

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

FIFTEENTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

South Florida Baptist Association.

HELD WITH

OAK GROVE CHURCH,

HERNANDO COUNTY, OCTOBER 15TH AND 17TH, 1881.

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ATLANTA, GA.:

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PROCEEDINGS.

SATURDAY, October, 15th, 1881.

The introductory sermon was preached by Elder R. N. Pylant, text, Rom. 1: 16: "The gospel is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believes."

After a recess of one hour for refreshments, the delegates convened in the Church house, and after singing a hymn, and prayer by Elder E. J. Hull, our former Moderator being absent, Elder L. J. Simmons was called to occupy the chair for temporary organization. Letters from the churches were handed in and read, after which petitionary letters were called for, when one was received from Fellowship church, of Hernando county, by their delegate, W. A. Cobb, which church was received as a member of this body, and the hand of fellowship was given to Brother W. A. Cobb, as their delegate, by the Moderator. On motion Brother W. M. Grove was recognized as a delegate from Turkey Creek church, instead of the absent delegate, Elder S. Walden. The Association then proceeded to the election of permanent officers, which resulted in the election of Elder L. J. Simmons, Moderator, and Elder J. M. Hayman, Clerk.

The Moderator appointed J. M. Duffie and S. W. Weeks, with the delegates from this, Oak Grove church, as a committee on preaching, and on Sabbath Schools, J. M. Hayman, A. Wilson, and W. M. Groves. On Temperance, W. J. Taylor, S. L. Hancock, and T. H. Jaudon. On Finance—H. Collins, J. J. Hatcher, and T. W. Wilder. On Publications—W. S. Bugg, J. M. Hayman and T. H. Jaudon. On Letters and Documents—T. H. Jaudon, H. D. Ryals, and R. M. Wilson. Correspondents were then called for, when Elders E. J. Hull and J. J. Robertson, and Brothers Thomas Thigpen and Henry Messer from the Manatee Association; and Elders J. H. Hayman and G. M. T. Wilson from the Wekiva Association responded, and were received, and the Moderator gave them the hand of fellowship; also, Elder J. Perry from the Alachua Association was received as corresponding messenger, and made welcome in the usual way. The committee on preaching announced that Elder L. J. Simmons preach to-night at the church, and Elder J. H. Hayman preach to-morrow morning, at nine o'clock. Brother J. D. Spivy was excused from further attendance at this session. On motion for adjournment, after singing, and prayer by J. M. Hayman, adjourned till nine o'clock Monday morning.

SUNDAY, October 16th, 1881.

At nine o'clock Sunday morning, Elder J. H. Hayman preached a sermon from the text: "Why stand ye here all the day idle?" Mat. 20: 6. After a few minutes intermission, Elder J. M. Hayman commenced to preach a sermon on Missions, from the text: "How shall they hear without a preacher? and how shall they preach except they be sent?" Rom. 10: 14: 15. After the discourse was proceeded with about twenty minutes, a shower of rain came up, and the congregation dispersed, and the exercises of the hour were broken up. After refreshments, at two o'clock P.M., Elder E. J. Hull preached to the congregation in the church-house, from the text: "And they continued steadfastly in the apostle's doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers." Acts 2: 42. After which a collection was taken up for the support of our missionary, amounting to \$33.21. Immediately Elder B. M. Pack addressed the children and their parents in regard to Sunday schools, and enrolled many names, accompanied with the money, as "*Brother Pack's Sunday School Helpers.*"

MONDAY, October 17th, 1881.

Met pursuant to adjournment. After singing a hymn, prayer was made by Elder Pack, and after calling the roll, proceeded to business. Correspondents were again called for, when Elder B. M. Pack, Sunday School Evangelist of the American Baptist Publication Society, presented himself, and was received as such, and a cordial greeting was given him, and he is welcome within the bounds of our Association on his heavenly mission. Elder J. M. Hayman made known to the Association the request of the Corresponding Secretary of the American Baptist Publication Society to publish their leaflet with our minutes, which was ordered to be done.

Petitionary letters were again called for, when Brother J. S. Jackson presented one from New Zion Church, of Hillsborough county, and being found orthodox was received as a member of this body, and the hand of fellowship given to their delegate by the Moderator. On motion, resolved, that the statement made before this body, at this time, by Elder A. Wilson, in regard to Antioch Church, and John A. Gandy, is satisfactory, and the matter is dismissed. Resolved, that the statement made in the letter from Bethel Church, in regard to R. T. Caddin and the Green Pond Church, is satisfactory to this body, and the matter is dismissed.

Report of Committee on Letters and Documents.

We, the Committee on Letters and Documents, beg leave to report that we have carefully examined the letters sent up from the churches, and find that peace and harmony prevails, but coldness exists, and all ask an interest in prayer for a revival of religion.

We notice that the Double Branch Church wish advice from this body in regard to two of her members, that sister churches complain of as being in disorder.

We also observed that Tenotasassa Church asks, "What has become of the Book Fund?"

Also from the same church: When our churches receive members by letter, should the clerks notify the churches from whence the letters come? Also, a petition from the same church inviting the next session of this Association to be held there, and respectfully recommend that her request be granted.

Respectfully submitted,

T. H. JAUDON, *Chairman.*

The Moderator then appointed T. H. Jaudon, J. M. Duffie, and J. L. McLelland as a committee on the request of the Double Branch Church; and J. M. Hayman, A. Wilson, and R. M. Wilson as a committee on book fund, to report at the session of this body.

Took recess till 2 o'clock, P.M.

Resumed business at the time appointed; Brother G. W. Bearson being present, was received as a visiting brother.

The following query was read, received, and discussed, to-wit: "What shall be done with a minister who has been tried and expelled, and afterward restored, and his credentials withheld through prejudice or other causes?" Answer: We advise that the church so retaining credentials of a deposed minister of the gospel who has been restored to full fellowship, to return the said minister his credentials at the request of the church of which he is a member, with the proper indorsement thereon.

Received the report of Committee on Sunday-schools as follows, to-wit:

Report on Sunday-Schools.

We, your Committee on Sunday-schools, ask leave to make the following report:

1. That we regret to learn of the extremely little interest manifested on the part of the churches composing this Association in regard to Sunday-schools. Only one church report the existence of a Sunday-school in their midst.

2. As we deem the Sunday-school one of the greatest means of grace for the salvation of the young, we would therefore recommend that our churches take "more earnest heed" to the establishment and sustenance of Sunday-schools in their midst than they have been doing in the past.

3. That in order to carry on a Sunday-school successfully it must be furnished with the proper helps to the study of the Bible, and especially should they cultivate vocal music. Realizing this fact, we recommend that our brethren exert their personal influence more diligently, and contribute of their means more liberally for the accomplishment of this great end.

4. As our brother, Rev. Basil M. Pack, Sunday-school Missionary for Florida, under the appointment of the American Baptist Publication Society, is with us, we would heartily welcome him into our midst, and promise our full co-operation in the glorious work which he represents. And as he proposes to organize Sunday-school Conventions in as many counties as may be deemed practicable, we would recommend that this body consider the practicability of his organizing one in the bounds of this Association, and report the same to him.

Respectfully submitted,

J. M. HAYMAN, *Chairman.*

Report of Committee on Temperance received as follows, to-wit:

Report on Temperance.

Your Committee on Temperance would respectfully report that we have studied the subject carefully, and have to say that we find intemperance one of the greatest evils, if not the greatest and most to be dreaded of all evils in the land, blighting the hopes of parents, destroying the peace and happiness of many homes, and threatening the institutions of our country through its prevailing influences upon the young. We feel it one of the first duties of parents, and especially upon us as followers of our blessed Savior, to make a more earnest effort than we have ever done to check, aye, to utterly crush out this great and grievous evil. We look upon the sale and drinking of intoxicating liquors as the greatest of all barriers to the success of the gospel—both in regard to its influence upon individuals and its spread over the nations of the earth. Dear brethren, let us not pass this subject from our minds until we shall have accomplished something in this direction. The tender regard for our dear children, the love for our country, and our duty as Christians, urge us to take some action in the matter.

Respectfully submitted, WM. J. TAYLOR, *Chairman.*

Received report of Committee on Publications as follows, to-wit:

Report on Publications.

We, your Committee on Publications, would respectfully suggest to our membership a more careful and prayerful study of the Holy Scriptures, which alone will make us wise unto salvation. And as aids and helps, *The Christian Index*, published in Atlanta, Ga.; *Ford's Christian Repository*, published in St. Louis, Mo.; *The National Baptist*, published in Philadelphia, Pa., and *The Baptist*, published in Memphis, Tenn. And as it works some inconvenience to have so many different hymn books among us, we respectfully suggest the adoption of the "Baptist Hymn Book," published by the American Baptist Publication Society, Philadelphia, and that we cultivate more than ever the science of vocal music.

Respectfully, J. M. HAYMAN, *Chairman.*

Committee on Preaching reported as follows, to-wit:

Report on Preaching.

Elder A. Wilson to preach the Introductory Sermon at the next meeting of this Association, and Elder T. H. Jaudon, alternate; Elder L. J. Simmons to preach on Sunday at 11 o'clock on missions, and J. M. Hayman, alternate.

Respectfully submitted, J. M. DUFFIE, *Chairman.*

Treasurer's Report.

To amount on hand.....	\$21 58
To amount of collection on Sabbath.....	23 21
To amount received from Finance Committee.....	50 01—\$94 80
By amount paid A. Wilson, as missionary.....	45 64

Balance on hand..... \$49 16

Respectfully, T. W. WILDER, *Treasurer.*

Committee on Finance reported as follows, to-wit:

Finance Report.

Amounts sent up from the churches for Minutes.....	\$ 43 11
Amounts sent up from the churches for Associational purposes.....	6 05
Amount sent up from one church for Foreign Missions.....	85

Total.....\$ 50 01

Respectfully submitted, HARDY COLLINS, *Chairman.*

Received the report of the Committee on the request of the Double Branch church, and upon the report of said Committee, this Association advise the Double Branch church to expel those two members concerning whom they asked advice.

Report of Executive Committee.

We, your Executive Committee, employed Elder A. Wilson as our missionary to labor in the destitute parts of our Association for the term of eight months at thirty dollars per month, commencing the first of March, 1881, and up to this time he has travelled 1,900 miles, preached 139 sermons, made 320 prayers, baptized 21 persons, restored three to fellowship, constituted two churches, and collected on the field \$41.65. We have settled with him up to this time, having paid him the sum of \$240.00.

R. N. PYLANT, *Chairman.*

The Circular Letter was called for, read and received as follows, to-wit:

Sunday-Schools.

In considering the great amount of good and the happy results emanating from the Sunday-school, where there is sufficient interest and a proper spirit manifested, we fail to find any other means in operation, except the Church of Christ, that is of more practical benefits to the cause of religion than the Sunday-school. The Church is the means instituted by our Savior through which his followers may meet to worship their Great Head, and to unite their strength in fighting against the powers of darkness, while the Sunday-school prepares and trains the minds of the youth for the inevitable truths and principles which the church was ordained to inculcate and establish.

Experience and observation both teach us that it is just as important that the mind should, in its formative period, be trained for a proper reception of religious truths and principles, as to be prepared for any worldly avocation or association in life. For while the mind is growing and maturing, it is destined to form its own prejudices and establish its own sentiments and principles, which, though wrong, cannot be successfully eradicated by either time or influence. For there is no feeling or sentiment coming in contact with the human mind but what is influenced by the prejudices of early life.

Then how important that the mind should be properly trained. But how is this to be accomplished? We cannot for a moment depreciate the importance of proper home training and paternal

watchfulness. But does this fully prepare the mind for the inevitable associations of after life? We find that the mind should be trained and fortified against every obstacle which the followers of Christ may chance to meet. The Sunday-school, when properly conducted, will prove a great auxiliary in this mighty work. It gives shape and energy to the mind, and organizes the child at the beginning, and shows him his true character as an intellectual being, whose happiness for time and eternity depends upon the use he makes of this life. It helps to sow the earliest seed in the human mind, which will inevitably root the deepest, and supplant and outlive the influences of later years. The Sunday-school adapts itself, in some sense, to the use and benefits of all classes. It suits the more advanced by infusing a proper spirit of divine truth among their attainments, and converting their knowledge and power to life's noblest ends. It suits the poor, because it has raised many a forlorn child of poverty and misfortune to most desirable eminence in life. It suits the rich, because it bestows a moral restraint upon their offspring which, more than any other class, they are in need of, and which all their money could not bestow. It is better than the alms-house for human destitution and wretchedness, for it tends to prevent idleness and pauperism. It is better than all the courts and prisons of America, for it strikes at the very cause and root of evil, by directing and training the thoughts in the ways of wisdom and obedience. It has the means of opening up the intellect of many a poor child of a fertile and energetic mind, and enabling them to push themselves through life's most useful paths. It elevates the standard of morality to its proper dignity, and shows man his pre-eminence above all the balance of God's creation. Ignorance in a free country of this enlightened age is no excuse before the courts of high heaven, and only tends to mitigate but not escape the penalty of the law before the courts of earth, and ignorance and vice go hand in hand.

The Baptist churches of to-day are the leading pioneer churches of America, their principal field of operations being in the rural districts, travelling hand in hand with the progress of civilization and refinement, pushing their way far into the wilderness and destitute places where the greatest moral and mental dearth exists, carrying with them the glad tidings of the gospel, and making many a poor heart rejoice, and thereby proving their identity with primitive Christianity. The Sunday-school should go in connection with the churches, preparing the way and making paths straight. The Sunday-school meets with divine approbation, both in principle and practice, and helps to accomplish the fulfilment of the Scriptures.

Moses, in one of the last commandments, said: "Gather the people together, men, women and children, and thy stranger that is within thy gates, that they may hear, and that they may learn and fear the Lord, your God, and observe to do all the words of this law," and in connection therewith he said, "that your children which have not known anything may hear and learn to fear the Lord." Paul said to Timothy, "From a child thou hast known the Scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation." And on one occasion the blessed Savior said, "Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of God."

But in conducting the Sunday-school the greatest care should

be taken to make the school pleasant and desirable. A system of rewards and prizes, together with good music, a variety of exercises, and briefness in everything, will serve to hold the school together until the importance of its object is understood and a love for its sacred teachings acquired; and its success will be insured. But upon whom devolves the greatest amount of responsibility in conducting this enterprise? We answer, on the dear mothers and sisters of our country. In them rests the greatest power, and hence the greatest responsibility of training the little ones. A writer once said: "As is the mother, so is the daughter, so is the son." It is through the divine wisdom and economy of our Creator that our mothers and sisters have been sweetly and tenderly anchored in the quiet and peaceful haven of home; it is by them that the first and most lasting lessons are taught, and if ever man becomes so insane as to set her afloat on the turbulent sea of politics, our social and religious fabric will be utterly destroyed—nothing worth living for, and nothing to love.

Respectfully,

BEN. T. BLOUNT.

On motion, agreed that the Articles of Faith be published in our next Minutes, instead of a Circular Letter.

Ordered that the Clerk have five hundred copies of these Minutes printed, and distribute them among the churches according to their number; and that the Clerk draw upon the Treasurer for a sufficient amount to pay for the same, and that he have ten dollars for his services.

On motion,

Resolved, That the churches of this Association be, and they are hereby, advised to state in their letters to the next Association the number of Minutes each church may need, and be sure to send money enough to pay for them.

On motion,

Resolved, That the same Executive Committee be requested to act as such for another year, and to do the best they can to supply the destitute portions of our Association with the gospel.

Appointed a union meeting to be held with the church at Clear Water, to embrace the fifth Sunday in January next, commencing the Friday before.

The Association received a communication from brother J. M. Eddins, at Tampa, making strong appeals for preaching for the Baptists of that place.

The Association appointed Elders L. J. Simmons and T. H. Jaudon corresponding messengers to the Wekiwa Association, and Elders J. M. Hayman, A. Wilson and L. J. Simmons corresponding messengers to the Manatee Association.

Ordered, that at the next meeting of this body the Clerk furnish the Moderator with a list of the delegates' names to facilitate the appointing of committees.

Resolved, That the thanks of this Association are due, and hereby tendered, to this church and citizens of this community, for their kind hospitality to us, during our stay among them.

At the hour of eleven o'clock A.M. the Association took a recess of two hours, when brother B. M. Pack preached an interesting sermon from the text: "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." Prov. 14:12

WHEREAS, Nearly, or quite, all the churches of this Association have requested prayers to be made for them; that the good work of the Lord be revived with them; and whereas, our former Moderator, Elder S. Walder, has sent special request that prayers be made that he be restored to health: therefore—

Resolved, That business be suspended, and the Association engage in fervent prayer for the two objects above named.

Which was done, Elder E. J. Hall leading in prayer.

The business of the Association being ended, a motion was made to adjourn, and, after singing an appropriate hymn, and invocation of the divine blessing, adjourned to meet with Tenotasassa church, fifteen miles northeast from Tampa, on Saturday before the third Sunday in October, 1882.

J. M. HAYMAN, *Clerk*.

L. J. SIMMONS, *Moderator*.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES.	COUNTIES.	PASTORS.	NAMES OF DELEGATES.	Baptized.	Received by Letter.	Restored.	Expelled.	Dismissed.	Dead.	Total.	Contributions.	Days of Meeting.	REMARKS.
Anclote.....	Hernando.....		By letter.....	1	2					17	50		As last reported.
Antioch.....	Polk.....	A. Wilson.....	Not represented.....	4	4	2			1	71	2 50	4	
Bethel.....	".....	R. N. Pylant.....	E. G. Wilder, S. S. Rogers.....			1			1	11	75	2	
Beulah.....	".....	B. L. Ray.....	J. J. Hatcher.....			2				16	7 00	1	
Double Branch.....	Hernando.....	J. M. Hayman.....	J. J. Page, W. R. Smith.....			1			2	24	5 16	1 and 3	
Concord.....	Polk.....	C. S. Reynolds.....	J. M. Hayman.....			1			2	25	2 00	4	
Clear Water.....	Hillsborough.....	R. E. Bell.....	W. J. Taylor.....			1			1	37	1 50		
Emmas.....	Hernando.....		J. S. Goss, Lewis Gaskins.....			1			1	7	3 00		
Fellowship.....	".....	R. T. Caddin.....	W. A. Cobb.....			1			1	51	3 00		Received this session.
Gap-Way.....	Polk.....	T. H. Jaudon.....	J. L. McLelland, S. Reynolds.....			1			1	46	5 00		As last represented.
Hopewell.....	Hillsborough.....	T. F. Wood.....	W. S. Bugg, S. W. Weeks.....			1			1	68	2 35		
Key West.....	Monroe.....	A. Wilson.....	Not represented since 1876.....			1			1	22	2 00		Received this session.
Providence.....	Hernando.....	T. H. Jaudon.....	A. Wilson, R. M. Wilken.....			1			1	46	2 00		As last represented.
Pleasant Hill.....	Hillsborough.....	R. T. Caddin.....	By letter.....			1			1	37	2 50		Received this session.
New Zion.....	Hernando.....	T. H. Jaudon.....	D. T. McLeod, F. P. Daniel.....			1			1	14	4 50		As reported last.
Six Mile Pond.....	Hillsborough.....		H. D. Ryals, J. D. Spivy.....			1			1	50	6 00		
Spring Hill.....	Polk.....	A. Wilson.....	J. S. Jackson, (No statistics given).....			1			1	63	3 55		As last reported.
Shiloh.....	".....	T. H. Jaudon.....	Not represented.....			1			1	14	2 00		
Tenotasassa.....	".....	A. Wilson.....	T. W. Wilder, H. Collins.....			1			1	50	4 50		
Turkey Creek.....	".....	T. H. Jaudon.....	T. P. Jaudon, J. M. Duffie.....			1			1	63	3 55		
Pine Grove.....	Polk.....	T. H. Jaudon.....	L. J. Simmons, W. M. Grove.....			1			1	92	3 55		As last reported.
			Not represented since 1879.....			1			1	92	3 55		

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Anclole.....	Hernando	A. Wilson	By letter.....	1	2					17	50		As last reported.
Antioch.....	Folk.....	R. T. Caddin	Not represented						1	16			
Bethel.....	"	T. H. Jaudon	E. G. Wilder, S. S. Rogers.	4	4				1	71	2 50	4	
Beulah.....	"	T. H. Jaudon	B. J. Hatcher						1	11	75	2	
Double Branch.....	Hernando	J. M. Ray	J. J. Page, W. R. Smith.	1	2				1	24	7 00	1	
Concord.....	Folk.....	J. M. Dayman	W. M. Dayman	1					1	24	5 15	1 and 3	
Clear Water.....	Hillsborough	C. S. Reynolds	W. J. Taylor	2					1	33	2 00	4	
Emmas.....	Hernando	R. E. Bell	W. S. Goss, Lewis Gaskins.						1	37	1 50	8	Received this session.
Fellowship.....	"	R. T. Caddin	W. A. Cobb	1	3				1	37	3 00	1	As last represented.
Gap-Way.....	Polk.....	T. H. Jaudon	W. L. McLehland, S. Reynolds.	4	4				1	48	5 00	8	Received this session.
Hopewell.....	Hillsborough	T. H. Jaudon	W. S. Bugg, S. W. Weeks						1	48	3 00	1	As last represented.
Key West.....	Monroe	W. F. Wood	Not represented since 1876.						1	68	3 50	2	Received this session.
Oak Grove.....	Hernando	A. Wilson	A. Wilson, R. M. Wilson.	1	3				1	46	2 00	2	As last reported.
Providence.....	Hillsborough	T. H. Jaudon	By letter.....	1	3				1	46	2 00	2	Received this session.
Peaceant Hill.....	Hernando	R. T. Caddin	J. T. McLeod, F. P. Daniel	1	3				1	37	2 50	1	As reported last.
New Zion.....	Hillsborough	T. H. Jaudon	H. S. Jackson, No statistics given.	1	2				1	37	2 50	1	As reported last.
Six Mile Pond.....	Hernando	T. H. Jaudon	H. D. Ryals, J. D. Spivy.	1	2				1	37	2 50	1	As reported last.
Spring Hill.....	Folk.....	A. Wilson	Not represented	1	1				1	59	6 90	2	As last reported.
Shiloh.....	Hillsborough	T. H. Jaudon	T. W. Wilder, H. Collins	1	1				1	59	6 90	2	As last reported.
Tenotassasa.....	"	T. H. Jaudon	T. W. Wilder, J. M. Duffie.	1	3				1	63	3 55	4	As last reported.
Turkey Creek.....	"	T. H. Jaudon	L. J. Simmons, W. M. Grive.	1	3				1	63	3 55	4	As last reported.
Pine Grove.....	Polk.....	T. H. Jaudon	Not represented since 1879.						1	12		3	As last reported.

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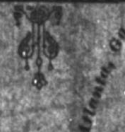
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