervised in summer youth evangelism. A project involving smaller churches in evangelism, S. U. R. E. (Small Churches Uniting in Reachout Evangelism) Revivals, has been developed and is being field tested. Trained workers are continuing to develop, train and involve people in personal witnessing in church renewal and in the Youth Evangelism Strategy for high school students. Evangelism consultants are provided to churches and associations, enabling them to adequately develop a strategy for evangelism and to receive resources to accomplish their goals.

Respectfully submitted,
Lamar Anderson, Chmn.

ANNUAL SUNDAY SCHOOL REPORT

Our year began with a Pastor/Director Dialogue supper at New Home. Nine churches were represented by pastor and Sunday School Directors. Frank Delrose led the discussion.

We had four churches attend the "Action" seminar in Perry in November.

In March a team of workers attended the State VBS Clinic in Marianna in preparation for the Associational Clinic.

Our Associational VBS Clinic was held April 12th at First Baptist Madison. There were 52 attending, representing 9 churches in our association.

During the summer 9 churches held Vacation Bible Schools with a total attendance of 815 with 5 professions of faith.

The state office reports that 11 churches in our association have received a total of 379 study course credits relating to Sunday School work, as of June '76.

On Sept. 16, our association held a "Bold Advance" meeting at Cherry Lake, First, with state workers leading. There were 11 churches represented with 61 attending.

October 31st will be High Attendance Day in our Association. Our goal is to have 2000 in Sunday School.

Other events during the coming year will be the State VBS Clinic and Associational Clinic.

SUNDAY SCHOOL WORK IN FLORIDA

(1) The Sunday School Department records reveal a total of 446,879 enrolled in Sunday School in Florida Baptist churches as of September 30, 1975. This reflects a net gain of 20,617 from the year before.

(2) In the intensive ACTION emphasis conducted in our state in 1975-76, the ACTION plan was interpreted to 44 of the 47 associations; 690 churches purchased the material (almost half of the Florida Baptist Churches).

(3) On GREAT DAY, November 2, 1975, a total of 260,000 people attended Sunday School.

(4) Approximately 1,367 Vacation Bible Schools were conducted in 1975 (200 above the year before). Backyard Bible Classes increased from 86 in 1974 to 168 in 1975. Total enrollment in Vacation Bible School reached a peak of 169,456, with 2,808 professions of faith reported.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard Miley, Director

COLLEGE AND SEMINARIES REPORT

Increased enrollment is continuing in all Southern Baptist Seminaries, colleges and schools. One reason is that the state Conventions and the Southern Baptist Convention has increased their support, of the schools, for operations and capital needs by \$2,605,832 or a total of \$31,-228,389.

New students enrolled for the summer of 1976 set a new record and the current flow of applications indicated a record enrollment this fall.

As we stated last year that the Baptist Bible Institute at Graceville had gone into a four year program. They still have more applications than they can serve. They are hoping in the near future, to have the cap lifted from 420, so they can take care of more students.

All of our school seminaries and colleges along with Southern Baptist are working together for one special purpose, that is to provide the best education possible for the mature adult, the non-college graduate who feels called into the pastorate, the church music field, or religious education ministry.

We can see the need for our continuous support to all Baptist Institutions, whether it is from the cooperative program or by any other means. We need to support them with our prayers and money to help keep the doors open of these institutions, for the glory of Christ.

From this, you can see we have a great challenge, yet challenges are nothing new. For years we have been seeking to meet challenges of theological education, for the sake of a lost world, that needs a Savior. With God's help and with your support, they will continue to prepare men and women to be used of God, to minister to that world.

Respectfully submitted,
J. V. Cason, Jr.

ASSOCIATIONAL BROTHERHOOD PIER AND DIVING BOARD—
PICKETT LAKE
Year 1975—1976

Bal. as of 9-30-75	\$64.44
Paid Out 8-12-76	64.44
Bal. as of 10-1-76	<u>00.00</u>

PICKETT LAKE SIDEWALK—ASSOCIATIONAL BROTHERHOOD

PAID IN

Greenville	\$75.00
Central	25.00
New Home	25.00
Moseley Hall	20.00
Cherry Lake	30.00
Mt. Olive	25.00
Madison	50.00
Beulah	15.00
Macedonia	25.00
Pinetta	25.00
Cherry Lake	35.00
Total	<u>\$350.00</u>

Paid Outs 8-10-76 Mayo Lime Prod. Inc.	\$226.72
Bal. as of 10-1-76	<u>\$123.28</u>

TREASURER'S REPORT
1975-76

Bethel Creek	00
Beulah	00
Brewer	\$ 213.20
Central	100.00
Cherry Lake First	186.00
Elizabeth	146.00

Eridu	12.00
Faith	188.61
Greenville	150.00
Hopewell	00
Lamont	91.00
Lee First	360.00
Macedonia	125.00
Madison First	439.00
Mayo	200.00
Midway	173.83
Moseley Hall	50.00
Mt. Olive	00
New Home	41.52
New Hopeful	50.00
New Macedonia	72.00
Pine Grove	116.00
Pinetta First	100.00
Pleasant Grove (L)	94.90
Pleasant Grove (T)	30.00
Riverside	00
St. Johns	260.00
Brotherhood	317.92
TOTAL COLLECTIONS	<u>53,516.98</u>
BAL. AS OF 10-1-75	1,491.32
TOTAL COLL. & BAL.	<u>55,008.30</u>
TOTAL PAID OUT	<u>4,060.29</u>
BAL. AS OF 10-1-76	\$ 948.01

Respectfully submitted,
W. T. Coody
George F. Burnett, Jr.
I. F. Day

ASSOCIATIONAL BUDGET For year 1976-77

ITEM	BUDGET AMOUNT	EXPENDED AMT.	RECOM- MENDED
Corsage for Elderly	\$ 10.00	\$ 5.72	\$ 10.00
Expense for Clerk	35.00	36.93	45.00
Evangelism	100.00	00	100.00
Brotherhood	550.00	420.00	550.00
Training Union	125.00	00	125.00
Sunday School	275.00	68.58	200.00
Music Dept.	255.00	174.22	225.00
WMU	500.00	494.92	500.00
Aid to Churches Entertaining Assoc.	300.00	300.00	300.00
Printing Assoc. Minutes	425.00	414.30	450.00
Clerk's Salary	250.00	250.00	250.00
Treasurer's salary	100.00	100.00	100.00
Middle Fla. Bap. Assembly Grounds	150.00	150.00	150.00
Campus Ministries N. F. J. C.	100.00	75.00	100.00
Associational Office	400.00	432.62	450.00
Associational Secretary	600.00	833.85	800.00
Misc. Expense	150.00	244.15	150.00
Director of Missions Salary	2,400.00		2,400.00

Telephone Dir. of Miss.	232.48		00
Sending Moderator Clerk to			
Annual Convention	60.00	60.00	
Associational Youth Rally	75.00	00	
TOTALS	<u>\$7,092.48</u>	<u>\$4,060.29</u>	<u>\$6,905.00</u>

Respectfully submitted,
W. T. Coody
George F. Burnett, Jr.
I. F. Day

MUSIC REPORT

Music enrollment in our Florida Churches has continued to rise accompanied by an increased interest in music leadership training under the able leadership of Paul Bobbitt, Director of Florida Music and James Morrell, his associate.

God richly blessed us in Middle Florida with a good year of growth and many spiritual blessings. We had 269 at our festival and a real great time of singing praises to God. Our Associational choir was such a rewarding experience, we are planning to learn another musical this year with Billy Goodwin directing. If you weren't able to sing in the choir last year, plan now to sing this year. Dates for practice are:

- April 24—2:30 P. M.—New Home
- May 1, 2:30 P. M.—Lamont
- May 14, 3:00-5:00 P. M. and 6 - 8 P. M.—Cherry Lake
- May 21—Performance at Youth Rally

If you have just accepted the responsibility of leading music, playing the piano, or leading a choir, plan to attend a one-night workshop at Pinetta, Oct. 28, at 7:30 P. M. We will have good practical helps there for all music workers.

Last year we had such a good time at our music leader's supper, we are planning another one for Nov. 9, at 7:30 at Elizabeth. We prayed for 35 people to attend last year and 39 attended. This year we are praying for 45. This is a chance to get to know each other, to share ideas and pray for each other.

The date for our festival is Jan. 29, 1977—6:30 for Children's Choirs and 7:30 for Youth and Adult. Plan now to have music from your church to share.

Let's make a BOLD ADVANCE through church music in Middle Florida.

We are planning a Song Fest August 6, at 7:30 as another chance to get together our Church choirs and groups since we've had several requests that we get together more often.

Remember church music is a powerful tool for winning people to Jesus. Is it possible we've been using it like hand saw instead of a power saw?

Every church is encouraged to plan a:

- PraSing—Nov. 21
- Carol Sing—Dec. 22
- Freedom Sing—July 3.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Demott

YOUTH RALLY REPORT

The Youth Rally held all of the scheduled meetings with real good attendance. We thank each Church that entertained the group, serving delicious refreshments.

The Youth Revival was held August 19-21 at Macedonia Baptist Church with Rev. Kenneth Gaskins of Gainesville, Florida as our special guest speaker. Everyone received a blessing from his wonderful and inspiring Message.

We are looking forward to a good year in 1976-77. May God richly bless us in His Service.

Respectfully submitted,
Phyllis Sevor

Officers listed on page 3

CHURCH TRAINING

Our associational Church Training program has the responsibility of helping each church to organize, improve and enlarge its program of Church Training. We shall be doing this, along with other associations, at "M" Night December 6th, at First Baptist in Madison; Watch Night, December 31, 1976; Baptist Doctrine Week, April 4-8, 1977, and a State Discipleship Retreat, April 21-23, 1977. Other special Church Training sponsored events and materials to participate in the Florida Baptist Convention Special Bold Advance emphasis are included in the Church Planning Guide-book sent to all members of church councils this past summer and interpreted in the associational Bold Advance Conference in September.

The following are some things the Middle Florida Associational Church Training has done and will do to help the churches with their training opportunities.

1. Associational "M" Night Attendance—206 (Statewide Attendance, 17,508)
2. In the first 9 months of 1975-76, a total of 841 churches in Florida requested 30,879 awards in the Church Study Course. During this same period, October, 1975—June, 1976, 11 Churches in our association earned 335 awards. Again this year three special awards will be presented from the state Church Training Department at "M" Night. These will go to the churches with (1) the largest total number of awards, (2) the largest number of awards in Subject Area 64, "Training Program," and (3) the largest percentage of total awards compared to total church membership.
3. "M" Night, 1976, will be held: Date December 6, Place: First Baptist Madison. Time: 7:30 P. M.
4. A regional Children's and Youth Bible Drill and Youth Bible Drill and Youth Speaker's Tournament will be conducted by our state Church Training Department: Place-Monticello, Date-March 25, 1977.
5. A very special emphasis in the Florida Baptist Convention Bold Advance this year will be the Family Money Management Project, to be conducted during the Church Training hour on the Sunday nights in May. More details are included in the Bold Advance Church Planning Guide.

Respectfully submitted,
Ronnie Combass

FOREIGN MISSIONS REPORT

At the close of 1975 the Board had an overseas missionary staff of 2,667 (including 206 missionary associates, 156 missionary journeymen and 5 special project medical workers). The 265 reinforcements for the missionary staff established a new high point in the number of missionaries sent forth in a single year.

It is fully anticipated that Southern Baptists will respond to the bold new plans for mission advance both by increased giving through the Cooperative Program and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and by earnest prayer that the Lord of the harvest may thrust laborers into his harvest.

Evangelism and church development are central to the objectives of missions: making disciples, maturing disciples in the fellowship of local churches, and developing churches into a cooperative effort for a continued outreach. Churches overseas are stimulated by the Foreign Mission Board and its missionaries.

In many lands, teams of evangelists and lay witnesses from the United States, persons from neighboring countries, or local evangelists provided leadership for evangelistic campaigns.

PUBLICATION WORK

Adequate supplies of all kinds of Christian literature are needed for the developing of vigorous churches; therefore publication ministries are an integral part of Southern Baptist overseas missions.

HOSPITALS AND MEDICAL CARE

Baptist medical work often opens strategic doors for evangelism. In cooperation with national medical personnel, this witness is expressed by Southern Baptists through hospitals, dental clinics, dispensaries and day clinics, nursing schools, and other care ministries in overseas lands.

BENEVOLENT MINISTRIES

Awareness of the growing hunger problem led to greatly increased relief contributions in 1975.

HOME MISSION HIGHLIGHTS

Bold Mission Thrust: In keeping with the denomination's 1977-79 theme, "Sharing Christ in Bold Mission in the Secular Society," the Home Mission Board gave major attention last year to planning a "Bold Mission Thrust" in the homeland. Most of the state conventions are planning for major advances in reaching counties without an effective evangelistic witness, correlation of mission resources in key cities among groups such as ethnics, apartment dwellers and various subculture groups in our nation, and in transitional communities with churches in crisis.

Interfaith Awareness Promoted: With a research and resource staff of four and with four regional directors based in different parts of the nation, the Department of Interfaith Witness distributed 128,409 copies of various pamphlets and 121,000 copies of its booklet B. O. O. K. (Beliefs of Other Kinds), and produced pamphlets on the Orthodox, Black Cults, and one on changes in Roman Catholicism. The department conducted one dialogue with leaders of the Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints and another with Roman Catholics.

2,124 Missionaries on Field: At the close of 1975 a total of 2,124 missionaries were under HMB appointment, most jointly employed with state conventions.

STATE MISSIONS

The Theme for State Missions for this year is "PIONEERING IN MISSIONS", and the Prayer Goal is 76,000 Prayer Partners across the state. New Church Sites are needed in our state to provide Churches for the thousands of people who come to live here each week. As Churches are built—more people are reached for Bible Study, for salvation, for Christian service.

The offering goal is \$276,000.00. We hope each church in our Association had a part in the State Missions Offering.

Respectfully submitted,
Marcus Morrison, Chmn.

AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY REPORT

The American Bible Society is one of 100 national Bible offices throughout the world whose goal is to reach every person with a copy of Scriptures in a language he can understand and at a price he can readily afford. In pursuit of this goal American Bible Society has distributed more than one and one-half BILLION SCRIPTURES since the founding in 1816. Aren't we

proud that the churches in our association continues to have a part in this wonderful project?—And as chairman of the American Bible Society committee, I want to say,

THANK YOU, YES, THANK YOU VERY MUCH

As Churches in our Association, you are interested in sharing the WORD OF GOD with others by supporting this global task with your prayers and your gifts so more people will continue to learn more about Jesus Christ and accept Him as their Saviour. And though our efforts might seem to be feeble, we toil at our daily tasks and thank God, in hope of, in the final round-up, having something to lay, in humble gratitude and adoration, as an offering at the feet of Jesus Christ who is the CENTER and HEART of the BIBLE.

Respectfully submitted,
Mrs. L. R. Woodard, Chmn.

ELBERT C. TYNER YOUTH CAMP

We had a great camp this year with a total of 137 attending. There were 24 decisions for Christ and about 70 decisions for rededication. Those who worked in places of responsibility did a fantastic job. Next year we hope to keep the camp fee to under \$20.00 for each camper, however the direction of the economy will determine that decision. Please pray for us as we continue to plan for August 1-5, 1977 which will be our dates for camp next year. I have included the following two items for your interest.

August 9, 1976

Rev. Mark McCoy, Pastor
Cherry Lake Baptist Church
Box 222-B
Monticello, Fla. 32344

Dear Middle Florida Baptist Men:

I was down at the Middle Florida Assembly last Saturday and rejoiced at the addition to the pier and the fine appearance. It is a good job.

Please express to all who assisted in the construction my deepest appreciation. Young people will be enjoying the fruits of your labors for years to come.

It was my understanding that the financial backing for the project came from the Associational Brotherhood of the Middle Florida Baptist Association.

This being true, please say a special "thank you," to them for me.

I might add that Middle Florida has been a leader in Associational projects. Your willingness to be involved is a challenge to others.

There remains much work to be done. Pray for us as we seek to develop a very fine resource for the Glory of God.

Sincerely yours,
Francis W. Cruce, President
Middle Florida Baptist Assembly

CAMPS AND ASSEMBLIES DEPARTMENT

Paul W. Glore, Director

It is with a sense of gratitude and thanksgiving that we send this report to the 47 associations of the Florida Baptist State Convention.

We are grateful for the many persons who have attended one or more programs at either the Lake Yale or the West Florida Baptist Assembly. During the first nine months of 1975-76, there were 25,166 persons registered at the assemblies. Although this is 1,760 less than the first

nine months of 1974-75, the enthusiasm and spiritual enrichment is on a higher plane than in prior years.

We are thankful for the many decisions that were made during the nine months. Although we do not keep records (this is done by the Convention department or church involved), we do know that many professions of faith were registered, many recommitments of life were made, many surrendered to some type of Christian vocation, and many others rededicated their lives to a more fruitful ministry as loyal followers of the Lord.

The West Florida Baptist Assembly is again in full operation. The property has been withdrawn from the real estate market. Plans are being formulated to do the necessary repairs and maintenance to bring it up to a good camping center.

Churches or associations desiring to use either of the assemblies should write to: Director, Camps and Assemblies Department, Florida Baptist Convention, Rt. 2, Box 263-C, Leesburg, Florida 32748.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark E. McCoy, Camp Director

WOMAN'S MISSIONARY UNION

The year 1975-76 in Woman's Missionary Union had two emphases: Time and Tempo.

Time is "Training in Mission Education." This was the second year of emphasis on Training.

Our Association made special effort to train our leaders and members in W. M. U. work. We had the state team from the Home Office to teach and train us. We had a night session and a day session.

The second emphasis, a tempo, is an emphasis for B. Y. W. (Women 18-29 yrs.) The first aim was to have a new B. Y. W. organization in every church. That goal was not reached, but some new organizations were started. Our associational B. Y. W. leader, Mrs. Jimmie Ragans, sponsored, "The My God and My Country" Rally in recognition of our Bicentennial year. We also had our second annual Baptist Young Adult Fellowship Banquet in February.

Two of our ladies attended the State Annual Meeting in Jacksonville, and two of our ladies attended Leaders Conference at Lake Yale. Perhaps the most important thing we do is to train leaders and members in Missions education.

WMU BUDGET FOR 1976 AND 1977

Director	\$ 50.00
BYW Director	20.00
Director Acteens	20.00
Director GA's	20.00
Mission Friend Director	20.00
Guest Speaker	100.00
Lake Yale	125.00
Annual State Convention	125.00
Nursery	20.00
	\$490.00

Respectfully submitted,
Mrs. Norman Howard

FLORIDA BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME

"To God Be The Glory Great Things HE HATH DONE!"

Such words are most appropriate as we look back on the rich blessings of 1975/76 and thank Him for one of our best years ever.

CHILD CARE POPULATION

Ministering to needy children and their troubled families is the primary objective of all that

we do through the varied programs of the Children's Home. During the year we had the privilege of serving 276 children through our three branches in Lakeland, Miami, and Tallahassee. This compared to 240 children during the previous year.

136 children were in residential care; 22 in foster care; 116 were in the emergency shelter and two were on college scholarships.

These children and youth ranged in age from 7 months to 19 years; approximately one half were girls and one half boys; and most of them have been cared for by the Home for no more than three years.

The Home has handled some 253 inquiries during the year; worked with 111 families; and more than 575 home visits have been made.

FISCAL PROGRAM

For the third consecutive year the Home has operated without an operational deficit with income exceeding expenditures by approximately \$6500. Cooperative Program income accounted for \$293,000 of our total income of more than \$702,000 and memorial gifts totaled nearly \$15,000.

The Mother's Day Offering and Designated Gifts continue to increase in 1975/76 with the participation of 504 churches giving a total of \$68,202 as compared to 435 churches giving \$52,313 last year. This is a 22% increase in the number of churches and 10% increase in the actual offering. With over 1500 churches and missions in Florida, there are still many churches that are denying themselves the blessing of participating in such a Christ-sanctioned ministry.

Baptists and others throughout the state and nation continued to remember Christ's admonition to care for "little children" by contributing an enduring memorial through bequests and wills in the amount of \$73,000.

Again this year 15 churches in the Middle Florida Association participated in the sponsorship program or Annual offering. We thank God for the many individuals who remembered our ministry by visiting or sending needed supplies. With the tremendous challenge facing us to increase our capacity to serve and to meet the growing demand for services in North Florida, we welcome your prayers and continued support.

Middle Florida Association consist of 28 churches with 15 participating in our Children's Home program. There are 13 which are missing a great blessing of helping our children. The W. M. U. of many of our churches are sponsoring a child. Some send a contribution every month, some visit the West Fla. Branch and take clothing for the Children. Others give household articles, several sent a boy or girl to camp. Let us pray that more of our churches will catch a vision of the great opportunity we have in serving Christ through our Children's Home.

Respectfully submitted,
Mrs. Audrey Wood

FLORIDA BAPTIST FOUNDATION

The Florida Baptist Foundation, an agency of the Florida Baptist State Convention, serves Florida Baptists by assisting individuals and their attorneys in preparing wills favoring Florida Baptist causes, and in establishing trusts where the earnings go to Baptist causes.

The executive secretary-treasurer of the Foundation is available to associations, churches, groups of Baptists and individual Baptists to disseminate information and give assistance in this field.

Recent major accomplishments include:

1. Received and invested \$222,326.07 in new permanent money for Baptist causes during period from October 1, 1975 to July 1, 1976. Established seven new trusts during this period. Handled all existing trusts in accordance with the agreements or terms of wills.

2. Managed the investments with a view to security, earnings and appreciation.

3. Worked with many individuals and their attorneys in the preparation of many new wills favoring Baptist causes.

4. Assisted in settling estates favoring Baptist churches and other Baptist causes where the funds went directly to these causes without coming to the Foundation.

The executive secretary-treasurer of the Foundation wishes to express his appreciation to Baptists in Florida for their cooperation.

Respectfully submitted,
L. R. Woodard, Chmn.

BROTHERHOOD REPORT

In 1975-76, 399 Baptist Men and Boys attended four Associational Meetings, held at Greenville, Mt. Olive, Faith and Cherry Lake Churches.

During the year the Brotherhood voted to pay for and extend the sidewalk at Pickett Lake to the Administration Building. This project was completed.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Grant

OUR DEPARTED LOVED ONES

God in His infinite love and wisdom has whispered "Come ye blessed of my Father inherit the kingdom prepared for you," calling our sisters and brothers in Christ Home. We extend to the families the hope given us in the words of our Master, "Blessed are they that mourn for they shall be comforted."

Our Beloved Dead

BETHEL CREEK

Mr. Henry Singletary

BEULAH

None

BREWER LAKE

Mr. Marshall Snipes
Mrs. J. G. Page

CENTRAL

Mr. John L. Harpe

CHERRY LAKE

Mrs. Pearl Oglesby
Mrs. Caleb Smith

ELIZABETH

Mr. J. P. Ward
Mrs. William Merritt
V. T. Shelley, Deacon

ERIDU

None

FAITH

None

GREENVILLE

None

HOPEWELL

Mr. Russell Moore

LAMONT

None

LEE

Mrs. Dessie Rutherford
Mrs. Oscar Hurst
Mr. Willie Sevor
Mr. Erwin Fox
Mrs. Flossie Chandler
Miss Celeta Sevor
Mr. Fred Holder, Deacon
Mrs. Inez Godwin

MACEDONIA

Mr. Carl Dunlap
Mr. Dalton Mercer
Mrs. Inez Moncrief

NEW MACEDONIA

Mrs. Sim Steele
Mr. Sim Steele
Mr. W. T. Davis

MADISON

Mrs. W. H. Hudson
Mrs. Tom Martin
Mrs. J. J. Floyd
Mrs. Milton Douglas
Mrs. Lola R. Douglas
Miss Susan Selman
Mr. Judson Rowe

PINE GROVE

Mr. R. Clayton Burnett
Deacon

PINETTA

Mrs. Rannah Terry
Mr. Bobby Harmon
Mr. J. L. Davis

MAYO

Mr. Michael Webb
Mr. Robert Lancaster
Ms. Hildreth Lamb
Mrs. Lota Hart
Mr. George Martin

PLEASANT GROVE (L)

Mrs. Lorie Strickland
Mr. Charlie Strickland
Mr. Mason Harris
Mrs. Sallie Stephens

MIDWAY

Rev. Carl A. Webb, Sr.
Deacon

PLEASANT GROVE (T)

None

MOSELEY HALL

Mr. Jim Cruce

RIVERSIDE

Mr. Roy Snipes

MOUNT OLIVE

None

ST. JOHNS

Mrs. Eloise Page

NEW HOME

Mrs. Mamie O'Quinn

SIRMANS

Mr. J. P. Grimes

NEW HOPEFUL

Mr. W. C. Gossman
Mr. John Frank Loper
Mr. Waller W. Grantham
Deacon

Respectfully submitted,
Mrs. Joe S. Reams

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Statistics have revealed that an alarming circumstance exists in our churches of our resident members:

- 20% of the members give 80% of the church income
- 30% of the members give 20% of the church income.
- 50% of the members give 50% of the church income

There is an important need to examine what we've been doing that has created such a circumstance among our church members. Answers to the following questions will be a great help.

- (1) Are we teaching what the Bible says about Stewardship?

- (2) Are we using the Church budget as an instrument for developing Christian Stewards?
- (3) Have we put giving in the right perspective?
- (4) Are we teaching the New Testament purpose of the Church?
- (5) Have we made Mission Support a part of the purpose of the New Testament Church?

The answers to the questions will have a significant meaning if we are to succeed in reaching our goal of changing the attitude that many church members have toward their stewardship involvement.

This past year we sought to present a new stewardship organization designed to accomplish the goal of more involved stewards for the Lord. We are encouraging each church to adopt a stewardship committee under a stewardship Chairman and composed of a Stewardship Education section, a World Mission section, a Budget Section, a financial secretary and a treasurer.

We are planning a meeting on March 21 of 1977 to further discuss the new Mission Committees role under Bold Advance. Rev. Chuck Peterson of the State Promotions Office hopes to set up seminars emphasizing the importance and workings of the Finance Committee. Please plan to be there.

Respectfully submitted,
Howard Money, Chairman

RADIO AND TELEVISION REPORT

The movement among those who prepare the materials for these programs is no longer to remain in "the Sunday Ghetto of religious programs" but to prepare programs for daily programming, programs that will compete in interest with the secular offerings. But, at the same time, the appeal to a Christian life style would remain as a constant aim.

The agency also wishes to serve in a consultative capacity to make all materials effective in spreading The Message of Christ. Coming to strengthen this ideal, is a production studio and training center now under construction. Two half-hour television series of 13 films, will be completed this year and ready for airing in January 1977.

"The Athletes" takes advantage of the public's hero worship of sports figures and features some of these men at home with their families, involved in hobbies and recreational activities, and sharing their spiritual involvement.

Some of the athletes filmed include baseball's Don Kessinger of the St. Louis Cardinals; Tim Foley of the Miami Dolphins football team; weightlifter Paul Anderson, billed as the world's strongest man; and coaches Tom Landry of the Dallas Cowboys football team and Grant Teaff of the Baylor Baptist University Bears football team.

Thirteen dramas and documentaries were added to the present schedule of offerings.

The entire program is alive with ideas that should register mightily in appeal for people of all ages and temperaments.

Radio programs produced by the Radio and Television Commission include "The Baptist Hour," approaching its 35th anniversary; "Powerline," now in its seventh year; the award-winning "MasterControl"; "Country Crossroads," described by Billboard magazine as the most widely listened-to country music radio show in the nation; "SoulSearchers," designed to reach black young people, and "Nightsong," featuring "The Centurymen" and designed for airing five nights a week.

In addition to television productions, Baptists were represented on ABC, CBS, and NBC for a total of nine and a half hours of network time during 1975.

For fuller information write to James W. Waters, Chairman of Trustees or Paul Morris Stevens, President of The Radio Television Commission, 6350 West Freeway, Fort Worth, Texas 76116.

Pray for the continued success of this praiseworthy effort.

Respectfully submitted,
Edwin B. Browning, Sr., Chairman

RESOLUTIONS

1. Whereas the Middle Florida Baptist Association, meeting in its Seventy-sixth Annual Session with Brewer Lake and Lee First Baptist Churches and whereas these host churches have so graciously taken care of us and fed us so wonderfully, and whereas our Moderator, our Clerk, our Secretary and our program personalities have given to us a great, spirit filled program, Be it therefore resolved that we extend to them a vote of thanks and that we will resolve to therefore carry this spirit of enthusiasm back to our churches.

2. Whereas our dear friend and brother Brother Edwin B. Browning, Sr. has given of himself so untiringly and graciously to research and prepare for us the history of our Association to be printed in Our Minutes. Be it therefore resolved that we go on record as an Association, paying tribute and expressing thanks to a real giant of the Faith, who has served his Master through his church and Association, and has shown a great love for us, and generations to come, in giving us a history so interestingly written, and that we give thanks to God for him and that we will pray for God to continuously bless him.

3. Whereas crime is on the increase, that drugs, alcohol, gambling, and pornography is more prevalent among us. Be it therefore resolved that we join in the fight against crime, that we will get into the fight against drug traffic, alcohol, gambling and pornography and that we will attempt to educate our children as to the evils of these.

Respectfully submitted,
Walter E. Bailey



NEW HOME MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
Photo by E. B. Browning, Sr.

HISTORY OF NEW HOME BAPTIST CHURCH

The summer of 1921 marked a great event for this community. Because of road conditions leading to New Prospect Baptist Church, God laid upon the hearts of the people in this community to build a Church in which they could attend more conveniently. Brother Jim Bass and Brother Alex Tuten, Sr., along with the help of Brother Eddie Bass, a boy of 17, cut the first brush for an arbor, on Friday in 1921. The brush arbor, to be used as a meeting place for what is now known as New Home Baptist Church, was built on the south side of Beggs Pond.

Among the first charter members were: Mr. and Mrs. John DeVane, Mrs. Lusa Bass, Dessie

Bass, Maggie Lee DeVane, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Bass, Eddie Bass, Mr. and Mrs. Jim DeVane, Walter Shaw, and Milledge Bass.

Rev. J. L. Rutherford was the first pastor. In 1923, Rev. Bill Kelley became pastor and with the work of the faithful members, built a small 18 X 26 ft. church building, erected on one acre of land that was donated by Brother J. Q. Leslie. The Church was organized with twenty-three members. The first deacon was Brother Jim DeVane and Mrs. Lula Bass was the first treasurer. Dessie Bass was the first Clerk. Bro. Walter Shaw, Brother Eddie Bass, and Brother Milledge Bass were the first Trustees.

Rev. Willie Barrows was the third pastor. In 1928 a Sunday School was first organized, with Brother Jim DeVane elected to serve as Sunday School Superintendent.

At the close of a Revival in 1945, the Church called a short conference. Rev. C. J. Lewis was pastor and Rev. R. C. Alderman was the visiting Evangelist. It was decided unanimously to build a new Church Building. The following committee was appointed: Brother Jim Shaw, chairman, Brother Sid Bass and Sister Eddie Bass. Work began on the new building in January, 1947, with a new building committee appointed: Johnnie Tuten, Albert Tuten and Lucian Floyd.

A Training Union was organized in 1948 with Mrs. Lucian Floyd as Director. New Sunday School Rooms were built in 1951. A deep well was finished March 23, 1955.

Rev. C. J. Lewis served as Pastor for eight years. Mrs. Sarah Jane Tuten has served as Church Clerk for the past twenty-three years. Mr. J. Eddie Bass has served as a Deacon for the past 42 years.

Our finances have grown from less than \$100.00 to over \$15,000.00 per year. The first church property was valued at \$300.00 and our present property is valued at \$35,000.00.

We praise the Lord for all his good and perfect gifts that he has added to our church daily.

The Church has completed a beautiful pastorium, free of debt, by dedicated, faithful members in the name of Christ.

In August, 1976, a new baptistry was installed and we continue to work toward improving the facilities of our church.

Continue praying that the Lord's will be done at New Home Baptist Church.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Jane Tuten, Clerk
March 16, 1976

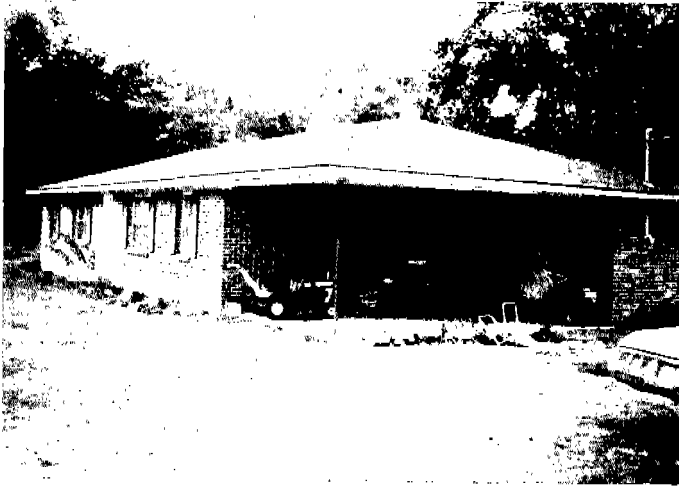


Photo by E. B. Browning, Sr.

PASTORIUM OF THE NEW HOME BAPTIST CHURCH



IN MEMORY OF CARL A. WEBB

Since last we met in Annual Associational session, The Reverend Carl A. Webb, a valiant and faithful Soldier of The Cross, has been called to that Land of Fadeless Day. In a deep sense of loss and sorrow, we seek to pay tribute to the memory of a great Christian and an outstanding man.

In early life Brother Webb was converted through the Grace of Jesus Christ. Under Divine Guidance, Carl set about ordering his life and developing those qualities that made his life really count in the service of his Master. He came under the eyes of his associates who were acquainted with his daily walk. From loyal and wise service as a deacon, he was called into The Christian Ministry. He served his Lord in pastoring a number of churches in this area.

Meanwhile, Carl was blessed by a marriage union with Miss Gracie Hicks. Out of their Christians home sprang a family who follow the precepts and examples of Godly parents and are a credit to our American citizenship. Reverend Webb was a tender husband and an exemplary father.

Brother Webb served well as an individual Christian and in many relationships in the Master's Cause. This includes his Moderatorship of The Middle Florida Baptist Association in 1963.

His example shines brightly in home, Church, Community, and in our State. The manner in which he, working under Divine teaching, became a truly educated man through home study, is indicative of his determination to be a workman worthy of his hire.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Mrs. Webb and the other members of the family, in a loss in which we all share. We shall miss Brother Carl more than words can express. But our bright star shines through our sorrow. We can still have access to Brother Carl in the blessed courts of memory. In moments of need or in days of weakness, we can meditate upon his commitment, and his courageous facing up to ill health. We feel the power of Carl's noble example in every test of a real Follower of Christ. Blessed be that sustaining memory.

Submitted in Christian Love,
Edwin B. Browning, Sr.

MESSENGERS

- BETHEL
none
- BEULAH
none
- BREWER LAKE
Mrs. Clyde Sturdivant
Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Dees
Rev. Lamar Anderson
Mrs. T. C. Buchanan
- CENTRAL
Mrs. Blanche Clark
Mrs. Paul R. Lewis
Mr. E. C. McKown
- CHERRY LAKE FIRST
Mr. E. Barrs
Mr. & Mrs. V. A. Genton
Mrs. Dot Buchalt
Mr. & Mrs. Albert Gentry
Mrs. Grace Collins
- ELIZABETH
Mrs. Julianne Hodgins
Mrs. Ollie Kinsey
Mrs. Kathrine Fraser
Mrs. Roy Hughen
- ERIDU
Mrs. Grady Lewis
Mrs. Alton Lewis
- FAITH
Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Stokes
Mrs. Carolyn Poole
- GREENVILLE
Mrs. Ruth Reams
Mrs. Joe Reams
Mrs. Martha Dell Reams
Rev. & Mrs. Marvin Day
Rev. & Mrs. J. T. Entzminger
- HOPEWELL
Mr. & Mrs. Carey Lamb
Rev. Jack Lamb
Mrs. S. A. Lamb
Grover Kelley
Bill Lamb
- LAMONT
John R. Field
J. B. Thompson
- LEE FIRST
Mrs. Willie Allen
R. I. McLane
Mr. & Mrs. J. H. Phillips
Rev. & Mrs. I. T. Carter
Glen Morehouse
Mrs. Bob Guthrie
- MACEDONIA
Mr. & Mrs. Ray Williams
Mrs. Robert Stokes
- FIRST BAPTIST MADISON
Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Browning, Sr.
Mr. and Mrs. Henry Messer
Mr. and Mrs. L. R. Woodard
Mr. and Mrs. Billy Goodwin
Mr. Albert McLeod
Rev. B. E. Humes
Mrs. Marjorie Woodard
- MAYO
Mrs. Rubye Breare
Mrs. Illa Smith
Miss Mary Land
Mrs. Festus Collins
Mrs. Verna Flatcher
W. G. Croft
Mrs. W. G. Croft
Mrs. Irene Garden
- MIDWAY
Miss Willie Phillips
Mrs. Marantha Howard
Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Jordan
Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Ezell
- MOSELEY HALL
Henry Roberts
Ollie Banks
Lucille Cruce
Faye Tuten
- MT. OLIVE
Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Thomas
Mr. and Mrs. Jimmie Ragans
Mrs. Tommy Matheny
Mrs. Tom Clark
- NEW HOME
Mr. J. Eddie Bass
Mrs. Edna G. Hollie
Mrs. Annie B. Tuten

NEW HOPEFUL
none

NEW MACEDONIA
Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Reams
Mrs. Annie M. Sanders
Mrs. Lois St. John
Mr. Tommy Barclay
Mr. Tee Andrews

PINE GROVE
Mrs. Drew Wood
Mr. and Mrs. William Collins
Mrs. Mary Smith
Mrs. Bell Davis

FIRST BAPTIST PINETTA
Mr. Cecil Crafton
Mrs. Alice Crafton
Mrs. J. L. Davis
Mrs. Dee Money
Mr. M. C. Woodard

PLEASANT GROVE (L)
Mrs. Carlie Downing
Mr. A. F. Buchanan
Mr. Johnny Phillips

Mr. Bob Phillips
Mrs. Mildred Mederios
Rev. M. David Mederios
Mrs. Beulah Mae Sessions

PLEASANT GROVE (T)
Leslie Couillette
Plen Sheffield
S. W. Teddar
Ballard Aman

RIVERSIDE
none

ST. JOHNS
Rev. Glenn Collins
Norman Newman
W. B. Wynn
Doris Page
Mary Floyd

SIRMANS
Mr. Johnny Carroll
Mrs. Jean Carroll
Mrs. Helen Eakins
Mrs. Rose Benefield

Articles of Faith

I. The Scriptures

We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired, and is a perfect treasure of heavenly instruction; that it has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter; that it reveals the principles by which God will judge us; and therefore is, and will remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds and religious opinions should be tried.

II. God

There is one and only one living and true God, an intelligent, spiritual, and personal Being, the Creator, Preserver, and Ruler of the universe, infinite in holiness and all other perfections, to whom we owe the highest love, reverence, and obedience. He is revealed to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, each with distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence, or being.

III. The Fall of Man

Man was created by the special act of God, as recorded in Genesis. "So God created he them" (Gen. 1:27). "And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul" (Gen. 2:7).

He was created in a state of holiness under the law of his Maker, but, through the temptation of Satan, he transgressed the command of God and fell from his original holiness and righteousness: whereby his posterity inherit a nature corrupt and in bondage to sin, are under

condemnation, and as soon as they are capable of moral action, become actual transgressors.

IV. The Way of Salvation

The salvation of sinners is wholly of grace, through the mediatorial office of the Son of God, who by the Holy Spirit was born of the Virgin Mary and took upon him our nature, yet without sin; honored the divine law by his personal obedience and made atonement for our sins by his death. Being risen from the dead, he is now enthroned in Heaven, and, united in his person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfections, he is in every way qualified to be a compassionate and all-sufficient Saviour.

V. Justification

Justification is God's gracious and full acquittal upon principles of righteousness of all sinners who believe in Christ. This blessing is bestowed, not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but through the redemption that is in and through Jesus Christ. It brings us into a state of most blessed peace and favor with God, and secures every other needed blessing.

VI. The Freeness of Salvation

The blessings of Salvation are made free to all by the gospel. It is the duty of all to accept them by penitent and obedient faith. Nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner except his own voluntary refusal to accept Jesus Christ as teacher, Saviour, and Lord.

VII. Regeneration

Regeneration or the new birth is a change of heart wrought by the Holy Spirit, whereby we become partakers of the divine nature and a holy disposition is given, leading to the love and practice of righteousness. It is a work of God's free grace conditioned upon faith in Christ and made manifest by the fruit which we bring forth to the glory of God.

VIII. Repentance and Faith

We believe repentance and faith are sacred duties, and also inseparable graces, wrought in our souls by the regenerating Spirit of God; hereby being deeply convinced of our guilt, danger, and helplessness, and of the way of salvation by Christ, we turn to God with unfeigned contrition, confession, and supplication for mercy; at the same time heartily receiving the Lord Jesus Christ as our Prophet, Priest, and King, and relying on him alone as the only and all-sufficient Saviour.

IX. God's Purpose of Grace

Election is the gracious purpose of God, according to which he regenerates, sanctifies and saves sinners. It is perfectly consistent with the free agency of man, and comprehends all the means in connection with the end. It is a most glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, and is infinitely wise, holy, and unchangeable. It excludes boasting and promotes humility. It encourages the use of means in the highest degree.

X. Sanctification

Sanctification is the process by which the regenerate gradually attain a moral and spiritual perfection through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit dwelling in their hearts. It continues throughout the earthly life, and is accomplished by the use of all the ordinary means of grace, and particularly by the Word of God.

XI. Preservation

All real believers endure to the end. Their continuance in well-doing is the mark which distinguishes them from mere professors. A special Providence cares for them, and they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

XII. A Gospel Church

A church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel; observing the ordinances of Christ, governed by his laws, and exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by his word, and seeking to extend the gospel to the ends of the earth. Its Scriptural officers are bishops, or elders, and deacons.

XIII. Baptism and the Lord's Supper

Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The act is a symbol of our faith in a crucified, buried and risen Saviour. It is a prerequisite to the privileges of a church relation and to the Lord's Supper, in which the members of the church, by the use of bread and wine, commemorate the dying love of Christ.

XIV. The Lord's Day

The first day of the week is the Lord's day. It is a Christian institution for regular observance. It commemorates the resurrection of Christ from the dead and should be employed in exercises of worship and spiritual devotion, both public and private, and by refraining from worldly amusements, and resting from secular employments, works of necessity and mercy only excepted.

XV. The Righteous and the Wicked

There is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and wicked. Those only who are justified through the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and sanctified by the Holy Spirit are truly righteous in his sight. Those who continue in impenitence and unbelief are in his sight wicked and are under condemnation. This distinction between the righteous and wicked holds in and after death, and will be made manifest at the judgment when final and everlasting awards are made to all men.

XVI. The Resurrection

The Scriptures clearly teach that Jesus rose from the dead. His grave was emptied of its contents. He appeared to the disciples after his resurrection in many convincing manifestations. He now exists in his glorified body at God's right hand. There will be a resurrection of the righteous and the wicked. The bodies of the righteous will conform to the glorious spiritual body of Jesus.

XVII. The Return of the Lord

The New Testament teaches in many places the visible and personal return of Jesus to this earth. "This same Jesus which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven." The time of his coming is not revealed. "Of that day and hour knoweth no one, no, not the angels in heaven, but my Father only" (Matt. 24:36). It is the duty of all believers to live in readiness for his coming and by diligence in good works to make manifest to all men the reality and power of their hope in Christ.

XVIII. Religious Liberty

God alone is Lord of the conscience, and he has left it free from the doctrines and com-

mandments of men which are contrary to his Word or not contained in it. Church and state should be separate. The state owes to the church protection and full freedom in the pursuit of its spiritual ends. In providing for such freedom no ecclesiastical group or denomination should be favored by the state more than others. Civil government being ordained of God, it is the duty of Christians to render loyal obedience thereto in all things not contrary to the revealed will of God. The church should not resort to the civil power to carry on its work. The gospel of Christ contemplates spiritual means alone for the pursuit of its ends. The state has no right to impose penalties for religious opinions of any kind. The state has no right to impose taxes for the support of any form of religion. A free church in a free state is the Christian ideal, and this implies the right of free and unhindered access to God on the part of all men, and the right to form and propagate opinions in the sphere of religion without interference by the civil power.

XIX. Peace and War

It is the duty of Christians to seek peace with all men on principles of righteousness. In accordance with the spirit and teachings of Christ they should do all in their power to put an end to war.

The true remedy for the war spirit is the pure gospel of our Lord. The supreme need of the world is the acceptance of his teachings in all the affairs of men and nations, and the practical application of his law of love.

We urge Christian people throughout the world to pray for the reign of the Prince of Peace, and to oppose everything likely to provoke war.

XX. Education

Christianity is the religion of enlightenment and intelligence. In Jesus Christ are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. All sound learning is therefore a part of our Christian heritage. The new birth opens all human faculties and creates a thirst for knowledge. An adequate system of schools is necessary to a complete spiritual program for Christ's people. The cause of education in the Kingdom of Christ is coordinate with the causes of missions and general benevolence, and should receive along with these the liberal support of the churches.

XXI. Social Service

Every Christian is under obligation to seek to make the will of Christ regnant in his own life and in human society; to oppose in the spirit of Christ every form of greed, selfishness, and vice; to provide for the orphaned, the aged, the helpless, and the sick; to seek to bring industry, government, and society as a whole under the sway of the principles of righteousness, truth and brotherly love; to promote these ends Christians should be ready to work with all men of good will in any good cause, always being careful to act in the spirit of love without compromising their loyalty to Christ and his truth. All means and methods used in social service for the amelioration of society and the establishment of righteousness among men must finally depend on the regeneration of the individual by the saving grace of God in Christ Jesus.

XXII. Co-Operation

Christ's people should, as occasion requires, organize such associations and conventions as may best secure co-operation for the great object of the Kingdom of God. Such organizations have no authority over each other or over the churches. They are voluntary and advisory bodies designed to elicit, combine, and direct the energies of our people in the most effective manner. Individual members of New Testament churches should co-operate with each other, and the churches themselves should co-operate with each other in carrying forward the missionary, educational and benevolent program for the extension of Christ's Kingdom. Christian unity in the New Testament sense is spiritual harmony and voluntary co-operation for common ends by various groups of Christ's people. It is permissible and desirable as between the various Christian denominations, when the end to be attained is itself justified, and when such co-operation involves no violation of conscience or compromise of loyalty to Christ and

his Word as revealed in the New Testament.

XXIII. Evangelism and Missions

It is the duty of every Christian man and woman, and the duty of every church of Christ to seek to extend the gospel to the ends of the earth. The new birth of man's spirit by God's Holy Spirit means the birth of love for others. Missionary effort on the part of all rests thus upon a spiritual necessity of the regenerate life. It is also expressly and repeatedly commanded in the teachings of Christ. It is the duty of every child of God to seek constantly to win the lost to Christ by personal effort and by all other methods sanctioned by the gospel of Christ.

XXIV. Stewardship

God is the source of all blessings, temporal and spiritual; all that we have and are we owe to him. We have a spiritual debtorship to the whole world, a holy trusteeship in the gospel, and a binding stewardship in our possessions. We are therefore under obligation to serve him with our time, talents and material possessions; and should recognize all these as entrusted to us for the glory of God and helping others. Christians should cheerfully, regularly, systematically, proportionately, and liberally contribute of their means to advancing the Redeemer's cause on earth.

XXV. The Kingdom

The Kingdom of God is the reign of God in the heart and life of the individual in every human relationship, and in every form and institution of organized human society. The chief means for promoting the Kingdom of God on earth are preaching the gospel of Christ and teaching the principles of righteousness contained therein. The Kingdom of God will be complete when every thought and will of man shall be brought into captivity to the will of Christ. And it is the duty of all Christ's people to pray and labor continually that his Kingdom may come and his will be done on earth as it is done in heaven.

RULES OF DECORUM

1. The Moderator shall preserve order in the Association, which shall be opened and closed by prayer. He shall decide all questions of order and propriety.
2. All members of the body shall respect the authority of the Moderator, but any member shall have the right to appeal to the body from his decision.
3. The Moderator shall have the same right of speaking as any other member of the body provided he appoints some member to fill the chair; but he shall not vote except when there is a tie, when he may cast the deciding vote.
4. No more than one member shall speak at a time. Any member desiring to speak shall rise from his seat and address the Moderator and when recognized by the chair may speak to the subject, but not more than twice on the same subject without permission of the body.
5. No member shall leave the body while in session without permission of the chair.
6. All motions in order must be disposed of by the body, unless withdrawn by the one who made the motion.
7. When a question is taken up, after allowing time for deliberation, the Moderator shall take the vote of the body and then announce the decision. If a division is called for the Moderator shall take the vote by calling on the members to rise and stand until they are counted. After the count is made on both sides the Moderator shall announce the result.
8. The Clerk shall enroll the names of the Messengers, and keep a regular record of all the business of the Association. He shall have the Minutes printed and distributed to each church, according to the amount of money sent up.
9. The Treasurer shall receive and manage the funds of the Association, taking receipts of all disbursements thereof, and present an annual report of all funds received and disbursed, for insertion in the Minutes of the Association.
10. This decorum may be altered or amended by two-thirds vote of the members present at any annual session of the Association.

Constitution

ARTICLE I—NAME

The name of this organization shall be "The Middle Florida Baptist Association."

ARTICLE II—OBJECT

The object of this Association shall be to foster a harmonious and efficient spirit of cooperation among the churches of its constituency and to cooperate with sister churches of the Southern Baptist Convention in carrying out the missionary, educational and benevolent program of Christ's Kingdom to the ends of the earth.

ARTICLE III—MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. The Association shall be composed of messengers duly elected by the churches affiliated with this body.

Section 2. Each church in the Association shall be entitled to representation in its sessions as follows: Two messengers for the first fifty members or less and one additional messenger for each additional 25 members or fraction thereof, and all ordained pastors who are members of or pastors of any of said churches, together with the elected officers of the Association, who are members of the churches.

ARTICLE IV—OFFICERS

The officers of this Association shall be a Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer. They shall be elected annually by ballot from nominations made from the floor at the last session of the Association, taking office at the close of the annual session.

If any vacancy occurs in any office between sessions, the Executive Committee shall elect an officer to fill vacancy for the unexpired term.

The Moderator shall be elected to serve two or more years in succession.

All officers shall serve without salary except Clerk and Treasurer, whose stipend shall be referred to the Budget Committee.

ARTICLE V—OTHER OFFICERS

The Nominating Committee shall at the September Executive Committee meeting recommend for approval, subject to election at the annual session, the heads of the various departments namely: Sunday School, Church Training, Music, Evangelistic Chairman, Stewardship Chairman and such other departments as shall be authorized by the Association.

ARTICLE VI—COMMITTEES

Section 1. All committees shall consist of three members except the Executive Committee, Association Mission Committee and Calendar Committee.

Section 2. The Executive Committee shall be composed of the Associational Officers, heads of the Associational Organizations, pastors and one lay member from each church to be recommended by the individual church and chairman of standing committees.

Section 3. The Standing Committees shall be: (1) Assembly Ground, (2) Budget and Finance (3) Calendar of Activities (4) Committee on Committees (5) Missions (6) Nominating (7) Obituaries (8) Program (9) Resolutions (10) Time, Place and Preacher (11) Assignment.

Section 4. Members of the Standing Committees shall be nominated by the Committee on Committees and elected by the Association to take office at the close of the annual session.

Section 5. The Missions Committee shall be composed of five members who shall serve for five years with one-fifth retiring each year.

Section 6. The Calendar Committee shall include the heads of each department.

Section 7. The Program Committee shall also include the Moderator and Clerk.

Section 8. The Budget and Finance Committee shall cooperate with the heads of each Associational Organization and Treasurer in preparation of a budget for the ensuing year.

This committee shall determine the sum per resident church member to be requested from the churches for funds to carry on the work of the Association.

ARTICLE VII—RIGHTS OF CHURCHES

This body shall recognize and respect the Scriptural rights of the churches composing it, and shall in no wise exercise authority over them. Churches may be at liberty to sever connection with this body at any time by giving written notice to the Executive Committee or Annual session.

ARTICLE VIII—PETITION

Petition for membership shall be referred to a committee on petitionary letters at any Executive Committee meeting prior to the annual meeting of the Association, and shall be subject to approval at the annual session of the Association.

ARTICLE IX—ARTICLES OF FAITH

The Articles of Faith of this Association shall be the same as those adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention at their annual session in 1925 and shall be the basis of fellowship and cooperation.

ARTICLE X—AMENDMENTS

This constitution may be altered or amended at any annual meeting of the body and must secure a two-thirds majority vote of the messengers present and voting.

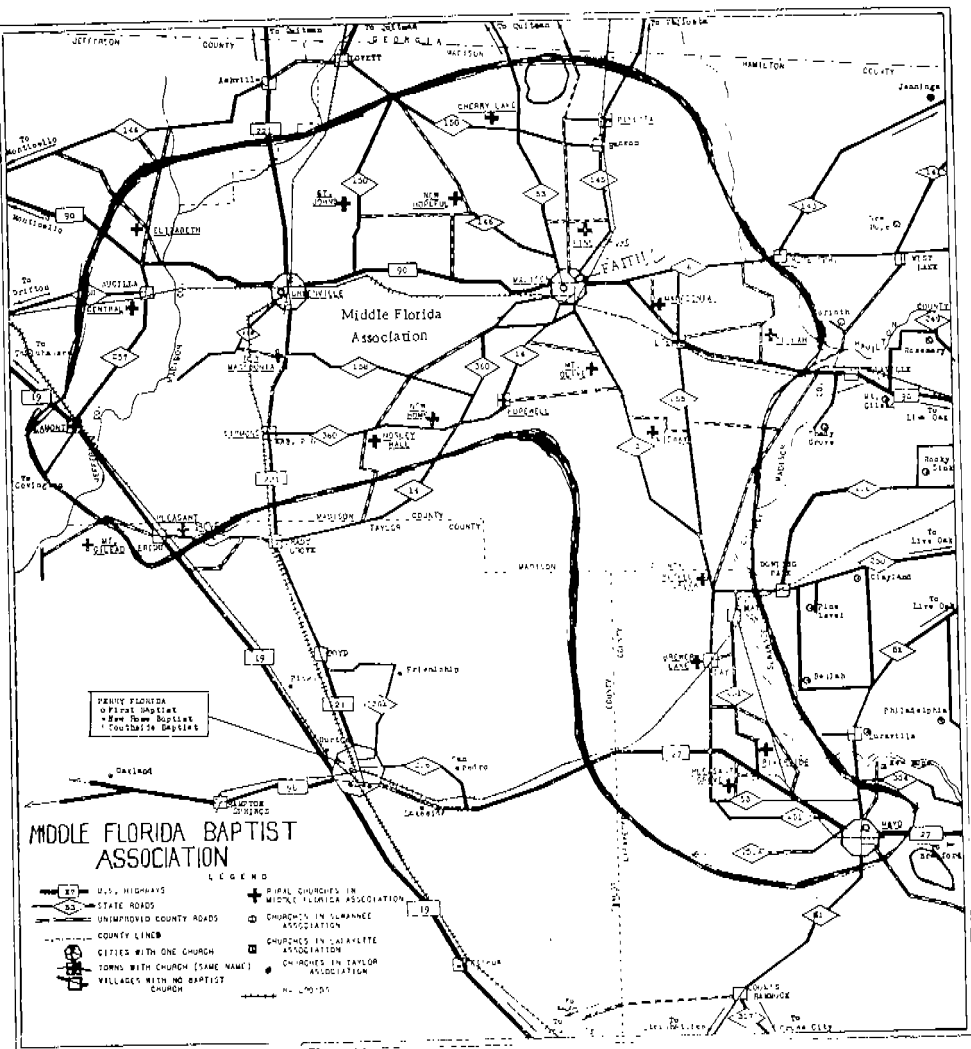


TABLE A CHURCH MEMBERSHIP AND OTHER INFORMATION				1976				3	4	5	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	24	25	26
Association MIDDLE FLORIDA State FLORIDA Associational Clerk ROBERT BELLFLOWER Address Rt. 1, Box 148 City Lee State Fla. Zip 32059				County	Year organized as a church	Location	Services held twice on Sunday?		Total Baptisms	Other additions (by letter, statement, etc.)	Members lost (by letter, death, statement, etc.)	Present resident members	Present nonresident members	Grand total present members	No. members received from non-Baptist Churches	No. members lost to non-Baptist Churches	Value of pastor's home if owned by the church	Value of church property, including pastor's home	Total church debt at end of this associational year		
CHURCHES		PASTORS & ADDRESSES					Y	N													
Bethel Creek	Rev. David Babcock, Live Oak 32060	Lafay.	1949				1	Y													0
Beulah	Rev. Ronnie Compass, Rt. 1, Box 174, Lee 32059	Madison	1902	1	Y		0	5	5	65	15	80	0	0	0	19000	1225				
Brewer Lake	Rev. Lamar Anderson, P. O. Box 64, Day 32013	Lafay.	1898	2	Y		4	15	13	214	71	285	0	0	20000	80000	0				
Central (Aucilla)	Interim Rev. Wayne Bailey, Rt. 2, Box 34, Monticello 32344	Jefferson	1907	2	Y		4	2	4	74	25	99	0	0	20000	60000	0				
Cherry Lake, 1st	Rev. Mark E. McCoy, Box 222B, Monticello 32344	Madison	1937	1	Y		28	18	10	210	89	304	0	3	20000	80000	30000				
Elizabeth	Rev. Roy Hughen, Rt. 1, Box 206A, Monticello 32344	Jefferson	1831	1	Y		1	10	5	80	103	183	0	0	30000	55000	3496				
Eridu	Rev. Joe Engel, 2005 Chullinena, Tallahassee 32301	Madison	1928	1	Y		0	0	1	21	2	23	0	0	5000	10000	0				
Faith	Rev. Thomas Poole, P. O. Box 612, Madison 32340	Madison	1904	4	Y		2	4	15	144	33	177	1	0	40000	65000	2948				
Greenville	Rev. J. Thad Entzinger, P. O. Box 6, Greenville 32331	Madison	1857	3	Y		3	6	10	172	35	207	1	6	45000	90000	0				
Hopewell	Rev. Jack Lamb, Rt. 1, Box 145, Madison 32340	Madison	1877	1	Y		0	2	7	71	0	71	0	0	20000	34000	1500				
Lamont	Rev. Verner Wheeler, Rt. 1, Box 41-A, Lamont 32336	Jefferson	1896	2	Y		5	10	1	91	55	146	0	0	0	0	0				
Lee	Rev. I. T. Carter, Rt. 3, Box 124, Jasper 32052	Madison	1904	2	Y		0	5	12	200	71	271	0	0	0	75000	0				
Macedonia	Rev. Lamar Harris, Rt. 1, Box 160, Lee 32059	Madison	1885	1	Y		11	15	13	146	51	197	0	0	10000	50000	0				
Madison, First	Rev. B. E. Humes, P. O. Box 307, Madison 32340	Madison	1835	4	Y		15	18	31	395	41F	810	1	4	45000	520000	70000				
Mayo	None	None	1875	3	Y		4	7	16	175	72	247	0	0	13000	52000	0				
Midway	Rev. Layton Daughtry, Rt. 1, Box 43, Lee 32059	Madison	1856	1	Y		2	5	5	171	75	246	0	0	4000	40000	0				
Moseley Hall	Rev. Walter Bailey, Rt. 1, Box 84, Lamont 32336	Madison	1901	1	Y		1	1	3	69	24	92	0	0	0	35000	0				
Mt. Olive	Rev. Tom Ray Kelley, 1107 Park Circle, Madison 32340	Madison	1899	1	Y		5	7	8	159	46	205	0	0	0	20000	0				
New Home	Rev. Richard A. Wiley, Rt. 1, Box 115, Madison 32340	Madison	1921	1	Y		8	8	2	118	33	151	0	0	20000	35000	0				
New Hopeful	None	Madison	1876	1	Y		0	0	11	30	0	30	0	0	0	40000	0				
New Macedonia	None	Madison	1873	1	Y		0	4	27	55	45	100	0	0	0	35000	0				
Pine Grove	None	Madison	1856	1	Y		4	2	8	114	42	156	0	0	12000	47000	0				
Pinetta, First	Rev. Howard Money, P. O. Box 117, Pinetta 32350	Madison	1918	2	Y		10	0	12	180	91	271	0	0	15000	50000	0				
Pleasant Grove (L)	Rev. David Medeiros, 169 E. Center St., Perry 32347	Lafay.	1877	1	Y		6	7	7	135	20	155	0	0	0	35000	0				
Pleasant Grove (T)	Rev. Danny Lundy, Rt. 1, Box 152-B, Perry 32347	Taylor	1879	1	Y		0	2	1	76	44	120	0	0	0	12000	0				
Riversido	Rev. Claudio Copeland, P. O. Box 25, Trenton 32693	Lafay.	1902	1	Y		1	12	2	54	50	104	0	0	0	25000	0				
St. Johns	Rev. Glenn Collins, Rt. 3, Box 67, Greenville 32331	Madison	1946	1	Y		10	9	3	141	8	149	0	0	15000	40000	500				
Sirmans	Rev. James E. Coullietto, Rt. 1, Box 25, Lamont 32336	Madison	1909	1	Y		16	7	11	47	36	82	1	0	0	7300	0				

TABLE C TRAINING UNION		1976															
Association MIDDLE FLORIDA		74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	
State FLORIDA		Preschool enrollment (5 years and under—not in school)	Children enrollment (6-11 years or grades 1-6)	Youth enrollment (12-17 years or grades 7-12)	Young Adult enrollment (18-29 years or H.S. graduation through 29 years)	Adult enrollment (30-59 years)	Senior Adult enrollment (60 and over)	General officers enrollment	Enrollment of mission(s) of church	Total Training Union ongoing enrollment	New Member Registration			Church Leader Training Registration	Short Term Member Training Project Registration	Average weekly Church Training attendance	
Associational Training Union Director EDGAR BARRS, JR.											Children	Youth	Adult				
Address P. O. Box 194		City Lee	State Fla.	Zip 32059													
CHURCHES	TRAINING UNION DIRECTORS & ADDRESSES																
Bethel Creek	None	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Beulah	Emory Jackson, Rt. 1, Box 121, Lee 32059	4	5	3	2	12	0	2	0	28	0	0	0	0	0	19	
Brewer Lake	Marty Barrs, P. O. box 77, Day 32013	10	22	9	21	45	16	3	0	126	0	0	0	0	0	84	
Central (Aucilla)	Mrs. Paul R. Lewis, Rt. 1, Box 233, Monticello 32344	2	10	9	2	4	6	1	0	34	0	0	0	0	0	20	
Cherry Lake, 1st	Mrs. Jewell Wimberly, Rt. 3, Box 177, Greenville 32331	17	28	21	15	19	12	4	0	116	0	0	20	0	0	70	
Elizabeth	Wade Stalley, Rt. 1, Box 182, Monticello 32344	2	6	7	9	5	18	3	0	50	0	0	0	0	0	27	
Eridu	None	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Faith	J. V. Cason, Rt. 3, Box B, Madison 32340	9	12	9	3	25	3	3	0	64	1	0	10	0	0	51	
Greenville	M. C. Burnett, P. O. box 236, Greenville 32331	0	10	14	18	16	0	2	0	60	0	0	0	0	0	38	
Hopewell	Emory Chaney, Rt. 1, Box 98-A, Madison 32340	1	2	1	0	12	0	2	0	18	0	0	2	0	20	14	
Lamont	John R. Field, Lamont 32336	0	0	0	0	13	0	0	0	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Lee	Edgar Barrs, Jr., P. O. Box 194, Lee 32059	3	10	10	10	15	10	1	0	59	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Macedonia	Louis McMullen, Rt. 1, Box 148, Lee 32059	8	5	18	21	15	4	2	0	73	0	0	0	0	0	52	
Madison, First	None	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Mayo	James Morris, Mayo 32066	6	13	21	0	15	0	2	0	51	0	0	0	0	0	38	
Midway	Eddie Hahn, Rt. 2, Box 1504, Madison 32340	5	8	10	3	8	12	3	0	49	0	0	0	0	0	30	
Moseley Hall	Hubert Nash, Gibson's Trailer Park, Madison 32340	0	2	2	8	27	0	5	0	39	0	0	0	0	0	27	
Mt. Olive	Glenn Southall, Rt. 1, Box 248-C, Madison 32340	8	0	26	11	23	0	0	0	68	0	0	0	0	0	0	
New Home	Sammy Bass, Rt. 1, Box 117-B, Madison 32340	14	17	14	22	23	0	3	0	93	0	0	0	0	0	55	
New Hopeful	None	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
New Macedonia	David Taylor, Rt. 1, Box 29, Greenville 32331	4	4	10	1	10	5	1	0	35	0	0	0	0	0	28	
Pine Grove	None	0	7	10	0	14	0	2	0	38	0	0	0	0	0	26	
Pinetta, First	David Parsons, Rt. 3, Box 190E, Madison 32340	4	17	23	7	10	15	3	0	79	0	0	0	0	0	60	
Pleasant Grove (L)	Bruce Lawson, Rt. 1, Mayo 32066	3	3	2	8	16	12	2	0	46	0	0	0	0	0	24	
Pleasant Grove (T)	Don Vann, Rt. 1, Box 105, Greenville 32331	8	5	9	0	0	0	5	0	48	0	0	0	0	0	24	
Riverside	None	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
St. Johns	George Letchworth, Rt. 3, Box 232, Greenville 32331	3	7	4	17	34	0	2	0	67	0	0	0	0	0	30	
Sirmans	Franklin Carroll, Sr., Rt. 2, Box 212, Greenville 32331	4	13	6	9	11	3	2	0	48	0	0	0	0	0	45	

TABLE WOMAN'S MISSIONARY UNION		1976		101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115			
Association MIDDLE FLORIDA		Number of Organizations															Enrollment				
State FLORIDA		Mission Friends (5 years and under in school)	Girls in Action (6-11 years or grades 1-6)	Acetens (12-17 years or grades 7-12)	Baptist Young Women (18-29 years or H.S. graduation through 29 years)	Baptist Women (30 and over)	Mission(s) of church	Total number of organizations	Mission Friends (5 years and under—not in school)	Girls in Action (6-11 years or grades 1-6)	Acetens (12-17 years or grades 7-12)	Baptist Young Women (18-29 years or H.S. graduation through 29 years)	Baptist Women (30 and over)	WMU officers	Mission(s) of church	Total WMU engaging enrollment					
Associational WMU Director MRS. JOHN COLLINS																					
Address		City		State		Zip															
Rt. 3, Box 158		Madison		Fla.		32340															
CHURCHES	WMU DIRECTORS & ADDRESSES																				
Bethel Creek	None	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
Beulah	None	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
Brewer Lake	Mrs. A. E. Thomas, P. O. 65, Day 32013	1	1	0	1	1	0	4	5	11	0	9	14	5	0	0	0	44			
Central (Aucilla)	Mrs. J. W. Tindell, Rt. 1, Box 116, Monticello 32344	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	8	2	0	0	10			
Cherry Lake, 1st	Mrs. Geo. Burnwtt, Jr., Rt. 3, Box 127, Madison 32340	1	1	1	1	1	0	5	7	15	10	10	17	3	0	0	0	62			
Elizabeth	Mrs. Wade Shelley, Rt. 1, Box 182, Monticello 32344	0	1	1	0	1	0	3	0	8	10	0	15	1	0	0	0	34			
Eridu	None	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
Faith	Mrs. Geraldine Stokes, Rt. 1, Box 119, Lee 32059	1	1	1	0	1	0	4	3	5	6	0	14	1	0	0	0	29			
Greenville	Mrs. Connie Scarboro, Greenville 32331	0	1	0	0	1	0	2	0	12	0	0	20	8	0	0	0	40			
Hopewell	None	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
Lamont	Mrs. Betty Bailey, P. O. Box 4, Lamont 32336	0	1	1	0	1	0	3	0	0	9	0	8	1	0	0	0	18			
Lee	Mrs. Hazel Morehouse, Rt. 1, Box 65, Lee 32059	1	1	1	1	1	0	5	2	5	6	12	13	2	0	0	0	40			
Macedonia	Mrs. Robert Belflower, Rt. 1, Box 148, Lee 32059	1	1	1	0	1	0	4	3	15	15	0	10	3	0	0	0	41			
Madison, First	Mrs. Marjorie Woodard, P. O. Box 724, Madison 32340	1	2	0	1	1	0	5	3	20	0	21	52	1	0	0	0	97			
Mayo	Mrs. Ruby Brare, Box 22, Mayo 32065	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	5	0	0	10	2	0	0	0	17			
Midway	Mrs. Ila Jones, Rt. 1, Box 48, Lee 32059	1	1	1	0	1	0	4	4	3	4	0	10	5	0	0	0	26			
Moseley Hall	None	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
Mt. Olive	Mrs. Clyde Thomas, Box 265, Lee 32059	0	1	1	1	1	0	4	0	10	13	10	15	0	0	0	0	48			
New Home	Mrs. Richard Miley, Rt. 1, Box 115, Madison 32340	1	1	1	1	1	0	5	6	5	3	7	9	1	0	0	0	31			
New Hopeful	None	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
New Macedonia	None	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
Pine Grove	None	1	1	1	0	2	0	5	5	7	6	0	23	4	0	0	0	45			
Pinetta, First	Mrs. Patty Fourakres, Rt. 1, Box 39, Pinetta 32350	1	1	1	0	1	0	4	6	9	9	0	16	3	0	0	0	43			
Pleasant Grove (L)	Mrs. Mildred H. Moderios, 169 E. Center St., Perry 32347	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	15	0	3	0	0	0	18			
Pleasant Grove (T)	None	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
Riverside	None	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
St. Johns	Mrs. Doris Page, Rt. 3, Box 49A, Greenville 32331	0	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	9	0	16	5	0	0	0	30			
Sirmans	None	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			

TABLE F BROTHERHOOD		1976	116	117	118	119	120	121	122	123	124	125
Association MIDDLE FLORIDA		Crusaders (6-11 years or grades 1-6)	Pioneers (12-17 years or grades 7-12)	RA director and committee	Baptist Men enrollment (18 and over)	Other Baptist Men Groups	Brotherhood director and Other Brotherhood General Officers	Enrollment of Mission (s) of Church	Total ongoing Brotherhood enrollment	Other Boys involved in Mission activities	Miscellaneous Baptist Men	
State FLORIDA												
Associational Brotherhood Director BILL GRANT												
Address	City											State
215 NW Fraleigh Dr.	Madison	Florida	32340									
CHURCHES	BROTHERHOOD DIRECTORS & ADDRESSES											
Bethel Creek	None	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Betulah	None	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Brewer Lake	None	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Central (Aucilla)	None	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cherry Lake	Ronnie Hart, 1001 Woodlawn Terrace, Madison 32340	12	10	5	14	0	1	0	42	0	0	0
Elizabeth	Roy Hodgins, Box 191, Monticello 32344	0	0	0	10	0	1	0	11	0	0	0
Eridu	None	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Faith	Bill Cherry, P. O. Box 151, Madison 32340	0	0	0	10	1	0	0	11	0	0	0
Greenville	Leroy Blount, P. O. Box 517, Greenville 32331	0	0	0	28	0	1	0	29	0	0	0
Hopewell	None	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lamont	Malcolm V. Page, P. O. Box, Lamont 32336	8	0	1	13	0	1	0	23	0	0	0
Lee	Bob Guthrie, Rt. 1, Box 113A, Lee 32059	6	6	0	10	0	1	0	23	0	0	0
Macedonia	Robert Stokes, Rt. 3, Box 300-D-1, Madison 32340	6	8	1	8	0	1	0	24	0	0	0
Madison, First	Wayne McCall, P. O. Box 613, Madison 32340	24	3	2	40	0	1	0	70	0	0	0
Mayo	None	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Midway	Franklin Stokes, P. O. Box 217, Lee 32059	0	0	5	8	0	1	0	14	0	0	0
Moseley Hall	None	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mt. Olive	Jimmie Ragans, Rt. 1, Box 307A, Madison 32340	5	15	2	15	0	1	0	58	0	0	0
New Home	Jack Picklas, Rt. 1, Box 117-A, Madison 32340	7	9	2	11	0	1	0	30	0	0	0
New Hopeful	None	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
New Macedonia	None	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pine Grove	None	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pinetta, First	Cecil Crafton, Rt. 1, Box 40, Pinetta 32350	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pleasant Grove (L)	E. P. Sessions, Rt. 1, Box 94, Mayo 32066	0	22	0	18	0	1	0	41	0	0	0
Pleasant Grove (T)	None	0	0	0	13	0	1	0	14	0	0	0
Riverside	None	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St. Johns	Clifton Floyd, Rt. 3, Box 60, Greenville 32331	0	0	1	12	0	1	0	14	0	0	0
Strmans	W. E. Morgan, Rt. 3, Box 305, Madison 32340	0	0	0	0	0	2	6	8	0	0	0

TABLE G TOTAL RECEIPTS, LOCAL EXPENDITURES & STEWARDSHIP 1976		21	22	23	27					126	127	128	129	130	131	132	133	134	135
Association MIDDLE FLORIDA		Number of tithees	Cooperative Program goal as percent of total budget	Associational missions goal as percent of total budget	Budget prom. or emphasis used during the year.					Total tithes, all offerings, and special gifts	All other receipts	Total receipts	Money borrowed during the year	Church staff salaries	Money paid out on new construction during the year	Debt retirement during the year	Church literature	All other local expenditures	Total local expenditures
State FLORIDA					Simplified	Stewardship Revival	Committed to Tithe	Forward Program	Alt. Forward Program										
Associational Treasurer W. T. COODY		City		State		Zip													
Address P. O. Box 215		Madison		Florida		32340													
CHURCHES	TREASURERS & ADDRESSES																		
Bethel Creek	Royce Morgan, Rt. 1, Box 190, Mayo 32066	0								1349	0	1349	0	1004	0	0	0	0	1004
Beulah	Miss Pauline Stokes, Rt. 1, Box 93A, Lee 32059	6								5186	0	5186	1825	1525	3113	0	211	2660	8009
Brewer Lake	Harold L. Smith, Rt. 1, Box 150, Mayo 32066	30	9.5	2.5						30961	0	30961	0	10140	6986	0	1054	7560	25740
Central (Aucilla)	Oliver Scruggs, Rt. 1, Box 231, Monticello 32344	20	10	1	V					19620	0	19620	0	5665	14821	0	646	1714	22847
Cherry Lake	J. W. Cason, Box 478, Madison 32340	44	14	1						24642	984	25626	30000	9943	44273	1758	1802	10321	59095
Elizabeth	Mrs. Warren, Rt. 1, Box 207, Monticello 32344	30	13		V					18190	0	18190	0	9180	0	2320	566	3163	15230
Eridu	Mrs. Grady Lewis, Rt. 1, Box 123, Greenville 32331									155	0	955	0	720	0	0	0	155	875
Faith	Harold Brown, Rt. 2, Box 978, Madison 32340	18	7	1	V					23951	0	23951	0	10302	0	2726	1252	7157	21436
Greenville	Dacrow Hutto, P. O. Box 147, Greenville 32331		10	1.5	V					27795	0	27795	0	10073	0	0	1248	8335	19626
Hopswell	W. B. Lamb, 506 Oak Dr., Madison 32340	12								12319	0	12319	0	8599	0	0	243	8842	17684
Lamont	Tom H. Bailey, P. O. Box 4, Lamont 32336	10	10							15836	0	15836	0	6925	1088	0	936	3705	12653
Lee	R. L. McLane, 914 S. Range St., Madison 32340	52	25	1						25814	0	25814	0	8100	0	0	2031	7583	17715
Macedonia	Robert Bellflower, Rt. 1, Box 148, Lee 32059	10	10	3						14044	0	14044	0	8456	0	0	770	3617	12843
Madison, First	L. R. Woodard, P. O. Box 267, Madison 32340	60	9	8	V					79039	0	79039	70000	23404	190100	0	2592	41541	67538
Mayo	Mr. J. D. Garden, Box 206, Mayo 32066	40	18							32350	0	32350	0	14014	2322	0	2877	6759	25972
Midway	Van Kelley, Rt. 1, Box 271, Madison 32340	35	7	1						16804	15	16819	0	8811	0	0	616	3649	13075
Moseley Hall	Henry Roberts, Rt. 2, Greenville 32331	2	10	1						10446	181	10627	0	5776	0	0	365	4589	10730
Mt. Olive	Jimmie Regans, Rt. 1, Box 307A, Madison 32340	20	10	1	V					19100	0	19100	0	9100	2203	0	900	4200	16403
New Home	A. C. Worley, Rt. 1, Box 122, Madison 32340	22	10	3	V					19084	0	19084	0	5580	1331	2158	1004	6670	16744
New Hopeful	George Henderson, 908 S. Range, Madison 32340									5549	0	5549	0	2495	0	0	0	825	3010
New Macedonia	W. E. Reams, Rt. 2, Box 199, Greenville 32331	7	10							8970	0	8970	0	3559	0	0	190	2045	5789
Pine Grove	J. Arthur Cruce, Rt. 2, Madison 32340	23	8							17399	0	17399	0	8440	0	0	804	2169	11414
Pinetta, First	J. W. Downing, Rt. 1, Box 2, Pinetta 32350									18624	0	18624	0	7367	600	0	1033	0	9000
Pleasant Grove (L)	Mrs. Gerlie Buchanan, Rt. 1, Mayo 32066	12								13415	0	13415	0	8296	1610	0	261	1103	11260
Pleasant Grove (T)	Reba Aman, Rt. 1, Box 107, Greenville 32331	9			V					10003	0	10003	0	4302	2777	0	149	2173	9402
Riverside	Mrs. J. T. Thomas, Rt. 1, Mayo 32066	3								8400	0	8400	0	5985	0	0	106	3000	8291
St. Johns	Mrs. Bertina Day, Rt. 3, Box 82, Greenville 32331	33	9	1	V					17362	0	17362	1000	6296	0	1528	379	8101	16305
Sirmans	Mrs. Helen Eakins, Rt. 1, Box 236, Greenville 32331	7	3.8							5263	0	5263	0	3300	450	0	85	1729	5627

HISTORY OF THE MIDDLE FLORIDA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION 1900 – 1976

By Edwin B. Browning, Sr.



Carl W. Burnett, for 46 years faithful Clerk of the Middle Florida Baptist Association, between 1921 and 1970, breaking all records for length of service in the Southern Baptist Convention.

The Reverend Harry Bryan Gibson, the honored Clerk, for 13 years, of the Florida Baptist Association, between 1881 and 1894; and for 9 years Clerk of the Middle Florida Association, between 1901 and 1909.



This history is submitted to make a fitting response to our Great American Bicentennial, to furnish a basis for a better understanding of our rich heritage and, ever, to hold aloft the Priceless Name of Jesus.

BRIEF OUTLINE

FOREWORD.....	55
LIFTING THE CURTAIN.....	56
A NEW CENTURY AND A NEW BEGINNING.....	60
What Were the Motives?	
WE LAY OUR HANDS TO THE TASK.....	62
Saturday Morning, November 10, 1900	
The Clerk Was Busy at Eventide	
Ordained Ministers	
A Backward Glance	
EXPANDING 1905—OTHER YEARS.....	65
List of Churches and Delegates	
Wednesday Morning	
To 1908	
FOCUS ON THE ANNUAL SESSION OF 1909.....	68
Afternoon Session, Wednesday, October 20	
Thursday—Second Day	
Enrollment of Messengers	
Pastors, Clerks, Baptisms	
Departments	
Ministers in the Association	
A Statistical Look at 1909	
MOVING TOWARD THE 1920's.....	72
The 1920's in Review	
A BROADER LOOK AT THE 1930's.....	76
Coming of Miss Frieta Lamb	
REVIEWING THE WAR YEARS OF THE 1940's.....	79
BRIEFING THE 1950's.....	81
Messengers Enrolled in 1951	
Chairmen of Deacons in 1951	
Taylor Association is Formed, 1957	
Returning Home	
TELESCOPING THE 1960's.....	85
Messengers in 1963	
Members of the Executive Committee in 1963	
Standing Committees of that Year	
Amplification for 1969	
A PAUSE FOR ORIENTATION.....	89

TOPICAL STUDIES.....	89
Of Founding Churches	
Associational Moderators	
Associational Clerks	
Associational Treasurers	
Sunday Schools	
Training for People	
Missions	
Women's Work	
Other Aspects of Associational Life	
BACK TO THE 1970's.....	101
CONCLUSION.....	103
Milestones	
Historical Summation	

FOREWORD

The period from 1900 to 1976 reflects a ceaseless flow both of events and changes. If we were detailing a sketch of the general history of our associational area, such names as Ellaville, San Pedro, Stillipica, Talofa, Manila, and Weston, Champaign, Orange Hill, Hickstown, along with many others, would appear on our pages.

The centerpiece in our way of living in 1900 was the small, self-contained, farm-based rural neighborhood. The people of these communities, practicing a high degree of mutual interdependence, had their own country store, gristmills, country doctors, schools, and their churches.

The lines that marked off these picturesque units of abundant and leisurely living were erased soon after automobiles began backfiring on the sandbeds of north Florida. This, coupled with mechanized farming, radically changed the landscape. Very soon, as wants and wishes of people multiplied, came telephones, good roads, and, some later, consolidated schools.

Quite obviously, our national destiny was not standing still during these years. Early after the new century made its advent, we faced a depression, due to the stalemate of World War I. This was a war, the pressures of which reached our nation, and soon our farm lads were drafted into a mighty army. Prices soared and war economy gave a level of prosperity and enrichment of living that was new to the hitherto frugal Americans.

Any glance at the roll of the years, reflecting repeated wars, depressions, growth in population, abandonment of farm life, strides in technology, problems in government, social burdens, debt and taxes, shows that the tempo of the march of our people has been at an ever-quickenning pace. We who have lived during this period can truly say, "There was never a dull moment—nor many reposeful ones."

But as one man, we can stand and thank God for seeing our nation observe its blessed Bicentennial. As thrilling as our history has been these 76 years; it is not our purpose to engage in narrating their onward flow.

February 9, 1976, in the First Baptist Church of Lee, the Executive Committee of the Middle Florida Missionary Baptist Association authorized the writing of a history of the Association in keeping with the Bicentennial emphasis. The Committee agreed to pay for cost of materials and printing as a part of the minutes of the 77th Annual Session of the Association. I was asked to prepare this document. Pledges of cooperation on every hand were tendered.

It is felt that having the history printed in the back of the minutes is a very helpful literary device. The data shown by Brother Robert Bellflower, Clerk, will be a thrilling summary, a kind of milestone to mark our progress since that day in Macedonia, 76 years ago.

The Minutes of the 1975-1976 Annual Associational Meeting appearing herein, too, will give a good idea of how the affairs of the annual Associational meetings are conducted from registration to the sounding of the moderator's last gavel. It is hoped that something of the high inspiration of these bracing meetings can be caught up in this booklet.

Then, if a person is interested in Baptist beliefs and administrative details that we work under by mutual agreement, both "The Articles of Faith" and "The Rules of Decorum" are reflected in full as part of the minutes. Mr. Bellflower's minutes show the messengers from each church, the proposed working calendar, personnel of the Association, and a wealth of information in general.

Some Variance in Opinions

As might be expected in narrating historical incidents, honest men do not always agree—but they are never disagreeable. A span of 133 years has passed since the Florida Baptist Association was organized by our early Baptist brethren. There has been time for ample meditation and research on the matter of where the Association was actually organized.

William Scruggs, learned historian and vibrant Jefferson County personality, finds that he cannot go along with me on the early organization plans of the Association. My documentation comes from the original records of Concord Church. This gives Indian Springs Church as

the focal point.

Mr. Scruggs holds that the meeting slated for Indian Springs was flooded out by excessive winter rains and that the actual organization, having received additional activation from meetings at Salem and elsewhere, transpired at Ebenezer Church, October 16, 1843. I show this as the first formal annual meeting of The Florida Association.

The Baptists of the area have erected a lovely marble shaft at Ebenezer. I was honored to make the dedicatory address, March 30, 1958, substituting for Dr. Doak S. Campbell. I think the facts of history abundantly sustain placing the monument on this site.

There is reliable documentation for the Association having met there, formally, in its first session, as shown in Dr. Campbell's history. It certainly was the place where the stage of history was firmly set for the long passage through the years.

But there is another reason. There in the churchyard at Ebenezer rest the remains of Elder William B. Cooper in a grave tenderly marked by Florida Baptists by reason of his monumental contribution to our Baptist life.

Elder W. B. Cooper was 13 times Moderator of the Association. In view of the surrounding history and sentiment, it would be unthinkable to place the monument elsewhere.

But to return to the line of exposition, it will be apparent that the great task facing the writer was to condense the overflowing details from 1900 to 1976, and cover the subject as well as possible. You will observe that this was met in part by expanding certain years periodically. You will observe, too, that, while not slighting the ministers of the Gospel, we sought to magnify the roles of our lay people.

People were so kind in helping! Dr. Earl E. Joiner, our distinguished Convention Historian, set no bounds on his generosity; likewise, his gracious secretary. Mrs. Ruth Scruggs Reams, Carl Burnett, Lacy R. Woodard, Dick Burnett, Norman Hartsfield, Alton H. Wentworth, Della Gray Smith, Tom Ray Kelly, Mark McCoy, Thad Entzminger, M. C. Burnett, Linda Wynn, John Henry Phillips, Mrs. Edgar Blair, Bill Scruggs, and Mrs. Marjorie Woodard are among those who have set high standards in sharing on this project. Eternal gratitude to all!

May this presentation make a contribution to the blessed cause of the Master of Men to whom be the glory forever!

Edwin B. Browning, Sr.

Madison, Florida
October 1, 1976

LIFTING THE CURTAIN

Dr. Doak S. Campbell, eminent educator and churchman, has defined an association, sometimes called "district association," as "a voluntary organization of churches for the purpose of stimulating and carrying forward such cooperative enterprises as missions, benevolences, and education." We propose to treat briefly the history of the Middle Florida Baptist Association but, perchance, it may be the part of wisdom to do some clarifying as we move forward with our subject.

The term "Baptists" encompasses a large number of denominations with kindred beliefs and titles. We recall the Primitive Baptists, the Freewill Baptists, the Puritan Baptists, and many others. Our branch often adds the word "Missionary" as a matter of identification (and in no sense showing bigotry). The Missionary Baptists are the largest Protestant denomination in the United States, with a membership of 12,515,842, according to the Southern Baptist Convention Annual for 1975. Very heavily concentrated in the southern region of the United States, Baptists have a world-wide spread, even with many followers in Russia.

Many conservative Baptists hold that we as a people through the years have been so faithful to "Go ye, therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost," (Matt. 28:19) that the addition of "missionary" is a surplus use of words.

What is the dominant characteristic, the staying bench mark of Missionary Baptists? Baptists take seriously that God-given principle of "If the Spirit makes you free, yet shall be free indeed." They take this freedom not only as applying to redeemed people but applying to God's

church as well. So there we have the guide for Baptist thinking and Baptist efforts: the great principle of voluntariness. The churches may delegate power on a voluntary basis but no agency can abrogate the power of the local church.

The earliest Baptist leader was John Smyth (active in 1607), a former Congregationalist minister in England. There were others of his belief who stood against infant baptism. Too, they came to stand for baptism by immersion. Smyth left England and settled in The Netherlands, and later, many of his group numbered themselves with the early exiles to America.

Roger Williams formed a Baptist Church in Providence, Rhode Island, in 1639, the first in America of this denomination. Around the time of the American Revolution, Baptists increased in numbers greatly. By 1800 the Baptists were competing with the Methodists for first place in American Protestantism.

Senior readers will recall that a half century ago, there was much discussion of the viewpoint that Baptists are really not Protestants, after all. This view held that the Baptists had their charter of work laid out by The Master while he was on earth, at the giving of the Great Commission, and at Pentecost.

Then, they held, there were splinter groups faithful to Baptist views from those days through the centuries. Some of the groups were the Waldenses, the Lollards, and the Tunkers. All were outside the established churches but firm in their espousal of Baptist views.

What intelligent Baptists wish is not institutional continuity, but doctrinal validity, total Divine backing in our course through history and into a promising future. We base our claims on Matthew 28:19 and the total purview of God's Word.

When did Baptists appear on the Florida scene? Shortly after (or even before) the Treaty of Annexation with Spain in 1821, Baptists began appearing across the Florida frontier. Some were slaves, it is believed, who found the Lord and escaped to Florida. Others might have been sailors from shipwrecks along the Atlantic Coast.

Anyway, the first church was Pigeon Creek, in Nassau County, founded by Elder Fleming Bates, January 7, 1821. This church, integrated by taking in a black man named Peter, was of strong Calvinistic theology. The verdant roots of Missionary Baptists seem not to have flourished in this church.

So we turn to west Florida for our real beginnings in the missionary tradition. This was Campbellton Church (first named Bethlehem) in Jackson County, established March 12, 1825. The church was constituted by Elders Jeremiah Kembril and E. H. Calloway, itinerant preachers from Alabama. This, too, was the first Baptist church in Florida to have a Woman's Missionary organization. Campbellton, a truly hallowed institution, is still an active church.

In our area, Elizabeth, constituted in 1831, is the oldest. Madison Church, which began as "Hickstown" in 1835, holds second place. Whether on world, national, state, or local bases, the Baptists have wrought out noble traditions in the Master's Cause.

As pointed out previously, churches are organized first and then form, and align themselves with, associations. Down one more step, the impulses to organize churches are planted in the hearts of people, individually or small groups. Our mother association dates from 1843, but we have churches that began much earlier. Elizabeth, the oldest, that aligned with the Middle Florida Baptist Association, was organized in 1831, and is still strong in the work of the Lord.

These early (and later) people came together around a core of common beliefs. A church in our area espoused these basic beliefs (called doctrines), also referred to as a "confession of faith":

We believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament to be the word of God containing everything necessary for our faith and practice. We believe in one Triune God, the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. We believe in the fall of man and his utter inability to reinstate himself in God's favor. We believe that God has chosen His people in Christ through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the Truth before the foundation of the world; also in the final preservation of the saints in grace unto eternal life; in justification by the imputed righteousness of Christ Jesus alone; in Baptism by immersion, and the Lord's Supper as instituted by our Savior.

You may compare this abbreviated statement with an amplified presentation, but the more lengthy articles, easily, relate themselves to these basic principles.

Perhaps we should go a bit further with the topic of how Baptist Churches have their origins. We have mentioned individuals, or groups, moved by the Spirit to this end. Some churches arise by being a mission of an on-going Baptist Church. A good case in point is that Macedonia in 1865 was established as a mission of Pine Grove. Nearly a century later (1964), Faith Missionary Baptist Church, just east of Madison, was begun as a mission point of Macedonia Church.

Then some came into being in our denomination by reason of doctrinal disagreement. At Old Grooverville, over the state line in Georgia, stands Liberty Church. It is such a fine illustration of this point that we ask leave to quote the text of the historical marker placed at the corner of the church by the State of Georgia:

“Liberty Baptist Church”

Between 1837-1841 the Baptists in this section were stirred on Missions, Sunday Schools, and Ministerial support. In 1841 the Ocklocknee Anti-Missionary Baptist Ass'n passed a ruling to dismiss members believing in the 'new-fangled institutions of the day.' Disagreeing, Sister Nancy Hagan asked for her letter from Mt. Moriah Church and, at her request, was excommunicated. With Elisha Peck Smith, R. T. Stanaland, James I. Baker, Mrs. Sarah Ann Groover, Mrs. Mary Smith, Mrs. Amanda Denmark and Sam Whitfield, she organized this church. The first pastor was Elder R. J. Mays. Mt. Moriah Church ceased to exist long ago.”

R. J. Mays was originally a member of the present First Baptist Church of Madison, and Elisha P. Smith was the first deacon of this Madison church.

Let us recall that in those days preceding the great Civil War (and long after), there was no such thing as Women's Liberation. The memory of Sister Hagan's rising up for the soul liberty of man should cause us to stand reverently and meditate in gratitude upon the character of a truly great lady.

But these are not the only causes for the organization of Baptist churches. A dear old preacher of the long ago once said, “A row in a Baptist church should not be taken too seriously; such row is often the birth pangs of another Baptist church.” Yes, Baptists do fall out, pull out, and start new churches, causing this great denomination to “multiply by division.” But the blessed work goes on. We had 34,734 churches in the Southern Baptist Convention by a 1975 tally.

Organization of The Florida Association, March 2, 1843

Let us now establish a more direct focus on the organization of the Old Florida Association. It was early in 1843. John Tyler was the President of the United States, the 10th. Florida was looking forward to statehood, but was still a territory, with the Seminole Indian War quieted only one year previously.

On Sunday, January 15, 1843, Richard Johnson Mays stood up in Conference at the Concord Church and read a letter which was dated November 26, 1842. B. S. Fuller, a careful Clerk, entered this letter in the minutes. It follows:

Dear Brethren and Sisters:

In consequence of a recent separation of several of the churches from the Ocklocknee Association, a meeting was held at Shiloh Church to take into consideration the propriety of forming a new Baptist Association of these churches who wish to be allowed the liberty of conscience.

It was resolved the new Association be convened at the Indian Springs Church, Leon County, Florida, Thursday before the first Sabbath in March next, and that a letter of invitation be given to the churches favorable to this association. The churches will please send two delegates with a letter containing the wish of the church to become members, also a statement of the number in full

fellowship and the time of holding their meetings.

Your Brother in the Gospel,
(Signed) Thomas Lang
Sec'y Pro Tem

Clerk Fuller further records that the church voted to comply with the invitation, and chose for delegates Brethren R. J. Mays and Hampden S. Linton. March 19, 1843, the following entry appears: "Received the report and approved the proceedings of our delegates."

The first formal annual meeting of the Florida Association was held that same year, October 16, at Ebenezer Baptist Church, near Monticello in Jefferson County.

What churches from our associational area were represented in the organizational meeting at Indian Springs Church? In the absence of definite records, it appears that these churches sent delegates to this momentous meeting: Elizabeth, 1831; Hickstown (now the First Baptist Church of Madison), 1835; Shiloh, ; Concord (now in the Mercer Association), 1841. Churches outside of our present limits appear to have been: Ebenezer, Jefferson County, 1828; Indian Springs, 1829; Monticello, 1841; Aeon, 1843; Providence, Gadsden County, 1843; along with Bethel and Sardis, Jackson County, in 1825.

Legacies from the Old Florida Association

The Florida Association, the mother association of all Florida Baptists, directly or indirectly, is still in full vigor, a stamina that has lasted over the years. Dr. Doak S. Campbell has written brilliantly of the rich history of this association. We shall confine ourselves, and necessarily, to some great achievements in which the churches and leaders from our area shared mightily.

When the Florida Association was meeting with Concord Church, November 18, 19, 20, and 21, 1854, the matter of organizing the Florida State Convention came up for action. The Association, in its session of 1853 at Olive Church in Thomas County, Georgia, had expressed the view that "... it is proper, expedient, and practicable to organize the Florida State Baptist Convention."

In the Concord meeting of 1854 delegates, by previous arrangement, had come from the West Florida and Alachua Associations. The committee appointed to confer with these delegates (D. G. Daniel, W. B. Cooper and Brother Shackleford) reported that the measure was deemed advisable and recommended that an organization be consummated immediately.

For this work, Brethren R. J. Mays, W. B. Cooper, B. S. Fuller, W. H. Goldwire, W. Blewett, D. G. Daniel, H. Z. Ardis, S. C. Craft, John Cason, and T. W. Terrell were appointed as delegates from the Florida Association.

With the authorization firmly given in Concord Church, the delegates met at 8:00 P. M., Monday, November 20, 1854, in nearby Clifton Mansion, home of Richard Johnson Mays, Concord Pastor. He was called to the chair and there, in the candlelight of early evening, the task of organizing the Florida State Baptist Convention was wrought out. Elder Mays was elected the first Convention President. The site has been suitably marked; with a monument, also, in Confederate Memorial Park in Madison.

A writer in this area has hinted that the convention, due to not having a body to give direction between sessions, "was at best a limping movement." The convention had the proper basic ideas, as shown by the constitution adopted at Clifton, but there was no machinery to give impetus and life to the lofty ideals.

This condition was remedied when the State Board of Missions was organized in Madison, December 12, 1880, during the 26th Annual Meeting of the Florida Baptist State Convention. Only the Florida, Santa Fe, Suwannee, and Alachua, out of the 13 Florida Associations, were represented. Narrators tell us that it was a bitingly cold day, and the church stove was out of order. So the work on that bleak day (Sunday) was done in an upstairs room in a Madison store.

Turning possible defeat into victory, \$185.00 was pledged for missions; W. N. Chaudoin was chosen Secretary of the new Board, and the following elected as Board members: Pastor of the

Madison Church; S. B. Thomas, Sr., Jno. M. Beggs, Benjamin F. Wardlaw, C. W. Stevens, J. F. B. Mays, W. M. Davis, Walter Gwynn, A. C. McCants, Paul Willis, G. W. Hall, C. V. Waugh, and T. E. Langley. Dr. J. L. Rosser made this comment on the early Board: "A long procession of State Board Members will follow from this zero milestone, but these stand at the head of the line."

The Board was located in Madison, and there it remained for two decades under the leadership of W. N. (Uncle "Chad") Chadoin. Surely God was directing those early church fathers on this day far back across the years.

In addition to these institutional contributions, we received the groundwork for a strong position on temperance. In the Annual Meeting at Mt. Gilead Church, Madison County, September 28 to October 1, 1882, we find this sentence in the Temperance Report:

"Shall we not, therefore, present a solid phalanx against the evil, and handle not, touch not, taste not the blighting, withering, cursing beverages which curse body, mind, soul, and curses for time and eternity?"

If there has ever been amongst us any tendency, expressed or latent, to imbibe any product or by-product of the brewer's art, we certainly cannot set this to the charge of our brethren at Mt. Gilead.

Any mention of the great personalities like W. B. Cooper, R. J. Mays, John Broome, Alex Moseley, H. Z. Ardis, John Cason, and many others would carry us beyond the confines of our necessary limits. However, we do wish to mention Harry Bryan Gibson, whose figure looms so large after the Civil War.

Elder Gibson served as clerk in the old Florida Association from 1881 to 1894, with the exception of 1890. It will be noted that, after Middle Florida was formed, he served it as clerk for 9 years, until 1909. His was a monumental contribution.

It has always seemed apparent to many thoughtful leaders in our present Baptist life that our early association came into being as a protest against efforts to stifle the minds of men on the ever-flowing Free Grace of God. This fact has been operative in keeping our people doctrinally sound. We have not always lived up to the high missionary ideals that have come down as a blessed legacy across the years, but we spend no time in denying Divine Power and His Readiness to save all "who will come to Him in Faith."

A NEW CENTURY AND A NEW BEGINNING

The years had passed, and it was 1900. The American social and political fabric stood on the verge of great changes. In the area encompassed by the new association in the looming years, we would see the country store give way to supermarkets.

The country doctor, leaving a vision of his plodding through the night on missions of mercy, would pass off the scene and the era of hospitalization would become regnant.

People would stop "taking in new ground" and burning timber as the tide of professional forestry, both private and corporate, mounted high.

Old Dobbin and the buggy, the lap robe, and buggy whip would pass from the area (except in memory) as the automobile battled the sandbeds—with a few "backfires" and flat tires.

Gone would be the "pinywoods rooter" hogs; old Molly, the scrub cow; Buck and Ben, the family oxen—to make way for Duroc Jersey hogs, Red Polled and Jersey cattle, and pickup trucks.

Old-timers saw the days before the spittoons were removed from our churches—and the ladies sitting to the preacher's left. All would pass in an avalanche of change and renovation. Rural schools, long the central point in intellectual culture, would thin out and the school bus would carry the children to the larger centers of population.

There, however, has been one arresting fact on our social cultural landscape: the rural churches have remained rural-based. Certainly, many have passed from the scene, but this has been due largely to shifts in population.

Before leaving this topic, perhaps we should mention some of the things pertinent to "the olden days" that were truly less than romantic. In the winter of 1908-1909, water sources rose far beyond their accustomed levels. This was particularly true of the swampy areas.

Then, in hordes, the mosquitoes bred—and there were no screens. "Smoking the house" and, sparingly, using using mosquito nets, proved totally inadequate. The anopheles mos-

quitoes transmitted malaria and, as a result, chills and fever visited almost every household. So great was the demand for medicine that "666" Chill Tonic (a combination of quinine and iron) was developed. So was F. M. Plank's Chill Tonic. It was a trying time, with overtones of tragedy.

One more thing. Do you recall what happened in "Dog Days"? Sore eyes spread through the homes and schools (there were summer terms then). Eagle Eye Salve and Strozier's Eye Water came on their uplifting missions, but neither erases the memories of summer sore eyes.

On the Florida scene, as the old century faded and a bright new one came into being, William D. Bloxham was Governor in a strong tradition of the Democratic Party that had its advent following Reconstruction after the Civil War. Jacksonville was almost totally destroyed by fire, May 3, 1901. But the state had its first streetcar line during these years (in Palatka). Problems of handling the Everglades, along with others, arose to challenge the genius of our people.

On the national scene, William McKinley had just been elected to his second term as President, November 6, 1900—three days before the brethren convened at Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church to organize the Middle Florida Baptist Association. Portentious events were in the air. America had just won one war (the Spanish American) and, within less than two decades, would be plunged into world conflict.

The Klondike Gold Rush had, just before, brought eager searchers to Alaska from all parts of America. The feeder stagecoach lines were still carrying the treasure boxes of Wells Fargo Express in our fabled West. The American Baseball League was organized that same year—1900.

We had no vision of federal alleviation of depressions, triggering with the standards of living, or social welfare in general. Rural electricity, telephones, crop rotation, forestry and conservation were far out in front.

Those faithful Baptists assembled at Macedonia, coming from churches hitherto in the old Florida Association, had no knowledge of the stirring years before them. They moved staidly to the task facing them, bringing to the Baptist scene of north Florida another Association.

What Were the Motives?

Why did the brethren converge on Macedonia to organize the new association? Carl W. Burnett became clerk of the association in October, 1921. He held that post for 46 years, a record in the Southern Baptist Convention. Mr. Burnett said, "There were a number of reasons, but anger or estrangement was not among them." Still sound in mind and memory, his views should be weighty indeed.

Baptists had increased both in numbers and in churches over the area. Travel, though greatly improved, had not reached the easy stages of today, as good roads still lay in the future. Breaking off a section to begin a new unit was nothing uncommon in Florida. Madison County had split off from Jefferson County, December 26, 1827, with Taylor, Lafayette, and Dixie (as part of Taylor) Counties later forming separate counties from Madison County.

The old Florida had grown to be a truly big Association. It is even possible that the old American yearning for "something for ourselves" may have been in the motivational scheme. So they converged by previous arrangement upon Macedonia, on State Road 90 east of Madison. This was, even then, a historic place.

The organization of Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church is but another instance of the proof of the old statement that "Baptists do better in trying times." The Civil War had just been concluded in April of that year, with the Stars and Bars of The Confederacy folded in the sadness and tenderness of defeat. The shadows of Appomattox and the Reconstruction period rested upon a weary land.

It was September 17, 1865, when the founding fathers raised the Baptist Standard at Macedonia, where it flies in great honor until this good day.

We must go backward to another church, Pine Grove, organized October 25, 1856. The marks of greatness have ever been upon this church through the years. Macedonia had its beginning as a Mission of Pine Grove. This appears to be certainly among the early, if not the first, practices of establishing missions, leading toward full church identity.

WE LAY OUR HANDS TO THE TASK

We have stressed the thought that parting from the old Florida Association was done in Christian harmony. Let us support this view even more strongly. When the brethren gathered at Macedonia, Friday morning, November 9, 1900, after the call to order came the introductory sermon. This sermon was preached by Stephen Crockett, pastor of the Madison Baptist Church, and at that time serving as clerk of the Florida Association. He remained and assisted throughout the session.

The record reflects that the Reverend Crockett preached from Ephesians 4:22-24 verses inclusive. This citation reads: "That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; and be renewed in the spirit of your mind; and that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness."

The afternoon session, following one hour for dinner, was opened with prayer by the Reverend W. S. Kelly. Officers elected and subsequently put on permanent basis were: the Reverend J. T. Farnell, Moderator; the Reverend J. L. Rutherford, Clerk; and F. B. Williams, Treasurer. The Committee on Petitionary Letters, as subsequently enlarged, included D. E. Thomas, W. M. Tampling, W. M. Cornett, F. B. Williams, and John Hicks.

Petitionary letters for membership through the session were approved as reflected in the table of Statistics of Membership:

CHURCH	BAPTISMS	PRESENT MEMBERSHIP	COUNTY
Brewer Lake	10	51	Lafayette
Live Oak (Mt. Olive)	13	43	Madison
Macedonia	10	155	Madison
Midway	15	79	Madison
Mt. Moriah	14	23	Madison
New Hopeful		22	Madison
Pleasant Grove	2	75	Lafayette
Pleasant Grove	7	57	Taylor
Pine Grove		48	Madison
Triumph	2	17	Taylor
Hopewell		54	Madison

Total baptisms were 61; received by letter, 21; by restoration, 22; expulsions, 13; loss by letter, 13; by death, 6; total membership, 629.

The Committee on Reading (church letters) was composed of W. M. Cornett, F. B. Williams, J. R. Henderson, J. P. Lyons.

The Committee on Deceased Ministers and Deacons was made up of W. M. Tampling, D. E. Thomas, and I. N. Barrs.

The Committee on Finance: D. W. Townsend, John S. Pinson, and L. A. Seals.

The Committee on Nominations: W. M. Cornett, W. M. Tampling, J. E. Horne, and J. W. Wheeler.

It was decided to activate only the committees on Reading, Deceased Ministers and Deacons, Nominations, and Finance.

The shades of Friday evening, December 9, 1900, were approaching. On motion, adjournment was taken until Saturday morning, 9:00, with prayer led by the Reverend J. A. Grundy.

Saturday Morning, November 10, 1900

J. T. Farnell, Moderator, after call to order, read the 19th Psalm, followed by prayer led by the Reverend H. B. Gibson. Call for letters from the churches was renewed and visiting brethren invited to seats with the group. To the latter, the Reverend J. S. Parker, from the Suwannee Association, responded. Favorable report came from the Committee on Petitionary Letters, substance of which shows the churches listed previously. The right hand of fellowship

was extended to delegates on behalf of the Association by the Moderator.

W. J. Sullivan from the Florida Association was seated as a correspondent. The Reverends J. L. Rutherford and L. J. Townsend were appointed as delegates to the Southern Baptist Convention, meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana. The Reverend T. J. Farrell, and Brethren W. M. Cornett and L. A. Seals were appointed correspondents to the Florida Association. It was reported that the Reverend J. A. Grundy would preach at 11:00 A. M., Sunday, November 11.

Report from the Nominations Committee was given: "Dear Brethren, We your Committee on Nominations recommend that the Executive Committee be elected by ballot, and that Reverend J. L. Rutherford preach the next introductory sermon, and recommend Reverend W. W. Tampling as alternate. We nominate Reverend J. T. Farnell to preach the Missionary Sermon with Reverend J. L. Townsend as alternate. Respectfully submitted, W. M. Cornett, W. M. Tampling, J. E. Horne, and J. W. Wheeler."

The Committee on Deceased Ministers and Deacons filed a report of gratitude to the Heavenly Father that none had been taken.

In taking a look at the report of the Finance Committee, we need to keep in mind that the Association was in a fledgling state, that the western frontier had closed ten years before, and that the American economy was sluggish. Many bodies of yellow pine timber, as at Ellaville, had been cut over. Here is the report:

For Minutes Fund	\$ 9.25
For Associational Fund	11.30
For Associational Missions	1.50
For State Missions	.90
For Aged Ministers' Relief Fund	.25
Total	<u>\$23.20</u>

The Treasurer's Report, submitted by Daniel Farnell, informal Treasurer, showed this amount added to collections at union meetings at Macedonia, Midway, and Live Oak, all told, in the amount of \$40.70.

The record here states, "At this juncture the Moderator received a letter informing the association of the illness of Reverend R. F. Hacker. On motion, prayer was offered, led by Reverend J. A. Gandy." It also shows: "Reverend Wm. M. Tampling, W. M. Cornett, D. W. Townsend, and J. E. Horne were elected as members of the Executive Committee and Brother F. B. Williams was elected as treasurer. While a hymn was being sung a collection of \$2.85 was taken up for the relief of an 85-year-old minister."

Live Oak (Mt. Olive) Church was chosen by ballot over two other churches as the place for the next meeting, "Friday before the third Sunday in October, 1901." On motion the Clerk was ordered to be paid \$5.00 for his services and further ordered to have the minutes printed "where he could get it cheaper."

Prior to adjourning to meet at Live Oak Church (six miles south of Macedonia) for the 1901 meeting, and surely in response to the fine hospitality of Macedonia, the following resolution was adopted: "It is resolved that this body express thanks to the membership of Macedonia and community for their kind and unbounded hospitality toward us while in their midsts." That rang down the curtain for Saturday, November 10, 1900.

The Clerk Was Busy at Eventide

We can well imagine that the Reverend J. L. Rutherford, the Clerk, spent much of Saturday evening, November 10, 1900, going over the letters from the churches and compiling information for his minutes. Meanwhile, of course, the Association had adopted the basic guide documents: Articles of Faith, Constitution, By-laws, and Order of Business. Since their import, though amplified a good deal, are still embodied in the current presentation, we will not enlarge on them.

We will give some of the interesting information compiled by Clerk Rutherford.

Messengers to the Association organizational meeting of 1900, including the church clerks:

CHURCH	CLERK	P. O. ADDRESS	MESSENGERS
Brewer Lake	J. W. Tampling	Day	I. N. Barrs, D. W. Townsend
Live Oak Macedonia	Charles Martin W. B. Rye	Madison Madison	J. L. Rutherford J. R. Henderson Wm. Cornett B. Williams J. P. Lyons
Midway	D. C. Thomas	Lee	W. M. Tampling D. E. Thomas John Hicks W. Wheeler
Mt. Moriah	T. P. Newman	Unknown	J. T. Phillips Archie Hicks
New Hopeful Pleasant Grove (T)	H. B. Gibson G. W. Dice	Madison Iddo	H. B. Gibson J. C. Horne Samuel Sapp
Pleasant Grove (L)	I. R. Bullard	Unknown	S. Ezell
Pine Grove	J. L. Warren	Madison	L. A. Seals
Triumph	P. J. Corrin	Stephensville	By Letter
Hopewell	Unknown	Madison	Not reported

Ordained Ministers

J. T. Farnell, Day	W. S. Kelly, Madison
J. L. Rutherford, Madison	L. J. Townsend, Slayton
H. B. Gibson, Madison	R. F. Hacker, Stephensville
W. M. Tampling, Lee	

Licensed Ministers

Joseph E. Crafton, Madison	Edgar Hibbits, Tallahassee
D. E. Thomas, Lee	

We can pause at this point and thank the Master for the lives of these stalwart servants who laid so carefully and so prayerfully the foundations transmitted to those of the many tomorrows.

Sunday Services, November 11, 1900

This brief entry gives a report on Sunday's services: "Divine Service was conducted on Sunday at 11:00 A. M. by Reverend J. A. Gandy. He preached from Nehemiah 2:17, after which a collection of \$2.85 was taken up for missions." From the records, it seems certain that Sunday was given over to worship and to addressing themselves to the tasks that lie so challengingly ahead.

Brother Gandy's text read, "Then I said unto them, ye see the distress that we are in how Jerusalem lieth waste, and the gates thereof are burned with fire: come and let us build up the wall of Jerusalem, that we be no more a reproach." And under this ringing word from the Lord of Lords, the task of launching the Middle Florida Baptist Association was done and the Brethren looked to a New Day.

A Backward Glance

As we contemplate for a moment the organization of the Middle Florida Missionary Baptist

Association, completed at Macedonia, November 11, 1900, we might wish to know how the plans for the organization were worked out and publicized. The most satisfactory solution to these problems is that this was done in the Union Meetings, later called Fifth Sunday Meetings. These meetings were used powerfully in giving impetus to early Baptist programs.

We do not know how many times the Florida State Baptist Convention, after its organization in November of 1854, met jointly with the Union Meetings in our area. We do know that the State Convention met with the Union Meeting at Pine Grove Church, Madison County, January 29, 1860.

Then there is the matter of what territory the newly organized association covered. Of the original eleven churches, seven were in Madison County: Live Oak (Mt. Olive), Macedonia, Midway, Mt. Moriah (located near Winquapin Pond in Madison County but now gone from the scene), New Hopeful, Pine Grove, and Hopewell. Two were in Lafayette County: Brewer Lake and Pleasant Grove. The other two were in Taylor County: Pleasant Grove and Triumph. There were none from Jefferson County.

However, in both Jefferson and Madison Counties there were a number of churches on the scene that did not join in the movement leading to the new association. In Jefferson there were Elizabeth, Lamont, and Aucilla. In Madison County there were Madison, Harmony, Greenville, and New Macedonia.

Obviously, Mayo and Riverside in Lafayette County, and Athena and San Pedro in Taylor, did not join the movement for the new association.

A study of available information furnished herein will show that the association came to include Taylor County and a number of churches on the eastern side of Jefferson County. Eleven of the churches located in Taylor County lettered out of Middle Florida to form the Taylor Missionary Baptist Association, in the annual meeting held with Athena and Pleasant Grove (T) Churches, October 17 and 18, 1957.

The years of 1901, 1902, 1903, and 1904 were years of growth, definition of purposes, and progress. The association, as reflected elsewhere, was led by the Reverends J. T. Farnell and Harry Bryan Gibson, with F. B. Williams at the post of treasurer. We should mention that in 1901 the association met at Live Oak Church, south of Macedonia. This church effected a name change in subsequent years and became our present Mt. Olive, pastored by Tom Ray Kelley.

EXPANDING 1905—OTHER YEARS

Due to matters of sources and space, it is felt that it will be a better method of presentation to pass over the details of these years and amplify somewhat the 1905 session. This is the year that Greenville Church, previously staying with the old Florida Association, came to membership in the Middle Florida Baptist Association.

We possibly should pause at this point to state that we have had difficulty with the name of Greenville. In 1842, Baptists pulling out of the Ocklocknee Association because of strictures in doctrines relating to paying preachers, having Sunday Schools, and preaching Free Grace, met at Shiloh Church and sounded a call for a new association. This we have previously indicated.

Could Shiloh be the early name of Greenville? Dr. Doak S. Campbell shows that Shiloh was in Madison County. It was close enough to Concord Church to have in the pre-Civil War period "a joint committee with Concord to look after the conduct of the Black Brethren." The towering intellects of Mrs. Ruth Reams, Thad Entzminger, and Bill Scruggs have been enlisted on this matter. All we can say now is that the facts point to Shiloh being the early name of Greenville.

But back to 1905. We give the list of churches, delegates (messengers) and clerks.

Aucilla, Jefferson County—Pastor, ; Delegates, Wesley Bishop, D. W. Bishop, Martin Bishop; Clerk, G. T. Bishop; Post Office, Aucilla, Fla.

Antioch, Hamilton County—Pastor, Rev. Wm. M. Tamplin; Delegate, S. M. Morgan; Clerk, W. E. Frier; Post Office, Echo, Fla.

Brewer Lake, Lafayette County—Pastor, Rev. I. R. Clements; Delegate, Jno. W. Day; Clerk, B. W. Rodgers; Post Office, Day, Fla.

Beulah, Madison County—Pastor, Rev. Wm. M. Tamplin; Delegates, J. P. Webb, J. F. Stokes; Clerk, J. F. Stokes; Post Office, Lee, Fla.

Cabbage Grove, Taylor County—Pastor, Rev. J. J. Lambreth; Delegates, J. F. Hartsfield, J. T. Martin; Clerk, C. J. Wilson; Post Office, Waylonga, Fla.

Greenville, Madison County—Pastor, ; Delegate, C. L. Leggett; Clerk, J. W. Bishop; Post Office, Greenville, Fla.

Hopewell, Madison County—Pastor, Rev. R. F. Hacker; Delegate, F. McClamma; Clerk, B. F. Kelly; Post Office, Hopewell, Fla.

Live Oak, Madison County—Pastor, Rev. W. S. Kelly; Delegate, J. S. Pinson; Clerk, L. E. Lyons; Post Office, Madison, Fla.

Luther, Taylor County—Pastor, Rev. R. F. Hacker; Delegate, R. L. Williams; Clerk, R. L. Williams; Post Office, Luther, Fla.

Limestone, Jefferson County—Pastor, ; Delegate, represented by letter; Clerk, W. P. Coggins; Post Office, Wacissa, Fla.

Macedonia, Madison County—Pastor, Rev. I. R. Clements; Delegates, J. T. Woodard, F. B. Williams, W. B. Roye, Lonnie Mercer; Clerk, A. T. Cornett; Post Office, Madison, Fla.

Midway, Madison County—Pastor, Rev. L. J. Townsend; Delegates, D. E. Thomas, J. H. Turlington, J. W. Thomas; Clerk, D. E. Thomas; Post Office, Lee, Fla.

Mt. Moriah, Madison County—Pastor, Rev. J. T. Farnell; Delegate, W. C. Green; Clerk, A. A. Connor; Post Office, Chancy, Fla.

Mt. Gilead, Madison County—Pastor, Rev. J. E. Vann; Delegate, D. W. Vann; Clerk, W. E. Vann; Post Office, Iddo, Fla.

New Hopeful, Madison County—Pastor, Rev. A. N. Woodard; Delegate, H. B. Gibson; Clerk, H. B. Gibson; Post Office, Madison, Fla.

New Macedonia, Madison County—Pastor, ; Delegate, W. H. Haney; Clerk, T. M. Barclay; Post Office, Greenville, Fla.

Olive Branch, Jefferson County—Pastor, Rev. J. T. Farnell; Delegate, G. F. Andrews; Clerk, W. H. Walker, Post Office, Lamont, Fla.

Oakland, Taylor County—Pastor, Rev. J. E. Vann; Delegate, H. B. Sheffield; Clerk, W. P. Johnson; Post Office, Waylonga, Fla.

Pleasant Grove, Lafayette County—Pastor, Rev. J. T. Farnell; Delegate, A. C. Townsend; Clerk, A. C. Townsend; Post Office, Day, Fla.

Pleasant Grove, Taylor County—Pastor, Rev. J. E. Vann; Delegates, J. E. Horne, Colen Lewis; Clerk, J. A. Tedder; Post Office, Iddo, Fla.

Pleasant Hill, Taylor County—Pastor, Rev. J. W. Pierson; Delegate, J. P. Humphrey; Clerk, J. M. Hodges; Post Office, Lake Joe, Fla.

Pine Grove, Madison County—Pastor, ; Delegates, D. N. Webb, J. P. Sessions; Clerk, F. J. Blair; Post Office, Hanson, Fla.

Pine Bluff, Madison County—Pastor, ; Delegate, represented by letter; Clerk, M. F. Fuquay; Post Office, Greenville, Fla.

Riverside, Lafayette County—Pastor, Rev. L. J. Townsend; Delegate, W. M. Webb; Clerk, C. E. Frier; Post Office, Day, Fla.

San Pedro, Taylor County—Pastor, ; Delegate, not represented; Clerk, F. S. Jackson; Post Office, Fenholloway, Fla.

Triumph, Taylor County—Pastor, ; Delegate, R. F. Hacker; Clerk, Wm. Mills; Post Office, Stephenville, Fla.

You will note that the association had grown from 11 to 27 churches since its beginning in 1900. The spread had included Madison, Taylor, Jefferson, and Hamilton Counties. Antioch Church is shown as being in the latter county.

We feel that an exhibit of the minutes for Wednesday, October 18 (first day of a three-day session), will be appropriate. The extracts follow:

Wednesday Morning

The introductory sermon was preached at 11 A. M. by Rev. Jno. F. Farnell, from 1st Corinthians, 3d chapter and 9th verse.

Wednesday Afternoon—2 O'clock P. M.

At 2 o'clock P. M. the Middle Florida Baptist Association was called to order,

the former Moderator and Clerk being present.

The roll of churches was then called, and the letters brought forward and read by Rev. R. F. Hacker and H. B. Gibson, and the names of the messengers were enrolled.

The Association was permanently organized by re-electing the former Moderator, Rev. Jno. T. Farnell, and H. B. Gibson, Clerk.

Visiting brethren were then invited to seats with us and extended the courtesies of the floor. Rev. J. A. Davis, of the Florida Baptist Association, responded and was welcomed by the Moderator.

Upon the call for petitionary letters, Bro. C. L. Leggett, a member of Greenville church, presented a letter from his church asking for admission into the Association.

The letter was read by the Clerk and, on motion, Greenville Baptist church was admitted to membership of the Association. The Moderator gave the hand of fellowship to Bro. C. L. Leggett.

Correspondents were then invited to seats with us and extended the courtesies of the floor. Rev. S. J. McLeod, of Waycross, Ga., representing the pulpit and press, responded and was welcomed by the Moderator.

The Moderator appointed the following committees:

1. Committee on Preaching—The Deacons of the entertaining church and brethren J. W. Day and J. S. Pinson.

2. Committee on Sunday Schools—Brethren C. L. Leggett, S. M. Morgan, G. F. Andrews and H. B. Sheffield.

3. Committee on Ministerial Support—Rev. I. R. Clements, Brethren J. P. Sessions and J. S. Pinson.

4. Committee on Woman's Work—Revs. R. F. Hacker, I. R. Clements, Brethren R. L. Williams and Martin Bishop.

5. Committee on Deceased Ministers and Deacons—Brethren J. W. Day, D. N. Webb, W. H. Haney and J. P. Webb.

6. Committee on Nominations—Brethren A. C. Townsend, D. W. Vann and J. W. Thomas.

7. Committee on Ministerial Education—Rev. A. N. Woodard, Brethren Wesley Bishop and J. F. Hartsfield.

8. Committee on Finance—Brethren J. W. Day, J. W. Thomas, D. E. Thomas and D. W. Bishop.

9. Committee on Missions—Revs. R. F. Hacker, A. N. Woodard and Bro. J. F. Stokes.

10. Committee on Temperance—Revs. R. F. Hacker, I. R. Clements and Bro. J. W. Day.

Arranged the time of meeting—To meet at 9 o'clock A. M.; adjourn at 11 A. M.; meet at 2 P. M., and adjourn at will.

On motion, the election of messengers to the State Baptist Convention was passed till tomorrow.

On motion, adjourned to meet at 9 A. M. Thursday. Rev. S. J. McLeod offered prayer. The Moderator pronounced the benediction.

The year 1906 saw a break in the moderatorship. The Reverend I. R. Clements, a Macedonia pastor, succeeded J. T. Farnell. Reverend Gibson continued as clerk, as did F. B. Williams as treasurer. The able Executive Committee included J. C. Scruggs, H. B. Gibson, C. L. Leggett, John T. Woodard, and Treasurer F. B. Williams. The session was held at New Hopeful Church, west of Madison.

Due to the courtesy of Dr. E. Earl Joiner, profound Florida Baptist historian and bright soul, we are able to state that the 1907 session was held with the Greenville Baptist Church, October 23, 24, and 25. The officers were I. R. Clements, Moderator; H. B. Gibson, Clerk; and F. B. Williams, Treasurer. C. Bush, John Woodard, and F. B. Williams composed the Executive Committee.

The 1908 annual meeting was with the Lamont Church in Jefferson County. The Reverend John T. Farnell, by this time, was back at the post of moderator. The other officials remained

unchanged. We are necessarily passing over details of this meeting in order to amplify to some extent the year of 1909.

FOCUS ON THE ANNUAL SESSION OF 1909

We have determined that it might be the part of wisdom to deal with this meeting in some detail. The strong rural community organization, a fine era for the churches located in the farmlands, was still dominant in the territory covered by the Middle Florida Baptist Association. One of the two churches that came into affiliation with the Association on a delayed basis had shown up by this time. Madison Church was there with messengers J. E. Hardee and Pastor W. R. Ivey.

Elizabeth Church, the other holdout, is not shown as having sent messengers. However, the Association was taking shape, following its organization in 1900. The year 1909 marked the final year of service of two stalwarts on the Baptist scene. These were the Reverend J. T. Farnell, founding Moderator, and the Reverend H. B. Gibson, who had served as Clerk since 1901. Then, too, we have before us a well preserved copy of the minutes of that year, on loan from Mrs. Ruth Reams, who received them from Albert "Granddaddy" Reams, her late father-in-law.

The meeting was, of course, held with the Brewer (then spelled "Bruer") Lake Church, from Wednesday, October 20, on through Thursday and Friday. In that period the officers were elected for the session at the beginning. Permanent organization was effected by re-electing the Reverend J. T. Farnell, Moderator, and the Reverend H. B. Gibson as Clerk. Showing the custom still standard in our Association, even before the election the body "held a prayer service at 9 A. M."

Further record of the Wednesday morning session reflects that the Reverend A. N. Woodard preached the introductory sermon, from Daniel 1:8. His text was, "But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defire himself." Whereupon, the Association adjourned until 1:30 P. M.

Afternoon Session, Wednesday, October 20, 1909

Opening the meeting after what surely was an abundant lunch, the Reverend Farnell, the Moderator, read the 50th Psalm. The Reverend R. F. Hacker offered prayer. The Moderator appointed the usual slate of committees, including: On Preaching, pastor and deacons of the host church; On Aged Ministers, the Reverend J. L. Rutherford, Brothers A. D. Campbell, and N. W. West; On Finance, Brothers C. L. Leggett, J. S. Pinson, T. P. Williams, and N. D. Malone.

The Orphanage Committee drew Brothers J. C. Scruggs, J. A. Johnson, and J. W. Andrews; Missions was represented by the Reverend A. N. Woodard, Brothers J. F. Andrews, and J. P. Morgan; Sunday Schools, Brothers C. A. Denmark, John Tamplin, J. R. Mullis, and J. J. Farnell.

The membership of the Committee on Women's Work was interesting. In those days "the liberty of the floor" (speaking in the Association) was not often allowed to women, no matter how great their piety. So the brethren, aware of this point, appointed on the Women's Work Committee: the Reverend W. R. Ivey, Brethren A. Reams and B. C. Webb, an all-male unity. J. E. Hardee was appointed to the Committee on Baptist Young People's Union (BYPU) and asked to handle it alone.

Brother Farnell called for correspondents and invited visiting brethren to "seats with us" (a still prevailing custom). Accepting this invitation were: Brother Lewis Entzminger, Secretary of the BYPU and Sunday School work; Sister S. D. Harper, agent of The Florida Baptist Witness; the Reverend J. R. Wells, Suwannee Association; the Reverend Moses Ward, Mercer Association (Georgia); the Reverend S. S. Proctor, Central Association; and the Reverend J. E. Clements of the Old Florida Association.

The order of business was set aside, and Brother Entzminger delivered an address on missions. A careful search of the records does not indicate that Sister Harper ever received the "liberty of the floor." It is assumed that she worked individually among the messengers in promoting the circulation of The Witness. A bit further over it is shown that "the Chairman of the Committee on Women's Work was allowed more time to prepare his report and file it with

the clerk in time for printing."

Moseley Hall and Sirmans Churches presented their letters by "the hands of their messengers and, on motion, they were received and the right hand of fellowship was extended to the messengers by the Moderator." There was an evening service, with preaching by the Reverend J. R. Wells, from Romans 1:14. The evening was concluded by taking a collection for State Missions, amounting to \$14.58.

Thursday—Second Day

The Reverend H. B. Gibson, the Clerk, offered the opening prayer. Previously, the Reverend Farnell, the Moderator, had read Psalms, second chapter. Bethel Church was received into membership. The Reverend S. B. Cole, Madison Pastor, was chosen to preach the 11 o'clock sermon. Delegates to State Convention in Gainesville, January 26, 1910, were chosen on voluntary basis: the Reverends W. R. Ivey, S. B. Cole, J. T. Farnell; Brethren J. E. Hardee, J. C. Scruggs, C. C. Rawls, A. M. Warren, Jno. W. Day, F. B. Williams, and C. A. Denmark.

Much of Thursday morning was given to reading and discussing reports. The Missions Report was "spoken to" by the Reverends A. N. Woodard, S. S. Proctor, W. R. Ivey, and S. B. Cole. It was "laid on the table to be taken up again at 1:30 P. M." One sentence is too good to miss: "It is no longer the question of whether we will take the Gospel to the heathen and Christianize them, but whether we will allow them to bring their heathen faith into this Gospel Land of ours."

The reports of the Executive Committee and other details consumed the rest of the morning. One point of emphasis was stressed, that the people get behind the Fifth Sunday Meeting (earlier called the "Union Meeting"). This was held on the fifth Sundays, on which most churches did not hold regular sessions. The record comes back to reflect that Reverend Cole did preach at 11 o'clock, with his text being "Am I My Brother's Keeper?"

The afternoon session of Thursday, October 21, saw the continuance of committee presentations and discussion. New Prospect Church presented a petitionary letter by its pastor, and was duly received with the right hand of fellowship.

The report of the Temperance Committee rang out clearly on the liquor question: "As Baptist people we are unchangingly opposed to the use or sale of intoxicating drinks." The report indicated that "100,000 men and women go to a drunkard's grave in the United States each year." It allowed, further, that "45 per cent of the idiots are products of the saloon."

Some note of distress was shown in the language of the report on the State of the Churches. It said, "There is a great lack of orthodoxy and of the missionary spirit among our Baptist Churches."

Friday, morning and afternoon, was given over to more committee reports, and appointment of committees: Foreign Missions, W. R. Ivey; Home Missions, J. C. Scruggs; State Missions, A. N. Woodard; Ministerial Education, J. W. Day; Temperance, C. C. Rawls; State of Churches, J. E. Hardee; Ministerial Support, T. A. Evins; Sunday Schools, W. B. Davis; Orphanage, C. L. Leggett; and Woman's Work, I. R. Clements. General miscellaneous matters were handled, including a commitment to meet with Hopewell Baptist Church, six miles south of Madison, Florida, at a time to be named by the Executive Committee.

Members of the Executive Committee were S. B. Cole, W. R. Ivey, H. B. Gibson, G. W. Tedder, and F. B. Williams. Further records show that the meeting date at Hopewell, as selected by the Executive Committee, was October 6 and 7, 1910.

We recur to the report of Women's Work, with no desire to appear as laboring the point that women's work at the Association was handled by men with the ladies excluded from speaking. The report has so much insight and is so forward-looking that we return to it to give an excerpt from the printed presentation:

We have never learned to appreciate fully the great possibilities of Women's Work. The rapid advancement they have made along all lines of benevolent and Christian work is one of the marvels of this age. Their aim for years was "Go Forward" and the great forward movement in our Southern Zion for the past twenty years has been largely due to the persistent, unflinching, consecrated efforts of our noble sisters. Their motto is "The people that know their God shall be strong and do exploits" (Daniel 11:32)

Before giving some general information on the 1909 session, we wish to give brief sentences from Mr. Gibson's minutes relating to bringing the session to a close: "On motion it was ordered that the clerk be paid \$20.00 for his services and be reimbursed for stationery. Due motion to adjourn was passed. 'What A Friend We Have in Jesus' was sung. The parting hand was extended."

Enrollment of Messengers at the 1909 Annual Session

Aucilla—J. H. Whiddon and J. L. Bishop
 Antioch—J. P. Morgan and Eugene Morgan
 Athena—Not represented
 Bruer Lake—D. W. Townsend, John W. Day, A. D. Townsend and C. M. Barrs
 Beulah—B. C. Webb, J. R. Henderson and J. A. Johnson
 Bethel—J. E. Herring and B. I. Knight
 Cabbage Grove—Not represented
 Central—J. C. Scruggs and J. R. Mullis
 Greenville—A. Reams and C. L. Leggett
 Hopewell—W. D. Lamb and G. W. Moore
 Harmony—A. D. Campbell and J. W. Andrews
 Live Oak (now Mt. Olive)—J. S. Pinson and C. J. Harvell
 Luther (Shady Grove)—By letter
 Lee—J. L. Rutherford and Sister C. M. Frier
 Lamont—T. P. Williams and Jesse Walker
 Macedonia—G. W. Johnson, F. B. Williams and J. T. Woodard
 Midway—A. W. Webb and W. D. Malone
 Madison—W. R. Ivey and J. E. Hardee
 Mt. Moriah—Joel J. Farnell and Noah West
 Mt. Gilead—W. F. Vann
 Moseley Hall—Gus Shaw and Sister Mamie Sanders
 New Hope—By letter
 New Hopeful—W. B. Gibson
 New Macedonia—J. F. Andrews and Sister Elma Slaughter
 New Prospect—By petitionary letter and pastor
 Oakland—Not represented
 Pleasant Grove (L)—J. M. Smith, D. L. Ezell, W. O. Lyons, and S. C. Buchanan
 Pleasant Grove (T)—J. W. A. Grantham and P. A. Dice
 Pleasant Hill—Not represented
 Pine Grove—A. M. Warren and John W. Kiser
 Pine Bluff—Not represented
 Perry—S. B. Cole and J. K. Johnson
 River Side—Lawrence Leggett, W. D. Purvis and Joe Tamplin
 San Pedro—C. A. Denmark and F. E. Carrin
 Sirmons—T. L. Goodman and G. R. Vann
 Triumph—C. C. Rawls

Pastors, Clerks, and Baptisms

You will have to recall that many churches held services only one Sunday each month in 1909. Some of the churches had no pastors, as reflected in minutes. But it ought to be bracing to take this stroll down the back way of the years.

CHURCH	PASTOR	CLERK	NO. BAPTISMS
Aucilla	T. A. Evins	J. H. Whiddon	15
Antioch	A. N. Woodard	W. E. Frier	1
Bruer Lake	S. S. Proctor	W. J. Johnson	3

Beulah	T. M. Webb	J. F. Stokes	
Central	T. A. Evins	J. C. Scruggs	21
Greenville	J. T. Lee	J. W. Bishop	11
Hopewell	R. F. Hacker	B. F. Kelly	3
Harmony	Mose Ward	N. W. Campbell	5
Live Oak	W. A. Kelly	J. S. Williams	4
Luther	J. E. Vann	R. L. Williams	
Lee	R. F. Hacker	A. F. Stroud	2
Lamont	T. A. Evins	T. P. Williams	5
Macedonia	J. T. Farnell	W. B. Rye	17
Madison	W. R. Ivey	J. J. Conway	9
Midway	J. F. Parker	J. T. Jones	3
Moseley Hall	R. F. Hacker		
Mt. Moriah	J. T. Farnell	J. H. Williams	6
Mt. Gilead	J. E. Vann	W. E. Vann	7
New Hope	R. E. Parnell	J. B. Connell	12
New Hopeful	J. L. Rutherford	S. C. Warren	3
New Macedonia	A. N. Woodard	J. F. Andrews	2
Oakland			
Pleasant Grove (L)	S. S. Proctor	L. S. G. Lawson	2
Pleasant Grove (T)	W. S. Kelly	J. A. Tedder	2
Pine Grove	A. N. Woodard	T. J. Blair	
Pine Bluff	Wm. Carraway	F. M. Fuqua	
Perry	S. B. Cole	W. E. Innman	14
River Side	L. J. Townsend	Jesse Frier	10
San Pedro	L. R. Clements	M. A. Parker	5
Sirmans	Mose Ward	J. S. Day	9
Triumph		W. W. Mills	

Woman's Missionary Society

There is a very brief report on Woman's Missionary Work. Mrs. Lon Walker is shown as the President. Mrs. Walker lived in Aucilla. At Madison, Mrs. W. R. Ivey is shown as President. Contributions for missions ran \$154.62. Mrs. S. H. Peacock was President at Perry, with contributions for Missions and Benevolences of \$31.06.

B. Y. P. U.

The Baptist Training Union was in 1909 called the Baptist Young People's Union. O. M. Bowers is shown as president, with contributions of \$4.14. Mrs. C. T. Culpepper, of Perry, headed the Sunbeam Band as president. Contributions were \$5.00.

Ministers in the Association

We owe so much, both spiritually and culturally, to the leadership of Ministers that we felt it appropriate to give the list for the Association in 1909.

Those who had been ordained were: I. R. Clements, Day; S. B. Cole, Perry; J. C. Connell, DeLand; J. T. Farnell, Day; H. B. Gibson, Madison; J. M. Hampton, Aucilla; W. R. Ivey, Madison; J. T. Lee, Rochelle, Ga.; J. T. Montgomery, Aucilla; J. L. Rutherford, Lee; W. M. Tamplin, Dowling Park; L. J. Townsend, Mayo; J. E. Vann, Shady Grove; S. C. Warren, Hanson; and A. N. Woodard, Madison.

The licensed Ministers included J. T. Bennett, Madison; A. T. Cornett, Madison; and Noah West, Day.

Statistical Look at 1909

Brother F. B. Williams, Associational Treasurer, gave his report, showing a healthy balance of \$320.64. Baptisms stood at 179 for the year. Taken in by letter were 87, with a total increase over the previous report of 286. Of course, there were losses, leaving the net increase at 168; with a total membership of 1971.

Total for pastors' salaries ran \$3093.00, with the Madison salary being \$1000, the highest. Associational Missions placed at \$129.14; Foreign Missions amounted to \$126.43; total for all extension purposes was \$6861.97. Property was valued at \$20,970.00.

There were 15 churches having Sunday Schools, with 747 pupils, and gifts of \$100.97 for benevolences and missions (out of a total of \$226.29).

We see our Association and churches passing through a rather depressed time. However, the Baptists are reflected as busy in the Lord's work, holding steadily to the road of faith and hope.

MOVING TOWARD THE 1920's

Great challenges lay before America as it faced the decade of 1910 to 1920. A world conflagration was on the horizon. An epidemic of influenza would tragically sweep the nation and over much of the world. Transportation and farming would move toward mechanization. America was to become a world power. The problems of economy and growth would pose many tests for our people.

Many nostalgic items would become shrouded in the passing of time, leaving trailing memories behind. The porch "wash shelf" with basins set in cut-out circles, the cedar well-bucket, home-made lye soap, the towel set on rollers, the drinking gourd, would join mosquito nets, kerosene lamps, open fireplaces, Porter's Antiseptic Healing Oil, and old-fashioned organs in taking the backroad of oblivion. Community peanut shellings and square dances would join this caravan of yesterday.

The first big happening in our Middle Florida Missionary Baptist Association was that the leadership, so long in the hands of the ministry, passed to laymen. Judge W. B. Davis was elected Moderator at the annual meeting at Hopewell, October 6 and 7, 1910. Elected as Clerk to serve with him was Ardis Warren, a deacon of the Pine Grove Church. Judge Davis served in this post during 1910 and 1911. Brother Warren continued to 1917. The Reverend S. B. Cole was chosen Moderator in 1912 and held the post until the end of this decade and over in the next period. In the Clerk's post, Theo Leslie served 1918, 1919, and 1920.

Central Church in Aucilla entertained the 13th Annual Session, November 6 and 7, 1912. It should be noted that F. B. Williams was still Treasurer. The meeting was opened with the usual service of songs and prayers. The Reverend T. E. Elgin preached from Matthew 11:28, "Come unto Me and I will give you rest." It is noted that in the appointment of committees, Mrs. J. T. Wilkes, Mrs. Robert Bunting, and Miss Mabel Frier drew the assignment on Woman's Work.

The reports show that J. C. Scruggs was the only deacon to be called home that year, having passed September 12, 1912. He left a bracing record of faithfulness in the Master's Cause. Report from the ladies showed there were 10,580 missionary societies (S. B. C.). Harmony seemed to mark each moment of the meeting. Membership showed 2097, with 149 baptisms.

The 1913 Session was at San Pedro Church in Taylor County, November 5, 6, and 7 (note extra day). S. B. Cole was in the Moderator's chair and Ardis Warren was still Clerk. Brother F. B. Williams remained at the Treasurer's post. The Executive Committee was composed of A. M. Warren, J. R. Mullis, M. W. Marshall, S. A. Cross, and W. E. Inman. Committees and order of business followed the usual custom. However, the Moderator, "if he deemed it necessary is authorized to appoint a committee on Committees"—a custom that held for many years.

The Reverend A. N. Woodard preached from the 16th Chapter of Mark, 15th and 16th verses. The Committee on State of the Churches bore down on better compensation for preachers. They enjoined, "It is more blessed to give than to receive, and a laborer is worthy of his hire."

The Association, it was recorded, was shocked to learn that "a pastor nearby in another association had been found guilty of unsound doctrine." Brother Cole, in a session marked by

the usual harmony and orderly transaction of business, gave the benediction.

The 1915 Annual Meeting was entertained by Madison Church. Brethren Cole and Warren were still in the posts of leadership in what appears, always to the glory of The Master, a harmonious and constructive session.

The year 1916 found the Association meeting with the Perry Church, November 14, 15, and 16. Brother F. B. Williams was still Treasurer. The practice of having standing committees to carry on associational work is shown in the appointment of these chairmen: State Missions, J. T. Farnell; Home Missions, J. T. Bennett; Foreign Missions, J. A. Kirtley; Education, A. M. Parker; Sunday School, S. C. Warren; Temperance, W. A. Cate; Periodicals, W. B. Davis; Orphanage, J. O. Culpepper; State of Churches, R. F. Hacker; Deceased Ministers, Tom Kent; Ministerial Support, Theo Leslie; Woman's Work, supplied by Women's Missionary Society; and Nominations, Frank Andrews.

A paragraph in the Report of the State of the Churches reads: "There is a serious need for a closer relationship between our churches; our Fifth Sunday meetings should be better attended and a more brotherly fellowship cultivated."

By and large, the minutes show that it was a meeting marked by the even flow of business, good fellowship, and devotion. Membership ran 2604, with 154 baptisms.

Registration for World War I came June 4, 1917. That year the Middle Florida Missionary Baptist Association met with Midway Church. Brethren S. B. Cole, Ardis Warren, and F. B. Williams were still in leadership. Though the clouds of war were circling, the meeting was calm and dedicated. S. B. Rogers, eminent State leader, was present. The pastors, by way of emphasizing missions, were requested to preach on this subject at least once each quarter. There was agreement to return to October for the annual meetings.

Some caution about public education was shown in the Report on Education. We quote: "In our State Colleges and public schools we find a very small number of presidents, professors, and teachers to be devout Christians. By this the tendency of the State Colleges and public schools are not toward spiritual development, but just the reverse." Then came a strong plea for support of denominational schools.

The plan for grouping churches into fields so that they could have one pastor was given endorsement. It is noted that Brother Warren was paid \$20.00 for his services as Clerk. Women's work appeared flourishing, with money raised amounting to \$685.26. The ladies, too, it should be noted, were operating their division themselves.

Flu was raging in 1918. The meeting at Riverside, November 26, was composed of only a corporal's guard of the faithful. In this number were John Woodard, Bart Williams (Treasurer), Carl W. Burnett, S. B. Cole, Theo Leslie, S. K. Driggers, J. E. Denmark, W. N. Webb; and from Riverside, A. U. Mills, C. N. Frier, and J. G. Frier, in the absence of Ardis Warren, Theo Leslie was elected Secretary.

The meeting was opened by singing "My Faith Looks Up To Thee" and reading of the second chapter of Acts. The only item of business, other than receiving letters, was the reception of Pinetta Church into membership of the Association. Brother Cole gave the right hand of fellowship to the delegate present. His name was not shown in the minutes. The list of the honored dead included 40 names, many taken by the flu epidemic, it is surmised. But brighter days lie ahead.

We move to the end of the decade, to 1919. That year the Association met with the Lee Church, October 14 and 15. In the posts of leadership were S. B. Cole, Moderator (absent), Theo Leslie, Clerk (or Secretary), and F. B. Williams, Treasurer. The Executive Committee was made up of J. E. Harrell, W. L. Weaver, J. R. Mullis, J. Vickers, and G. F. Andrews.

Prices had not begun to dip following wartime inflation. The boys who had sung so lustily, "Over There" and "It's A Long Way To Tipperary" were coming back to an exhilarated homeland, though this was somewhat subdued by the fact that some of their companions were sleeping the sleep near Argonne Forest and along the Meuse River.

Pisgah Church applied for membership and was duly accepted. In the absence of the Moderator, J. T. Farnell, long-time servant, was called to preside. The devotional, meanwhile, had been conducted by the Reverend M. J. Fowler for the Wednesday morning service.

The Executive Committee continued emphasis on the Union Meetings, urged that a Bible Institute be held wherever possible, and rallied our people to the support of the Seventy-five Million Dollar Campaign. Both prayer and financial support were urged. A Committee on Nominations was activated. It endorsed F. B. Williams as Treasurer; preacher for Introductory

Sermon, R. F. Hacker; the Missionary Sermon by A. M. Parker.

The ladies, in a report submitted by D. F. Barry and Mrs. Eddie Bunting, asked for more hearty support of the missionary effort. Mrs. W. A. Gates, it is recorded, gave a four-minute speech in support of the \$75,000,000 Campaign.

Pastors salaries ran \$5,747.79. Evidently there were no church buildings of masonry, as the total value is given at \$8500. Baptisms were 129. The membership stood at 2848. The movement was forward!

The 1920's in Review

The 1920's heralded much change. The war economy had cushioned the coming of the Mexican Boll Weevil. This devastating insect virtually stopped cotton production and closed the Florida Manufacturing Company, the world's largest processing plant of Sea Island Long Cotton. With the cooling off of wartime inflation, our farmers faced a new day and new challenges.

This was the decade of emphasis on soil conservation, improvement of livestock, forestry, and diversified farming programs. The rapid-fire advance of the automobile brought good roads and filling stations on almost every roadside. On the national scene, our youngsters were reacting to the war-bred liberty, and Clara Bow was starring in roles that brought her the title of the "original 'It' girl."

But God's work went on. October 12 and 13, 1920 saw the Middle Florida Baptist Association meeting in its 21st Annual Session, with Elizabeth Church in Jefferson County. The Reverend S. B. Cole was Moderator and Theo Leslie, a layman from the Madison Church, was Secretary. F. B. Williams was in his old post of Treasurer. J. E. Hardee, J. R. Mullis, W. L. Weaver, Carl W. Burnett, and G. F. Andrews made up the Executive Committee.

The Association, following a custom brought on possibly by war conditions in 1917, met in the opening session at 2:00 P. M. The Reverend W. W. Willian, from the State Board of Missions, was on hand and was asked to preach. Reverend Cole activated his authorization to appoint a Committee on Committees. A. M. Parker, W. M. Scruggs, and A. D. Townsend drew this assignment.

You have the time and place. Would you not like to pull back the curtains of time and see who the messengers were at this session?

Antioch, W. M. Morgan; Aucilla, G. T. Bishop; Beulah, C. B. Webb, J. F. Stokes, and J. L. Stokes; Bethel, J. B. Head; Brewer Lake, Fred Parker, C. Fowler, Thomas Bell, Jennie Fowler; Central, Joel Walker, E. L. Hamrick, Elsie Lewis, Lizzie Stanley; Greenville, G. F. Andrews, C. L. Leggett, A. Reams, J. H. Andrews; Harmony, Z. T. Andrews, J. A. Bailey; Lamont, C. J. Reams, L. E. John Parker; Live Oak, J. S. Pinson, E. H. Smith; Macedonia, F. B. Williams, Carl W. Burnett; Madison, W. B. Davis, Theo Leslie, B. F. Hamrick, W. C. Taylor; Midway, D. E. Thomas, Lewis Hale, A. M. Sapp, Fenton Webb; Moseley Hall, J. R. O'Quinn, Mt. Gilead, J. R. Vann, A. J. Aman; Mt. Moriah, J. H. Williams, G. E. Barrs; New Hopeful, Miss Susie Humphrey, Sylvester Harris; New Macedonia, Paul Bishop, Joe Andrews; Oakland, C. J. Wilson; Oak Grove, Robert Hollingworth, Eustace Blair; Perry, W. B. Davis, J. O. Culpepper, Mrs. W. B. Davis, Mrs. J. O. Culpepper; Pinetta, F. J. Blair, E. W. Kinsey; Pleasant Grove (L), J. R. Brumbley, A. D. Townsend, J. H. Smith; Pisgah, Cuthbert Parker; Riverside, W. C. Winderweedle; San Pedro, F. E. Carrin, J. S. Parker, John Carrin; Sirmans, T. P. Vann, and Mrs. R. C. Reams.

The usual committees were appointed. The Foreign Missions report took the position that World War I had opened the doors of Europe and that "fields were ripe unto harvest." This report decried the fact that our Association had been careless in the area of missions. A total of \$51,654.00 is reflected. There were 161 baptisms. Church property had risen to \$43,989.00 in value. Greenville Church led with a sanctuary valued at \$11,467.00 and a pastorium placed at \$2,000.00.

Pleasant Grove in Taylor County entertained the Association October 10 and 11, 1921. Major officials remained the same: the Reverend S. B. Cole, Moderator, and Bart Williams, Treasurer. But there was one change destined to bring a record to our Association, in the clerkship.

Carl W. Burnett, a young layman from Macedonia and a member of the Executive Committee, was elected Clerk. He held this position in subsequent years for 46 years, a longer period than any man ever served in this post in the Southern Baptist Convention.

In addition to the usual committees, the Reverend A. F. O'Kelly was appointed chairman of the 75 Million Dollar Campaign. The full program of the Women's Missionary Union meeting held at Pleasant Grove (L) was ordered carried in the minutes. Miss Susie Humphrey is shown as the recording secretary.

The meeting is reflected as being business like and very orderly. There were 223 baptisms; the membership is shown at 2805.

The years from 1922 to 1927 might be described as the "orderly 1920's." S. B. Cole, Moderator; Carl W. Burnett, Clerk; and F. B. Williams, Treasurer, were on hand and in their accustomed places at each session. In 1922 evidence is given that the laymen's movement was becoming prominent. A strong committee of G. F. Andrews, A. J. Parker, F. M. Dukes, W. L. Tooke, and A. F. O'Kelly was appointed. Bible study in stewardship, reading of the Florida Baptist Witness, and missions were selected as areas for improvement. This movement, we are aware, grew to become the Brotherhood, so vital in our religious life.

Brewer Lake entertained the Association in 1923, with the same officials. Foreign missions is given a separate report. The idea of how missions keep a group growing and vibrant is brought out in this presentation. Membership was 2904, and baptisms, 139.

Central, in Jefferson County (Aucilla), entertained the group in 1924. Again, the officials were the same. However, W. L. Weaver of Perry was chosen as Moderator, the first layman since W. B. Davis in 1911. The laymen's movement is shown as gathering force as a result of a south-wide convention of laymen held in Memphis, Tennessee, the preceding February. The 75 Million Dollar Campaign was evidently being pushed vigorously by the denominational leadership, as shown by the ample space given to the report. Baptisms were 288, up over the preceding year. Membership was 3019.

The 1925 session saw the Reverend A. J. Preston as Moderator and Brethren Burnett and Williams at their accustomed posts. Afternoon opening meetings were continuing. The treasury showed \$95.91, but "even with the world" at the end of the meeting when bills had been paid. The Baptist Young People's Unions (B. Y. P. U.) showed growing interest. There were 529 Unions in Florida, and emphasis was being placed on Spanish-speaking extension. Signing the report were: Henry F. Bird, M. J. Fowler, and D. E. Thomas. It is noted that a page is dedicated to the memory of the Reverend J. M. Connor, the Reverend T. J. Farnell (first Moderator), and the Reverend W. M. Tampling. All were vibrant leaders who served faithfully in the Middle Florida Baptist Association.

The Association was back home at its birthplace, Macedonia, in 1926. Judge W. B. Davis was again at the post of Moderator, with Brethren Burnett and Williams continuing their usual services. This was the year of the tropical hurricane, but the reports and orderly business show progress. There was a report on Junior Baptist Colleges, reflecting the usual interest in education. A page is dedicated to the memory of stalwart servant of the Master, W. S. Kelly. There were 161 baptisms, and church property was valued at \$49,547.78.

In the 1927 session at New Macedonia, Judge Davis, Moderator, upon authority of the Association, appointed A. N. Woodard, R. R. Ware, and J. P. Wood as a committee to lead in collecting a carload of supplies for the Florida Baptist Children's Home. During the session T. N. Jones was elected Assistant Moderator. Time for the Fifth Sunday Meetings was extended to Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

In 1929 the Association met in its 30th session with the First Baptist Church of Madison. Judge Davis and Carl W. Burnett were in their accustomed places. As we look to the coming of the decade of the 1930's, when the shadows of the Great Depression rested over the land, it appears that the call of the roll of ordained ministers holding membership at that time in the Middle Florida Baptist Association might be appropriate:

- Athens—M. J. Howell, Carbur, Fla.
- Brewer Lake—M. J. Fowler, G. G. Ward, Day, Fla.
- Greenville—A. T. Camp, Greenville, Fla.
- Macedonia—A. N. Woodard, Lee, Fla.
- Madison—W. J. Ray, Madison, Fla.
- New Home—W. A. Barrow, Madison, Fla.

Oakland—S. K. Wilson, Perry, Fla.
 Pinetta—A. M. Parker, Pinetta, Fla.
 Pine Grove—S. C. Warren, Madison, Fla.
 Sirmans—A. M. Rowe, Ebb, Fla.

And so, as we pass to other and more recent days, we pay tribute to the memory of these noble Soldiers of the Cross. Their passing to rich rewards has thinned their ranks. We are acquainted with the Reverend M. J. Fowler of Day, Florida, who, blessedly, has lived to see the year of the American Bicentennial. Thanks to the Master of Men for them all.

When the 31st annual session of the Middle Florida Missionary Baptist Association met at Elizabeth, October 28 and 29, 1930, John F. McCall had succeeded Judge W. B. Davis as Moderator, and Carl W. Burnett was still running up his record tenure as Association Clerk. Like the succeeding year, it was a time of adjustment in the American economy as well as in the life of our churches.

In 1931, the Association returned to its place of origin, Macedonia, with Brethren McCall and Burnett at their same posts.

A BROADER LOOK AT THE 1930's

This is 1932, a year that has been marked on the historical calendar of the nation. This was the year that Franklin D. Roosevelt came to the office of President under the promise of a "New Deal." We have referred to the stalemated condition of our economic life.

The Middle Florida Missionary Baptist Association met on schedule, coming again to Macedonia, October 25 and 26, the only time one church entertained the Association for two successive years. Brother McCall was still Moderator, but J. J. Farnell had been elected Clerk, a post he held until 1936. He was the son of the Reverend I. T. Farnell, the first Moderator.

We have chosen 1932 for amplification because it was the first year of the American economic crisis. Then, too, it reflects our Baptist people "keeping their chins up," if we may be pardoned for the use of this language.

A good point to begin seems to be to give the roll of messengers. Incidentally, this will also show the churches holding membership in the Middle Florida Baptist Association.

Athena—D. D. Whitfield, Eliza Radcliff, Mrs. D. D. Whitfield
 Antioch—John Woods, H. M. Frier
 Aucilla—Mr. and Mrs. G. T. Bishop, J. T. Bishop
 Beulah—Mary Robinson, E. S. Robinson
 Brewer Lake—T. A. Bell, Joel J. Farnell, Mrs. J. P. Lynch, Mrs. J. T. Farnell
 Burton—Mrs. W. J. Lundy, W. H. Godwin, W. C. Denmark, E. J. Tedder
 Central—Rev. J. T. Montgomery, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Dutton, I. A. Sparks, Miss Ethel Bishop
 Elizabeth—Charles Walker, Mrs. J. G. Walker, Mrs. J. E. Lewis, Mrs. R. L. Stanley, Staten Howell
 Friendship—Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Mann, L. D. Woodward, C. P. Jenkins
 Foley—Mrs. M. H. Bagley, Mrs. S. A. Touchton
 Greenville—G. F. Andrews, Mrs. J. P. Taylor, J. R. Laney, Mrs. A. D. Reams, Mrs. Lillie Warren
 Hopewell—S. A. Lamb, L. F. Rutherford, A. W. Kelly, J. B. Kelly
 Lee—D. E. McCall, Mrs. L. A. Lamb, Olin Rutherford, Mrs. S. A. Kinsey
 Lamont—Mrs. W. R. Sherman, W. H. Walker, J. D. Beatty
 Macedonia—O. A. Henderson, John Mercer, Carl W. Burnett, Irvin McCullough
 Moseley Hall—Mrs. A. E. Sanders, S. H. Andrews, S. R. Sapp, Leon Andrews
 Midway—W. M. Terry, John Hale, Lee Hicks, J. H. Phillips
 Mayo—T. J. Funderburk, Rena B. Winderweedle, Mrs. R. Mosely, Mrs. H. L. Winderweedle, Mrs. Annie Frederick
 Madison—Col. J. F. McCall, W. L. Tooke, Mrs. R. B. Bryan, Mrs. W. L. Maxwell, W. C. Bailey
 Mt. Gilead—H. G. Watts
 Mt. Olive—M. T. Bridges, E. H. Smith, W. H. Phillips
 New Home—Milledge Bass, Agnes Bass
 New Macedonia—Tommie Barclay

New Hopeful—Claude Wilson, T. J. Harrell, A. B. Franklin, C. W. Johnson
 New Prospect—George Bass, Mrs. Jessie Bass
 Oakland—W. H. Young, W. B. Whiddon
 Pleasant Grove (T)—S. W. Tedder, Dasia McMullen
 Perry—D. F. Blanton, F. S. Jackson, Mrs. E. M. Hicks, Mrs. M. T. Swift, Rev. W. A. Coward
 Pinetta—M. G. Law, Neil Law, E. W. Kinsey, Miss Abbie Wigglesworth, G. W. Young
 Pisgah—Solon Smith
 Pine Grove—Ardis Warren, T. H. Meeks
 Riverside—W. C. Winderweedle, Herman Frier, Miss Verdie Mills
 San Pedro—H. J. Westberry, H. S. Parker
 Sirmans—L. H. Bailey, Mrs. M. T. Chason
 Sundown—Wright Shackelford, V. L. Hagerman, Will Blanton
 Churches not represented were: Bethel (to Suwannee), Harmony (by letter), Stephenville, and Pleasant Grove (L).

The records show the Reverend Ray Smith As Assistant Moderator and Deacon O. A. Henderson as Treasurer. When the gavel sounded Tuesday, October 25, 1932, it was noted that Dr. C. M. Brittain, long-time and valiant servant of Florida Baptists, was present. The devotional was conducted by the Reverend A. M. Parker, from the third chapter of Malachi. Appointed on the Time and Place Committee for the next year were G. F. Andrews, W. C. Bailey, and the Reverend S. G. Ward.

On Wednesday, October 26, 1932, in the morning session, a committee was authorized "to get behind a movement for organizing our young people in the B. Y. P. U. (Baptist Young People's Union) work of this Association." Appointed to this significant committee were the Reverend E. B. Evans, chairman, Mrs. C. C. Lovett, Miss Mable Evans, Miss Kathleen Weaver, and Miss Abbie Wigglesworth.

Further in the meeting the request was made that the B. Y. P. U., along with the Sunday School, give emphasis to the rural churches, or churches that have not served in the past two years. Too, the idea of simultaneous revivals was introduced.

On these high notes we pass to other days, pointing out that 319 baptisms and a total membership of 3915 were reported for the year.

October 24 and 25, 1933, saw the Association in its annual session, meeting with Brewer Lake Church in Lafayette County. The Reverend Ray Smith had come to the post of Moderator and J. J. Farnell was clerk. It was a session marked by the usual good harmony and inspiring fellowship.

We pass to 1934. This year, October 30 and 31, Greenville Church was host to the Association. The Reverend A. M. Parker had joined Brother Farnell in the posts of leadership of the floor and other deliberations. T. N. Jones was Vice-moderator and Deacon O. A. Henderson was Treasurer.

Early in the session Carl W. Burnett offered a constitutional amendment to include chair persons of standing committees ex officio messengers to the Association. This was adopted. W. G. Stracener was elected Assistant Vice-moderator. Visitors recognized included T. J. Johns, the Reverend Joseph Bell (Lafayette Association), and Dr. C. M. Brittain and wife.

Reports reflect that the B. Y. P. U. movement was making healthy strides. The officers of the new organization were W. Buford Selman, Director; T. P. McLeod, Jr., Associate Director; and Broward Jackson, Secretary-Treasurer. The group agreed to meet quarterly, twice Association-wide and twice by districts. This session, aside from the usual harmony, inspiration, and fellowship, seems to have been marked with a growing sense of the associational approach to God's work.

The annual meeting of 1935, October 29 and 30, found the group back at Macedonia. The Reverend W. G. Stracener was Moderator and Brother Farnell was continuing as Clerk. G. Frank Andrews was Assistant Moderator, and Deacon Henderson, Treasurer.

On the first day (Tuesday), the Reverend A. F. O'Kelly urged that the Moderator and Executive Committee "make an earnest effort to get each church to contribute to the support of our missions and benevolent work." The impact of the depression may be shown to some degree in that a collection to cover the cost of printing the programs ran to \$5.15.

The idea was given in the report of Education and Temperance that the home should become something more than a "hat peg." There was some feeling that the periodicals were

"backing off from the moral and spiritual content of the great topics of the day." A strong plea was made for taking better care of our retired ministers. There was rejoicing that steps were being taken to alleviate the condition of these "battle-scarred soldiers of the Cross."

Baptisms numbered 209 for the year, with a total membership of 4361. It appears that the Middle Florida Baptists were certainly not retreating from the battlements as the depression lay upon the land.

The year 1936 brought the annual meeting to Lamont in Jefferson County, October 27 and 28. The Historical Table shows Edwin B. Browning, Sr. as Moderator, and Carl W. Burnett back at his old post as Clerk. Emphasis was placed on the brotherhood movement, with the request that each church have this organization. It was pointed out that brotherhoods, in addition to stewardship generally, always gave support to the Cooperative Program.

The tables reflect that more and more churches were moving away from the quarter-time basis. There were 4044 in membership, with 203 baptisms. It is shown that 50 of these baptisms came through the Sunday Schools.

In 1937 the 38th annual session of the Middle Florida Missionary Baptist Association was entertained in its two-day session, October 26 and 27, by the Burton Church in Perry. The tables show Edwin B. Browning, Sr. and Carl W. Burnett as Moderator and Clerk, respectively. This may be a good place to point out that after this year (actually, 1936), moderators came and moderators went, but Carl W. Burnett remained at the post of Clerk, finally running up a total period of exemplary service of 46 years, the longest extant record.

Cherry Lake Baptist Church offered a petitionary letter for membership in the Association. The Reverend A. M. Parker, Sam Andrews, and O. S. Rutherford were appointed a committee to examine the request and report on its order. It was found that the letter was in good order; Cherry Lake Church was then received into the membership of the Association.

Hugh Latimer, State Brotherhood Secretary, was present and spoke on matters in this area. Prominent among the visitors recognized was T. E. Bush, blind gospel singer from Georgia. This must be termed a musical session, for, in addition to Mr. Bush, Stanley Armstrong, another distinguished gospel singer, was present and led the song service. It is noted, too, that the magnetic Ed Solomon was delightful among the visitors and often "on the floor." The Hundred Thousand Club is shown as being on the move. Baptisms were 213.

Dr. A. F. O'Kelly, noble Perry pastor, chaired the 1938 annual session. It met with Elizabeth Church in Jefferson County, October 25 and 26. The Reverend A. H. Townsend was elected Moderator for the next year. Brother Henderson was still Treasurer. The Reverend A. M. Parker preached the annual, or associational, sermon from 1st Peter 4-10. A collection of \$27.25 was taken for Chinese refugees.

A report recommended an Associational Sunday School organization. A committee to collect produce for the Florida Children's Home was appointed: G. F. Andrews, Lacy Woodard, Fred Parker, with a number of ministers to assist. Deacon Henderson's treasury report showed a cash balance of \$18.65. Baptisms, slightly down, were 176; membership, 4380. The number of weekly prayer meetings was on the increase.

In 1939, for the 40th annual session, the Association met with the First Baptist Church of Madison, October 24 and 25. The Reverend A. H. Townsend, as we have indicated, was in the Moderator's chair. The other officials were the same as previously shown. An entry shows that historic Concord Church applied for membership. The letter being found in order, this church was accepted and welcomed into membership. Report that a plan for activating a pension fund was received and heartily endorsed.

Coming of Miss Frieta Lamb

The appointment of Miss Frieta Lamb as Associational Educational Director is reflected and it is shown that the committee on resolutions urged the churches to avail themselves of her help. A search of the records shows that this is the beginning of the movement to staff the associational work and to close ranks for better teamwork in the Association. Baptisms were up to 298, with a total membership shown at 4582. And now we pass to another decade.

REVIEWING THE WAR YEARS OF THE 1940's

When the Reverend A. H. Townsend, Moderator, called the Middle Florida Baptist Association to order at San Pedro Church in Taylor County, October 24, 1940, the falling of shrieking enemy bombs on our Pacific Fleet was a little more than a year away. The shadows of a devastating economic depression, though lifting, still rested over the American landscape. America was entering a decade during which its prestige, both internally and on the international stage, would be challenged.

Carl W. Burnett was still Clerk of the Middle Florida Baptist Association. Deacon O. A. Henderson was Treasurer. The Reverend C. A. Martin is shown in our 1941 minutes as a member of the State Board of Missions. We are using 1941 as the factual base of this decade by reason of its being closer to the War. This year of 1941 found Edwin B. Browning, Sr. as Moderator, and Brethren Burnett and Henderson at their respective posts. The 1941 session was held with Pleasant Grove Church in Lafayette County, October 7 and 8.

The registration and the associational letters show the following messengers from the various churches: Athena, T. B. and Ed Whitfield, J. E. Ezell; Aucilla, Mr. and Mrs. M. W. Bishop, Mrs. J. L. Bishop; Beulah, J. F. and Edgar Stokes, S. K. Driggers; Brewer Lake, W. C. Winderweede, S. G. Ward, Thos. Bell, Mrs. Sarah Bell, and A. F. Barrs; Burton, the Rev. C. W. Persons, Mesdames E. E. Lyons, Homer Mills, Jessie McLeod, W. E. Baxter; Central, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Dutton, Mrs. C. T. Davies, Mrs. N. W. McLeod, and Arthur Finkles; Cherry Lake, W. L. Stokes and Lewis Burnett; Elizabeth, Mr. and Mrs. F. L. Walker, Mesdames R. L. Standley, J. G. Walker, and K. B. Trefry; Foley, Mesdames S. A. Touchton, Bob Brown, A. R. Richardson, J. T. Cutrer, and A. R. Cathron; Friendship, Mrs. Lena Johnson and Mrs. Mable Jenkins; Greenville, the Rev. and Mrs. M. D. Jackson, G. F. Andrews, W. D. Keis, Mrs. Leila Warren, Mrs. Bell Standley, and Mrs. S. B. Algeo; Harmony, G. P. Andrews and W. J. Spradley; Hopewell, Tommie McClamma and W. D. and Jack Lamb; Lee, Messrs. S. A. Kinsey, W. N. Webb, W. T. Kent, and Ed Rutherford; Macedonia, Mrs. M. A. Woodard and Mrs. John Mercer; Madison, Mr. and Mrs. Edwin B. Browning, Sr., Mr. and Mrs. Henry Messer, Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Brooke, Mr. and Mrs. Ben Kelly, and G. M. Sims; Midway, Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Terry, Joe Henry Thomas, and Lewis Hale; Mayo, H. L. Winderweede, E. W. Cone, J. D. Garden, Mrs. Luora Taylor, and Mrs. L. A. Jones; Moseley Hall, Ben Sanders, Jim Cruce, and Mrs. A. W. Sapp; Mt. Gilead, C. J. Lewis and Mr. and Mrs. Ed Aman; Mt. Olive, D. C. McLeod, T. H. Pinson and G. W. Albritton; New Home, Jim Shaw, Lucian Floyd, and W. W. Dice; New Macedonia, Mitchell Ray, T. J. Smith; Oakland, B. W. and Ralph Whiddon, and C. J. Wilson; Perry, W. B. Martin, J. F. McCall, Mrs. W. C. Burford, Mrs. R. L. Tolar, and Mrs. E. B. Williams; Pine Grove, T. R. Meeks, S. J. Burnett, and Jesse Hughey; Pinetta, Mr. and Mrs. I. Newbern, Miss Maud White, and Mrs. Florence McMullen; Pisgah, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. McLeod; Pleasant Grove (L), Marvin Jones, Luther Thomas, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Jackson; Pleasant Grove (T), Mr. and Mrs. C. T. Lewis, and A. J. Starling; Riverside, W. A. and D. T. Allen, Mrs. A. U. Mills, and Mrs. J. W. Lyons; San Pedro, J. O. Agner, Francis and O. C. Cruce, Monroe and Clayton Wright; Sirmans, L. H. Bailey and Fallie Stokeley; Steinhatchee, Mesdames Kate Fletcher, Lillie Brackin, Pearl Jeffords, and Irma Lundy.

We call to mind these names representing the active leadership in our churches, three and a half decades ago. Seeing so many whom we have loved long since and lost for a while, we cannot but be impressed anew with the glory of the blessed Christian hope as we move to that land beyond the stars.

State workers were large on our 1941 program. Dr. Harrison Griffin, State Brotherhood Secretary, presides over the afternoon session of the first day. Among those introduced were Dr. Charles H. Bolton, Executive Secretary-Treasurer, and Dr. E. D. Solomon, Editor of the Florida Baptist Witness. Miss Frieta Lamb, Association Educational Director, filed her concluding report, showing a busy year. She offered her resignation. A resolution unanimously adopted praised her for her consistent Christian character and conscientious leadership.

The usual reports reflected progress, with baptisms at 113 and a total membership of 4428.

The 43rd annual session of the Middle Florida Baptist Association found the group meeting with Pine Grove Church, Madison County, October 6 and 7, 1942. The only change in officers was S. P. Griffin, as Assistant Moderator. The Executive Committee had come to include the pastors of all churches in the Association, with these laymen: N. C. Gibson, W. C. Winderweede, C. F. Woodard, Van H. Priest, T. P. McLeod, Jr., and Lamar Stokes.

Pointed out as the most significant movement in the Association was the organization of the Associational Brotherhood, with A. F. Rickerson as President. Baptisms are shown at 232; membership at 4572.

By this time the war was moving rapidly forward on many fronts. However, the Association met at Macedonia the next year, with the same officials, and transacted its business on regular basis, even though attendance was threatened by the rationing of gasoline.

In 1944 the Association met at Lamont Church in Jefferson County, with T. P. McLeod coming to the post of Moderator to join the usual official leaders, with the Reverend Alva Horton, Assistant Moderator.

By 1945, when the Association met at Pleasant Grove Church in Lafayette County, October 10 and 11, the war clouds were lifting. The Brotherhood work had gathered force under its able associational leaders. J. F. McCall had been installed as President and the future, as it proved to be, looked very encouraging. Sadness was shown on the page dedicated to R. C. Alderman, Field Worker, and "our boys and girls who gave their lives in World War II." Emphasis was placed on Daily Vacation Bible Schools. There were 190 baptisms reported.

Macedonia Baptist Church, where the Association was organized in 1900, entertained the group in its 47th session, October 8 and 9, 1946. Officials were the same. Sermons were by the Reverends R. E. Merrell, A. V. Pickern, W. B. Horton, and M. J. Fowler. The Fifth Sunday Meetings were still being emphasized. By this time the Reverend David O. Alderman had been installed as our Field Worker. The Association budget fund showed \$887.59 collected on a 3 1/2% basis. Baptisms were at 286, with a total membership of 5100.

Midway Church, Madison County, was the place of the 1947 meeting, October 8 and 9. T. P. McLeod, Jr. was in the Moderator's chair, assisted by the Reverend Alva Horton; Carl W. Burnett, Clerk; and Deacon O. A. Henderson, Treasurer. The song service, opening the Wednesday morning session, was led by the Reverend R. C. Rittenhouse. New pastors introduced were the Reverends Rittenhouse, Dewey Mann, John Caylor, Carl Webb, E. A. Milton, Chatman Hicks, and Paul Hendley. The reports and proceedings reflect orderliness and progress.

The year 1948 found the annual session meeting at the First Baptist Church of Madison, October 13 and 14. The Reverend John Rice Collins was Moderator, with other officials remaining the same. Brotherhood officials are shown as C. P. Wilson, President; D. R. Partin, Program Vice President; James Standley, Attendance; G. L. Hutto, Membership; and E. M. Page, Jr., Secretary. Mrs. Mary J. Zipperer prepared the lovely text for a memorial page to Dr. William Marshall Burns, late pastor of the First Baptist Church of Madison.

The Reverend David O. Alderman, Rural Missions Worker, submitted a report that showed he had traveled 16,127 miles in faithfully witnessing to the Master's Cause. The State and Southwide Calendar for Baptists was ordered reflected in the minutes. Tithing and other stewardship were stressed as year around points of emphasis. There were 289 baptisms reported; a grand total membership of 5348 was shown. Total money collected is reflected at \$100,512.00.

As we come to 1949, closing the decade of the war years, it is observable throughout the records that the work of witnessing and extension continued encouragingly, year after year. The Brotherhood, organized December 7, 1941, the day of the Pearl Harbor attack, had remained vital each year. Baptisms and collections had gone forward. The churches were carrying forward with vigorous programs.

The 1949 session saw the Association provide for entertainment by two churches. The first day, October 6, the session was held with the Perry Church. The next day the Association came northward to New Home Church in Madison County. Let it be said clearly that the change to two churches did not grow out of the burden of one church being obligated to furnish food for two days. The change came in order to make travel more convenient and so that the ladies might get to attend the Association more conveniently.

The Reverend John Collins was still Moderator, assisted by the officials previously stated. Beloved Charles Persons was ill in Atlanta. The following telegram was sent to him: "We the Middle Florida Baptist Association in its fiftieth session, send our greetings to you and our prayers ascend for you as we miss your presence today. May our Heavenly Father give you a speedy return to us." It was signed by John R. Collins, Moderator.

And with this manifestation of Christian caring, always so characteristic of our people, we move away from the war years and into another decade. This was a decade that would reveal changes in the organization of our Association.

BRIEFING THE 1950's

The 1950 session met October 12 and 13 with Brewer Lake and Riverside Churches. The Reverend A. H. Townsend was Moderator, the Reverend L. C. Hicks, Assistant Moderator; Carl W. Burnett, Clerk; and Deacon O. A. Henderson, Treasurer. The growth of the associational approach to the Lord's work is shown continuing by the publication of A Calendar of Activities covering the year's programs, month by month.

T. M. Johns spoke for the Children's Home, and Dr. John Maguire gave an account of progress on the State Program, with emphasis on the Cooperative Program. New ministers recognized included the Reverend Julian Maddox, the Reverend Clarence Bailey; and the Reverend A. M. Ward (Suwannee Association). The Reverend Carl Webb is shown as giving the report on Relief and Annuity. This was discussed by him, the Reverend A. J. Gross, and G. F. Andrews.

The Reverend Alva Horton preached the Missionary Sermon from Hebrews 12:1-7. Those responsible for preparation of the Calendar of Events, to which we have referred, were heads of the various departments. The Reverend Dave Alderman, District Missionary, rendered and discussed a report that reflected that he had been busy about the Master's business. Baptisms were 277; membership, 6,023 (includes non-resident members).

In 1951 the Association met with Athena and Lee Churches in its two-day session, October 11 and 12. Officials were the same as the previous year. Since we are in the decade of change, 1951 appears a good point for some amplification of the constituency of the Association.

Messengers Enrolled

Athena—E. G. Whitfield, Leila Whitfield, Gracie Ezell
Bethel Creek—Oliver Bell, Henry Bell, Geddie Singletary
Beulah—Frank Stokes and wife, L. A. Alderman and wife
Brewer Lake—W. C. Winderweedle, Mrs. O. J. Revels, Mrs. H. W. Weaver, Mrs. W. P. Carmichael, Thomas A. Bell
Burton—Mrs. W. G. DeShazo, Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Platt, Mrs. Dixon, Mrs. J. D. Grantham, Mrs. W. Y. Hunter
Central—Mrs. J. L. Bishop, Mrs. M. A. Turner, Rev. W. L. Rollins and wife
Cherry Lake—Mrs. Caleb Smith, Mrs. Alton Singletary, Mrs. D. W. Surlis
Elizabeth—Mr. and Mrs. R. S. Stanley, Mr. and Mrs. S. D. Tudor, Mrs. V. T. Shelly
Foley—Rev. A. J. Gross and wife, C. P. Wilson, Mrs. J. O. Simons, Mrs. Roy Dennis
Friendship—Rev. F. A. Parker, Arthur Roberts, Mrs. Annie Roberts
Greenville—G. F. Andrews, Mrs. S. B. Algeo, Mrs. S. P. Hendry, Mrs. Bell Standley, T. P. McLeod, Jr., Mrs. A. W. Sapp
Hopewell—Rev. and Mrs. Jack Lamb, Mrs. Elmer Brown, Mrs. Elmer Hacker, Walden H. Phillips
Lamont—V. J. Davis, C. J. Reams, Mrs. Sallie Timmons
Lee—Enoch Parker, Rev. Jim Dryden, Edgar Barrs
Macedonia—J. C. Black, C. F. Woodard, O. A. Henderson, Foye Wilder, L. B. Welch
Madison—Rev. and Mrs. Chas. W. Milford, L. R. Woodard, J. Vickers, L. E. Hewitt, Van H. Priest, Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Hargrove
Mayo—M. M. Jones, Rev. and Mrs. S. V. Cofield, Curtis Goodman, and wife
Midway—M. J. Hicks, W. D. Webb, E. E. Phillips, Sidney Jordan, Cecil Hicks
Moseley Hall—San Andrews, Jim Cruce, S. R. Sapp
Mt. Gilead—Edd Aman, Mrs. Louvenia Campbell, W. S. Kemp, Wilbur Aman
Mt. Olive—H. A. Williams, Geo. Albritton, T. H. Pinson, M. A. Payne
New Home—Madison—S. H. Andrews, J. E. Bass, J. S. Tuten
New Home—Taylor—Mr. and Mrs. E. A. McClain, Mr. and Mrs. Calhoun, Mrs. Lincoln Murphy, R. C. Loper, Mrs. E. E. Edwards
New Hopeful—Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Gibson, Mrs. John F. Wilson, T. Z. Henderson
New Macedonia—M. T. Barclay, Mr. and Mrs. T. W. Herring, Mrs. C. S. Henderson, Mrs. W. M. Blanton

Oakland—Ralph Whiddon, Mrs. Margaret Whiddon, Mrs. Ida Mae Strickland
 Perry—Mrs. W. J. Hines, Mrs. J. L. Gibson, Mrs. J. F. McCall, W. B. Martin and wife, Mrs. Jesse McLeod, Mrs. S. E. Kierce, T. R. Bevis, W. E. Inman, Mrs. W. B. Lundy, Jr., J. H. Cone, Mrs. O. W. Bennett, Mrs. Harold Hall, Miss Tommie Lee Fowler, Mrs. W. C. Alston, W. J. Hines, Mrs. Brantley Rutherford, Rev. Dewey Mann
 Pinetta—Lamar Deloach, Marvin Evans and wife, Mrs. R. E. Bland
 Pine Grove—Rev. and Mrs. W. L. Ranew, L. F. Kelly
 Pisgah—W. A. McLeod and wife, Mrs. Mattie Newell
 Pleasant Grove (L)—Luther Thomas, Annie Thomas, Wilson Wilder, Lyna Wilder
 Pleasant Grove (T)—S. W. Tedder and wife, Mrs. R. D. Knowles, Mrs. A. E. Wood
 Riverside—Clifton Shiver, Herman Frier, Luther Hart, Edwina Frier
 San Pedro—Mrs. Eunice Carroll, Mrs. W. J. Hunter, Nola Padgett and wife, Mrs. Elmira Pop-pell, Mrs. Katie Towles, Mrs. Ava Lee Parker
 Sirmans—Mrs. Kelly Bailey, Miss Arie Bell Bailey, L. H. Bailey
 Steinhatchee—Mrs. Minnie Stewart, Mrs. Tom Green, Mrs. E. F. Buehler
 St. John's—W. B. Wynn, R. P. Byrd

The limitations of space up to this point have not permitted us to magnify the office of deacon in our Baptist churches as much as it so richly deserves. Who were the noble chairmen of deacons in our churches in 1951? The record shows:

Chairman of Deacons—1951

Athena—E. G. Whitfield, Salem, Fla.
 Brewer Lake—M. L. Smith, Mayo, Fla.
 Burton—E. J. Tedder, Perry, Fla.
 Elizabeth—Norman H. Hartsfield, Aucilla, Fla.
 Foley—W. R. Rice, Foley, Fla.
 Friendship—Arthur Roberts, Perry, Fla.
 Greenville—J. R. Laney, Greenville, Fla.
 Hopewell—Johnnie McClamma, Madison, Fla.
 Lamont—J. H. Smith, Lamont, Fla.
 Lee—W. I. Kent, Lee, Fla.
 Macedonia—O. A. Henderson, Lee, Fla.
 Madison—Van H. Priest, Madison, Fla.
 Mayo—Guy M. McClain, Mayo, Fla.
 Midway—M. J. Hicks, Lee, Fla.
 Moseley Hall—Sam Andrews—Greenville, Fla.
 Mt. Gilead—J. E. Aman, Shady Grove, Fla.
 New Home (Madison)—J. E. Bass, Rt. 1, Madison, Fla.
 New Home (Taylor)—S. H. Hendry, Perry, Fla.
 New Hopeful—Albert McLeod, Madison, Fla.
 Perry—E. L. Cogburn, Perry, Fla.
 Pinetta—J. W. Downing, Pinetta, Fla.
 Pine Grove—N. C. Gibson, Madison, Fla.
 Pleasant Grove (L)—J. Albert Jackson, Rt. 1, Mayo, Fla.
 Pleasant Grove (T)—S. W. Tedder, Shady Grove, Fla.
 Riverside—Hermond Frier, Rt. 1, Mayo, Fla.
 Sirmans—L. H. Bailey, Rt. 3, Greenville, Fla.
 St. John's—W. B. Wynn, Greenville, Fla.

Plans were evolved for meeting the associational budget, with 3 per cent of the pastor's salary from each church. This orderly session showed 278 baptisms, a grand total membership of 6305, and \$120,330.00 raised for all purposes.

The years 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955, and 1956 appear marked by orderliness and harmony as the Association met for its reporting and worship periods in annual meetings. During those

years the Reverends W. L. Rollins, John Rice Collins and Dewey Mann served in the moderatorship. In 1952 J. Vickers came to the treasurership, following a long and faithful tenure by Deacon O. R. Henderson. L. G. Hicks was Assistant Moderator. Reference to the other data included herein will give further facts on these years.

In 1957 came the big change. This change related to a number of churches (11) pulling out of the Middle Florida Baptist Association and forming the Taylor Association. It is felt that a reproduction of the content of these parts of the 1957 minutes might be the most effective manner of giving this information.

First comes the recommendation, self-explanatory as shown:

October 18th, 1957

Middle Florida Baptist Association:

We the undersigned committee recommend to this body that the following Churches be granted letters of dismissal from the Middle Florida Association to form an Association of their own:

Athena Baptist Church, Perry, Florida.
Burton Baptist Church, Perry, Florida.
Friendship Baptist Church, Perry, Florida.
Lakeside Baptist Church, Perry, Florida.
New Home Baptist Church, Perry, Florida.
Oakland Baptist Church, Perry, Florida.
Perry First Baptist Church, Perry, Florida.
Pisgah Baptist Church, Perry, Florida.
San Pedro Baptist Church, Perry, Florida.
Southside Baptist Church, Perry, Florida.
Steinhatchee Baptist Church, Steinhatchee, Florida.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. John R. Collins, Chairman
Rev. Julian T. Maddox
Odis Murphy

Then the question arises if any hard feelings or dissension were involved. The writer by this time was out of the area on a work assignment. However, careful investigation reveals that the separation was done in Christian love. We submit a statement from Hon. Guy McClain (who was treasurer during this period) that, too, is self-explanatory and shows that the brethren were in harmony.

October 25, 1957

Mr. Jesse R. Ward
1106 North Washington Street
Perry, Florida

Dear Mr. Ward:

Rev. Alva Horton, Pastor of the New Home Baptist Church of Perry, wrote me that you had been elected treasurer of the Taylor County Baptist Association recently formulated. I want to offer you my congratulations as well as my sympathies. It was agreed and recommended by the Middle Florida Baptist Association that all obligations of the whole Middle Florida Association would first be paid and after that the Taylor Association would receive one-third of the balance. Now it has worked out as follows: on the 21st of October there was a balance left in the fund of \$2806.91; however we still have to pay the salary of the Clerk, Mr. Carl Burnett, \$175.00 and we will have to pay approximately \$400.00 for the printing of the associational minutes which will leave a balance of \$743.97, for which you will find a check to cover it.

I sincerely trust that your new association will prosper and will be able to meet the needs of your local churches. With every good wish I am,

Sincerely yours,
Guy M. McClain
Treasurer of the Middle Florida
Baptist Association.

In a report gratefully received from W. F. Cates, Sr., the Taylor Association by 1959 had grown to include 2843 members in its 11 constituent churches and, for that year, had all organizations functioning in a praiseworthy manner. Certainly they share in the great heritage that rests over the creative Baptists of North Florida.

The report for 1975 show a membership of 3983, total gifts of \$76,444.75 through the State Program, and 2567 in Sunday School. May the good Lord ever keep them within His Will!

Returning Home

It is further felt that for the purpose of giving focus to our Association after the change, we should give the roll of messengers to the 1958 session of the Middle Florida Missionary Baptist Association. This session met with Madison First Baptist and Mt. Olive Churches, October 21 and 22. The Reverend James T. Barber had succeeded the Reverend Julian Maddox as Moderator. The Reverend Lorace T. Cothran was Vice-moderator and Mr. Burnett was Clerk. Guy McClain was still Treasurer.

The roll of 1958 messengers follows:

Bethel Creek—Henry Singletary, R. V. Singletary, Myrtle Snipes
Beulah—Leroy Alderman, Frank Stokes
Brewer Lake—Thomas A. Bell, Mrs. A. E. Thomas, Mrs. N. R. Richardson, Mrs. Wilson Buchanan, Mrs. Clyde Sturdivant, Rev. and Mrs. J. D. Young
Central—Rev. and Mrs. Chas. W. Crim, Mrs. Nora Hendry, Oliver Scruggs
Cherry Lake—Mrs. Eunice Roberts, D. W. Barnes, Rev. and Mrs. J. R. Collins
Elizabeth—Mr. and Mrs. S. A. Touchton, Mrs. Mary Lightsey, Norman Hartsfield, Mrs. Linda DeMote
Greenville—Rev. and Mrs. Maddox, Mrs. Joe Reams, Mrs. Lamar Andrews, G. F. Andrews, Mrs. E. W. Handley, Mrs. Ruth Reams
Hopewell—Rev. and Mrs. Hughen, V. L. Singletary and wife, Jack Wynn
Lamont—Rev. D. Kilpatrick, Tom Bailey, C. J. Reams, Mrs. Ada Bell Davis
Lee First—Edgar Barrs, J. C. Martin, S. A. Kinsey, Sr., Robert Evans
Macedonia—Robert Bellflower and wife, O. A. Henderson and wife, Mrs. Leila Milford
Madison First—Rev. James T. Barber, Henry Messer and wife, Mrs. W. O. McCullough, Mrs. Johnnie Smith
Mayo—Rev. and Mrs. E. W. Carter, Rev. and Mrs. S. V. Cofield, Rev. A. M. Parker, W. G. and Mrs. Croft, Jr., Guy M. McClain and wife
Midway—M. J. Hicks and wife, Mrs. Lorace Cothran, Lige Anderson
Moseley Hall—Rev. and Mrs. Jack Lamb, Mrs. Lucille Cruce
Mt. Gilead—J. E. Aman, Mattie L. Aman
Mt. Olive—Tom Pinson and wife, Cary Pinson
New Home—Jim Tuten, Eddie Bass, Robert Sessions, Mrs. Johnnie Bass
New Hopeful—Willie Rutherford, T. Z. Henderson
New Macedonia—Wilbur Davis and wife, Mrs. Ellen Barclay
Pine Grove—Rev. and Mrs. Ernest L. Gurr, Mrs. Hoyt Wainwright, Rev. A. M. Rowe
Pinetta First—Mrs. Howard Coody, Mrs. W. I. Wynn, Mrs. Florence McMullen, Mrs. Cecil Crafton
Pleasant Grove (L)—Mrs. Louise Hart, Mrs. Essie Webb, Luther Thomas, Mrs. Annie Mae Buchanan
Pleasant Grove (T)—Mrs. Mable Knowles, Mrs. Elvie Sheffield

Riverside—Mrs. Pearl Jones, Rev. W. I. Wood, Jimmy Lyons, Roy Snipes, Lex Lyons
Sirmans—Homer Bailey, Mrs. Sallie O'Quinn
St. Johns—Bailey Wynn and wife, Mrs. Addie Norris

Parts of the statistical record for 1958 are: Baptists, 135; total membership, 4333; total money raised, \$144,155.00; value of church properties, \$636,875.00. And on this high note, reflecting a people meeting change in good fellowship and faith, we turn to another year.

The 1959 session was held with Lamont and Mayo Churches, October 15 and 16. The Rev. Lorace Cothran was Moderator and the Reverend I. T. Carter was Vice-moderator. Guy McClain was Treasurer, Carl W. Burnett was at the post of Clerk.

By this time the Middle Florida assembly had grown into prominence. The report was given by the Reverend John R. Collins and the Reverend A. M. Parker, both of whom discussed the presentation. The report of the Treasurer showed a balance, as of October 1, 1959, of \$2,237.01. The Calendar of Events reflected a full year of activity ahead for 1960. The Temperance Report was submitted by Simon A. Kinsey, Jr. Baptisms reported were 156. We now turn to the new decade of the 1960's.

TELESCOPING THE 1960's

When the loveliness of autumn began to creep over the North Florida landscape in 1960, the Middle Florida Missionary Baptist Association raised its banner for the first day, October 13, at Elizabeth Church in Jefferson County. It is needless to say that this church, regnant in graciousness since 1831, entertained the group in a manner to make them proud of their cultural heritage. The records show the Reverend Lorace Cothran as Moderator, Carl W. Burnett, Clerk; the Reverend John R. Collins preaching the annual sermon. It was a session marked by the usual harmony and impetus for the forward march.

The next day the Association returned to what we might call its home base, Macedonia. This, too, was another day of good fellowship, worship, and planning for the future. The careful records of Clerk Carl W. Burnett reflect that the brethren were in total harmony, even exhilaration, in the Lord's work.

This brings us to 1961. That year, October 12 and 13, the Middle Florida Baptist Association met with the Lee and Brewer Lake Churches. But there was a change. The Reverend I. T. Carter, pastor at Lee, came in as Moderator to serve two years. The annual sermon was preached by the Reverend J. D. Young, pastor at Hopewell. Space dictates that we pass over the details of this good meeting.

The year 1962 saw the Association meeting in annual session with the Greenville and New Home Churches. The Reverend Lorace Cothran delivered the annual sermon. He, having served as Moderator as pointed out, was the pastor of Midway Church. This, too, was a good session that richly deserves fuller treatment.

Came 1963. This was, of course, the 64th session, and it was entertained by Riverside and Moseley Hall Churches, October 17 and 18. The Reverend Carl A. Webb was Moderator, with Carl W. Burnett as Clerk. The Reverend Julian T. Maddox, pastor of Greenville Church, delivered the annual sermon. It is felt that this is an appropriate place to give some amplification as typical of the orderly period of the 1960's.

So we begin with a list of the messengers coming to these hospitable churches:

Beulah—Frank Stokes, H. L. Stokes

Brewer Lake—Mrs. A. O. Sturdivant, Mrs. Hunter Frier, Mrs. Beulah Snipes, Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Williams

Central—Mrs. Wesley Tindall, Mrs. Blanch Clark, Oliver Scruggs

Cherry Lake—Mrs. L. B. Skelton, Mrs. S. F. Winters, Mrs. Eloise Barrs, Mrs. J. R. Collins

Elizabeth—Mrs. Inez DeMott, Mrs. Lizzie Stanley, Mrs. V. T. Shelly, V. T. Shelly, Mrs. Betty Jean DeMott

Greenville—Mrs. Lamar Andrews, Mrs. Ruth Reams, Mrs. L. S. Smiley, Mrs. H. C. Giles, Rev. and Mrs. Julian T. Maddox, T. P. McLeod

Hopewell—Mrs. Louella Lamb, Rev. Alva Horton, Grover Kelly, Mrs. Emma Lamb

Lamont—Rev. Durwood Kilpatrick, Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Reams

Lee First—Joe Miller, John Henry Phillips, S. A. Kinsey, Leroy Alderman
Macedonia—Robert Bellflower, H. L. Chapman, A. N. Woodard, Dalton Woodard, Ted Welch
Madison First—Rev. Jack Shaw, E. B. Browning, Johnnie A. Smith, Broadus Willoughby, Frank Sexton, Mrs. Frank Sexton
Mayo—Rev. and Mrs. Ted Jones, W. G. Croft, Jr., Mrs. J. D. Garden, Mrs. Rubye Breare, Mrs. Harvey Croft
Midway—Miss Willie Phillips, Mrs. Dorothy Albritton, Mrs. Cora Williams, Rev. Chas. Houston
Moseley Hall—J. J. Cruce, Mrs. Lucille Cruce, Mrs. B. R. Rainey
Mt. Gilead—Mrs. W. M. Aman, Mrs. W. E. Sever
Mt. Olive—Mrs. Iduna Smith, Mrs. Doris Wells
New Home—Eddie Bass, Mrs. Hazel Woodard, Mrs. Sim Andrews, Jim Tuten
New Hopeful—George Brown and wife, Jim Stewart and wife
New Macedonia—W. T. Davis, Mrs. Tennie Vee Davis, Mrs. Wilma Jean Davis
Pine Grove—Rev. and Mrs. Carl A. Webb, B. F. Davis, Mrs. B. F. Davis
Pinetta First—Mrs. Cecil Crafton, Mrs. J. M. McMillian, Mrs. J. L. Davis, M. C. Woodard and wife
Pleasant Grove (L)—Mrs. Jack Lamb, Mrs. Carlie Downing, Mrs. Mae Buchanan, Sam Buchanan
Pleasant Grove (T)—Woodrow Lewis, Mrs. Pearl Lewis, Mrs. Linda Beth Blanton, Mrs. Annie Vee Lewis
Riverside—C. O. Shiver, Mrs. Estelle Lyons
Sirmans—L. H. Bailey, Mrs. Leila Bailey, Mrs. Sallie O'Quinn
St. Johns—Mrs. Addie Norris, Mrs. Bessie Norris, Mrs. Dorothy Ratliff

In between annual meetings, the Executive Committee of the Association functions for the Association in parallel with the State Board of Missions, giving life and force to our Baptist program. Would it not be appropriate to carry the names of those persons who served on the Executive Committee during this period? The record reveals the following:

Beulah—H. L. Stokes, Lee, Florida
Brewer Lake—M. L. Smith, Rt. 1, Mayo, Florida
Central—Oliver Scruggs, Rt. 1, Monticello, Florida
Cherry Lake—George F. Burnett, Jr., Rt. 4, Greenville, Florida
Elizabeth—Norman Hartsfield—Rt. 1, Box 11, Monticello, Fla.
Greenville—J. D. Clayton, Greenville, Florida
Hopewell—Albert Kelly, Rt. 1, Box 87, Madison, Florida
Lee First—Robert Evans, Lee, Florida
Macedonia—Robert Bellflower—Rt. 1, Lee, Florida
Madison First—W. T. Coody, Madison, Florida
Mayo—W. G. Croft, Jr., Box 214, Mayo, Florida
Midway—Colon Bell, Rt. 1, Lee, Florida
Moseley Hall—Sidney R. Moon, Rt. 3, Box 95, Greenville, Fla.
Mt. Olive—Cleo McClamma
New Home—Henry Lewis, Rt. 1, Madison, Florida
New Hopeful—Cleon Sands, Rt. 3, Box 14, Madison, Florida
Pine Grove—B. F. Davis, Rt. 3, Box 26, Madison, Florida
Pinetta First—M. C. Woodard, Pinetta, Florida
Pleasant Grove (L)—Luther Thomas, Rt. 1, Mayo, Florida
Pleasant Grove (T)—Russell Tedder, Rt. 1, Box 56, Greenville, Fla.
Sirmans—Homer E. Bailey, Rt. 3, Box 99, Greenville, Florida
St. Johns—W. B. Wynn, Rt. 4, Greenville, Florida

Meanwhile, the Association had taken on another structural change. Mrs. Marjorie Woodard is shown as Associational Secretary. This advance was achieved through a cooperative arrangement with the First Baptist Church of Madison, where she is church secretary. Mrs.

Woodard has remained faithfully at this post, rendering the type of service that reflects credit on the Master's Cause.

Much of the vitality and service of the Association come from committees which, in turn, depend on the chairmen for energy and guidance. It may be said that by the year 1963 the Middle Florida Missionary Baptist Association had come of age. The records reflect well-rounded provisions for programs of outreach in many areas. It seems fitting, therefore, and consistent with fair historical accountability, to show the names of these people for this year. They follow.

Committees and Chairmen

American Bible Society—Mr. Simon A. Kinsey, Sr., Lee, Florida
Annuity—Rev. S. V. Cofield, Mayo, Florida
Baptist Student Union—Rev. Charles Houston, Rt. 1, Lee, Florida
Brotherhood & R. A.'s—Mr. Carl Bevis, P. O. Box 203, Madison, Fla.
Bap. Literature & Bap. Witness—Rev. J. C. Moore, Box 443, Madison
Baptist Retirement Centers—Mr. M. L. Smith, Mayo, Florida
Budget—Mr. W. T. Coody, P. O. Box 215, Madison, Florida
 Mr. Bob Milner, Rt. 3, Madison, Florida
 Mr. Johnny Smith, P. O. Box 604, Madison, Florida
 Mr. W. B. Lamb, Rt. 1, Madison, Florida
Calendar of Activities—Rev. I. T. Carter, Rt. 3, Box 83, Jasper
Colleges and Seminaries—Rev. Jack A. Shaw, Box 307, Madison, Fla.
Children's Home—Mrs. John R. Collins, Rt. 4, Greenville, Fla.
Evangelism—Rev. Alva Horton, Rt. 1, Madison, Florida
Florida Baptist Foundation—Rev. Ted Rodda, Pinetta, Florida
Missions—Rev. Walter E. Bailey, Lamont, Florida
Nominations—Mr. Robert Bellflower, Lee, Fla., Moderator & Clerk
Our Beloved Dead—Rev. John R. Collins, Rt. 4, Greenville, Fla.
Radio & Television—Rev. Ernest L. Gurr, Box 688, Madison, Fla.
Resolutions—Mr. Bailey Wynn, Rt. 4, Greenville, Florida
Stewardship & Cooperative Program—Rev. W. W. Tyre, Box 64, Day
Sunday School—Rev. Walter E. Bailey, Lamont, Florida
Training Union—Rev. W. W. Tyre, Box 64, Day, Florida
Time and Place—Rev. Ted Jones, P. O. Box 333, Mayo, Florida
Woman's Missionary Union—Mrs. Rubye J. Breare, Box 22, Mayo, Fla.
Associational Missions Committee—Rev. Alva Horton, Madison, 5 yrs.
 Rev. Jack Shaw, Madison, Fla. 4 yrs.
 Mrs. W. T. Coody, Madison, Fla. 3 yrs.
 Mr. J. M. Everett, Mayo, Fla. 2 yrs.
 Mr. W. B. Lamb, Madison, Fla. 1 yr.

Visitors included Bill Scruggs, historian and former Moderator of the Florida Association. Over a period of more than a half century, Brother Scruggs has come to the Middle Florida Association as correspondent from Florida Association, mother of the Middle Florida organization.

The Reverend Jack A. Shaw, Madison pastor, gave the report on Missions and Evangelism and spoke to it. Mr. Burnett shows in his minutes that "the following officers were elected without question: Carl A. Webb, Moderator; Jack A. Shaw, Vice Moderator; W. T. Coody, Treasurer; Carl W. Burnett, Clerk; and Mrs. Marjorie Woodard, Secretary."

Baptisms numbered 118; 4555 in membership; and total receipts of \$155,201.00.

For the 65th annual session of the Middle Florida Baptist Association, Macedonia and Pleasant Grove (L) Churches were hosts, October 15 and 16, 1964. The Reverend W. W. Tyre was Moderator, Carl W. Burnett, Clerk; and the Reverend Ted Jones preached the annual sermon. Visitors included George F. Burnett, Sr. and wife. Mr. Burnett, brother of Carl W. Burnett, is a member of the Cherry Lake United Methodist Church.

The Reverend Alva Horton gave, and discussed, the report on the Middle Florida Baptist As-

sembly. Dr. James Sutherland, President of the Florida Bible Institute, gave the closing address. This was a session reflecting orderly progress, with baptisms shown at 101.

The 1965 annual meeting was held with Cherry Lake and Madison Churches, October 14 and 15. The Reverend Tyre and Mr. Burnett were at their posts as shown for the previous year. The Reverend Jim Ellis preached the annual sermon. This, too, was an orderly and harmonious session, marked by good fellowship throughout.

Came 1966. That year Greenville and Elizabeth Churches hosted the group, October 13 and 14, with the same leaders at their posts. The Reverend I. T. Carter is shown as having preached the annual sermon. The usual reports were received and discussed, and the Association moved through the two days working together in unity in the Master's Casue. There were 108 baptisms and a membership of 4579.

The year 1967 saw the Middle Florida Missionary Baptist Association meeting with Mayo and Macedonia Churches, October 13 and 14. By this time Edwin B. Browning, Sr. had come to the moderatorship. As stated previously, Carl W. Burnett was Clerk. The Reverend Clyde McLain preached the annual sermon. There was this difference in administrative meetings: there was a semi-annual meeting, shown as having met at Lee, May 8, 1967. The Clerk gave a full report for insertion in the minutes. Baptisms were shown at 91; membership 4488.

The year 1968 shows the same officers, with the annual meeting held with Lee and Pine Grove Churches, October 17 and 18. The reports reflect steadfastness of purpose and a spirit of harmony. Total money raised was \$217,422.00 for the year.

The 1969 session, entertained by Faith and Midway Churches, October 16 and 17, had the same officials. It was noted, and most happily, that the Association for the first day was meeting with Faith Church, organized in 1964 as a mission of Macedonia Church. This session took cognizance of the passing of the Reverend W. D. Keis, long-time pastor of Greenville Church and a truly vibrant person through all of his 98 blessed years. Baptisms stood at 88.

The Association was with Greenville and Brewer Lake Churches for its 1970 annual meeting. Laymen E. B. Browning, Sr. and Carl W. Burnett were at their posts as for the previous year. The meeting came on October 15 and 16. The Reverend Elbert C. Tyner preached the annual sermon.

Since this closes out the 1960's and brings us closer to the end of this record, it appears wise to amplify the presentation for this year. Appropriate testimonials were given to Carl W. Burnett, Clerk for 46 years. He was succeeded by Robert Bellflower, another Macedonia layman. The Reverend I. T. Carter became Moderator at this session. He and Robert Bellflower have served the Association until the present. We list the messengers to the Association.

Bethel Creek—Mrs. Ira Goodwin, Rev. and Mrs. M. J. Fowler

Beulah—Rev. C. B. Godwin, Mr. J. T. Payne, Mrs. J. T. Payne

Brewer Lake—Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Williams, Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Dees, Mrs. Alma Hill, Mr.

Knox Ward, Mrs. Archie Sturdivant, Mrs. Elbert Buchanan, Mrs. Armenta Rodgers, Mr. and Mrs. T. C. Buchanan

Central—Rev. and Mrs. R. E. Merrell, Mr. James Lewis, Mr. Raymond Faulkner

Cherry Lake—Mrs. Emmo O. Barnes, Mr. Doil Burnett, Mr. A. E. Barrs, Mrs. Dorothy Burkhalt

Elizabeth—Mr. and Mrs. Norman H. Hartsfield, Mr. and Mrs. Allen Lightsey, Mrs. Ethel Lewis

Faith—Mr. Finley Day, Mrs. Bobby Tolar

Greenville—Mr. and Mrs. T. P. McLeod, Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Page, Mrs. Ruth Reams, Mrs. Joe Reams

Hopewell—Mr. Grover Kelly, Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Wynn, Rev. and Mrs. Allen E. Young, Mr. W. B. Lamb

Lamont—Mr. Tom Bailey, Mrs. Amanda Reams, Mrs. Ada Bell Davis, Rev. Dewitt Rehberg

Lee—Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Phillips, Mrs. W. B. Ezell, Rev. I. T. Carter

Macedonia—Mr. Robert Bellflower, Mr. Charlie Woodard, Mrs. Bessie Keene

Madison, First—Rev. & Mrs. Elbert Tyner, Mr. E. B. Browning, Sr., Mr. & Mrs. L. R. Woodard, Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Wilson, Mr. & Mrs. Henry Messer, Mr. W. O. McCullough, Miss Nita

Ruth McCullough, Mr. Wilbur Rutherford, Mrs. Mary Smith

Mayo—Mrs. J. D. Garden, Mr. & Mrs. David Banta, Mrs. Berta Parker, Mrs. Rubye Breare,

Rev. Harold Harlee, Mr. & Mrs. J. H. Smith, Miss Mary Leon Land, Mrs. H. T. Collins, Mrs. Verna Hatcher, Mrs. Leon Land
 Midway—Rev. H. C. Hooter, Mrs. H. C. Hooter, Mr. & Mrs. G. A. Barnette, Miss Willie Phillips, Mr. & Mrs. E. R. Hale
 Moseley Hall—Mr. Kelly Bailey, Mrs. David Smith, Mrs. Frank Tuten
 Mt. Olive—Mr. Quinton Dryden, Mrs. Quinton Dryden, Mrs. David Smith, Mrs. Dozier Sapp
 New Home—Mr. Jim Tuten, Mr. Philip Howell, Rev. Richard A. Miley, Mr. Dewitt Andrews
 New Macedonia—Mr. & Mrs. Lee Barclay, Mrs. A. C. Worley, Sr.
 Pinetta, First—Mrs. Mildred Day, Mr. Cecil Crafton, Mrs. Marie Gaston, Mr. G. C. Buchanan, Mrs. Alice Crafton
 Pine Grove—Mrs. Hoyt Wainwright, Mrs. Belle Davis, J. Arthur Cruce
 Pleasant Grove (T)—Woodrow Lewis, Mr. & Mrs. S. W. Tedder
 Riverside—Mrs. Elvin Carmichael, Mrs. Joe Ezell, Mr. Jimmy Lyons, Mrs. Jimmy Lyons
 Sirmans—Rev. L. C. Newman, Mr. W. G. Clements
 St. Johns—Mrs. Norman Newman, Mrs. Addie Norris, Mrs. Luther Norris

As the brethren became cognizant of the new decade, those thoughtful in the area of history could look back to 1843, when John Broome raised the first moderator's gavel at Ebenezer. The years and changes that brought our people to 1970 had been filled with glorious purposes and noteworthy achievements.

A PAUSE FOR ORIENTATION

Imperfectly and all too briefly, we have traced the history of the Middle Florida Missionary Baptist Association from that day at Macedonia Church in 1900 to the threshold of the present. Before we return to the basic narrative for a brief look at the 1970's and the conclusion, we need to look at certain aspects of associational history through which it has functioned and held up the Banner of the Master.

Dealing with the points of emphasis of the Association, through which it has registered its energies for Christ, poses a real problem. Actually, we shall be dealing with topics each one of which should be the subject of a separate history itself. Obviously we cannot proceed on this basis. So we are bound to be selective and almost cruelly brief, hopefully looking to the day when each topic can be expanded as it properly should be.

And those towering personalities who strode across the scene: how could we ever adequately cover the tireless saddle-trips of William B. Cooper as he rode spreading the Blessed Doctrine of Grace?

What could we do about dauntless old Captain Harry Bryan Gibson? We see him lying grievously wounded on the Battlefield of Gettysburg, arising to go through life with a wooden leg. We see his monumental services both in education and in the Baptist cause.

And our senior people. Prominent among so many are Mr. and Mrs. Sam Tedder; Mr. and Mrs. Jim Cruce, Mr. and Mrs. Martin Bishop, Mr. and Mrs. A. P. Hartsfield, and Mr. and Mrs. Asa McLeod. Words could never adequately cover the glowing lives of our wonderful people.

So what necessity forces us to do is to deal illustratively with a few of the topics, return for a brief word on the 1970's and, then, run down the curtain on this presentation.

TOPICAL STUDIES Of Founding Churches

Of the eleven churches whose messengers formed the Middle Florida Baptist Association at Macedonia, November, 1900, Brewer Lake; Live Oak (now Mt. Olive); Macedonia; Midway; New Hopeful; Pleasant Grove (Lafayette); Pleasant Grove (Taylor); Pine Grove, and Hopewell are still vibrant in business for the King. Mt. Moriah, as we have indicated, has passed from this earthly scene. Triumph became inactive after 1912.

Associational Moderators

We need to enlarge a bit further on the Reverend J. T. Farnell, our first Moderator. The Reverend Farnell was born in Brooks County, Georgia, January 31, 1858. He married Ida Josephine Stevens, May 25, 1890. To this union were born 12 children, six sons and six daughters. His pastorates extended over a broad area and included many churches: Clayland, Orange, Beulah, Rocky Sink, Philadelphia, San Pedro, Mt. Moriah, and others. His figure looms large in building fundamental values in family, the church, and in the state.

It is noted that T. P. McLeod, Jr., who was Moderator 1944-1946, also served as Associational Treasurer, 1961-1962. Judge W. B. Davis was the first layman to hold the post of Moderator. The longest record as moderator up to the present is held by the Reverend S. B. Cole—12 terms. Dr. W. G. Stracener, moderator in 1935, went on to become president of the Florida Baptist State Convention, 1971.

It would be a labor of love to expand on all those people who have wielded the gavel over our Association, but this, of course, is beyond the bounds of this presentation. Surely their influence will abide over this cherished part of the Master's Vineyard.

Associational Clerks

In the early years this post of service was called secretary. J. L. Rutherford, an ordained minister of the gospel, was the first clerk (or secretary). His area of service was broad indeed, including his participation in founding the First Baptist Church of Lee in 1904. We have had occasion to go carefully over the minutes of the founding session which he prepared, and pronounce that he was a workman of great skill and fidelity. We should point out that the Reverend Rutherford, before the Middle Florida Baptist Association was founded, was clerk of the old Florida Association in 1896. He has left a noble legacy in his children and in the services he performed.

Harry Bryan Gibson, too, was a link between the old Florida and the Middle Florida Associations. He began serving as clerk in the Florida Association in 1881 and served 13 subsequent years. His services to the Middle Florida Baptist Association began in 1901, following the Reverend Rutherford. He completed nine years in this relationship, making a total of 22 years of devoted service.

Ardis Warren was the first layman to come to the post of clerk, 1910. A deacon in the Pine Grove Church, Mr. Warren served eight terms as clerk, through 1917.

We have referred at a number of points to the transcendent record of Carl W. Burnett as clerk. Beginning in 1921 Mr. Burnett, before he stepped from this stage of action in 1970, went on to accumulate 46 years of service, for a Southern Baptist record in this post.

All of the men who have served in this important post are entitled to warm words of praise. They, to a man, have evinced faith and stewardship of high order. It has been noted that J. J. Farnell (1932-1935) was the son of J. T. Farnell, the first Moderator. All have helped to build a great heritage. Their influence for good and Kingdom extension will long rest like a benediction over our land.

Associational Treasurers

As shown earlier, Daniel Farnell was treasurer during the period leading up to the organization of the Association. F. B. Williams (born July 15, 1861) was formally elected as treasurer at that first historic session in 1900. He held the post, faithfully discharging its duties, until he passed, March 14, 1931. Beloved Deacon Oscar A. Henderson, another Macedonia layman, succeeded Mr. Williams and served until 1951, two full decades of faithful self-giving.

In 1952 we find Brother J. Vickers at the post. He was succeeded by Judge Guy M. McClain in 1955. The beloved judge served until 1961 when, due to his untimely passing, T. P. McLeod, Jr. came to the post. Brother McLeod was succeeded in 1963 by W. T. Coody, a layman of the First Baptist Church of Madison. Brother Coody continues his fine services in the treasurer-ship.

From the beginning until this good hour no word of scandal or evidence of inept steward-

ship has touched the Middle Florida Baptist Association. It is noted that this work, requiring patience and care beyond measure, has always been held by laymen. Let us revere the memory of those who have passed from this stage of action, and honor Brother Coody for courses of action that have shone, and will shine, unto that Perfect Day.

Sunday Schools

We find no mention of Sunday School in the founding minutes of 1900. By 1905 Sunday Schools are evidently coming under the focus of attention. In that annual session at Midway Church, we find this report:

Report on Sunday Schools

Dear Brethren: We, your Committee on Sunday Schools, are very sorry to have to report that very few of our churches have or report Sunday schools. This ought not to be, for we are commanded to bring up our children in the "nurture and admonition of the Lord." We know of no better place than the Sunday school to give light to the rising generation and commend them to Christ. We therefore recommend that our pastors call the attention of the different churches to the importance of the Sunday school, and see that a Sunday school is organized and conducted in each church within our Association, if possible.

Respectfully submitted,
C. L. Leggett, Chairman

The report was discussed by Rev. S. J. McLeod, R. F. Hacker and I. R. Clements, and adopted.

The 1909 record shows a table devoted to information on Sunday Schools. The 16 churches shown as having Sunday Schools give a total enrollment of 747 pupils, with 63 teachers. A strong committee was appointed at this session to operate in the area of Sunday Schools. The members were: C. A. Denmark, John Tamplin, J. R. Mullis, and J. J. Farnell.

By 1919, and it a war year in effect, the number enrolled in Sunday Schools (19 schools) had grown to 1081, with 122 teachers. In the report, signed by A. N. Woodard, S. W. Tedder, D. E. Thomas, Harry McLeod, and R. R. Ware, the statement is made that "interest in Sunday Schools is increasing."

Moving to 1926, when the Association met at Macedonia Church, Sunday School enrollment was up to 1308, with evidence of grading coming to the fore. Shown are various groups, starting with beginners and moving on up to seniors and adults. In the latter group were 335, possibly showing a growing emphasis on adult education.

The year 1935 shows Sunday School progress. The grading system had been expanded. Provisions for standards of excellence had been developed. However, no church had attained A-1 standing. There were 87 teachers holding Normal Diplomas. Cradle Rolls were shown in Greenville, Hopewell, and Madison, with a total enrollment of 32 for the Association. Foley was a mission Sunday School at that time, with 50 enrolled.

In 1939 came an event fraught with glorious possibilities for the Sunday School movement and other parts of our Baptist program in the Middle Florida Association. Due to the leadership of our people, with A. H. Townsend, Moderator, and M. D. Jackson, Associational Superintendent in the forefront, Miss Frieta Lamb was installed as Associational Educational Director. Here is a sentence from the announcement; "Miss Lamb's work is based on the idea that we must lay our hands on our young people if our denomination continues to go forward."

To activate the task, Henry Messer, a Madison layman, was chosen treasurer, and E. B. Browning, Sr., director of schedule, to work with the Reverend Jackson and other leaders. Apparently, this represents the first effort of the Middle Florida Baptist Association to secure leadership on an associational-wide basis. Miss Lamb was a dedicated Christian, with a background of professional training in her area.

Bear in mind that Miss Lamb worked with other aspects of the program. The following ex-

cerpt, from the original announcement, will give some idea of the range of her duties:

Sunday School enlargement and organizational campaigns, including religious census, study courses for teachers, officers, and prospective workers; in focus are vacation Bible schools; Training Union work, including prospect accumulation, departmentalization, study courses, visitation, and enlistment campaigns; W. M. U. work, including study courses, organization of W. M. S. and all auxiliaries, held with "Forward Steps"; assistance with evangelistic campaigns, both in preparing for and carrying on this church effort; promoting the Brotherhood movement, general educational courses on great denominational enterprises, including home and foreign missions, Hundred Thousand Clubs, cooperative programs, tithing, general enlistment work of our State and Southern Baptist Conventions, etc.

Surely, no one reading this list of aims can accuse anyone connected with the effort of "low vision."

Miss Lamb remained for 30 months and worked prodigiously to change our religious landscape. May God reward her for her valiant efforts!

The year 1945 brings us to an enrollment in Sunday Schools of 1961, scattered from cradle rolls (97 enrollees) to those above 25 years of age. Average attendance ran 275 in vacation Bible schools. A total of 80 persons were baptized from the Sunday Schools in the Association.

The decade from 1945 to 1955 were years of continued growth, development of strong leaders, and using the Sunday Schools (church schools) in evangelism, stewardship, and general extension. In 1948 there was an additional organization for Sunday Schools, with C. A. Langford, of Perry, as General Superintendent. The Association, for convenience, had been divided into two districts. C. P. Wilson headed the southern district, while W. B. Clark led the northern sector.

The year 1950 saw the Sunday School effort moving along in good order. There were 36 schools, all graded, with a total enrollment of 3979, and 893 in vacation Bible schools.

The year 1955 shows the same steadiness of purpose in Sunday School endeavors. There were 37 schools, an enrollment of 4608, an average attendance of 1100. The heartening Sunday School report was brought by the Reverend James T. Barber, Madison pastor. He urged the completion of an associational-wide organization to foster this program, as there apparently had been some erosion of the former organization.

We come to the period of 1955 to 1966. In 1956 evidence is not shown that the Reverend Barber's call for a new associational Sunday school organization had resulted in activation. However, in his report he issued the call again for such organization. There were 4695 enrolled in the Sunday Schools.

The year 1958 reflects that the Sunday School organization is moving, with Cecil Hicks as Superintendent, the Reverend Julian T. Maddox as Training Superintendent, and the other posts of service properly filled. Brother Hicks offered a stimulating set of goals in the Sunday School area, including an aim of gaining 15 percent in attendance in each church.

For 1959 we feel a showing of the associational leaders might be the best exhibit in this area:

Sunday School Officers—1959

Superintendent—Cecil Hicks, Lee, Fla.

Training Supt.—Rev. Julian T. Maddox, Greenville, Fla.

Enlargement & Evangelism Supt.—Rev. Jas. T. Barber, Madison, Fla.

Vacation Bible School Supt.—Rev. A. L. Croy, Lee, Fla.

Secretary—Miss Louise Brown, Lee, Fla.

Pianist—Mrs. Julian T. Maddox, Greenville, Fla.

Chorister—G. C. Buchanan, Pinetta, Fla.

Departmental Leaders:

Nursery—

Beginners—Mrs. Eldredge Lyons, Rt. 1, Mayo, Fla.

Primary—Mrs. Larry Willis, Rt. 1, Mayo, Fla.

Juniors—Mrs. Lillie Sue Blair, Rt. 2, Madison, Fla.

Intermediate—Mrs. Bob Milner, Rt. 3, Madison, Fla.

Young People—Mrs. W. H. Dickey, Rt. 1, Madison, Fla.

Adult—Rev. Larry Willis, Rt. 1, Mayo, Fla.

The rest of this decade was marked by orderly progress in Sunday School work. We move to 1966 by reason of necessity. Total enrollment is down to 2479 (primarily caused by the Taylor County churches pulling out in 1957 to constitute the Taylor Association). The Sunday Schools were all graded and properly staffed.

We must close out this section on Sunday Schools with a brief look at the latter 1960's and early 1970's. The year 1967 shows an enrollment of 2434, with an average attendance of 1423. For some reason, the enrollment was down to 2273 for 1968. For 1969 we have a forceful report on Sunday Schools by Walter E. Bailey. He pointed out that a central training school had been planned for the Association, to be held in Madison.

The 1970 session reflects that the enrollment was not doing much in the way of increase; in fact, it was down by 66 pupils. The enrollment in daily vacation Bible schools was up to 898, most encouragingly. Other information included herein will give a fair appraisal of Sunday School work in the recent period.

It seems apparent that, more and more, the Sunday Schools are the feeders in our evangelistic effort. Faithful teachers are invaluable in pointing our young people to the Master and toward development in a knowledge of His Word.

Training for People

As pointed out, the early organization devoted to training young people in Christian service was the Baptist Young People's Union. We have noted that Brother Louis Entzinger was appointed to give guidance to this movement. He was on the scene here in 1909 and was recommended by J. E. Hardee, C. C. Rawls, and P. A. Dice. They commended the work of training to the Association. This seems to be the formal beginning.

Eleven years seem to have rolled by with scant emphasis in this field. In 1920, the Perry and San Pedro Churches are shown with B. Y. P. U.'s, reporting a total of 26 enrolled. C. P. Diamond was leader at Perry, and A. B. Sutton at San Pedro. In 1926 there was a forceful report in this area, signed by E. W. Kinsey, J. F. Hughey, E. M. Hicks, and Mrs. A. M. Mills.

There seems to have been some prosperity in this phase of work by 1935. That year, at Macedonia Church, two churches are reported as having general organizations. They were Burton and Greenville. In segmental provisions there were 28 unions, with 557 enrollees, including 40 adults.

Presidents of the B. Y. P. U.'s in 1935 were: Brewer Lake, Mrs. J. W. Pittman; Burton, C. C. Moore; Central, Johnnie Maxwell; Elizabeth, Myrtis Stanley; Foley, Mrs. S. A. Touchton; Greenville, Miss Irene Laney; Moseley Hall, S. R. Sapp; Mayo, Louise Pert; Madison, Buford Selman; New Hopeful, Albert McLeod; Pine Grove, A. M. Warren; and Perry, W. E. Hefflin.

By 1941 the name had been changed to Baptist Training Union, and there had been effected an associational organization, with the Reverend Charles W. Persons as Director. There were seven adult unions, and 416 in the eight churches reporting. Grading of the unions is evident.

By 1950 enrollment had risen to 2027 in the 29 churches reporting. Average attendance was 1217. Mrs. Ben Perry of Madison was the Director of the associational union. It was more than evident that the churches were moving strongly in this area.

The year 1959 shows the effects of the associational division. But there were 1550 enrolled with unions in all the churches but one. The late beloved Horace Weaver, son-in-law of the Reverend J. T. Farnell, was the Associational Director.

The year 1970 showed 1030 enrolled, with unions in all the churches but two. The Reverend Douglas Mitchell was Director, and reported that much effort had been given to "shaping for the 70's".

We leave this topic with great sadness. There are so many who have served devotedly in this area. Illustratively, we mention Mrs. J. A. Nichols, who worked so unremittingly in the 1940's for the advance of training in our Association. Of course, there are numerous others. God will reward each of them.

Missions

In the early days, no personnel worked in the area of missions on a general basis. The report of the finance committee of the Association shows that in 1900 there was an expense of \$1.50

“for Associational Missions.” Ministers were paid small sums to promote the cause in areas that needed attention. This was the early beginning.

In 1905 the Executive Committee reported, “We employed Brother L. J. Townsend to labor in the most destitute portion of Lafayette County for \$5.00 per month for one-half time and, also, Brother J. W. Pierson to labor in Taylor County at the same salary; and, from their reports to us, we feel that their labors have been blessed.”

We note, also, that the Reverend A. N. Woodard and R. F. Hacker had done some missionary work for the Association the same year. It is to be assumed that work of this type continued through the years, often stimulated by the state leaders.

We have referred to the coming of Miss Frieta Lamb in 1939. She was in effect the first Associational Missionary. It is remembered that she published a short bulletin periodically, known as “The Informer.” It was done on a mimeograph. In the June 26 issue of 1941, Miss Lamb stated that the goal for vacation Bible schools was 18. She speaks up warmly for attendance at Ridgecrest, too. She advertised the Fifth Sunday Meeting to be held at Friendship, June 29, the same year.

Then the State Mission Board moved into this area for the establishment of the office of District Missionaries, or superintendents. These men usually served a group of associations, brought information, stimulation, and leadership.

On the basis of the research that we have been able to bring to this matter, the Reverend R. C. Alderman was at this post in the early 1940's. He was a man of firm commitment and high character. He, of course, had a large area, but he brought industry and drive to the task, possibly too much for his personal health. While holding a revival at Steinhatchee, he was called home suddenly. He died in harness, as he would have wished. Blessed be his memory!

Then we settled down to a long and profitable ministry under the Reverend David O. Alderman. In his first report he shows that he travelled 8795 miles and received 16 by profession of faith. His leadership in subsequent years covered the waterfront, so to speak.

Among his magnificent achievements was holding stewardship revivals. He helped churches find pastors, always stepping gracefully aside to the Master's will in this matter. He fostered subscriptions to helpful publications, conducted soul-winning conferences.

His was the personality eminently fitted to work in this area. No fellowship delight could surpass eating picnic lunch with him, Carl Burnett, and John Collins. He served past the mid-1960's, and then the good Lord called him to a higher reward. His memory, like a sweet benediction, will long rest over this land.

Then in 1967 came the Reverend B. D. Locke. He was a seasoned veteran of the Way, sound in doctrine, and ever eager to advance the cause. His report as field secretary of District 3 that year shows that he possessed an excellent grasp of the total task. He urged that the Association be fully organized in each phase of the work; that each church dedicatedly participate in the Crusade for the Americas.

He gave the dates for special events, stressing World Missions and prayer for the cooperative program during October. This meaningful sentence appears in his 1970 report to the Association: “I challenge every leader to take a good look at themselves and their commitment to Christ.”

The Reverend Locke was the latest of our District Missionaries and remained with the post until he took retirement, a well-earned retirement, in 1975.

To give direction to the missions program, the Association for a number of years has had a missions committee. The Association owes much gratitude to these able people. Illustratively, we show the committee membership for 1968: Eugene Stokes, Johnnie Smith, Elbert G. Tyner, Bill Terrell, and I. T. Carter. This will give an idea of the type of men entrusted with this important assignment.

Women's Work

From our prior discussion of the fact that women were not given “the liberty of the associational floor” in the early days, we must not infer that the women have ever been idle. The minutes of the 1885 session of the old Florida Association, as noted by Dr. Doak S. Campbell, show that association had an associational organization with three churches represented: Hopeful, Ebenezer, and Tallahassee.

Dr. Campbell further shows that the first time a lady actually addressed the association was in 1887 at Oak Grove Church, Pinetta Church prior to 1918. The distinguished lady was Sister L. B. Telford, Corresponding Secretary of Woman's Mission to Women. Dr. E. Earl Joiner points out that Mrs. N. A. Bailey was the earliest Secretary for women's work, beginning in the early 1880's.

The minutes of the Middle Florida Baptist Association for 1909, in its session with Brewer Lake, reflect that Mrs. Lon Walker was President of the Central Society; Mrs. W. R. Ivey headed the Madison group, and Mrs. S. H. Peacock was leader at Perry. These Missionary Societies had each raised respectable funds for missions and benevolences.

By 1912, the movement had been given a table in the minutes of the session that year meeting with the Central Church. This shows \$155.43 raised by societies at Greenville, Madison, Mayo and Perry.

The movement progressed. By 1920, Pinetta and San Pedro are reported as having unions in addition to those reported for 1912. They raised \$523.13 for local work and \$483.85 for missions and benevolences. There were 132 members.

The year 1932 shows that the work was still growing. Total gifts ran to \$1743.81, with a total enrollment of 437 members involved in all phases of the full convention program.

Moving to 1941, contributions mounted to \$2627.06. The grand ladies holding the presidencies were: Brewer Lake, Mrs. Fannie Williams; Burton, Mrs. W. K. Patrick; Elizabeth, Mrs. J. G. Walker; Foley, Mrs. W. B. Evans; Greenville, Mrs. T. P. McLeod, Jr.; Lee, Mrs. J. H. Haven; Madison, Mrs. Grady Rea; Mayo, Mrs. John G. Kelly; Perry, Mrs. J. A. Vickery; Pine Grove, Mrs. L. F. Kelly. This will give an idea of the fine leadership over the association.

By 1950, the enrollment was 1095. Mrs. S. A. Touchton was the Associational President. The movement was onward.

In 1961, to move forward a decade by necessity, Mrs. Rubye Breare of Mayo was at the post of President of the Women's Missionary Union. The report states that emphasis for that year was on stewardship; that more time had been devoted to programs outlined in the Royal Service Magazine. Mrs. Albert Gentry, upcoming President, stated the goal for 1961-1962 was to increase the number of WMU organizations by 10 percent, and to increase the Lottie Moon offering by 14 percent.

By 1969 we find Mrs. J. L. Wynn in the presidency. The report shows this full slate of officials:

WMU Director—Mrs. J. L. Wynn
Sec.-Treas.—Mrs. Norman Howard
WMS Director—Mrs. Rubye J. Breare
YWA Director—Mrs. Sidney Jordan
G. A. Director—Mrs. Mildred Day
Publicity Director—Mrs. W. E. Wilson
Sunbeam Director—Mrs. Donnie Barnes
Song Leader—Rev. H. Harllee
Pianist—Mrs. H. Harllee
BWC Director—Miss Sallie Wilson
Ass't Director—Mrs. Mollie Monk
Sec. and Treas.—Mrs. Harvey Croft
Children's Home Director—Mrs. Edward Sexton

The remaining portion of the 1970's to the end of this history shows commendable progress in WMU work. Following dedicated leadership under Mrs. Wynn, Mrs. Norman Howard, another alert president, is shown at this post in 1972-73. Shown for that year are a total of 44 organizations in this area, and an enrollment of 464. Mrs. Howard, giving inspiration to all, is still head of the Associational WMU.

Part of the disappointment of writing about Women's Work is the fact that so many shining names of our gallant women are necessarily left out. We are particularly conscious that women in our churches are in the vanguard when it comes to missions. Further, women do more than any group to keep the great voluntary convention programs before the churches.

Quite obviously, as stated, we cannot include the names of all the dedicated ladies who have led the Women's Work in our Association. We do mention a few of these great ladies: Mrs. R. F. Bunting, 1917; Mrs. Susie Humphrey, 1919; Mrs. W. B. Davis, 1920; Mrs. Eula Kirby,

1921; Mrs. C. L. Leggett, 1922; and in the 1930's, Mrs. R. B. Bryan, Mrs. M. H. Bagley, and Mrs. M. D. Minter. In the early 1950's come Mrs. J. A. Zipperer and Mrs. Sue Raines. All honor to these and to all who have served in the churches and in our Association.

Who could ever adequately thank the women for their clarion calls to the Lottie Moon and Annie Armstrong offerings? Their teachings on local, state, and foreign missions help all, young people and men alike, to realize that our solemn commitments in missions are rooted in the Great Commission of Our Lord.

We have traced the indefatigable work of our women from the days during which no one of their number was allowed to speak on the floor of the Association. We have seen where that valiant Sister Nancy Hagen rose up at Liberty Church to assert the great principles of the glorious missionary enterprise.

All through the years, and until this great day, we have felt safety and a tug in the right directions from our women, church by church, and at the general meetings. May we hold high that banner of Christian love and endeavor which, so faithfully, has ever been shown by the devout women of our Association.

The Brotherhood

As society was organized across the years, men were counted the breadwinners; and women were more nearly engaged in the duties of the home. It became apparent to our sound leaders that our men in the southland were falling far behind the women in general Christian education and missionary skills.

Accordingly, the Brotherhood movements sprang up as an answer to this problem. Added to the need for education in missions, stewardship, witnessing and other Christian attitudes and skills was the need for wholesome fellowship among men.

The minutes of 1935 do not seem to show activity in this area. However, 1941, C. R. Brooke, F. L. Walker, and W. N. Webb gave a good report to the Association on Brotherhood. They stated that 22 churches had brotherhoods and that the spirit of cooperation had never been better. By 1946, brotherhood had a table in the minutes, with J. O. Simmons, Lamar Andrews, Henry Messer, Marvin Odom, and H. L. Jones heading the organizations in their churches. At this time the associational officers were: C. T. Hall, President; E. B. Browning, Sr., Program Vice-President; Guy McClain, Activities; J. F. McCall, Attendance; J. Louis Burch, Membership; and T. P. McLeod, Jr., Secretary-Treasurer. Pledges to the cooperative program ran \$5380.62.

Passing to 1950, we find Ernest M. Page, Jr., Madison layman, heading the brotherhood committee. J. L. Pate, Greenville layman, was shown as Secretary-Treasurer; while J. F. McCall of Perry was Vice-President. The associational meetings rotated among the churches, quarterly. Brother Page stated that 135 men attended the last meeting in Perry. Several new brotherhoods had been organized, the report showed.

In 1955, we find Ellis Lipscomb of Perry as President, heading a full slate of officers. He was assisted by H. E. McArthur, Program; Kelly Bailey, Activities; W. M. Colson, Sr., Chorister; F. W. Cruce, Pastor-Advisor; and W. H. Peacock, Secretary-Treasurer. It was a year of progress.

By 1961—and this was after the Taylor County churches withdrew—active brotherhoods are reflected in the table below from the minutes of that year:

CHURCHES	PRESIDENTS OF MEN'S BROTHERHOODS AND ADDRESSES
Brewer Lake	Jack D. Towler, Box 18, Day, Fla.
Elizabeth	Herbert Demott, Rt. 1, Monticello, Fla.
Greenville	Lamar Patrick, Greenville, Fla.
Hopewell	Jack Wynn, Rt. 1, Madison, Fla.
Lee First	J. T. Miller, Rt. 3, Box 11, Lee, Fla.
Madison First	L. C. Bruner, Madison, Fla.
Mayo	D. W. West, Mayo, Fla.
Midway	Theo Webb, Lee, Fla.
Mt. Olive	Randall Scott, Rt. 1, Madison, Fla.
New Home	Marvin Bass, Rt. 1, Madison, Fla.

Pine Grove V. E. Adams, Pinetta, Fla.
St. Johns Shorty Norris, Rt. 4, Greenville, Fla.

The president shown for 1961 was W. T. Coody, a layman of the First Baptist Church of Madison.

For 1966, the brotherhood report was given by Carl S. Bevis, President. Brother Bevis shows that an association-wide revival had been planned for Macedonia in early October; that J. V. Cason, a layman from Faith Church, had been chosen as president for the coming year.

By 1970, the name used in the report was "Baptist Men's Brotherhood." Blalock Raines, Madison layman, was at the post of associational president. Brother Raines pointed out that the area of responsibility for brotherhoods had been expanded to include 7- and 8-year-old boys, hitherto carried by the WMU. He urged use of the manuals from the State office.

Eugene Stokes, a layman of Faith Baptist Church, was president in 1972, a post he faithfully held until succeeded by Bill Grant in 1975.

From the days of Brother Rickerson, previously mentioned, we have had faithful men to guide the Brotherhood. In addition to fellowship, education, and all the usual objectives, our Brotherhood has invested heavily in such special projects as the Middle Florida Baptist Assembly.

Further, the attendance at the meetings has been consistently good from the beginning until now. Surely it is a noble work, prosecuted in the Master's Name. May it continue in its forward strides for the Master.

Music

It was October 20, 1972. Dr. Earl E. Joiner, Carl Burnett, and the writer stood before St. Johns Missionary Baptist Church, where the Middle Florida Baptist Association was holding its second day's session. As we recounted earlier days, beloved Sam Tedder came forward with a time-marked volume in his hand.

Let us pause to say that, according to our information, Sam Tedder, Mrs. Nonie Meeks, and Charles Walker are the only surviving members of the 1900 Association—when it was organized at Macedonia. And at this point, let us honor them for their fidelity to the Master as the years have come and gone.

The book Sam had in his hand, and which very quickly captured our attention, was a copy of "Christian Harmony." Brother Tedder told of shaped and square notes, the conviviality of singing schools, and their contributions both to the singing in our churches and in singing conventions.

Pretty soon we drifted to the old singing school masters. Among this dedicated group was W. C. Woodall, who ranged far and wide over north Florida in his 89 years of abundant living. Before Brother Woodall joined that heavenly choir in 1937, he had made a deep impression on Christian music. Although Taylor County was his home, we find that he was in Macedonia around 1916, conducting a singing school.

In early church music, it was not uncommon to use a tuning fork to establish the pitch. Later, of course, the organ was used to find the appropriate key. Even earlier, there was the old custom of the leaders "lining off" of the hymns. The singing conventions served to stimulate better singing in our churches and trained a fine group of song leaders. Macedonia and Brewer Lake were among the churches that steadfastly nurtured the singing conventions.

Some of our lovely music came from singing families, like those of B. I. Green, T. A. Cordray, and S. A. Lamb. The earliest church music in our Association was, of course, congregational singing. In those early years the instrument was a foot-pumped organ, an air instrument in contrast to the piano.

Church music, like other phases of our worship, has gone through an evolution. Seemingly, from the first there were soloists, like Council Bush. Occasionally, the accompaniments included the violin. Gradually the piano displaced the old-fashioned organ, with many churches coming to pipe organs. Special groups, like quartets, moved into prominence to enliven the worship.

The trend in the more recent years has been to have choir directors and regular pianists. A good many churches have Ministers of Music. Sometimes this is included in a full program of

youth leadership.

Formal organizations or personnel for music seem lacking prior to 1948 in our Association, as viewed from the entries in the minutes. We do find a list of church music directors in the 1948 minutes. You will note that this also shows the Reverend Felix Parker as Associational Music Director. We show this list below:

Music Directors

Association Director—Rev. Felix Parker, Perry, Florida
Athena—Mary Kate Ricketson, Perry, Florida
Burton—E. J. Tedder, Perry, Florida
Foley—Albert Cothran, Foley, Florida
Friendship—Madell Murphy, Perry, Florida
Hopewell—Johnnie McClamma, Madison, Florida
Midway—Leland Humphries, Madison, Florida
Macedonia—Carl W. Burnett, Madison, Florida
New Home (T)—S. H. Hendry, Perry, Florida
Perry—Rev. Loren Williams, Perry, Florida
Riverside—J. W. Lyons, Mayo, Florida

The minutes of 1950 show Miss Tommie Lee Fowler of Perry as the general chairman of this area. By 1955 the Reverend F. A. Parker is the general leader. In the 1963 minutes it is shown that the department of music is well staffed. Recognition, too, is given to accompanists. We reflect these entries:

Music—1963

Director—Rev. E. L. Gurr, Box 688, Madison, Florida
Pastor Advisor—Rev. Jack A. Shaw, Box 307, Madison Florida
Director of Instrumental Activities—Mrs. Herbert DeMott, Monticello
Director of Training—Rev. J. T. Maddox, Box 92, Greenville, Fla.
Director of Congregational Activities—Mrs. A. C. Gentry, Madison
Director of Publicity and Promotion—Mr. A. C. Gentry, Madison

Organist or Pianist

Brewer Lake—Mrs. Pearl F. Prine, Day, Florida
Central—Mrs. Thomas Reams, Rt. 1, Monticello, Florida
Cherry Lake—Mrs. A. C. Gentry, Rt. 3, Madison, Florida
Elizabeth—Miss Linda DeMott, Monticello, Florida
Greenville—Mrs. Julian T. Maddox, Box 92, Greenville, Florida
Hopewell—Mrs. Kathleen Lamb, Rt. 1, Madison, Florida
Lamont—Mrs. Hazel Westberry, Lamont, Florida
Lee First—Mrs. I. T. Carter, Rt. 3, Box 124, Jasper, Florida
Macedonia—Miss Irma Day, Lee, Florida
Madison First—Mrs. Vernon Ragans, Box 261, Madison, Florida
Mayo—Mrs. Leon Land, Box 78, Mayo, Florida
Midway—Mrs. Norma Webb, Rt. 1, Madison, Florida
Moseley Hall—Mrs. Juanity Cruce, Madison, Florida
Mt. Gilead—Mrs. Wanda Kemp, Greenville, Florida
Mt. Olive—Miss Mary Grace Sapp, Rt. 1, Box 146, Madison, Florida
New Home—Mrs. Henry Lewis, Rt. 1, Madison, Florida
New Hopeful—Jean Faulkner, Pinetta, Florida
New Macedonia—Miss Wilma Jean Davis, Greenville, Florida
Pine Grove—Mrs. Thomasina Oliver, Box 393, Madison, Florida
Pinetta First—Miss Patty Ward, Rt. 2, Madison, Florida
Pleasant Grove (L)—Miss Evelyn Downing, Rt. 1, Mayo, Florida

Pleasant Grove (T)—Russell Tedder, Rt. 1, Greenville, Florida
Riverside—Miss Eliza Lou Lyons, Rt. 1, Mayo, Florida
Sirmans—Mrs. Yvonne Sullivan, Mayo, Florida
St. Johns—Miss Doris Newman, Rt. 4, Greenville, Florida

In 1967 Mrs. Bessie Lee (Green) Worthington headed our Music Department, assisted by Miss Sallie Wilson, Mrs. R. L. Crafton, the Reverend Harold Harlee, the Reverend Thad Entzminger, and Mrs. Linda DeMott. A full schedule of events was developed, including four Hymn Singings.

Brother Clinton Harris was in leadership in 1970. Gradually emphasis was being placed, and rightfully, on music in our churches. Brother Harris continued to give direction through the early 1970's. By 1975-76, Mrs. Herbert DeMott was in the post of leadership. She is assisted by a full slate of alert people whose names will be reflected elsewhere in this document.

As in all phases of its development, the Association is eternally grateful to those who, now and through the years, have made such a wonderful contribution to the Master's Cause through music.

The Florida Baptist Children's Home

Heart-warming legends overarch this place. We refer to old Oakland Cemetery, located on State Road 158 southwest of Madison. Near the back of this cemetery is the grave of Mrs. Harriell B. Wright, who died on a visit here while the guns of the Civil War were roaring in 1863. Mrs. Wright had accompanied her husband on the frightful march of the Choctaw Indians as they were driven from the eastern seaboard.

Tradition says that along the way she cared for an Indian boy whose parents had died. Some years after the march the Indian boy, now grown and wealthy, returned here and placed the tombstone at the grave of this devoted Presbyterian missionary.

The Middle Florida Baptist Association, through all its years, has been kind to our orphans. Many the noble lady who has saved trade stamps and coupons to assist in operating our Children's Home at Arcadia and, later, at Lakeland. Our layman and pastors have sent carloads of produce to be used in this mission, a mission truly shrouded in glory.

We need, at least, to mention the names of some of our dedicated people who have given special interest to this ministry. Mr. and Mrs. Drew Hughley saved and sold eggs during the depression in support of the Home. Guy M. Sims took his wagon and gathered produce for this purpose. Sharing in this high endeavor were G. Frank Andrews, Guy McClain, O. A. Henderson, James Underwood, W. C. Winderweedle, and Van H. Priest.

Typical of pastoral interest and care was the Reverend John R. Collins, chairman in 1961, and the Reverend Rex Brookings, 1967. By 1970 H. E. McArthur was heading this work. Mrs. Audrey Wood has been leading this effort in recent years. Our people, both in lay relationship and leadership positions, have purchased a rich reward in supporting our Florida Baptist Children's Home.

The Florida Baptist Foundation

Florida has had a means of giving voice and force to money management for Christ through its foundation since 1947. The Reverend M. J. Fowler was Middle Florida Association Chairman in 1955. E. G. Mudge was at this post in 1956. He was succeeded by the Reverend Julian T. Maddox. In 1958 the Reverend J. T. Fann was Chairman, succeeded by the Reverend Charles W. Crim.

E. B. Browning, Sr. served during 1961; E. G. Moore, the next year. The Reverend Ted Rhoda is shown as Chairman in 1963. By 1966 the post came under the care of Lacy R. Woodard, long-time (46 years) Treasurer of the First Baptist Church of Madison. He has continued to serve up to the present.

We should mention that Henry Messer has in former years served on the State Directorate with Gus Johnson, State Executive Secretary-Treasurer. The Foundation, on state and local levels, offers sound advice on legacies, trusts, or other means for extending the effective use of money in support of the Cause of Christ.

The Youth Rally

Some rather wise person has said, "Education gives one the ability to do things they have not experienced, while experience gives security and skills in performing the actual tasks of life." The Youth Rally, involving as it does our leaders of today and tomorrow, cuts both ways. It educates. It gives experience.

We hear so much in this date and age about "finding ourselves in a modern world." What better guidance could come to our youth than associating together to further the Cause of Christ? The Youth Rally is comparatively new in our Association, but it has been touched with that enthusiasm that gives life to an organizational effort.

To show the type of fine young people involved in the Youth Rally, we give the leaders for 1970-1971: Clyde Cruce, President; Gary Cannon, Vice-President; Dean Webb, Secretary; Phyllis Newman, Treasurer; Wayne Lewis, Song Leader, Tempie Lee O'Quinn, Pianist; and the Reverend Allen Young, Pastor Advisor.

Clyde Cruce served as President until 1973, when he was succeeded by Elbert Cox of the Pinetta Church. Jenny Burnett was at the post in 1975. The entire Association, surely, gives three cheers to all who have helped to make the Youth Rally effective in serving the Master.

Middle Florida Baptist Assembly

We have an irrepressible feeling that this topic should be treated for its idealism rather than its history. The story of this Assembly is one to warm the blood. It actually needs to have a separate, detailed history by a discerning and sensitive writer.

Let us approach this matter in great reverence. To the west of State Road 53 in Lafayette County, the lonely waves of beautiful Lake Pickett splashed against the shoreline. This lake and adjoining property was owned by Mrs. Naomi Sapp, a great Christian lady, with her husband, who shared her sentiments.

We were told that during her lifetime, Mrs. Sapp used to wander and meditate under the mystic sway of this area. There she had a vision of an assembly to which the Christians of middle Florida could come for renewal and inspiration.

We understand that she confided her uplifting vision to her noble son, Delmar Sapp. In the fullness of time, Brother Sapp deeded this area to be used cooperatively by a number of associations in keeping with the foresight and love of his mother, in which he shared. After toil and prayers and much cooperative effort, the Assembly is there to the Glory of the Master.

Now where shall we go from here? The minutes of 1955 show a group of Directors of the Middle Florida Assembly Grounds. These noble men were the Reverends James T. Barber, Alva Horton, and S. V. Cofield. Passing rapidly to 1961, we find that the Reverend Horton is President of the Middle Florida Baptist Assembly.

The Reverend Horton reports: "We have a good road built to the grounds, have acquired four more acres of site, have finished three buildings, and had enough concrete blocks contributed to build two more dormitory buildings." He shows in his 1964 report that the uses of the assembly are manifold.

In the year 1966, the Reverend Horton is still president and leading a forward surge in support and in construction. The officers for 1967 are shown as: the Reverend Nathan Medling, Glen St. Mary, President; Mr. Delmar Sapp, Branford, Vice-President; the Reverend W. P. McElroy, Gainesville, Secretary; the Reverend Harold Harlee, Mayo, Treasurer.

The report for 1970 shows that ground was broken for the Dave O. Alderman Chapel. The report was given by the Reverend Harlee. The details of this venture, including the heroic work of the Reverend I. T. Carter, builder and minister, were given. The Reverend Harlee continues the record of progress in 1970. By 1973, the Reverend Elbert C. Tyner, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Madison, is shown as President.

For many years the Reverend Tyner conducted the camp activities with their manifold tests and opportunities. Recognizing his stamina and forceful leadership, the camp was named "The Elbert Tyner Youth Camp," a lovely and just act of recognition. Our vital Reverend Mark McCoy, pastor at Cherry Lake, is shown in the post for 1975. Walter S. McKinney is the resident Camp Manager.

In addition to the vision flashed in the mind of Sister Naomi Sapp by the Most High, the assembly is significant in that it has shown the glory of cooperative effort with associations working together. It is a place where people, under the dictum of the Master, "Come ye apart and rest for a while", may repair for renewal of body, mind, and soul. Concurrently, it has a strong evangelistic impact.

The lingering shadows of great people will join those of the Sapp family in a great heritage. The Reverend Alva Horton suffered a cardiac attack while personally working on a building. The Reverend Carter, our beloved Moderator, has exercised his skill and strength here in building for the good task of Christ. The Middle Florida Baptist Assembly is a creditable and praiseworthy achievement.

Of Abridgment

That sensitive historian of the future who turns to this task will be very conscious as we are—and painfully so—that we have had to abridge many subjects where desire clamored for enlargement. There are many topics that, worthy as each is, have been skipped entirely. They must await the patient care of a future writer who will come, lovingly, this way.

We have passed up the Aged Ministers report, so feelingly stressed before the advent of the Relief and Annuity Board. The state of the churches used to draw much attention and emphasis. We work in this area today, but approach it differently. In the struggling days of periodicals, Dr. Ed Soloman used to come before the associational meetings and put on forceful "arousements." Education has so captured the minds of Baptists that we felt comfortable in leaving out formal discussion here.

Our records are replete with such special programs as the 75 Million Dollar Campaign, and launching the Cooperative Program. With respect to missions and evangelism, not formally treated, it is felt that our entire focus is in these areas in accordance with our time-honored commitments.

Resolutions have spoken eloquently to the topics of the day: temperance, improper narcotics, gambling, and other practices. Ever there has been that graceful expression of gratitude for the hospitality of host churches. Our lovely ladies, each year, have called the roll of those who have gone to that celestial city where there is no night.

Stewardship has had, too, a place of centrality, but, again, it is felt that this emphasis falls within the category of evangelism and missions. United Christian Action takes its place along the side of temperance. The North Florida Junior College Campus Ministries, although somewhat inactive at present, have made a fine contribution under such leaders as Cindy Jordan.

Other areas that have called for expression (which we have had to silence) are Florida Baptist Retirement Center, usually led by Thad Entzminger; American Bible Society, budget, calendar of activities, hospitals, libraries, radio and television, the convention visitors, recognition of Senior Stewards, and the great and glorious hours of fellowship around the tables and elsewhere. The Association, in our judgment, is at its best when united in worship. The associations make up audiences that challenge the ministers chosen to lead in worship. Who could ever forget those electrifying hours when the Figure and Glory of our Blessed Master was held up by His servants?

BACK TO THE 1970's

As the limitations of both time and space force condensation of these pages, it has appeared to us that we might be wise to use the space allotted for this section for a brief analysis of the Association's coming to maturity. The same officers served from 1970 to the end of the recorded period. They were: the Reverend I. T. Carter, Moderator; E. B. Browning, Sr., Vice-Moderator; Robert Bellflower, Clerk; W. T. Coody, Treasurer; and Mrs. Marjorie Woodard, Secretary. The details of the meetings are reflected elsewhere in this document.

Growth in Churches

There were 11 churches in the dynamic organization at Macedonia in November, 1900. In

1957 there were 38 churches in membership. That year 11 churches pulled out to organize the Taylor Association, details of which are reflected herein. We now have 28 churches holding membership in the Association.

A Glance at Numbers

Let us take the last half-century. In 1925 we had a total membership of 3012. In 1975 the tally was 5018 as shown by the 1975 Florida Baptist Convention Annual. This is heartening, especially when we recall that we lost 11 churches in 1957. Total monies raised for these years is shown as \$39,791.44 and \$436,954.00. That is progress! The value of church property has increased during this period from \$82,740 to \$1,355,000.

Correspondingly, there has been growth in better sanctuaries of worship, educational plants, and pastoriums. The movement in Baptist construction has been toward masonry in recent years. Nearly every church, in contrast to outdoor baptismal facilities in early days, now has an attractive baptistry. Beauty is now the rule, church by church. Long gone are customs of serving communion from a common goblet and using a deacon's hat for taking up the collection. But these practices of the early years do leave a trail of nostalgic memories.

Filling the Gap

From the research that we have done, it does not appear that a single church of those 11 gathered in 1900 for the organization, was a church that held services each Sunday, called now "full time churches." Even in 1925, there were only three full time churches: Greenville, Perry, and Madison. Macedonia was a half-time church. All the rest were quarter-time churches. What about 1975? God be praised, every church in the Association has two services each Sunday. Every church but three shows contributions to the Cooperative Program, and this was probably due to the late arrival of contributions.

Contrary to actual facts, it was an early impression that the Baptist Cause in this area was espoused and developed by ignorant men. Nothing could be further from the truth. Although self-educated, R. J. Mays, our first Convention President, was a master of New Testament Greek and other conveyances of ideas. Elders W. B. Cooper and Henry Z. Ardis were both college graduates. All our early founders were men of education and superlative culture.

Then there came a philosophy embodied in this misdirected idea: "If God calls a preacher He will fill his mouth." This view is passing rapidly from the scene. The present pastors of the churches of our Association speak good English, show high levels of intelligence, and "study to show themselves approved unto God . . ." This is something to warm our hearts. Not everyone can go to college, but all can improve themselves through extension classes and home study.

Pastoral Care

One of the issues that split our early Baptists, as we have previously shown, was compensation for preachers. To digress, within the confines of the last 50 years, a deacon sought counsel from a trusty preacher on what to do about the deacon's pastor not paying his bills. The old preacher, very wise in God's work, found out that the pastor had four children and the deacon had one. He discovered the pastor had had some sickness in his family. Finally, he asked the deacon what his income was, and it was rather high compared with what the church was paying the preacher. After a bit of heart-searching, the old veteran of the church told the deacon that the problem could be solved by raising the compensation of the pastor. The deacon agreed, went back, and promoted the idea to success. There was no more complaint about bill-dodging by the pastor, and he remained as pastor for 11 more years.

If observation for many years indicates one thing, definitely it is that God blesses churches that love their pastors and treat them fairly both in word and deed. It is felt that in this aspect there is marked progress in our Association. May it ever continue, buttressed by the Will of God.

Obviously, the other side to this is that the pastor love his church. Dr. J. L. White once said, "I am always pleased when I see my laymen developing in God's work." On this score, results indicate that our pastors do love their churches and take joy in the growth of their people.

And on this important note, we run down the curtain on this presentation.

CONCLUSION

We have tried to examine the heritage of Baptists from the early days of this state through the years. We have seen that this area contributed mightily to the organization and strength of the Baptist effort. We walk daily among the shrines of history. Here the State Baptist Convention was organized and the implementing State Board of Missions had its origin.

Here the Cross of Christ has been held aloft in both sunshine and shadow. We have visited Riverside in 1918 while the flu epidemic laid its arresting hand on our people. But the Cause went on! We have seen the tragic shadows of war and depression strike at the stamina of our people. But the Cause went on. We have seen evangelism lull and then re-assert itself.

We have seen some revivals (formerly called "protracted meetings") apparently turn out in sterility, but our people, where this is a problem, are studying the situation so that we may again scale the heights for the Master's Glory. Surely, He will lead on through any darkness that may seem to obscure the way.

We are workmen together with God. He has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light. Our commitment covers not only that warm glow of the emotions, but reaches to the intellect, that we may be wise in His Kingdom work. The continuing task before us calls for Christian administration and statesmanship of the highest order.

Let us, drawing on the inspiration of our heritage and ever relying upon the strength and insight of the Master, press on in the deep consciousness that we shall reap in due time if we faint not. We recall that blessed revelation on the Emmaus Way, set forth in Luke 24. May we, too, have burning hearts, and visions that, as Dr. Charles R. Erdman suggests, will not fade in deepening twilight but grow brighter throughout the Eternal Day.

MILESTONES IN NORTH FLORIDA BAPTIST HISTORY

The Florida Missionary Baptist Association

- 1831—Establishment of Elizabeth Church, oldest in the present limits of the Middle Florida Missionary Baptist Association.
- NOVEMBER, 1842—Call for organization of Florida Association (the Ochlocknee Association having gone Primitive Baptist) at Shiloh Church, Madison County.
- MARCH 5, 1843—Florida Association organized at Indian Springs Church, Leon County, Florida.
- OCTOBER 16, 1843—First formal Annual Meeting of the Florida Association held at Ebenezer Church, Jefferson County.
- NOVEMBER 18-20, 1854—Florida Baptist State Convention organized at Concord Church, Madison County, with implementation in nearby Clifton Mansion, home of R. J. Mays, first Convention President.
- 1855—Florida Baptist State Convention met with Concord Church.
- JANUARY 29, 1860—The Florida Baptist State Convention met with Pine Grove Church, Madison County, in conjunction with the Union Meeting.
- 1866, 1868, 1871, 1876, 1878—Florida Baptist State Convention met with Madison Church (now The First Baptist Church of Madison).
- 1880—State Mission Board organized in Madison in conjunction with State Baptist Convention, December 10-13, 1880.
- 1898—State Convention met with Madison Church (last time).

MIDDLE FLORIDA MISSIONARY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

- NOVEMBER 9-11, 1900—The Middle Florida Missionary Baptist Association organized at Macedonia Church, east of Madison, on Highway 90.
- OCTOBER 20-22, 1909—Brother J. T. Farnell's last session as Moderator, having served since 1900 with exception of 1906 and 1907.

OCTOBER 5-7, 1910—Association met at Hopewell Church in Madison County and, for the first time, had a layman moderator and clerk as officials: Judge W. B. Davis, Moderator, and Ardis Warren, Clerk.

NOVEMBER 5-7, 1912—S. B. Cole elected Moderator (at Central in Jefferson County), a post he held until 1923—longest tenure of record.

OCTOBER 10-11, 1921—Carl W. Burnett first elected Associational Clerk, a post he subsequently held for 46 years, a record in the Southern Baptist Convention.

1939—Miss Frieta Lamb installed as Associational Educational Director, to serve for 30 months.

1946—St. Johns Church organized under leadership of Macedonia Church.

1949—Association began holding annual meetings with two churches.

1957—Churches split off to form Taylor Association.

1964—Constitution of Faith Church, a mission of Macedonia.

HISTORICAL SUMMATION OF THE MIDDLE FLORIDA MISSIONARY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

DATE OF MEETING	CHURCH	MODERATOR	CLERK
Nov. 9, 10, 11, 1900	Macedonia	Rev. J. T. Farnell	Rev. J. L. Rutherford
Oct. 18, 19, 20, 1901	Live Oak	Rev. J. T. Farnell	Rev. H. B. Gibson
Oct. 14, 15, 16, 1902	Pleasant Grove (T)	Rev. J. T. Farnell	Rev. H. B. Gibson
Oct. 14, 15, 16, 1903	Pine Grove	Rev. J. T. Farnell	Rev. H. B. Gibson
Oct. 19, 20, 21, 1904	Pleasant Grove (T)	Rev. J. T. Farnell	Rev. H. B. Gibson
Oct. 18, 19, 20, 1905	Midway	Rev. J. T. Farnell	Rev. H. B. Gibson
Oct. 24, 25, 26, 1906	New Hopeful	Rev. S. R. Clements	Rev. H. B. Gibson
Oct. 23, 24, 25, 1907	Greenville	Rev. S. R. Clements	Rev. H. B. Gibson
Oct. 21, 22, 1908	Lamont	Rev. J. T. Farnell	Rev. H. B. Gibson
Oct. 20, 21, 22, 1909	Brewer Lake	Rev. J. T. Farnell	Rev. H. B. Gibson
Oct. 6, 7, 1910	Hopewell	W. B. Davis	Ardis Warren
Nov. 8, 9, 1911	Beulah	W. B. Davis	Ardis Warren
Nov. 6, 7, 1912	Central	Rev. S. B. Cole	Ardis Warren
Nov. 5, 6, 7, 1913	San Pedro	Rev. S. B. Cole	Ardis Warren
Nov. 3, 4, 5, 1914	Mayo	Rev. S. B. Cole	Ardis Warren
Nov. 9, 10, 11, 1915	Madison	Rev. S. B. Cole	Ardis Warren
Nov. 14, 15, 16, 1916	Perry	Rev. S. B. Cole	Ardis Warren
Nov. 13, 14, 1917	Midway	Rev. S. B. Cole	Ardis Warren
Nov. 26, 1918	Riverside	Rev. S. B. Cole	Theo Leslie
Oct. 14, 15, 1919	Lee	Rev. S. B. Cole	Theo Leslie
Oct. 12, 13, 1920	Elizabeth	Rev. S. B. Cole	Theo Leslie
Oct. 10, 11, 1921	Pleasant Grove (L)	Rev. S. B. Cole	Carl W. Burnett
Oct. 10, 11, 1922	Greenville	Rev. S. B. Cole	J. Vickers
Oct. 23, 24, 1923	Brewer Lake	Rev. S. B. Cole	Carl W. Burnett
Oct. 21, 22, 1924	Central	W. L. Weaver	Carl W. Burnett
Oct. 20, 21, 1925	Midway	Rev. A. J. Preston	Carl W. Burnett
Oct. 19, 20, 1926	Macedonia	Judge W. B. Davis	Carl W. Burnett
Oct. 18, 19, 1927	New Macedonia	Judge W. B. Davis	Carl W. Burnett
Oct. 23, 24, 1928	Perry	Judge W. B. Davis	Carl W. Burnett
Oct. 22, 23, 1929	Madison	Judge W. B. Davis	Carl W. Burnett
Oct. 28, 29, 1930	Elizabeth	Jho. F. McCall	Carl W. Burnett
Oct. 27, 28, 1931	Macedonia	Jno. F. McCall	Carl W. Burnett
Oct. 25, 26, 1932	Macedonia	Jno. F. McCall	J. J. Farnell
Oct. 24, 25, 1933	Brewer Lake	Rev. Ray Smith	J. J. Farnell
Oct. 30, 31, 1934	Greenville	Rev. A. M. Parker	J. J. Farnell
Oct. 29, 30, 1935	Macedonia	Rev. W. G. Stracener	J. J. Farnell
Oct. 27, 28, 1936	Lamont	Edwin B. Browning, Sr.	Carl W. Burnett
Oct. 26, 27, 1937	Burton	Edwin B. Browning, Sr.	Carl W. Burnett
Oct. 25, 26, 1938	Elizabeth	Dr. A. F. O'Kelly	Carl W. Burnett
Oct. 24, 25, 1939	Madison	Rev. A. H. Townsend	Carl W. Burnett
Oct. 29, 30, 1940	San Pedro	Rev. A. H. Townsend	Carl W. Burnett
Oct. 7, 8, 1941	Pleasant Grove (L)	Edwin B. Browning, Sr.	Carl W. Burnett
Oct. 6, 7, 1942	Pine Grove	Edwin B. Browning, Sr.	Carl W. Burnett
Oct. 5, 6, 1943	Macedonia	Edwin B. Browning, Sr.	Carl W. Burnett
Oct. 3, 4, 1944	Lamont	T. P. McLeod, Jr.	Carl W. Burnett
Oct. 9, 10, 1945	Pleasant Grove (L)	T. P. McLeod, Jr.	Carl W. Burnett
Oct. 8, 9, 1946	Macedonia	T. P. McLeod, Jr.	Carl W. Burnett
Oct. 8, 9, 1947	Midway	Rev. John R. Collins	Carl W. Burnett
Oct. 13, 14, 1948	Madison	Rev. John R. Collins	Carl W. Burnett
Oct. 13, 14, 1949	Perry & New Home (T)	Rev. John R. Collins	Carl W. Burnett
Oct. 12, 13, 1950	Brewer Lake & Riverside	Rev. Alva Horton	Carl W. Burnett
Oct. 11, 12, 1951	Athena and Lee	Rev. Alva Horton	Carl W. Burnett
Oct. 9, 10, 1952	San Pedro & Cherry Lake	Edwin B. Browning, Sr.	Carl W. Burnett
Oct. 8, 9, 1953	Pinetta & New Home (M)	Rev. W. L. Rollins	Carl W. Burnett
Oct. 7, 8, 1954	Hopewell & Macedonia	Rev. John R. Collins	Carl W. Burnett
Oct. 6, 7, 1955	Greenville & Elizabeth	Rev. Deway Mann	Carl W. Burnett
Oct. 4, 5, 1956	Midway & Pleasant Grove (L)	Rev. Jufian T. Maddox	Carl W. Burnett
Oct. 17, 18, 1957	Athena & Pleasant Grove (T)	James T. Barber	Carl W. Burnett

DATE OF MEETING	CHURCH	MODERATOR	CLERK	PREACHER GIVING ANNUAL SERMON
Oct. 21, 22, 1958	Madison First & Mt. Olive	Rev. James T. Barber	Carl W. Burnett	
Oct. 15, 16, 1959	Lamont and Mayo	Rev. James T. Barber	Carl W. Burnett	
Oct. 13, 14, 1960	Elizabeth & Macedonia	Rev. Lorace Cothran	Carl W. Burnett	Rev. John Collins
Oct. 12, 13, 1961	Lee and Brewer Lake	Rev. I. T. Carter	Carl W. Burnett	Rev. J. D. Young
Oct. 18, 19, 1962	Greenville & New Home	Rev. I. T. Carter	Carl W. Burnett	Rev. Lorace Cothran
Oct. 17, 18, 1963	Riverside and Moseley Hall	Rev. Carl A. Webb	Carl W. Burnett	Rev. Julian T. Maddox
Oct. 15, 16, 1964	Macedonia & Pleasant Grove (I)	Rev. W. W. Tyre	Carl W. Burnett	Rev. Ted Jones
Oct. 14, 15, 1965	Cherry Lake and Madison	Rev. W. W. Tyre	Carl W. Burnett	Rev. Jim Ellis
Oct. 13, 14, 1966	Greenville and Elizabeth	Rev. W. W. Tyre	Carl W. Burnett	Rev. I. T. Carter
Oct. 13, 14, 1967	Mayo and Macedonia	Edwin B. Browning, Sr.	Carl W. Burnett	Rev. Clyde McLain
Oct. 17, 18, 1968	Lee and Pine Grove	Edwin B. Browning, Sr.	Carl W. Burnett	Rev. Rex Brookins
Oct. 16, 17, 1969	Faith and Midway	Edwin B. Browning, Sr.	Carl W. Burnett	Rev. W. P. McElroy
Oct. 15, 16, 1970	Greenville and Brewer Lake	Edwin B. Browning, Sr.	Carl W. Burnett	Rev. Elbert C. Tyner
Oct. 14, 15, 1971	Lee and Moseley Hall	Rev. I. T. Carter	Robert Bellflower	Rev. Richard Milcy
Oct. 19, 20, 1972	Mayo and St. Johns	Rev. I. T. Carter	Robert Bellflower	Rev. J. Thad Entzminger
Oct. 18, 19, 1973	Pinetta and New Home	Rev. I. T. Carter	Robert Bellflower	Rev. Lamar Anderson
Oct. 17, 18, 1974	Cherry Lake and Pleasant Grove (L)	Rev. I. T. Carter	Robert Bellflower	Rev. Douglas Mitchell
Oct. 16, 17, 1975	Macedonia and Greenville	Rev. I. T. Carter	Robert Bellflower	Rev. R. B. Reynolds
Oct. 14, 15, 1976	Brewer Lake and Lee First	Rev. I. T. Carter	Robert Bellflower	Rev. Thomas T. Poole

Source Documents

1. The original Minute Book of Concord Church, 1841-1868.
2. The History of the Florida Association—Dr. Doak S. Campbell.
3. A History of Florida Baptists (1972)—Dr. Edward Earl Joiner.
4. Minutes of the Florida Association—Mrs. Ruth Scruggs Reams. (The Albert (Granddaddy) Reams collection).
5. Minutes of the Middle Florida Baptist Association—Files of Mrs. Reams, Carl W. Burnett, Lacy R. Woodard, and from the office of the First Baptist Church of Madison, collected by Mrs. Marjorie Woodard, Associational Secretary.
6. A History of Florida Baptists—Dr. J. L. Rosser (1949).
7. Data on the 1905 and 1907 Sessions furnished by Dr. Joiner.
8. Minutes of the 1900 Session furnished by Mrs. Mary McRory of the Florida State Library.
9. Histories by E. B. Browning, Sr. on Concord Church and the First Baptist Church of Madison.
10. Florida Convention and Southern Baptist Convention Annuals, loaned by the Reverend Eddie Humes, Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Madison.
11. The Florida BAPTIST WITNESS and the Madison ENTERPRISE-RECORDER (periodicals).

Information, as we have noted, came from many people. Mrs. Annie Lou Johnson wrote a letter giving facts on the life of the Reverend J. T. Farnell, her late father. He was the organizing Moderator.

The cover picture comes with compliments of The Madison Studio, Kirby Reichmann, owner and operator. We are gratified for his kindness.

Additional copies of this document may be secured at printing cost from the Secretary of the Middle Florida Baptist Association, P. O. Box 724, Madison, Florida 32340.

