

MINUTES.

PLEASANT GROVE CHURCH, CHILTON COUNTY, ALA.

The Seventy-fourth session of the Mulberry Missionary Baptist Association convened with Pleasant Grove Church, Chilton County, Alabama, on Wednesday, October 16, 1901, at 10 o'clock a.m.

Bro. M. D. Langston, the former Moderator, opened the services by reading a part of the 5th chapter of Romans, and Bro. J. H. Martin led in prayer.

On motion Bro. W. H. Shaw was appointed Clerk, *pro tem*.

Brethren J. E. Jones and J. D. Martin were appointed to read the letters from the churches. The letters were presented and read and the names of delegates enrolled as follows:

Antioch—G. W. Freeman,* O. P. Langston,* M. D. Langston, J. W. Wallace, W. H. Thomas,* D. B. Smitherman, J. N. Woolley, J. W. Dunlap,* J. E. Jones.

Collins Chapel—W. A. Mims, W. Gore, J. M. Bean, W. P. Murrah,* W. C. Martin.

Rehoboth—J. J. Hicks,* J. D. Martin, D. L. Smitherman, M. Merchant, Augustus Gentry,* M. F. Lawley, James Collins,* T. J. Gentry.

Providence—W. H. Shaw, J. A. Lowery,* R. M. Honeycutt,* P. L. Varden,* W. A. Sims.*

New Salem—John Bean, Joseph Burnett,* Felix Eiland, G. W. Sorrell, T. W. Childress.

Liberty Hill—A. L. Foshee*, W. M. Wood, F. M. Foshee, J. E. Littlejohn,* Frank Massey.

Macedonia—J. D. Glass,* Felix Fitts, James Nix, Y. O. Freeman, H. H. Armstrong, Wm. Raspberry.

Pleasant Grove—J. E. Champion, D. H. Hodgins, T. M. Driver, D. Z. Merchant, C. C. Crumpton.

Shady Grove—T. J. Lawrence, A. J. Smitherman, W. J. Payne*, T. B. Perry.*

Union Grove—I. N. Martin,* W. H. Conway, R. S. Candler, Gus Glasscock.*

Center Hill—Represented by letter.

Enon—Represented by letter.

Pleasant Hill—W. P. Scott, M. C. Smith*, T. A. Caton.*

Mars Hill—J. M. Gothard, Harvey Cofer,* S. W. Scott,* A. J. Oates,* C. L. Langston,* S. D. Posey,* John Gothard,* John Oates*.

By motion the body adjourned for preaching. 11 o'clock a.m. Bro. J. D. Martin preached the Introductory Sermon from Micah 5: 5, after which the Association adjourned one and half hours for refreshments.

2 o'clock p.m. The congregation again assembled in the church, after singing, prayer was offered by Bro. S. M. Adams.

On motion, the present temporary Moderator and Clerk were elected permanent by acclamation.

The rules of decorum were then read by the Clerk.

An opportunity was then given for churches to unite with the Association.

Next correspondents were called for; Bro. S. M. Adams and J. H. Thomas were received from the Unity, and S. Smitherman from the Shelby Association.

The Moderator appointed as a devotional committee, the Pastor and Deacons of Pleasant Grove church; on Finance J. E. Jones, W. H. Conway and J. M. Bean.

Vacancies on standing committees were filled as follows:

On Periodicals—Rev. J. D. Martin.

On Foreign Missions—Rev. S. M. Adams and Rev. J. D. Martin.

On Home Religion—D. Z. Merchant and J. H. Thomas.

A motion prevailed that speeches be limited to fifteen minutes for the first speech and five minutes for the second speech.

A motion prevailed that the delegates of this Association meet to-night at 7 o'clock for the purpose of considering the organizing of a Chilton County Association.

REPORT ON DEVOTIONAL EXERCISES.

We recommend prayer service on to-morrow at 8:30 o'clock, conducted by Bro. Tom Meroney.

Adopted.

Reports of standing committees were taken up. First, on Temperance, was read, and on motion to adopt was ably discussed by the brethren.

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

We, your committee on temperance, beg leave to submit this as our report. We believe that intemperance is one of the greatest hindrances to religion in this our day of any other one thing. In this we think this body will agree with us at once, but, brethren, what is the cause of all this intemperance in and around our churches? We are sometimes made to fear one great cause is that too many of our church members are intemperate themselves, and again we fear that we, as professed Christians, do not use our influence against the use of strong drink as we could or should do. Brethren, let each one who makes up this Association, strive harder and be more in earnest in our efforts to keep down the use of strong drink in our churches, in our homes and in our communities. Grant that the time may come through the influence of the church of God that this thing of dram drinking may be a thing of the past.

Respectfully,

W. H. SHAW.

Adopted.

Report on Sunday schools was read and on motion to adopt was discussed.

REPORT ON SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

We, your committee on Sabbath Schools, submit the following report. We believe all churches should have a Sabbath-school, and all the brethren and sisters should help carry it on in some way; if they cannot attend all the time they can speak words to encourage others. We believe the Sabbath-school is doing great good, but it would be much better if the brethren and sisters would attend better. Brethren and sisters, do not send your children if you can go with them; we find where parents fail to go with their children some of them fail to love Sabbath school. We see those that attend regular become more attentive to listen to preaching of the gospel. Sabbath-school is a place where all can learn. We find where members, old or young, attend faithfully they learn to work for the cause of Christ, it helps them to live more humbly and enjoy more religion at home, it causes them to read more at home. We find them more ready to talk about religion and more willing to pray for those out of Christ.

Brethren, we pray God to wake up His children and help them to be willing to let their light shine in a way that others could feel the saving power. If we would grow in grace we must be doers of the Word, and not hearers only. We believe in an evergreen Sabbath-school. Brethren, we trust we will

have more Sabbath-school workers in every church next year than we have this year. If we want a Sabbath-school let us work for it, and if we want heaven for our home let us live for it. If you want your children to know God's Word, teach it to them. We claim that in Sabbath-school is a good place to teach God's Word to all; we can help each other in the study of the Word of God. May the Lord help His children to be faithful in His service. We are taught in His Word to be faithful until death, and I will give thee a crown of life.

Respectfully submitted,

ALEX GLASSCOCK.

Adopted.

By motion, the Association adjourned until 8:30 o'clock to-morrow.

NIGHT SESSION.

The delegates met at 7 o'clock for the purpose of discussing County Association. Bro. Shaw not being present, Bro. R. A. Rasco was elected Secretary.

Bro. S. M. Adams offered the following resolution, viz.:

Resolved, That it is the sense of the delegates composing the Mulberry Association that it will be for the glory of God and the upbuilding of His cause in this section of the State to organize a County Association. The discussion was opened by Bro. Adams who explained the purpose of the new Association and made a strong appeal for the County Association.

He was followed by Bros. Martin, Thomas, Conway and others. A vote was taken on the resolution, and the vote stood 17 for and 6 against, thus adopting same.

The roll of the churches was called and the following churches asked for letters, viz. : Antioch, Collins Chapel, Enon, Liberty Hill, Pleasant Hill, New Salem and Union Grove.

The night session then adjourned.



Wednesday, October 17.

The Association met at 9 o'clock a. m. and was called to order by the Moderator.

After singing, prayer was led by Bro. W. M. Wood. Correspondents were again called for.

Minutes of yesterday and last night were read, and by motion were approved.

The names of the churches and delegates were called and absentees marked absent.

The reports on State, Home, and Foreign Missions were read with a motion to adopt.

After the reports were ably discussed by a number of brethren they were all adopted as read.

REPORT ON STATE MISSIONS.

Your committee would commend the good work of the State Mission Boards in the past in helping the Baptists to establish churches and supply those churches with preachers, or to aid them in the support of preachers, but it seems to your committee that the time has come when, if the Baptists throughout the State would organize and unite by changing some of the old Associational lines that we might have more work and the work be more satisfactory to the Baptists of the State than it is under the direction of the State Board. We have always been friends to our State Board, but it is the opinion of your committee that if we would organize our churches into strong associations that the greater part of State Mission work can be done by co-operation of the Association through associational missionaries.

Respectfully submitted,

W. A. MIMS.

Adopted.

REPORT ON HOME MISSIONS.

Your committee on Home Missions beg to make the following report: We find that the Home Mission work is increasing year after year. The contributions were a goodly sum, greater in the past year than ever before in one year, and the outlook is better for the future. We find that the Home Mission Board is doing what it can do for the work with its

limited means. Brethren, Home Mission work comes to our doors, and we are taught that charity begins at home, so if we have an interest in the salvation of our own people around us it ought to stir our zeal for the Home Mission work. Brethren, there are objections raised against the Board; we have no better plan, therefore let us supply the Board with means. Very respectfully submitted,

W. M. WOOD.

Adopted.

REPORT ON FOREIGN MISSIONS.

Christianity is essentially missionary. Any true conception of the work of Christ must embrace the missionary idea. It is a painful commentary upon the blind selfishness of humanity that so many centuries elapsed before this truth was recognized and that so many Christian people still fail to realize what it involves, but at last the light of truth seems to be breaking upon the hearts of the people. The century just closing has been remarkable for many things, but for nothing greater than the missionary movement. This movement has affected almost every department of the world's life and activity, and has contributed much to the progress which has marked the century. During the last fifty-five years the Southern Baptist Convention has been doing something in the way of sending the gospel to the heathen. In 1845 the South China Mission was opened and two years later the Central China Mission. Our work in Africa was begun in 1850, and then at intervals of ten years, mission stations were established in North China, Italy and Mexico. In 1882 the Brazilian work was begun; the latest mission field to be entered by the Convention was that of Japan in 1889. It is impossible to estimate the good that has been accomplished by the labors of these years. Much of the work has been that of preparing the soil and sowing the seed. The full harvest is still in the future, yet already results have far exceeded the general expectation. At the last meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention the Foreign Mission Board reported in China 18 male and 29 female missionaries, with a church membership of 3,299; in Mexico 6 male and 6 female missionaries, with a church membership of 1,232; in Africa 4 male and 8 female missionaries, with a church membership of 385; in Italy one male missionary, with a church membership of 624; in Brazil 3 male and 11 female missionaries, with a church membership of 1,922; in Japan 4 male and 4 female missionaries, with a church membership of 75. So that we have 6,537 converts in our churches on the foreign field, and hundreds have gone

home to God. Last year our missionaries reported 1,341 baptisms. Brethren, do we realize what this means? Oh, if we could appreciate the value of a human soul, how our hearts would praise God for His wonderful blessings.

Inspired by this glorious progress, the Convention at Hot Springs, amid much enthusiasm, instructed the Board to lay out its work this year on a basis of \$200,000 and requested the churches to co-operate with the Board in this advance movement. Alabama's proportion of this is about \$13,000. Surely we can easily average ten cents a member for foreign missions if we will. The total receipts of the Board from May 1 to October 15 have been only \$31,048.97, while its expenditures have aggregated \$58,361.13. The work must go on during the summer months, and if the churches will not send in the money regularly, it must be borrowed. The adoption of good business methods in all our churches would save several hundred dollars annually which is now paid out in interest, and the contributions would be largely increased.

One of the best ways of enlarging interest in missions is by giving the people information about the work; for this purpose the Foreign Mission Journal is invaluable. Published monthly at the low price of 35 ¢ per year, or 25 ¢ in clubs of ten or more, it ought to go into every Baptist home in Alabama. It is difficult to understand how any pastor can be willing to do without it. Mission tracts are very useful also.

Many of our brethren have been greatly disturbed by the troubles in China and some have even suggested that we should abandon mission work in that country. Are we to be so easily routed? It is true that the work of our Chinese mission has been seriously hindered; many of the native Christians have suffered cruel persecutions, and some of our missionaries have been compelled to flee for their lives; but there could be no stronger evidence of the genuineness of the work of grace in the hearts of these Chinese converts than their heroic faithfulness to God in the midst of their trials. The spirit of the martyrs is alive yet. God has graciously protected the lives of all our missionaries from the fury of the fanatics, and they are confidently looking forward to larger opportunities with return of peace. Let us prove ourselves worthy of the noble men and women who represent us on the foreign field, and faithful to our Lord, and with hearts firmly trusting in God, let us obey His command to go and make disciples of all the nation.

Respectfully,

S. M. ADAMS.
J. D. MARTIN.

Adopted.

The report on Ministerial Education and Institute Work was read.

Motion prevailed that we take up a collection for the three Mission Boards, viz.: State, Home, and Foreign. The collection amounted to \$8.11. By motion the Clerk was made Treasurer. Motion carried that the report on Ministerial Education and Institute Work be adopted. The report on Periodicals was also read for the purpose of being discussed with the two reports just read; after the reports were very ably discussed they were all adopted as read.

REPORT ON MINISTERIAL EDUCATION AND INSTITUTE WORK.

The leaders of the Lord's host should be prepared for leadership. Special training is necessary to the highest degree of success in any vocation or calling. If this be true then the man upon whom God has laid His hand and called to the work of the gospel ministry needs special preparation for the great work committed to his trust. He is an ambassador for Christ. His is the highest office held on earth; grave and mighty responsibility rests upon him; his duties are many and varied; he is at once the overseer and servant of the flock over which the Holy Spirit has called him to preside. The world is his field of operation; he teaches every phase of humanity and is a most important factor in moulding the sentiment or directing the thought of men and nation. God has chosen him to lead the mind to think on nobler things; like the Baptist in the wilderness he points men not to himself but to the Lamb of God.

Special training for this leadership in our Lord's work reaches back through the ages to the school of the prophets. Then men were gathered together and given special equipment for leading and directing the thought of the world.

The Master, the great teacher, trained men for the mighty work committed to them, and the solemn word of Paul to Timothy, to study to show himself a workman approved of God that needeth not to be ashamed, comes with equal force to us to-day. God calls men to preach the gospel, and He calls us to aid them in preparing for this work, thus we become co-workers together with God. Respectfully submitted,

R. A. RASCO.

REPORT ON PERIODICALS.

We, your committee on periodicals, beg leave to submit the following: We find that a very small per centage of our

members take denominational literature. Those who wish to know what the Baptists are doing in the State can only know through the Alabama Baptist. It contains an account of every Association and District meeting, and also protracted meetings that are properly reported. It also contains the account of mission work. The Mission Journal is devoted exclusively to mission work. A great many people think that one dollar is a sufficient price for the Alabama Baptist, and not a few think that too much space is devoted to colleges, seminaries and city churches. The country churches would get more room in the paper if they would take the paper and report to it, and the paper would get more patronage if it would favor the country people more. Respectfully submitted,

J. D. MARTIN.
D. L. SMITHERMAN.

The Committee on Finance made the following report, which was adopted without discussion :

REPORT ON FINANCE.

We, your Committee on Finance, beg leave to submit the following :

Minutes and Associational purposes.....	\$26.25
State Missions.....	8.30
Home Missions.....	7.97
Foreign Missions.....	11.90
Orphans' Home.....	18.20
Institute Work.....	5.00
Ministerial Education.....	2.04
Total.....	<u>\$79.66</u>

Respectfully,
J. E. JONES, *Chairman.*

By motion, the Clerk was instructed to pay the amount paid in for Ministerial Education to Bros. D. Z. Woolley and O. P. Langston, who are now in Howard College.

The report on Orphans' Home was read and discussed and adopted.

REPORT ON ORPANS' HOME.

The Orphans' Home, located at Evergreen, Ala., and superintended by Rev. J. W. Stewart, is and should be the

upbuilding of our State convention, and is therefore the personal, and we hope to be the spiritual concern of every Missionary Baptist in the State of Alabama. The memory of the spirit which actuated the minds of the good men who conceived the knowledge, and through which supplied the means and contrived the way, will erect a monument over their graves more lasting than anything that can be obtained.

The home was opened about nine years ago, there have been a great number of children taken care of there, and it has a goodly number now, and it takes a great deal of finance to support them, and we feel it the indispensable duty of every member of the Mulberry Association to contribute to the cause of this home; and we, your committee, beg leave to urge upon the Mulberry Association to discharge its duty in full to the contribution of this home. Respectfully submitted,

JOSRPH JACKSON.

Motion prevailed that there be a collection taken up for the Orphan's Home, which collection amounted to \$5.70.

The report on Home Religion was then read and discussed by Bro. J. H. Thomas and others, and was adopted as read.

REPORT ON HOME RELIGION.

We, your committee on Home Religion, beg leave to report as follows: Religion is the best thing in the world, it has no end; and of all the places for its origin and its perpetuation the homes of our people is the best place. We have some church members, and that a majority of all, who do not hold family prayer, nor grace at table, nor practice any sort of Christianity in their homes. God has said bring up the child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it. Again He said parents bring up your children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Some of our best people (so called) seem to take these commands wrong, or fail to notice them; at any rate they bring their children up in anything else except the way they should go. Some children never hear their parents pray, nor preach, nor read the Bible. Oh! God pity these sort of Christians. Paul said, children obey your parents in the Lord that your days may be long upon the earth, and the child does not know whether his parents are in the Lord or not. A home should be a happy place because Christ-like people ought to be there, and they ought to make home resemble heaven. The light of God ought to be there in the hearts of the people in those homes. Religion means love undefiled. Is there anything better for home than pure love for God? And that makes love for one another.

Oh, for religion in the homes; it drives out fear and whiskey and profanity and all deceitfulness from our homes and hearts. Oh, brethren, why not practice religion that will make your wife and children put confidence in the God you serve? I had rather my wife and children would think I was a Christian than anybody else. A home without religion is the most unhappy place in the world, and a home with religion in it is the best thing on earth. Brethren, bring your tithes into the storehouse of the Lord and He will bless you for it. This can be done by practicing religion at home.

Respectfully submitted,

D. Z. MERCHANT.

J. H. THOMAS.

By motion the Clerk of this Association is instructed to write letters of dismissal from this Association to any church that may wish to withdraw from the Mulberry Association.

On motion of the Association the Clerk of the Association was instructed to have 600 copies of the minutes printed, and the Clerk to receive ten dollars for his services.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

Paid to State Missions.....	\$8.30
" Home Missions.....	7.97
" Foreign Missions.....	11.90
" Orphans' Home.....	18.20
For Institute Work....	5.00
" Ministerial Education.....	2.02
Retain for services.....	10.00
Paid for Minutes....	12.75
" Postage.....	1.00
Total.....	\$77.14

W. H. SHAW, *Clerk.*

Resolved, That the thanks of this Association be tendered to the brethren and sisters of this community for their hospitality in entertaining the delegates of this Association.

S. M. ADAMS.

Adopted.

Moved and adopted that the churches favoring the Chilton County Association meet at Thorsby on Wednesday before the second Sunday in December, 1901.

Motion by S. M. Adams.

AN INVITATION.

I humbly ask all the churches that do not aim to go into the Chilton County Association to meet at Rehoboth in Bibb County on Friday before the first Sunday in December, 1901, to consider the propriety of continuing the Mulberry Association, or to reorganize into a new Association.

J. D. MARTIN.

Adopted.

The work of the Association having been finished, the parting hand was given, and prayer was offered by S. Smitherman. The body then adjourned.

M. D. LANGSTON, *Moderator*,
Six Mile, Ala.

W. H. SHAW, *Clerk*,
Clear Creek, Ala.

List of Ordained Ministers.

A. L. Foshee	Clanton
R. M. Honeycutt	Jemison
J. E. Champion	Jemison
J. D. Martin	Lawley
J. M. Gothard	Jemison
W. M. Wood	Clanton
J. W. Reynolds	Montevallo
D. A. Seals	Montevallo
J. P. Gentry	Jemison
S. D. Posey	Randolph

