

MINUTES

OF THE

THIRTY-SECOND ANNUAL SESSION
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DeLAND ^{OF THE} FLORIDA

West Florida Baptist Association

HELD WITH THE

CHURCH AT CEDAR POND, FLA.

COMMENCING OCTOBER 19th, 1878.

COLUMBUS (GA.) TIMES BOOK AND JOB ROOMS PRINT,
1878.

MINUTES.

Pursuant to adjournment, the West Florida Baptist Association met with the Church at Cedar Pond, Jackson county Florida, October 19th, 1878.

On account of the absence of the nominee appointed at the last meeting of this body, the introductory sermon was preached by Elder A. P. Ashurst, from Matthew 27th chapter and 22d verse. "What shall we do then with Jesus which is called Christ." After refreshments, and 1½ hours intermission the Association met in the house and was called to order by the former Moderator, T. E. Langley.

The letters from the various churches were handed in, and the Moderator appointed W. M. Farrier, and A. P. Ashurst, to read them, after which the body proceeded to permanent organization by electing Thos. E. Langley Moderator and W. J. Daniel, Clerk.

The Moderator returned thanks to the body for a continued manifestation of confidence reposed in him, &c.

The Clerk proceeded to enroll the following Delegates.

Bethlehem—M. R. Shores, J. W. Rawles, H. Land.

Bethesda—B. F. Smith, S. Franklin, Jno. Simmons.

Cedar Pond—T. A. Paramore, T. J. Boone.

Campbellton—J. C. Collier, W. J. Daniel.

Concord—Wm. Forehand, Daniel Carnley.

Damascus—J. H. White, T. J. Parker, W. W. Parker.

Ephesus—M. Christmas, Jno. Brewner.

Friendship—J. Lynn, J. M. Stephens.

Greenwood—A. P. Ashurst, J. H. Stephens, W. J. Cook.

Hickory Level—S. Pomphrey, W. Thompson.

Memphis—Jas. Avery, J. W. Hall.

Mt. Olive—M. Keel, J. F. Barfield.

Orange Hill—Sterling Arnold.

Paradise Grove—J. T. Allen, T. M. Stribling.

Poplar Springs—J. S. White, J. Dykes.

Providence—Moses Dykes, Wm. Nobles, Z. Johnson, J. Hill.

Rockey Grove—A. J. Sullivan, J. Y. Folsom.

Rehoboth—W. J. Smith, J. P. Sanders.

Sardis—D. Player, J. H. Sims, Jos. Messer.

Selma—S. Martin, P. Martin, E. Taylor.

J. S. White, Z. Johnson, and the Delegates from Cedar Pond Church were appointed a Committee on Preaching.

Called for correspondents from other bodies and received Daniel Williams, D. Coonrod, Jos. Coonrod, T. M. Stapleton, J. T. Weston, and B. M. Williams, from the Judson Association.

A motion to allow the Moderator further time to arrange various committees was carried.

On motion the body adjourned to meet promptly on Monday morning at 9 o'clock.

Before the closing prayer the Committee on Preaching made appointments for preaching as follows: T. E. Langley, to preach at 11 o'clock on Sabbath, and R. C. B. Lawrence, in the afternoon at 2 o'clock, and W. M. Farrier, on Monday at 11 o'clock.

At 11 o'clock on Sabbath the congregation assembled at the stand and was addressed by Elder T. E. Langley, from the 13th chapter 20th and 21st verses of Hebrews. Elder R. C. B. Lawrence, preached a very interesting sermon at 2 P. M.

At the close of the service at 11 o'clock the Moderator announced committees as follows:

Committee on Documents—J. C. Collier, J. Brewner, M. Dykes.

Committee on Deceased Ministers—J. W. Rawles, James Avery, W. Thompson.

Committee on Nominations—W. J. Cook, D. Player, W. W. Parker.

Committee on Missions—A. P. Ashurst, W. J. Daniel, T. A. Paramore.

Committee on Finance—H. C. Neil, J. Lynn, J. T. Allen.

Committee on Sabbath Schools—R. C. B. Lawrence, W. J. Smith, B. F. Smith.

At 9 o'clock on Monday morning the body met promptly and was called to order by the Moderator.

On motion the reading of the minutes from Saturday was dispensed with until the close of the session.

Renewed call for correspondents, received none.

Appointed the following correspondents.

J. W. Hall, J. M. Stephens, J. Lynn, T. J. Boone and W. J. Daniel, to the Judson Association.

To the Newton Association, J. W. Johnson, and W. J. Daniel.

To the General Association of South East Alabama, and West Florida, T. E. Langley, and A. P. Ashurst.

Committee on Documents read their report and was adopted as follows:

Your Committee on Documents beg leave to report that Campbellton, Damascus and Hickory Level Churches all ask to entertain your next Association. We recommend that a vote of the body be taken upon it.

The following query is also sent up from Poplar Spring Church. "How shall a Missionary Baptist Church proceed upon the application for membership of a Free Will Baptist" bringing with him a recommendation from his Church of good standing &c. The query was answered by saying—receive him by experience and baptism scripturally administered.

Upon a vote of the body the Association decided to meet with Damascus Church eight miles west of Campbellton.

Your Committee on Nominations appoint A. P. Ashurst to preach the introductory sermon at the next meeting of your Association.

W. J. COOK, Chairman.

The report on Sabbath Schools called for, read and adopted as below.

Your Committee on Sabbath Schools beg leave to report that as far as they were able to learn from the reading of the letters, there has been no Sabbath Schools reported. We have heard however that two have been in operation a part of the year, one at Damascus, the other at a school house in this vicinity. We regret to see so little interest manifested by the Churches in such important work which has been so abundantly blessed by the Lord in the growth of his churches, and the extension of his Kingdom upon the earth. It is evident that there are reasons why none of our churches have been able to maintain, and keep up

a regular and properly conducted Sabbath School among them, the first we believe to be a want of good Superintendents, men who know how to conduct and carry on a Sabbath School, and whose hearts are in the work, another is well qualified teachers, they should be men and ladies of deep piety who would go into the work with all their hearts, and would labor therein with an eye single to the glory of God. The want of proper kinds of books is another great reason why they have not succeeded. The cry of the churches are, we are too poor to buy books, a silly excuse. The souls of our children are worth more by far than their bodys. We are almost at a complete loss to suggest something that would bring about a better state of affairs in this important matter. We would recommend however that the Pastors lecture their churches on the subject as often as they think it prudent.

Respectfully submitted,

R. C. B. LAWRENCE, Chairman.

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AS ADOPTED.

Your committee would briefly report that they employed Elder R. C. B. Lawrence to labor within your destitution a portion of the past year, the work to begin in August last, his report will show the amount of labor he has done to date. He has made some appointments that would be well for him to fill yet. We have agreed to give him what funds the Association had on hand at the commencement of this meeting as remuneration for what he has done and will do in filling these appointments.

Respectfully,

W. J. DANIEL, Chairman.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON MISSIONS.

Report on Missions read and pending its adoption, stirring speeches were made by T. E. Langley, and A. P. Ashurst the report was adopted and is as below:

The Committee are impressed with the necessity for enlarging our efforts to "preach the gospel to every creature." It is useless to consider the question of missions without considering the question of money. We have got the men, the money is what we need.

All our people are able to give, and when we consider the divine law of giving, all are equally able to give. The law of Christ applies as much to the poor as to the rich, and promises as great blessings shall be enjoyed by the giver of the one class as that of the other. It is required of a man to give according to what he has, and not according to what he has not. The Master does not state the amount to be given by any one, but teaches the principle by which every giver may piously determine the amount he owes to the cause, when he says "Give and it shall be given to you again." He does not say, "Give largely and it shall be given to you again." When He declares "It is more blessed to give than to receive," He does not hint as to the amount which secures the blessing; but the principles laid down in His word are to govern it. If we would secure the cause of Christ the amount needed, and now required at our hands, we must adopt plans more scriptural than those we have practiced heretofore for preaching the masses of our people. We must regard as acceptable to God, and profitable to His cause every cheerful gift, however small.

Heretofore our plan has been a few liberal givers give all we raise for missions. This is wrong.

There is more or less of discouragement experienced by the liberal

givers, when they find that they have all the burden to carry, while the multitude will not touch it even with their fingers. If all were to lend a hand, those who are liberal would be more liberal, and in doing more they would enjoy more, and receive greater blessings. As it is, they are oppressed with a sense of injustice; they feel that they are wronged; and they are soured toward their brethren, and so far from being incited to greater efforts, when the inaction of others would seem to make it necessary, they are actually restrained from doing what their hearts would incline them to do, and indignant to see no contributions from others, pettishly diminish their own. Of course they ought not to indulge such feelings, but they do indulge them. They are good men, it is true, but they are men, and like others subject to human weakness. Any plan must be wrong, the great feature of which is that it places such temptations in their way.

Again, we appeal to one to do so much on the ground that some other has done so much. The principle is wrong, whether others have done much or little, is not for a man to inquire. Let him answer as unto God, and not as unto man. Emulation and pride are not to be appealed to in a christian assembly. The appeal should be to the conscience, and to that only. Let them be told to do it, because God has required it at their hands, and what they do under this impulse they will never afterwards regret; their nature will be developed in the right direction and not the wrong and the act will be a genuine christian charity, and not a wretched counterfeit of it.

To sum up the whole matter let it be said that a habit of systematic and liberal giving on proper principles in the cause of Christ is beneficial to the heart of every christian, and that without this habit leanness and disease are certain, and life is apt to be so feeble that it can scarcely be distinguished from death. The great majority of our brethren are in the latter condition; and the charge against our plans which have worked out such results as these, that they bring evil upon the individual, is established.

Again the churches suffer injury. A church whose membership suffers in the manner described is in the condition of a man broken on the wheel. His legs are broken, he cannot walk; his arms are broken, he cannot do; his ribs are broken, he can scarcely breathe; his back is broken he cannot stir.

To suppose that the figure is too strong is to suppose that the whole of a thing can be in good condition when its parts are all destroyed.

Take away the membership of our churches and there is nothing left. Suppose all the members of a church to be under the blight of covetousness, what will the church be worth as a whole? Suppose a large part of them to be so, and that a few only are found in the way of duty, how are the efforts of those few clogged and made comparatively inactive by the dead weight of the many! Hampered with a worse than useless membership, unblest by an antimissionary spirit, how can a church be other than languid, drooping and dying, if not dead? Many of our churches are in this condition. We have many churches in condition not so bad, though their affliction is of the same kind. But according to the degree of their disease, so wretched is their internal state, and so worthless are they to the cause.

If this condition of our churches is owing to any action or inaction of ours, have we not great guilt to answer for? And is it not clear that if our missionary efforts had been guided by greater wisdom, even if with more zeal, we should not have left the masses of our people wholly unreached?

While those who do nothing are each and all to blame, may it not be true that they have not been taught to give, and instructed in the power there is in little. They are ashamed to lay their little mite by the side of the dollars of the more wealthy class. Now the poor form a large portion of our membership. Can a church as a whole be thrifty when so large an element in its membership are not used?

But finally, we are instructed how to give. In writing to the Corinthians, the Apostle Paul, speaking by the Holy Spirit says: "Now, concerning the collections for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, so do ye. Upon the first day of the week, LET EVERY ONE of you lay by him in store as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come." 1st Cor. xviii; 2.

Observe that this is not a mere matter of advice—it is an ORDER. The Apostle says: I have given ORDER.

Mark, also, that the periods of giving are not only regular, but they are frequent; and this very frequency would bring the duty down from the high atmosphere of exciting enthusiasm to the less exhilarating but more healthy air of daily life. Not once a year, but once a week is the New Testament method. Before the heart has time to grow cold from one act of beneficence another warms it up again; and thus if the stream be small, it is nevertheless steady, and while it conveys blessings out, also brings blessings in, for it is more blessed to give than to receive. Note, also, that the command is to all: "Let EVERY ONE of you lay by him in store." No man, woman or child is excepted. We seem to forget that giving is an act of worship, and that consequently, in the absence of giving no worship can be complete. There are some who seem to think that because the Gospel is free in one sense, it is so in every sense and should cost them nothing; and some go even further, and imagine that to couple money with worship, or with the Lord's cause in any way, is to degrade it. It may be well to remember that the day divinely appointed is Sabbath, "the first day of the week;" also the very first act of worship of which we have any record was an expressive one. There was no money in the world at the time of righteous Abel's sacrifice, but it cost him money's worth and it was accepted. Has God so changed that what was acceptable then would not be now? The Mosaic ritual was, perhaps, the most expensive system of religion ever devised; and God was the author of it. Did he not know what was acceptable to himself, and as He was not made richer by these offerings, nor benefitted by them in any way must He not have required them for the benefit of the worshipper? And has human nature so changed that what was promotive of spiritual welfare then should fail to promote it now? Outward acts, indeed, may vary with circumstances; but so far as principles are involved, they must forever be the same. "Honor the Lord with thy substance" is a divine precept, and is it not binding on all men for all time? If certain men and certain times are to be made exceptions, who is competent to designate the exceptions?

Those who contend in these latter days, that all our giving should be to the poor, are not the first who have made this plea; they follow a bad precedent set by a bad example.

The alabaster box itself expensive, was filled with costly ointment; both had been purchased with money, but the offering was graciously accepted, and as the house was filled with the perfume of the offering, so the whole world has been filled with the fragrance of the story; and the memorial in honor of the act will endure till the end of time. No poor were benefitted, nor in a certain sense was there benefit of any kind, BUT CHRIST WAS HONORED.

Are we precluded from the privilege of honoring the Saviour in the same

way? Let some Iscariot count up the expense, and whine about the poor, but as for us, let us weep for joy to think we are permitted to bring the alabaster box and the precious ointment. What was worship then is worship now. And if giving be worship, then, like all other worship it should be at stated times, and the times should be not far apart; and we should give without ceasing, as we are taught to pray without ceasing.

Certain it is, that our worship will be forever imperfect, unless our "substance" enters into it, and if we be at a loss to know at what periods and on what occasions to make these offerings, do we not find something more than a hint in these words: "Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him." "What God hath joined-together let not man put asunder."

The time must come when all the elect will come up to help the Lord. Let us be in haste to bring about the advent of that glorious day; and if our beginnings be small, we have the rapture of knowing that the end will be, that the kingdoms of this world will become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ.

A. P. ASHURST,
W. J. DANIEL,
T. A. PARAMORE.

REPORT ON DECEASED MINISTERS.

Your Committee appointed to make this report feel very thankful to report to you no deaths among our ministerial brethren this year. Our ministerial strength is very weak as you are all aware. Let us not forget then at all times to render thanksgiving to God for the preservation of the lives of what few ministers we have,

Respectfully,

J. W. RAWLES, Chairman.

On motion the propriety of changing the time of the meeting of the Association came up under the head of general business and after some discussion was lost.

Went into election of Executive Committee, and during the balloting suspended the regular order of business to discuss the propriety of doing away with a resolution passed at a previous meeting of this body relative to pledges and Sabbath collections, a motion to reconsider and recind said resolution was passed.

J. H. Stephens, A. P. Ashurst, W. H. Taylor, J. C. Collier and W. J. Daniel, were elected Executive Committeemen for the ensuing year.

It was agreed that the next general meeting be held with Providence Church.

The following resolution of thanks was passed:

Resolved, That the thanks of this body be tendered to the good people of Cedar Pond neighborhood for their kindness and hospitality during our session. Agreed to pay the Clerk \$15 for his services, and expend \$20 for minutes.

On motion the Association adjourned to meet with Damascus Church the Saturday before the third Sabbath in October 1879.

REPORT OF R. C. B. LAWRENCE.

Having been employed by the Executive Committee of the West Florida Association to labor within its bounds as missionary would briefly make this my report of what I have done.

I commenced the work August 9th 1878, preached five sermons, gave three exhortations and traveled ninety miles on my first trip; on my second

round I preached three sermons and traveled sixty miles. My health having failed me have not been another round since. I found Antioch and Magnolia churches both in a very sad condition. One Gibson of Liberty county Florida has been among them and like a wolf has divided and scattered them. He has left them without shepherd or fold. I learn that some of them are awaiting an opportunity to return, I think it very probable that all of them that were led astray could be gathered again if they had a shepherd to look after them. I have promised to preach for them as often as my health will permit until January, and will do all I can to restore peace and unity among them. The people generally appear to be very anxious to hear the Gospel, and are willing to do all they are able for the support of a preacher.

Respectfully,

R. C. B. LAWRENCE.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

Received from Finance Committee last Association.....	\$166 40
To amount paid the Clerk for his services.....	21 25
To amount paid for printing Minutes.....	15 00
To amount paid Brother Lawrence for Missionary Labors.....	130 15
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	\$166 40

REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE.

Sent up from:	Miss'ns.	Minutes.	Ass'nal.
Bethlehem.....			\$5 00
Bethesda.....		\$1 00	1 40
Cedar Pond.....	\$5 50	2 00	3 00
Campbellton.....	16 50	2 00	2 50
Concord.....	50	50	40
Damascus.....		1 50	2 80
Ephesus.....		1 00	50
Friendship.....	9 00	1 50	
Greenwood.....	25 50	2 00	2 00
Mt. Olive.....		1 00	1 00
Memphis.....		75	1 75
Orange Hill.....		55	1 00
Poplar Spring.....		25	1 00
Providence.....		1 50	2 25
Paradise Grove.....		1 00	30
Rockey Grove.....	1 00	1 00	1 00
Rehoboth.....		1 40	
Sardis.....		1 00	2 00
Selma.....		1 50	1 50
Hickory Level.....	1 00	1 00	1 00
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	\$59 00	\$21 45	\$29 95

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STATISTICS OF THE CHURCHES.

CHURCHES AND COUNTIES.	PASTORS.	CLERKS AND THEIR POST-OFFICES.	Baptized,	Rec'd by Letter	Restored	Dismissed	Excommunicated	Dead	Total,
Bethlehem Jackson County	D. A. Skipper	John Harper, Marianna, Fla.	4	2	2	2	2	1	43
Bethesda, Geneva Co., Ala.	John White	J. M. Davis, Big Creek, Ala.	1	2	1	2	4	1	38
Concord, Jackson Co., Fla.	J. W. Johnson	W. F. Hill, Campbellton, Fla.	1	1	2	2	4	1	17
Campbellton, Jackson Co., Fla.	T. E. Langley	W. J. Daniel, Campbellton, Fla.	1	1	2	2	1	1	34
Cedar Pond, Jackson Co., Fla.	A. P. Ashurst	H. C. Neel, Neal's Landing, Fla.	5	5	2	2	5	1	54
Damascus, Jackson Co., Fla.	J. Stuart	W. W. Parker, Graceville, Fla.	5	5	2	2	5	1	71
Ephesus, Jackson Co., Fla.	Jho. Brewner	Moses Christinas, Campbellton, Fla.	7	4	1	1	1	1	17
Friendship, Jackson Co., Fla.	E. M. Knowles	L. Dekle, Greenwood, Fla.	1	1	1	1	1	1	50
Greenwood, Jackson Co., Fla.	T. E. Langley	N. B. Long, Greenwood, Fla.	1	1	1	1	5	1	50
Hickory Level, Jackson Co., Fla.	John Stuart	S. Pomphrey, Marianna, Fla.	1	1	1	1	5	1	17
Mt. Olive, Calhoun Co., Ala.	A. R. Herring	J. H. Gable, Ocheese, Fla.	3	2	2	2	1	1	26
Memphis, Henry Co., Ala.	H. Lizenby	J. Conera, Big Creek, Ala.	2	2	2	2	1	1	27
Orange Hill, Washington Co., Fla.	J. W. Johnson	R. M. Feal, Orange Hill	1	1	1	1	1	1	17
Paradise Grove, Jackson Co., Fla.	R. C. B. Lawrence	J. T. Allen, Dellwood, Fla.	10	2	1	1	1	1	49
Providence, Jackson Co., Fla.	R. C. B. Lawrence	Wm. Nobles, Haywood Landing, Fla.	10	2	1	1	1	1	25
Poplar Spring, Jackson Co., Fla.	R. C. B. Lawrence	J. R. Dykes, Marianna, Fla.	3	6	5	5	3	1	49
Rehoboth, Geneva Co., Ala.	J. C. Skipper	W. J. Smith, Big Creek, Ala.	5	5	3	4	3	1	62
Rockey Grove, Jackson Co., Fla.	John Stuart	C. Dykes, Marianna, Fla.	5	5	3	3	9	1	38
Selma, Geneva Co., Ala.	H. Lizenby	S. Martin, Dothan, Ala.	10	4	1	1	1	1	38
Sardis, Jackson Co., Fla.	A. R. Herring	W. D. Simpson, Ocheese, Fla.	10	4	1	1	2	2	56