

750
FLORIDA STATE LIBRARY

Baptists, Florida
MINUTES.

OF THE FLORIDA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

The Florida Baptist Association convened according to adjournment, with Concord church, Madison county, Florida, on Saturday the 18th November, 1854.

Elder W. H. Goldwire, who was appointed at the last Association, to preach the Introductory Sermon, being unable to attend at the commencement of the session, Elder S. O. Craft, the alternate, preached from John seventeenth chapter and last clause of the eleventh verse. "Holy Father, keep through thine own name, those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are."

After an intermission of an hour, the delegates convened at the church, and the Association was organized by singing and Brother Fleming of Georgia, leading in prayer.

1. Corresponding Letters from thirty-four churches were then presented, read and their statistics noted. See Table, Appendix.

2. Two Petitionary Letters, viz: Mt. Beaser and Mt. Elon churches, both of Wakulla county, Florida, were presented and their delegates received into this body.

3. Elder H. Z. Ardis was re-elected Moderator, and S. O. Craft, Clerk.

4. The Moderator then appointed the following committees, to wit:

On Preaching—Brethren Terrell, J. O. Goldwire, Powell, F. S. McCall and R. J. Mays.

On Business—Brethren Blewett, Daniel, Brinson, Lawton and Richardson.

On Finance—Brethren S. A. Smith, Mash and Hart.

On Correspondence—Brethren Blewett, Fuller, Moore, Childers and Cooper.

On Circular Letter—Brethren Cooper, E. G. Mays and F. S. McCall.

On Deceased Ministers—Brethren Shackelford, Scruggs and I. N. Lamb.

5. On motion, visiting brethren of the ministry were invited to seats with us. Whereupon the following accepted the invitation, viz: from Georgia, Elder S. O. Scriven, Agent of the S. D. M. Board; Elder James Davis, Agent of the Bible Revision Association, and Elder Robert Fleming. From South Carolina, Elder W. W. Childers, Agent for the Baptist church at Taliahassee. From Tennessee, Elder J. R. Graves, Editor of the "Tennessee Baptist," and President of the Bible Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

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6. The committee on Preaching report, that Elder J. R. Graves preach to morrow morning at 11 o'clock, followed by Brother Davis. Brother Warren to preach in the afternoon, followed by Brother Everett. Adjourned till half past 9 o'clock Monday morning. Prayer by Brother Scriven.

SABBATH EXERCISES

The exercises of the Lord's Day were conducted by Brother J. R. Graves, subject, Church Organization, and the duties of the church to the world. Discussed in an able manner, and listened to with intense interest by a large concourse of people. At the close of the services a collection, amounting to \$90 85 was taken up for domestic operations. In consequence of the coldness of the day, the other services were omitted.

MONDAY MORNING, November 20, 1854.

Met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Brother Daniel.

7. The report of the committee on Business was read and adopted.
8. Brethren Daniel, Cooper and Shackelford were appointed a committee to confer with the messengers from the West Florida and Alachua Associations, on the subject of organizing a Baptist State Convention.
9. Resolved, That the names of Delegates who leave the Association before its adjournment, without permission from the body, be stricken from the minutes.
10. Resolved, That the churches be requested to report all funds contributed by their members, through agents, and also the sums contributed in support of their Pastors, to be incorporated in the Minutes of the Association.
11. Called for Correspondence from sister Associations. Received from Bethel, Georgis, by the hands of Brethren W. L. Crawford, W. B. Mason, E. W. Warren and J. N. Fletcher. From West Florida Association, by Brethren J. Mercer, D. P. Everett and G. W. Underwood, and from Alachua Association, by Brother J. Hayman
12. Report on Correspondence read and adopted. Appendix, marked A.
13. Report of Executive Committee submitted. Appendix B.
14. Treasurer's report read and referred to Finance committee. Appendix C
15. The Circular Letter was read and referred to committee on the Circular
16. The special committee appointed to confer with the Messengers from the West Florida and Alachua Associations, on the subject of a Convention, made the following report, viz: That after a free interchange of opinion on the subject, they deem the measure advisable; find the brethren from said Association fully authorized to go into an organization, and recommend that such organization be consummated immediately.

Whereupon it was ordered, That we proceed forthwith to elect ten delegates from this body, to co-operate with the delegates from the West Florida and Alachua Associations in the organization of said Convention.

On balloting the following brethren were declared duly elected, Elders R. G. Mays, W. B. Cooper, B. S. Fuller, W. H. Goldwire, W. Brewitt, D. G. Daniel, H. B. Ardis and S. C. Craft and Brethren John Cason and T. W. Terrell.

17. Brother S. O. Scriven, Agent of the S. D. M. Board, addressed the Association upon the subjects of his Agency, after which the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That this Association feels a deep interest in the Domestic Missionary cause, and there being no Agent for Florida, we recommend Brother Scriven, Agent for Georgia, to the favorable consideration of our churches, and express the hope that they will contribute freely, in aid of the cause which he advocates. (The members of the body and friends present then contributed to said object the sum of \$36 20.)

Brother James Davis, Agent of the Bible Revision Association also addressed the body in reference to his Agency, after which the sum of \$1420 was pledged in Life Director and Life Membership.

18. Resolved, unanimously, That we heartily and freely endorse our Brother Graves as an exponent of our views, as followers of the blessed Saviour, and do most earnestly recommend to our brethren to manifest their faith by subscribing for the "Tennessee Baptist," of which he is Editor.

Adjourned till half after 9 o'clock to morrow morning. Prayer by Brother Graves.

TUESDAY MORNING, November 21.

Met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Brother Warren.

19. Brother Crawford, Agent of the Female College of South Western Georgia, addressed the body. The following resolution was then adopted:

Resolved, That the Baptist Female College of South Western Georgia deserves the confidence of the public generally, and the patronage, especially, of this Association. We do therefore earnestly recommend it to our friends for their patronage and their beneficence in aid of its endowment.

Brother Childers, Agent of the Tallahassee church, addressed the Association in reference to the Baptist cause at Tallahassee, after which the sum of \$220 was pledged by those present, in aid of building a church edifice at that place.

Brother J. R. Graves, of Nashville, Tennessee, President of the Bible Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, also addressed the Association, after which the following resolution was unanimously adopted.

Resolved, That each Pastor in this Association be requested to preach one appropriate sermon to his church, within the month of March next, and take up a collection for the use of the Bible Board of the S. B. Convention

20. The committee on deceased ministers submitted their report. Appendix D.

21. *Resolved*, That in view of the necessities of our condition, and the circumstances in which we are placed, it is our duty to provide for the assistance of young brethren desiring to prepare themselves for usefulness in the Ministry of the Gospel, by adopting some plan of regular, systematic operations, and with this view, as the best we can do, we call upon our brethren to come forward and subscribe liberally of their means, to be paid in five annual instalments: said funds to be loaned to properly qualified candidates, without interest, to be refunded as soon as possible; and the candidates failing to engage in the Ministry, to refund with interest.

In conformity with the above resolution, the sum of \$3280 was pledged by brethren and friends present, and the following committee elected, to constitute a board of examination of applicants, and to appropriate said funds, as they may deem advisable: Elders D. G. Daniel, Chairman; W. H. Goldwire, Secretary; H. Z. Ardis, W. Blewett, B. S. Fuller, W. B. Cooper and R. J. Mays. Brother F. S. McCall was elected Treasurer of this fund by the Association.

(Brethren G. Smith and G. R. Moore were examined and received as beneficiaries. The name of Brother J. G. McCall was presented, but not being present, could not be acted on finally.—Clerk.)

22. Brethren B. J. Mays, Cooper, Hart, Lawton and F. S. McCall were appointed a committee to report on the subject of 'Union Meetings.'

23. Messengers were appointed to sister Associations as follows: To Bethel, Georgia, to meet at Carthage, on Saturday before the first Lord's Day in November, 1855; Brethren Fuller, Wardner, Blewett, R. J. Mays, Daniel, J. O. Goldwire, W. H. Goldwire, Ardis and John Cason.

To the West Florida to meet at Orange Hill, Jackson county, Florida, on Saturday before the fourth Lord's Day in October, 1855; Brethren Daniel, Blewett and Bostick.

To the Alachua, to meet with Pleasant Grove church, some forty miles east of Newnansville, on Saturday before the fourth Lord's Day in October, 1855; Brethren Cooper, W. H. Scruggs, L. G. Lamb, Ryan Frier, E. G. Mays and Craft.

24. Ordered, that the next Association be held with Indian Spring church, Leon county, Florida, about fifteen miles east of Tallahassee, to commence on Friday before the third Lord's Day in November, 1855.

25. Brother Goldwire was appointed to preach the next Introductory Sermon and Brother Fuller his alternate. Brother Daniel to preach at 11 o'clock on Sabbath morning, after which a collection to be taken up, Brother Ardis his alternate. Brother Daniel was appointed to write the next Circular Letter, and the Clerk to write the Corresponding Letter to accompany these Minutes.

26. The committee on Union Meetings reported. Appendix E.

27. The Finance committee reported. Appendix F.

28. Ordered, that the Clerk have one thousand copies of Minutes printed,

at the office of the "Tennessee Baptist," together with those of the Convention, organized during this session, and that they be mailed to the churches, the postage being pre-paid; and that he have for his services the sum of \$25, out of the Minute or Associational fund.

29. Brethren Fuller, W. H. Scruggs, John Cason, W. C. Clark and Martin were elected the Executive Committee for the ensuing year; they being authorized to fill any vacancy that may occur in their body during the year. Brother Cason was re-elected Treasurer.

30. *Resolved*, That the thanks of this body be tendered to the brethren and friends of this community, for their hospitality during our session.

31. Brother W. B. Cooper was appointed by the Association, to write out a History of our denomination in Florida.

32. *Resolved, as a body*, That we recommend to the Ministers of this Association, to preach *july* the doctrines of the Gospel, and that they recognize *no man, nor class of men*, as Ministers of the Gospel, who are not members of the visible church of Jesus Christ.

Adjourned to meet again at 8 o'clock to-night, in the Academy. Prayer by Brother Fuller.

TUESDAY, November 21, 8 o'clock, P. M.

Met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Brother Blewett.

33. *Resolved*, That the churches be requested hereafter to state, *particularly*, the funds which they intend to be appropriated at home under the head, "Associational Fund," and those intended to be sent off, under the head, "Mission Fund."

34. *Resolved*, That our Ministers be requested to lay the fact of our present indebtedness before their respective churches, with a request of early action thereupon.

35. *Ordered*, that we renew and recognize the thirty fourth item of the last Association.

Adjourned to time and place specified in item twenty-four. Prayer by the Moderator,

S. C. CRAFT, Clerk.

H. Z. ARDIS, MODERATOR.

APPENDIX.

CIRCULAR LETTER.

In addressing to you, brethren, this our annual epistle, we propose a few thoughts, upon the mission of the Church of God upon earth. "That we may stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance." We all maintain, that the great purpose of the coming, living, suffering, dying, rising and glorious ascension of the blessed Son of God, was the glory of God in the redemption of lost and helpless sinners; not only exposed to, but under the sentence of Divine wrath, waiting but the righteous judgment of Almighty power—"The wrath of God abideth on them." He established a community upon earth, known as His church, His people, members of His kingdom, governed by His laws, and committed to them the distinguished honor of being "Workers together with him" in accomplishing His gracious designs—He informed them that "His kingdom was not of this world—not made up of worldly subjects, and not extended by worldly weapons—that the weapons of their warfare were not carnal, but mighty through God, to the pulling down of strong holds;" that every member, (being a recruit, won over and captured from his enemies; now enlisted under the King in Zion, the captain of their salvation) must learn to endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. "That it was not governed by worldly laws, nor worldly wisdom, for after that, in the wisdom of God, the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching, to save them that believe"—that we become members of His kingdom, not by birth, nor blood, but by the renewing power of the Spirit—that if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature, a new creation, "Old things have passed away, behold all things have become new"—that we are made alive to God from the dead—that though we be circumcized, we are not thereby made Abraham's seed—that we are made heirs, not according to the law, nor the flesh, but according to promise—that the son of the bond woman, the flesh, shall not be heir with the son of the free woman, the spirit—that all its members are made heirs of God by faith in Jesus Christ, which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God—away then with man-made christians, regenerated by *holy baptism*, infant or adult, sprinkling, pouring or immersing, if such nonsense may be allowed, for saith Christ, "In vain do you worship me, teaching for doctrine the commandments of men." We are moreover informed, that they are a redeemed people, a peculiar people, zealous of good works, and that to this people is committed, under His direction, the carrying forward, and moving onward, the great work

of the King in Zion, and knowing our insufficiency of ourselves, He stands ready to afford every needed gift and grace, and says to us as of old, "Go forward"—that the world is to be subdued to His reign by the simple instrumentality of His truth, and that truth confirmed by the testimony of His people. That this same truth, wielded by the spirit, must first subdue our rebellious hearts, and then send us forth, to "Tell to sinners round, what a dear Saviour we have found." The commission is go, yes, go, preach, go teach all the world, and is binding upon all the family, every member, and if we are not under its obligations, "Then are we bastards and not sons." You may object and reply, "This is a hard saying, who can bear it"—this is true with all whose hearts are not right before God, but the language of Abraham was, "Speak Lord, for thy servant heareth," and so say his children. But you say, can we all preach? Yes, "if we have the spirit of Christ, and if we have not, we are none of his." With that spirit, we can publish to the world, that Jesus has power on earth to forgive sins and witness its truth, by our own cases, and thus become living instances and walking epistles of the reigning power of grace, and thus by our conduct and our means, as the stewards of God, combined with importunate and faithful prayer to God, to send forth laborers into the harvest field, men after his own heart, and sustaining them when sent, not only with comforts for the body, but with our sympathy, our prayers, our affection, our confidence and our kindest christian regards, each one may, most effectually commend, to the notice of sinners, the excellency of the Gospel. And we can preach and ought to preach, not only by esteeming ministers, true ministers, the gift of God, very highly in love for their works sake, and sustaining them when given, but also by manifesting, not in word only, but in deed, peculiar christian regard for all the members of the "household of faith." "Love one another." "Be kindly affectioned one to another." "He that loveth is born of God," for love is of God, "God is love." "If ye love not your brother whom you have seen, how can you love God whom you have not seen." See how these christians love each other, and so the world shall take knowledge that we have been with Jesus—you are to love not only the amiable, the meek, the rich, the talented, the noble, for there are some of all these classes: but the ugly, the peevish, the poor, the bond, the lame, yes, all that bear even the faint image of the blessed Lord, and especially you may preach very loudly and very powerfully by making yourselves very careful to deserve the affections of your brethren, by maintaining the character of a true saint, contending earnestly for the faith once delivered to the saints, living the life of a saint—and by not sacrificing or compromising the truth of God, which is our hope, to the prejudices or prepossessions of men. Let God be true always and in all things, though all men become liars. "Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate." We can preach by honoring God in keeping his commandments, and if we fail in this particular, we fail in all, for "His commandments are life everlasting." "He that loveth me keepeth my commandments," and in keeping his com-

mandments there is great reward, and though we should give all our substance to feed the poor, and our bodies to be burned, and have not *charity* (which is love,) yes that love that obeys from the heart, the form of doctrine delivered to us, we are as a sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal, all is vanity sayeth the preacher. He has constituted us all, every one, male and female, his stewards, and orders us to occupy till He comes to relieve us from the charge and receive our report of conduct—to hear from our own mouths how we have behaved ourselves—to know whether we have been gluttonous and drunken, and have beaten the man servant and maid servant—whether we have been wanton and dishonest and have wasted our Lord's goods in riotous living, and have used them for ourselves and our glory and ease, and not for him, and how shall we meet the reckoning?—wherefore he saith, "awake thou that sleepest and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light."

Christians, some of them, (we thank God, not all,) have no more forgotten their old cry, a little more sleep, a little more slumber and folding the hands to sleep, than did ancient Israel, the flesh pots of Egypt; and they love ease and comfort, and fall out with the tribulative way to the kingdom, and prefer the accommodation line, and alas, alas, if the Lord gives them a good time, they are content with an upper room to enjoy themselves in, and the Lord in mercy scatters them, and sets them to work preaching. In conclusion, let us all remember, that we are bond men, bought with the price of blood, and are bound to glorify God with our bodies and substance, and our spirits and affections, all of which are His. And may the Great Head of the church baptize us afresh into His spirit, that with renewed energy, we may devote ourselves to His service and reap a large reward in happiness, from usefulness here, and in glory in the world to come, from grace in Christ Jesus our Lord.

S. C. CRAFT, Clerk.

H. Z. ARDIS, MODERATOR.

CORRESPONDING LETTER.

The Florida Baptist Association, to her sister Associations with whom she corresponds, to wit: Bethel, West Florida and Alachua:

It is with pleasure we announce the reception of your messengers with us at our present session—they have greatly refreshed our spirits. We have had a very full representation from our churches—our meeting has been characterized by an unusual degree of harmony—many subjects of interest to our denomination have been put on foot, among which we name: the formation of a Convention, and the establishment of an Educational Fund for the aid of young Ministers; we trust these will tell for good to our rising generation.

We trust brethren, you will not think us enthusiastic, when we say to you, that frequent indications warrant us in the hope, that our members have caught the spirit of the crisis now at hand, which requires us to *live for God*, and if need be, *to die for His Truth*.

Brethren whose names you will find in the Minutes, have volunteered to visit you at your next anniversaries—we trust they will be able to do so. In return, we ask the visits again of those brethren with us on this occasion and as many others as can come. Brethren, farewell, and may the peace of God remain with you all. Amen.

H. Z. ARDIS, MODERATOR.

S. C. CRAFT, Clerk.

(A)

REPORT ON CORRESPONDENCE.

Your committee on Correspondence report, that Brother James Davis, Agent of the Revision Association, has laid before us the object of that Association, and has exhibited portions of the New Testament revised under their direction, which specimens, though not entirely free from objections, are in the main, clearer and more conformed to the sense of the original, than either the version of King James or the version published by the American and Foreign Bible Society; and as we believe it to be the duty of the church of Christ, to furnish the world with undisguised translations of the Word of God, *neither withholding nor concealing a single truth which God has revealed*, we beg leave to commend to your body the object of the Revision Association.

All of which is respectfully submitted. W. BLEWETT, Chairman.

(B)

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

(This report was placed in the hands of a special committee, for the purpose of considering it, and has not yet been returned.—Clerk.)

(C)

TREASURER'S REPORT.

(This report was passed into the hands of the Financial committee, and it was not returned to the Clerk. The substance of it, however, will be found in the report of that committee, see report 'F.'—Clerk.)

(D)

REPORT ON DECEASED MINISTERS.

Your committee beg leave to report, that since our last session, in the providence of God, our Brother George Walker has been removed from time. Our brother while living enjoyed the reputation of a good citizen, and left an unsullied character as a Minister of the Gospel. He left his family well provided for, and as a fruit growing from the pious labors of a heart well established in faith, every child of his, except one, is now a member of the same denomination to which he was attached. We submit the following resolution:

Resolved, That this Association mingle with our sister and her children, our sympathies in the loss they and we have sustained in the death of our esteemed Brother George Walker.

R. H. SHACKELFORD, Chairman.

(E)

REPORT ON UNION MEETINGS.

The committee to whom was referred the subject of Union Meetings, beg leave respectfully to report, that whereas, it is very desirable that there should exist among us, a oneness of faith, and uniformity of practice, so far as attainable in our present state, and as those meetings are admirably adapted by essays and discussions to elicit and establish truth, we recommend at least for the present year, the abolishing of district lines and the appointment of meetings, &c., as follows: First, meeting at Elizabeth; Essay 1, Is it the duty of Gospel Ministers to preach the whole Gospel? by Elder D. G. Daniel. Essay second, Church relations and its obligations, by Elder W. B. Cooper. Subjects for discussion—what constitutes the chief distinction between the law and gospel dispensations? Second, are sinners justified according to law or against law?

The second meeting at Oak Grove—essay first, On the Revision of the Scriptures, by Elder W. H. Goldwire; Essay second, On the necessity for a correct or Scriptural faith, by Elder S. C. Craft. Subjects for discussion—How may christians, as individuals and churches, best glorify God? Second, Is the religion of Jesus Christ positive or negative in its character?

The third meeting at Thomasville—Essay first, On Scriptural ordination, order and subject, by Elder B. S. Fuller. Essay second, On Pulpit Communion, by Elder H. Z. Ardis. Subjects for discussion—Is the Bible, or men's consciences the rule of faith and duty for this life, and of the judgment of the great day? Second, Is seeming success, historically or scripturally, a reliable test of the truthfulness of any system of religious doctrine?

The fourth meeting at Troupville—Essay first, On the christian Sabbath and its present obligations, by Brother J. S. Broome. Essay second, On the christian church and its organization, by Elder W. Blewett. Subjects for discussion—Is the Bible alone a rule for what is termed christian charity? Second, Is it the duty of christians, as churches, to meet every Lord's Day for worship?

All of which is respectfully submitted, R. J. MAYS, Chairman.

*Since deceased. Brother Broome was with us at our Association, and though unwell, yet none supposed him so near "having finished his course." This melancholly announcement should admonish us all to be ready at the call of the Master.—Clerk.

(F)

FINANCE COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

The committee on Finance respectfully report, that on examination of Treasurer's account, they find that there has been paid over to him during the year \$701 50, and that he has paid out to Colporteur \$414 37, and on other orders of Executive committee \$268 86, leaving a balance of \$18 27 on hand. The contributions from churches and collections amount in the aggregate to \$597 82, as per accompanying statement, making a total amount of \$616 09.

All of which is respectfully submitted, S. A. SMITH, Chairman.

ARTICLES OF FAITH OF THE FLORIDA ASSOCIATION.

1. We believe in one only true and living God, and that there are three persons in the Godhead, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.
2. We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the Word of God, and the only rule of faith and practice.
3. We believe in the doctrine of eternal and particular election.
4. We believe in the doctrine of original sin.
5. We believe in man's impotency to recover himself from the fallen state in which he is by nature, by his own free will and ability.
6. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God, only by the imputed righteousness of Christ.
7. We believe that God's elect shall be called, regenerated and sanctified by the Holy Ghost.
8. We believe that the saints shall persevere in grace, and never finally fall away.
9. We believe that Baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of Jesus Christ—that nothing is Baptism except immersion—that believers are the only subjects of this ordinance, and that none but baptized believers are entitled to partake of the Lord's Supper.
10. We believe in the resurrection of the dead and a general judgment.
11. We believe that the punishment of the wicked will be everlasting and the joys of the righteous will be eternal.
12. We believe that no Minister has a right to administer the ordinances, only such as are regularly called, and have come under the imposition of the hands of the Presbytery.

H. Z. ARDIS, Moderator.

SAMUEL C. CRAFT, Clerk.

MINISTERS OF THE FLORIDA ASSOCIATION.

Ardis, H. Z.	Madison, Florida.	Mays, R. J.	Hamburg, Florida.
Bostick, G. W.	Tallahassee, "	McCall, J. W. P.	Madison, "
Blewett, W.	Thomasville, Georgia.	McCall, J. G.	Hamburg, "
Broome, John	Madison, Florida.	McKeown, O. E.	Quincy, "
Cooper, W. B.	Monticello, "	Moore, G. B.	Thomasville Georgia
Craft, S. C.	"	Simmons, L. J.	"
Daniel, D. G.	Thomasville, Georgia.	Shackleford, R. H.	Monticello, Florida
Fuller, B. S.	Monticello, Florida.	Smith, Columbus	Madison, "
Frier, Ryan	Chattville, Georgia.	Tate, W. A.	Thomasville Georgia
Goldwire, W. H.	Troupville, "	Walker, E. C.	Benhaden, Florida
Houston, J. T.	Mosely Hall, Florida.	Wheeler, Z. G.	Beazeley, "
Howell, C.	Thomasville, Georgia.	Winn, B.	Thomasville, Ga.
Levy, Robt.	Tallahassee, Florida.	Wardner, P.	New Port, Florida.
Lacy, J. B.	Thomasville, Georgia.		

TABLE OF STATISTICS.

CHURCHES.	DELEGATES.	Bapt'd	Lette	Rest'd	Class'd	Exc'd	Dead	White	Black	Total	Contr. for Min's	Days of Meet.	POST OFFICE.	SUPPLY.
Enon.	James Crow,	22							53	\$1 00	3	3	Tallichasee.	Bostick,
Bethel.	Not represented,								6				Bellville,	Ardis,
Bethesda.	I. J. Polhill,	12					1	31	13	44	1 25	1	Shell Pt. n'g,	Walker,
Bethlehem.	E. C. Walker, S. B. Richardson,	26					4	18	27	45	2 00	1	Wankensab,	Cooper,
Bethpage.	Not represented,								338	1 00	4	4	Thomasville,	Simmons,
Big Creek.	By letter,	9						15	1	16	1 00	1	Madison,	McCall,
Carmel.	By letter,							12	12	24	62	4	Hamburgh.	Houston,
Concord.	Tandy Turner,	1			7			34	45	82	3 00	1, 3	Jasper,	Shackelford,
Concord.	R. J. Mays, P. S. McCall,								22	22		2	Monticello,	Cooper,
Elizabeth.	Not represented,	3						64	23	87	1 75	1	Thomasville,	Pewett,
Friendship.	R. H. Shackelford, Jesse Walker,	11						15	50	65	2 00	1	Thomasville,	Cooper,
Gopewell.	W. B. Cooper, Samuel C. Craft,	9			3			38	10	48	2 00	1	Mosley Hall	Cooper,
Indian Spring.	L. J. Simmons, N. Turner,	3			6			37	1	38	1 00	3	Madison,	Ardis,
Liberty.	J. N. Lamb, Alfred Walker,	5						8	27	35	75	1	Miccosookie	Blawett,
Long Branch.	S. O. Sullivan,	3			2			31	52	83	3 00	3	Groverville,	Lacy,
Madison.	John Cason, J. S. Hart,	3						1	1	2	2 00	3	Tallichasee,	Bostick,
Monticello.	James Gover, E. A. Davis,	3						22	12	34	2 00	3	Thomasville,	Wynn,
Mill Creek.	G. W. Bostick,	1						40	23	63	1 50	2, 4	Madison.	Ardis,
Mt. Giload.	Not represented,	7						53	69	122	1 00	1, 2, 4	Monticello,	Fuller,
New Hope.	H. Z. Ardis, E. G. Mays,	2			4			18	15	33	1 25	4	Alveta,	Simmons,
New Port.	B. S. Fuller, A. B. Lawton,	3			2			25	5	30	1 50	3	Bengely,	Walker,
Oak Grove.	John T. Carroll,	3						12	29	41	1 00	2, 3	Thomasville,	Moore,
Oliver.	Z. G. Wheeler,	3			3			1	1	2	2 00	2	Newport,	Fuller,
Providence.	G. B. Moore, C. N. Powell,	3			3			73	16	89	2 00	2	Thomasville,	Cooper,
Redland.	P. W. Gardner,	3						28	14	42	1 50	4	Miccosookie,	Moore,
Summerhill, Va.	T. W. Terrell, J. J. Mash,	3			1			28	11	39	2 00	4	Thomasville,	Blawett,
Summerhill, Ga.	R. Roddenburg, A. M. Cason,	3						1	70	71	2 00	4	Thomasville,	McKeown,
San Pedro.	W. Blewett,	3			1			27	1	28	2 00	3	Quincy,	Goldwire,
Troupville.	By Letter,	3						13	24	37	2 00	2	Bellville,	Shackelford,
Thomasville.	G. J. Blair, H. Roberts,	16			1			30	3	33	1 00	3	Clyattville,	Tate,
Tallichasee.	C. Brinson, J. F. Struggs,	3						18	81	99	1 00	3	Boston,	McCall,
Union, Fla.	L. G. Lamb,	3						29	21	50	1 00	1, 3	Madison,	Goldwire,
Mt. Beaser.	James Adams, J. G. Miller,	19						3	3	6	1 00	1, 2, 3	Tallichasee,	Daniel,
My Elon.	J. W. P. McCall, J. S. Broome,	7						7	258	265	1 00	50	Bezeley,	Tate,
	W. H. Goldwire, J. O. Goldwire,	11			12			64	70	134	1 50	1	Thomasville,	Bostick,
	D. G. Daniel, S. A. Smith,	3						3	34	37	75		Walker,	Bostick,
	By Letter,	3						1	13	16				
	Not represented,	3						1	1	2				
	W. W. Revel, W. T. Duval,	3						1	1	2				
	J. Langston, P. G. Grant,	3						1	1	2				

TOTAL OF THE STATISTICAL TABLE.

Baptized,	216
Received by Letter,	120
Restored,	11
Dismissed,	84
Excommunicated,	38
Dead,	30
Whites,	1006
Blacks,	1035
Total,	2391
Contributed for Minutes,	\$52 17
Contributed for Associational Fund,	\$161 50
Contributed for African Mission,	\$75 50
Contributed for Miss. Fund,	\$164 50
Contributed for Foreign Missions,	45 25

* Thomasville Church contributed during the year, to Bible Cause, \$28. To Agent S. Board, \$17; and to Bible Union, \$10.

Moneys sent up by the churches and amounts collected and pledged during the Association, viz:

Collected on Sabbath,	\$90 25
Sent up by the churches for various objects,	498 72
Voluntary contribution by the delegates, to pay off the Colporteur for the past year,	112 00
Collected by Brother Scriven, Agent S. D. M. Board,	76 80
Pledged to Brother Davis, Agent Bible Revision Association,	1429 00
Pledged to Brother Childers, Agent Tallichasee church,	520 00
Pledged for Educational Fund, to aid young Ministers,	3280 00
Amounting in the whole to	\$5637 77

PROCEEDINGS.

OF THE FLORIDA BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION.

Organized at Concord, Madison Co., Florida, Nov. 20, 1854.

On the 22d November, 1853, the following resolution was passed by "The Baptist Association," at its session with Olive Church, Thomas county, Ga., viz:

Resolved, That it is the unanimously expressed opinion of this body that it is proper, expedient, and practicable to form an association to be styled, "The Florida Baptist State Convention." Whereupon, brethren Cooper and Blewett were appointed a committee to correspond with the ministers of the West Florida Association upon the subject, asking their co-operation by laying the matter before their respective churches. Brethren Goldwire, and S. W. Baker, were likewise appointed to address those of Alachua Association on the same subject. Ordered farther, that the above named brethren, together with our messengers to said association, be requested to urge this subject at their next session.

The West Florida Association and the Alachua Association having concurred in the foregoing resolution, appointed delegates as follows:

Elder Josh. Mercer, Elam D. P. Everett, and G. W. Underwood, from West Florida; and Elders J. M. Hayman, Daniel Edwards, J. H. Breaker, and Wm. Connell, from the Alachua. From the Florida, Elder R. J. Mays, Elder W. B. Cooper, Elder B. S. Fuller, Elder W. H. Goldwire, Elder W. Blewett, Elder D. G. Daniel, Elder H. Z. Ardis, Elder S. C. Craft, T. W. Terrell, and John Cason.

The delegates convened in Bro. R. J. Mays' parlor, at 8 o'clock, P. M. Bro. Mays was called to the chair, and D. G. Daniel appointed Secretary. The following *Constitution* was adopted, viz:

1st. This body is constituted upon the New Testament Scriptures as acknowledged and held, generally, by the Baptist denomination.

2nd. The constituents of this body shall be the Baptist associations of this State, and those adjacent in sister States; or as many of them as may accede to the terms of this Convention, whose constitutions shall be approved

by the Convention; and such auxiliary societies as shall contribute annually to our fund, according to the terms hereinafter prescribed, whose constitution shall be approved; and individuals who are regular members of Baptist churches, who shall contribute as hereinafter prescribed.

3d. It shall be known by the name of "The Baptist Convention of the State of Florida."

4th. Each Association shall be entitled to ten delegates, and to one additional delegate for every two hundred over the first thousand, provided the number shall not exceed twenty. Each auxiliary society, contributing annually fifty dollars to the funds of the Convention, shall be entitled to one delegate, and to one additional delegate for each additional fifty dollars contributed as aforesaid. Each individual contributing annually to the funds, as aforesaid, ten dollars, shall be a member. All delegates shall hold their appointments until others are elected to succeed them.

5th. The officers of this Convention shall be a President, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, and Treasurer, who shall be chosen by ballot at each annual meeting.

6th. An Executive Committee, consisting of at least seven members, shall be chosen by ballot at each annual meeting, whose duty it shall be to attend to the business of the Convention during its recess. This committee shall have power to fill all vacancies which may occur, and also shall appoint a Treasurer in case of a vacancy in that office.

7th. The Secretary shall enter in a book all the transactions of this body. The Assistant Secretary shall take charge of all distant communications to or from this body, and shall write all the letters which it may require.

8th. The Treasurer shall take charge of all monies, specialities, and property of all kinds, belonging to the body, and give sufficient security for the amount in his hands, report the state of the funds from time to time as the Convention may direct, and hand over to his successor in office all its monies property, &c.

9th. The acts and proceedings of this body shall be submitted from time to time, for inspection, to its constituents, and none of its decisions shall be binding on the associations or auxiliaries.

10th. The following are the specific objects of this body, viz: 1st. To unite the influence and pious intelligence of the Baptists within its bounds, and thereby facilitate their union and co-operation. 2d. To form and encourage plans for the revival of experimental and practical religion in the State and elsewhere. 3d. To aid in giving effect to useful plans of the several Associations. 4th. To afford an opportunity to those who may conscientiously think it to be their duty to form a fund for the education of pious young men who may be called by the spirit and their churches, to the Christian ministry. 5th. And to promote pious and useful education in the Baptist denomination.

11th. It shall have power to form rules, make arrangements, and appoint

committees for the accomplishment of any and all the above objects: Provided, none of these rules and arrangements shall be inconsistent with the Scriptures and the known principles of the associations.

12th. Two-thirds of the whole number of the delegates present, shall form a quorum, and a majority shall decide a question.

13th. When its funds will justify, this body may send delegates to the Southern Baptist Convention.

14th. The above constitution shall be liable to amendment or alteration, by two thirds of the delegates present at any of its annual meetings.

Elected Elder R. J. Mays President, D. G. Daniel Secretary, S. C. Craft Assistant Secretary, and Jno. Cason Treasurer.

Elected Brethren Ardis, Craft, Cooper, Fuller, W. H. Goldwire, and Blewett, an Executive Committee for the ensuing year

Instructed the Executive Committee to apply to the Legislature of Florida for an act of incorporation, under the title contained in the constitution.

Appointed H. Z. Ardis to preach the introductory sermon at the next session of this body—W. B. Cooper alternate. D. G. Daniel to preach the missionary sermon—W. Blewett alternate.

Appointed correspondents as follows, viz: To Salem Association, Alabama, D. P. Everett, J. Mercer, and G. W. Underwood. To Eufaula Association, Mercer, Everett, Underwood. To Judson Association, Mercer, Underwood, Everett. To Bethel Association, Ga., Blewett, Daniel, Everett, Mays. To the Baptist Convention of Ga., Mays, Fuller, Ardis, Daniel, Goldwire.

Moved to request the Louisiana Association to permit the minutes of this body to be printed in connection with theirs, we paying the additional expense.

After prayer, adjourned to meet at Union Academy, Jackson Co., W. Florida, on Friday, before the first Sabbath in December, 1855.

Nov. 20th, 1854.

D. G. DANIEL, Sec. }
R. J. MAYS, Pres't. }