

W. J. Forbes
Sec. Sec'y

MINUTES

OF THE

Fifty-Third Annual Session

OF THE

STETSON LIBRARY

Alachua Baptist Association

HELD WITH THE

Cove Bend Baptist Church,

Floral City, Florida,

October 20, 21,

1899.

◇ OFFICERS. ◇

Moderator..... J. M. HEDICK..... Brooksville, Fla.
Clerk..... T. W. SPICER..... Leesburg, Fla.
Treasurer..... O. S. BOGUE..... Oxford, Fla.

Next session to be held with the Oxford Baptist Church,
Oxford, Fla., commencing on Friday before the
fourth Sunday in October, 1900.

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OCALA, FLA.:
BAPTIST WITNESS BOOK AND JOB PRINT.
1899.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Introductory Sermon.
2. Read letters and enroll messengers.
3. Election of officers.
4. Call for petitionary letters.
5. Invite visiting brethren to seats.
6. Call for correspondence.
7. Appointment of committees.
8. Report of Executive Committee.
9. Treasurer's report.
10. Election of Executive Committee.
11. Reports of committees.
12. Fix time and place of next meeting.
13. Election of delegates to State and Southern Baptist Conventions.
14. Miscellaneous business.
15. Read and correct minutes.
16. Adjournment.

MINUTES.

FLORAL CITY, FLA., October 20, 1899.

The fifty-third session of the Alachua Baptist Association convened at the above place at 11 o'clock a. m. the day and year above written.

The former Moderator being absent, the Association was called to order by Rev. T. W. Spicer, chairman of Executive Committee.

Bro. J. M. Hedick was elected Moderator, T. W. Spicer Clerk and O. S. Bogue Treasurer.

The congregation sang, "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name." Prayer was offered by Bro. W. R. Oberry. Then Hymn 185 was sung, after which Rev. E. M. C. Dunklin preached the Introductory Sermon from Matt. 5:14—"Ye are the light of the world." Hymn 183 was sung. Prayer by Rev. T. W. Spicer. Adjourned to 3 o'clock p. m.

Afternoon Session.

After singing and prayer, the church letters were read and the following messengers enrolled:

Eden—J. R. Snow, J. A. Morgan, J. M. Hedick.

Bushnell—A. M. Norwood, Sister Mary Beville, Sister Minnie Towns.

Oxford—W. R. Oberry, E. Dyas, George Shaw, Sister Shaw.

Sumterville—A. H. Helvenston, Lyman Helvenston, Sister Essie Helvenston.

Wildwood—R. H. Smith.

Sardis—H. E. Snowden, Walter Nichols, Bro. Shaw, Sister Shaw, Sister G. F. Snowden.

Leesburg—T. W. Spicer.

Lady Lake—Not represented.

Cove Bend—G. W. Higgins, H. W. Zellner, R. L. Clark.

Hebron—P. Evans, Sister Emma Sharp.

Gum Slough—B. W. Woodard, I. M. Woodward.

Whitney—N. T. Robertson, Mrs. N. T. Robertson, R. D. Mathews.

Brooksville—J. C. Davant.

Lecanto—J. P. Lewis.

Visitors: Rev. L. W. Simmons, Manatee River Association; Rev. E. M. C. Dunklin; Bro. J. A. Simmons, South Florida Association.

Committees were announced as follows:

Divine Services—L. W. Simmons, G. W. Higgins, R. L. Clark.

Missions—H. W. Zellner, Walter Nichols.

Education—A. H. Helvenston, R. L. Clark.

Temperance—J. R. Snow, B. W. Woodward.

Woman's Work—A. L. Norwood, Sister Mary Beville, Sister Essie Helvenston.

Sunday Schools—G. W. Higgins, H. W. Zellner, Lyman Helvenston.

Periodicals—A. P. Sharp, I. M. Woodward, J. R. Snow.

Finances—R. L. Clark, R. H. Smith.

Letters and Queries—W. R. Oberry, H. E. Snowden.

Nominations—A. H. Helvenston, E. Dyas, W. R. Oberry.

Obituaries—R. H. Smith, Sister Minnie Towns, P. Evans.

Baptist Ministers' Assurance Association—G. W. Higgins, T. W. Spicer.

The Treasurer's report was read as follows:

TREASURER'S REPORT

W. R. Mathews, in account with the Alachua Baptist Association.

DR.	
To amount from Finance Committee	\$ 47 64
To amount for advertising	4 05
Total received	\$51 69
CR.	
By amount paid W. N. Chaudoin	\$ 28 59
By amount paid E. H. Reynolds, Sr., Clerk	10 00
By amount paid J. C. Porter	18 10
Total disbursed	\$51 69
There is a balance of \$4.00 due J. C. Porter for printing.	
Respectfully submitted,	

W. R. MATHEWS, Treasurer.

The report was adopted and the balance of \$4.00 ordered paid to Bro. Porter. Adjourned to 9:30 tomorrow morning.

At 7:30 p. m. Bro. W. R. Oberry preached a good sermon from Luke 16:2.

Saturday—Morning Session.

After singing, the Association was led in prayer by Bro. R. L. Clark. Minutes of Friday read and adopted. Report on Missions was read by Bro. H. W. Zellner.

MISSIONS.

Your Committee on Missions begs leave to submit the following: Much has been said and written on the all-important subject of missions. The Son of God left the courts of glory and took upon Himself mortal flesh to become a missionary. Our Savior lived a model life for our benefit. He went to and fro over the earth preaching the glad tidings of salvation to lost and fallen man. He was persecuted, ridiculed, mocked and finally crucified upon the shameful cross for the fulfillment of the Scriptures and for our salvation. The burden of His mind and heart was the salvation of man. The last words uttered by Him before His ascension were, "Go ye, therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you, and lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world." We find that the disciples obeyed this command and surely it is our duty as beneficiaries of this blessed Gospel to obey even unto the end of the world. We know it is the duty of every Christian to let his light shine and to live like Christ, putting forth every effort possible to lead others to Him.

We recommend that every church in this Association take collections at least quarterly for missions and that every member give at least the "widow's mite." Respectfully submitted,

H. W. ZELLNER,
WALTER NICHOLS,
Committee

After remarks by Bros. Zellner, Helvenston, Simmons, Spicer and Snow, the report was adopted. Report on Temperance was read by J. R. Snow.

TEMPERANCE.

We, your Committee on Temperance, submit the following report: Every one recognizes the truth of the old saying, "As the twig is bent, so the tree inclines." The impressions made in youth are the most lasting. We beg Baptist pastors, Sunday school superintendents, teachers and parents to think of this thing prayerfully and to throw around the children and young people every possible influence and protection against the growing habit and curse of intemperance.

The experience of the great majority who have fallen into this terrible habit is that the taste for strong drink is almost, if not quite, everlasting. Men who would be good and useful citizens and members of the church, wielding an influence for good in the church, society and the government, are robbed of their usefulness by this fearful monster, drink.

It is the conviction of your committee that no government has the moral right to license the manufacture or sale of intoxicating liquors, knowing that it brings destruction to the physical, moral and religious manhood of its subjects, wrecking the hopes and prospects of families and sending men to prison as felons and murderers. We would urge every church and every church member to throw the strength of their influence against this monster evil and let the work begin today, for yesterday is yours no longer, tomorrow may never be yours, but today the living present is yours, in which you may reach forward to the things that are before. Let the resolve of every one

be: Oh, how earnestly we will labor with and for those who are cast down by drink, that within the home up yonder they, too, may receive a crown!

May we live to see this evil
Swept forever from our sight;
May we prove to those about us
We are for the truth and right.

J. R. SNOW,
B. W. WOODWARD,
Committee.

Bros. Snow, Spicer, Simmons, Zellner and Hedick spoke on the report, after which it was adopted.*

The report on Education was read by A. H. Helvenston.

EDUCATION

There was a time, not many years ago, when our people did not believe in education, but that feeling, we are now happy to say, has passed—we hope, forever. We not only think our dear children should be given the very best possible education in our power, but believe heartily in the higher education of our Baptist ministry. We commend to our young ministers the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, since Dr. Whitsitt is no longer connected with it. He is out entirely and we trust the matter is permanently settled. However, we recommend that as far as possible our young brethren should attend our State college, Stetson University, at DeLand, which we indorse, and to graduate there before going to the Seminary. They cannot have their axes too sharp.

We again commend to prayers and liberality Bro' J. P. Graham, who is a ministerial student at Stetson University. Respectfully submitted,

A. H. HELVENSTON,
R. L. CLARK,
Committee.

Bro. A. H. Helvenston discussed the report, after which Bro. E. M. C. Dunklin made an earnest appeal in behalf of Bro. Graham and \$48 15 was raised in cash and pledges for him. Following are the pledges: J. M. Hedick, \$10; A. M. Norwood, \$5; Hebron Church, \$2; Gum Slough Church, \$2; Cove Bend Church, \$5; Floral City Methodist Church, \$2; Oxford Church, a collection; Sardis Church, a collection; Whitney Church, a collection; Ladies' Missionary Society Floral City Baptist Church, \$3. Report then adopted.

The hour for preaching having arrived, Association adjourned to 2:30 p. m. Rev. T. W. Spicer preached from Matt. 16:24.

Afternoon Session.

Association met pursuant to adjournment. Report on Nominations was read by A. H. Helvenston as follows:

NOMINATIONS.

We recommend that the next meeting of the Association be held with the Oxford Church on Friday before the fourth Sunday in October, 1900. We

further recommend that Rev. L. W. Simmons preach the Introductory Sermon; Rev. T. W. Spicer, alternate. Respectfully submitted,

A. H. HELVENSTON,
W. R. O'BERRY,
E. DYAS,
Committee

Report adopted. Report on Sunday Schools read by Bro. Higgins.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

Your Committee on Sunday Schools makes the following report: We regret that there are some churches in our Association that do not report any Sunday schools. On the other hand, we are pleased to note some schools in a flourishing condition. Thus it should be in every Baptist church in our Association and throughout the length and breadth of our land. One of the greatest difficulties in the way of successful Sunday school work is the indifference of church members. If all church members would become interested and go to the Sunday schools, taking an active part, great good would be accomplished for the cause of our Master. We suggest that pastors of our churches impress upon members the great responsibility resting upon them in this line of church work. We recommend Baptist literature exclusively and especially the Southern Baptist Convention series. We also recommend as far as practicable that only Christian members of Baptist churches become officers and teachers in Sunday schools. Respectfully submitted,

G. W. HIGGINS,
LYMAN HELVENSTON,
H. W. ZELLNER,
Committee

Remarks by Bros. J. C. Davant, O. S. Bogue, L. W. Simmons, H. W. Zellner and G. W. Higgins. Report adopted.

Report of Executive Committee was read by Bro. O. S. Bogue as follows:

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

During the year union meetings have been held with churches at Oxford, Lady Lake, Bushnell, Lecanto, Brooksville, Hebron and Lake Lindsey.

These meetings, though the representation has been small, have been very interesting and profitable to all who attended and especially so to the churches where the meetings were held.

We have found it very difficult to secure the attendance of the ministry for the proper maintenance of the meetings. During the year our attention has been directed to isolated places in the Association where the people have no preaching or scarcely any chance to hear the Gospel. We recommend that this body take some steps for having missionary work done in these places.

Respectfully submitted,

T. W. SPICER,
J. M. HEDICK,
O. S. BOGUE,
J. R. SNOW,
H. W. ZELLNER,
F. MARKERT,
Committee.

Talks were made on the report by H. W. Zellner, O. S. Bogue, J. C. Davant and T. W. Spicer. The same com-

mittee was recommended, except that the name of R. D. Mathews was substituted for F. Markert. Report adopted. Adjourned till after preaching.

Night Session.

Preaching by Bro. L. W. Simmons. Text, 2 Cor. 5:20. After preaching, the Association proceeded to business.

Report on Obituaries was read, and, after remarks from J. C. Davant and others, the report was handed back to committee to be amended by inserting names of those who had died. The amended report is as follows:

OBITUARIES.

The following named brothers and sisters have gone to their reward since the last session of this Association: Deacon P. B. Perry and Sisters Victoria Munroe and Harriet Perry, of Sardis Church; Bro. Samuel Wetheral, of Wildwood Church; Deacon G. E. Nellam, of Webster Church; and Sisters Charlotte Anne Bishop and Namiah Johnson, of Brooksville Church.

Sister Charlotte Anne Bishop (nee Cales) was born near Monk's Corner, S. C., January 10, 1831; married Rev. Stephen C. Bishop in 1859; was baptized into membership with Ocean Bay Baptist Church in 1892; received by letter into membership with the Brooksville Church in 1899; and died at the home of her step-son, Robert J. Bishop, at Brooksville, August 21, 1899.

Sister Namiah Johnson, a native of Germany, was born February 17, 1814. Settled with her husband at Bay Port, Hernando county, Fla.; was baptized into membership with the Brooksville Church and led a life of piety through pioneer experiences and solitude of widowhood. Peacefully and gratefully entered into rest July 24, 1896.

R. H. SMITH, Chairman

FINANCE.

Associational purposes	\$ 14 16
Printing minutes	11 20
Missions	11 55
Old ministers	1 60
Total	\$ 38 51

Respectfully submitted,

R. L. CLARK,
R. H. SMITH,
Committee.

Bro. W. R. Oberry read report on Letters and Queries, which was adopted.

LETTERS AND QUERIES.

From the reading of the letters of the different churches we notice none mention having revivals and all have little or no gain in church membership. We feel yet hopeful, however, as most of the churches report a good spiritual condition. As to the question of how to induce church members to attend services we know of no better plan than for pastors to visit them and talk and pray with them. Respectfully submitted,

W. R. OBERRY,
G. F. SNOWDEN,
Committee

The report on the Baptist Ministers' Assurance Asso-

ciation was made verbally by Bro. Spicer, who explained the work of the association and urged church members as well as ministers to join. Report adopted.

The report on Periodicals was read as follows:

PERIODICALS.

We, your Committee on Periodicals, beg leave to report as follows: We recommend the literature of the Southern Baptist Convention for Sunday schools. We also recommend the Florida Baptist Witness as our State paper; and the Foreign Mission Journal and Home Field.

Respectfully submitted,

A. P. SHARP,
I. M. WOODWARD,
J. R. SNOW,

Committee.

Bros. Zellner, Helvenston, Snow and Clark discussed the report, which was then adopted.

A vote of thanks was tendered the Floral City Baptist Church and community for the kindness and hospitality shown the delegates during their stay.

Messengers to State Convention: J. C. Davant, T. W. Spicer, J. R. Snow, J. M. Hedick, R. L. Clark, A. M. Norwood, W. J. Hughes, A. H. Helvenston, R. D. Mathews, G. T. Leitner, S. E. Walker. Any visiting brethren requested to act as messengers to the number allowed.

Messengers to Southern Baptist Convention: G. T. Leitner, T. W. Spicer, J. C. Davant.

On motion of Bro. Zellner, the collection after preaching tomorrow was ordered turned over to the Cove Bend Church after deducting a small balance for Associational purposes.

The Association then adjourned till Sunday morning.

Sunday-Morning Session.

Association met pursuant to adjournment. Report on Woman's Work was read as follows:

WOMAN'S WORK.

We note with pleasure that many of our sisters are actively engaged in this their part of Christian service, and that there are others that may soon enter the field. We urge that pastors give woman's work their support and endeavor to develop the talent of the sisterhood. God has said, "It is not good for man to live alone," and He has given these sisters to us as helpmates in His work. Therefore we cannot neglect or withhold from them our support. Your committee would urge that the churches in future secure and send with their letters to the Association, a full report of woman's work, and that churches without societies organize at once. We regret that we have no reports sent up from the churches showing the work done, and we have to depend upon verbal statements. We note with pleasure and look upon with

