MINUTES

OF THE

SEVENTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

BETHEL - BAPTIST - ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH

CONCORD CHURCH, SAFFORD, ALABAMA,

OCTOBER 12TH, 13TH AND 14TH, 1897.

OFFICERS:

J.T. CAINE, MODERATOR, - - CENTRAL MILLS, ALA.

JOE LAMBERT, CLERK AND TREAS., CATHERINE, ALA.

The next session of this Association will be held with Linden Church,
Linden, Alabama, on Tuesday before the second
Sunday in October, 1898.

CAMDEN, ALA.
WILCOX NEW ERA JOB PRINT.
1897.



MINITES

The Seventy-seventh annual session of the Bethel Baptist convened at 10:00 a.m., Tuesday the 12th of October, 1897 with Concord church, Safford, Ala., and was called to order by the former moderator, Elder J. T. Caine who read Philipians 1 ch 1-18.

The introductory sermon was preached by Elder J. J. Pipkin from Philipians 2 ch 5 v. Adjourned till 1:30 p. m.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Devotional exercises was conducted by Elder J. H. Creighton of the South Bethel Association.

Joe Lambert was elected temporay clerk.

Letters from the churches was called for, read and names of delegates enrolled, to-wit: Aimwell-Not represented.

Bethel-Elder H. C. Sanders, Jas. Camack, J. B. Perkins.

Bethlehem-Not represented.

Beaver Creek-Letter.

Canaan-Leon Dunaway, Samuel Wilkerson.

Catherine-R. P. Bazemore, Joe Lambert.

County Line-W. H. England, C. T. Nettles.

Concord-Elders J. M. Roden, J. T. Caine, A. R. Oxford.

Flat Woods-Elder W. V. Vice, J. W. Davis, J. R. Sheffield.

Friendship-S. E. Smiley, J. E. Smiley, E. W. Ross.

Hills-W. J. Cobb.

Judson-Not represented.

Linden-W. B. Glass.

Myrtlewood-Elder J. J. Pipkin, by proxy.

Nanafalia-W. R. Thomas.

Rehoboth—W. F. Ray. Shiloh—S. P. Jackson, C. L. Huckabee. Thomaston—J. W. Buck, W. W. Buckhanon.

Petitionary letters were called for and a letter from County Line church was presented and the delegates were given the right hand of fellowship by the moderator.

The church was organized September 12th, 1897

Elder W. A. Parker, representing State Board of Missions; Elder J. H. Creighton, Agent for the Alabama Baptist; Elder W. H. DeWitt from South Bethel Association and T. F. Neville from Pine Barren Association, were recognized as corresponding messengers and were welcomed to seats with us.

PERMANENT ORGANIZATION.

Elder J. T. Caine was elected Moderator and Joe Lambert Clerk and Treasurer.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

Appointment of committees to report during the session

On Finance. On Nominations, Documents and Requests.

On Religious Services.

Meet at 9:30 a.m., adjourn 12:30. Meet at 2 p. m., adjourn 4:30 p. m.

Report on religious condition of churches.

Report on aged and infirm ministers.

Report on religious literature. Report on Bible and colportage.

Report on orphanage.

Report on state, home and foreign missions.

Report on temperance.

Report on ministerial education.

9. Report on Sabbath schools.
The following committees were appointed, to-wit:

Finance—J. B. Perkins, A. R. Oxford, W. B. Glass. Documents and Requests—J. A. Cammack, W. J. Thomas, W. F. Ray.

The committee on Religious state of churches asked for more time to make report which was granted

The report on Aged and Infirm Ministers was read and after being discussed by Elder W. A. Parker and others it was adopted.

REPORT ON INDIGENT MINISTERS.

Your committee beg leave to say they know of no indigent ministers in our association, but there are other parts of the State that have these old Veterans of the Cross, that claim our attention and contribution's and your committee urge this body to take more interest in these old servants of God, and give our means to sustain them.

J. B. PERKINS.

Report on Religious Literature was read and after being discussed by W. K. Thomas and others it was adopted.

REPORT ON RELIGIOUS LITERATURE. -

Every Baptist family should be supplied with denominational periodicals in order that we be well informed as to the condition of the enterprises, which we as a denomination foster.

The Alabama Baptist is our State paper and of course we should patronize it. The Foreign and Home Field State Mission journals are devoted to the interests of their respective boards and these furnish monthly and quarterly all the information from these fields.

Respectfully submitted,

W. K. THOMAS, Chairman.

Adjourned till 9:30 a. m. Wednesday.

WEDNESDAY-Morning Session.

Rev. J. T. Caine read 48th Psalm. Prayer by Elder W. H. DeWitt.

Report on Religious State of Churches was read and after being discussed by W. B. Jackson and others, it was adopted.

REPORT ON RELIGIOUS STATE OF CHURCHES.

We learn from the letters and other sources that some of our churches have been greatly revived and that many precious souls have been born again. Something over one hundred have been added to the churches within our bounds. We are informed, however, that there are a few churches that are still inactive—in fact doing but very little towards building up our blessed Redeemers cause.

Respectfully submitted, W. B. JACKSON.

The committee appointed at last session on Bible and Colportage not being present, W. B. Jackson, G. W. Thomas and J. B. Perkins was appointed a committee to report on same.

The report on Orphanage was read and after being discussed a collection amounting to \$20.60 was taken up. The report was adopted.

REPORT ON ORPHANAGE.

The Baptist Widow's and Orphan's Home is located at Evergreen, and has been in successful operation since the year 1893. The property consists of 80 acres of land, a brick building containing 10 rooms, with such improvements as have been made since. The property has been paid for, but the current expenses are about \$6.00 per month for each child. Important improvements are being made in the arrangement of the Home, and money and pay for food for the children.

Since the Home was started, there have been gathered into it. 33 boys and 37 girls, and out of it gone by apprenticeship, 2; returned to their people, 4 boys and 3 girls; by adoption, 10 boys and 13 girls; leaving in the Home 17 boys and 21 girls.

J. M. THOMAS.

Elder I. A. White of the Selma Association and Elder M. M. Wood, Financial Secretary of Howard College, and a number of the Board of Ministerial Education was welcomed as corresponding messingers.

The reports on State, Home and Foreign Missions were read, and after a lengthly discussion they were adopted.

REPORT ON STATE MISSIONS.

The State Board of Missions is the organ through which the Baptists of Alabama carry on their work of collecting and forwarding contributions for Foreign and Home Missions; helping weak churches in important points, where without such help, Baptist churches could not be built up; carrying on evangelistic work in the State at large; doing missionary and colportage work, where such can be done; looking after aged and infirm ministers and their widows and orphans against want.

The work of assisting weak churches has been greatly blessed of God; nearly every city church in the State, and many in the country, have been built up in this way, and have become our largest contributors. This work has been done with such earnestness and zeal in the past that, at present, there is not so much need of it; among the points now being partly sustained may be mentioned, Selma, South Montgomery, Greensboro and Huntsville.

But the line now most largely engaging the energies of our people is evangelic work. There are in the State at present, six evangelists: Bro. Preston in South East, Bro. Anderson in the East, Bro. Burns in the North, Bro. Sanders in the North West, Bro. Dickenson in and around Birmingham, Bro. Parker in the South West. These brethren were appointed because of their fitness for the work in hand. While the work is almost new, it has already shown itself to be the thing most needed at this time. It is almost self-sustaining, and the Board confidently hopes to double the number in the near future. This report would recommend the continued earnest co-operation of this Association with the State Board of Missions; and further would unqualifiedly commend Bro. Wm. A. Parker, Sr., in whose territory this Association lies, for the earnestness and efficiency with which he has done his work among us as an evengelist.

Respectfully submitted,

JAS. M. RODEN, Chairman.

REPORT ON FOREIGN MISSIONS.

We your committee offers the following:

The day for sentimental expatiation on Foreign Missions has past. This is an age for active and enlarged beneficense. The word declares that "This Gospel shall be preached to all nations for a witness, and then shall the end come." We live today in the consummation period of the Gospel spread; "what we do, must be done quickly." Last year the Southern Baptist Convention gave to Foreign Missions \$120,531.04.

The State of Alabama gave of this amount \$6,107.63.

The Bethel Association of this amount gave \$71.03.

Alabama gives the magnificent sum of 5 cents and 1 mill per capita to Foreign Missions.

Bethel Association is an improvement on this average, for this Association gives the enormous amount of 6 cents and 5 mills per capita.

If it be true that we are in the consummation period of the world's hope and that the part we do in hastening the end, must be done quickly, we must with shamefacedness acknowledge our dereliction. Brethren let us awake from our lethargy—much to be done.

China, Africa, Italy, Mexico, Brazil and Japan are the fields that we are now engaged in Christianizing. These with the now known unchristianized nations or provinces of unchristianized countries, contain a population of nearly 800,000,000 of people. Amongst these is every species of idolatry known. The Idol Gods must be dethroned and the God who can save from eternal Hell must be enthroned, and by His children would our God accomplish this and it must be done.

Respectfully submitted,
W. A. PARKER.

REPORT ON HOME MISSIONS.

The report of the Home Mission board to the Southern Baptist Convention was very encouraging notwithstanding it showed that we began last year with a debt of \$13,000 over and above the support of our Missionaries. The board found itself unable to reduce to any great extent its appropriations of the previous year without imparing the efficiency of the work. The great financial pressure which embarrassed all our Mission Boards served to increase the needs of our Home mission field, and made numerous and earnest the cries for help that come from nearly every quarter. The convention at its last session instructed its Foreign Mission board to make vigorous efforts to liquidate the debt that for several years had embarrassed not only its own operations but to some extent all the Mission work in the bounds of the convention. In order that the debt of the Foreign board might be paid and that the State boards might not be embarrassed, the Home board waited until the 1st of January without special effort, and that time the debt had grown to be about twenty-eight thousand dollars, but by a conferatic effor there was raised and expended more than \$180,000, of this amount the Woman's Missionary Societies raised \$29,931.

The following is a summary of the work done:

Missionaries, 372; weeks of labor, 11,075; churches and stations, 1,963; sermons and addresses, 48,508; prayermeetings, 11,237; religious visits, 62,175; Baptisms, 4,708; received by letter, 4,746; total addition, 9,455; churches constituted, 139; houses of worship, 57; houses of worship improved, 129; amount expended on houses of worship, \$52,040; Sunday schools organized, 313; teachers and pupils, 10,725; Bibles and testaments, 2,837; Tracts distributed (pages), 645,346.

As our labors have been so abundantly blessed, we feel like pressing forward to greater victory in the Master's name.

J. J. PIPKIN.

Adjourned until 2 p. m.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Prayer by Elder W. V. Vice.

The report on Colportage was read and adopted.

REPORT ON COLPORTAGE.

We respectfully report, that after investigation of the letters to this body, we find nothing to report. That there is destitution within our bounds, and great need for Bibles and Religious literature, is we suppose, beyond the question of a doubt.

W. B Jackson, Geo. W. Thomas. J. B. Perkins.

Elder J. M. Roden, W. B. Jackson and Dr. John Thomas was appointed as committee to report on Sabbath Schools.

Adjourned till 9:30 a, m. Thursday.

THURSDAY-MORNING SESSION.

Prayer by Rev. W. A. Parker.

The following Resolutions were offered but was tabled:

1st, That our State Secretary be requested to state in his annual report what per cent. of the work of Evangelist is done in the destitution and to churches having pastors.

2nd, That our State Board be requested to confine the Evangelist to the destitution and to churches that do not contribute to Missions,

3rd. That the churches be requested to pay their contributions to State Missions in first of the year.

J. B. Perkins.

The regular order of business was suspended and Elder M. M. Wood delivered an able address on Ministerial and general Education.

Elder W. A. Parker preached the annual missionary sermon, and a collection amounting to \$32.60 was taken up.

Adjourned till 2 p. m.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Prayer by Elder H. C. Sanders.

The report on Temperance was read and after being discussed by Elder I. A. White and others, it was adopted.

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

When the subject of Temperance is discussed it is expected that the drinking of whiskey or the use of intoxicating drinks are done, which makes men drink which is a great sin. Men drink whiskey when they can get it easily or buy it at their nearest places of business.

About fifty years ago the first efforts were made to have laws passed, known as prohibition laws to prevent the sale of whiskey and it ought to be encouraging to all the advocates of temperance that such a large number of our States have prohibition laws forbidding the sale of whiskey in a part of this territory. In our own state several counties and a large number of precincts, are protected from the sale of intoxicating liquors. Notwithstanding it is often said that our prohibition laws are a failure. It is known by all observing people that there is less drunkenness now than there was before we had any prohibition laws.

These assertions are made by the enemies of prohibition or by persons that have not fully investigated the situation. It cannot be denied that the prohibition laws are often violated. Whenever any christian has reason to believe that any one is violating them they ought to try to get them to stop doing so and if they will not to have them prosecuted in our courts.

But the most effective way to have our prohibition laws obeyed is for all church members to quit using whiskey or letting it be brought to their homes.

Respectfully submitted,

JOE LAMBERT.

The report on Sabbath Schools was read and after being discussed by S. P. Jackson and others, it was adopted.

REPORT ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

That the Sabbath School affords God-given facilities for teaching his divine Will, is beyond the question of a doubt. The statistical exhibit hereto attached, shows that progress has been made during the last associational year, but we are still far behind in some portions of our field of labor. Some of our churches seem not to realize what they lose in neglecting this important work. When we consider the ingatherings into our churches from this source, we are constrained to appeal to all lovers of God's truth to be more in earnest in reference to the great work. Respectfully submitted.

W. B. JACKSON, J. M. RODEN, J. M. THOMAS.

SABBATH SCHOOLS AND SCHOLARS.

	SCHOOLS.	SCHOLARS		SCHOOLS.	SCHOLARS.
Flat Woods	1	50.	County Line	1	15.
McKinley	2	04.	Nanafalia	2	60.
Myrtlewood	1	25.	Hills	1	15.
Linden	1	17.	Safford .	1	30.
Aimwell	1	40.	Beaver Creek	1	30,
Canaan	1	20.	Catherine	1	28.
Rehoboth	1.	20.	Thomaston	1	25.
Bethlehem	1	30.	,		

The report on Ministerial Education was read and adopted.

REPORT ON EDUCATION.

Under the control of the Alabama Baptist State Convention are two educational inditutions, which are second to none in the State.

Howard College located at East Lake, should be patronized by every Baptist in Ala-

bama, because that no better education can be obtained at any other place. And then because it is our school, and if we don't patronize it who will.

The Judson Institute, located at Marion, Alabama, is known far and wide, as one of the best schools in all the South, and it is a matter of great rejoicing to the Baptists of the State that the grievous debt has been removed, and that the Institution has taken new life, in consequence. We recommend the adoption of the following resolution: That it is the sense and desire of this association that each of its churches shall, at the earliest opportunity, appoint a committee of three, the duties of which shall be to aid the College, in securing students in that locality, and to co-operate with the College faculty in such other ways as may be deemed helpful. We further recommend that this committee be known as the Howard College Committee, and that the name of its chairman be forwarded to the College at East Lake, Ala. It is recommended that a Committee of the same kind be appointed in the interest of the Judson Institute located at Marion.

The Board of Ministerial Education is located at East Lake, and money for this worthy cause should be sent to Dr. C. C. Jones at that place.

J. M. RODEN, W. B. JACKSON, J. M. THOMAS.

The report on Documents and Requests were read and adopted.

REPORT ON DOCUMENTS AND REQUESTS.

We recommend that the next session of the Association be held with the Linden church beginning at 10 o'clock on Tuesday before the second Sunday in October 1898. That H. C. Sanders preach the Introductory sermon, W. V. Vice alternate; that J. M. Roden preach the Missionary sermon at 11 a. m. Thursday, J. T. Caine alternate; that Bro. J. M. Roden represent us in the Southern Baptist Convention, Bro. J. J. Pipkin alternate, and that volunteers be called for to the State Convention.

J. A. CAMMACK, Chairman.

REPORT OF TREASURER.

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66		"	Ministerial Education	2.81	
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The following resolutions were offered and adopted:

That we return thanks to the people of Safford for their hospitality and we will ever be grateful to them.

J. J. PIPKIN.

The Association adjourned to meet with Linden church, Linden, Alabama on Tuesday at 10 o'clock a.m. before the second Sunday in October, 1898.

J. T. CAINE, Moderator.

JOE LAMBERT, Clerk.

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		Ed. Buck, Thomaston	G. E. Compton, Luther's Store	O. P. Tucker, Wayne	J. R. Tucker, Myrtlewood	Jno. E. Hecker, Linden	A. C. Thomas, Rembert,	J. E. Smiley, Vineland	J. M. Thomas, Safford	G. C. Nettles, Arlington	J. T. Rush, Prairie	J. R. Little, Luther's Store.		E. F. Lee, McKinley			rae I	CLERK AND POST-OFFIC			
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Names of Curches Dissolved during year:—Pisgon.

COMMITTEES APPOINTED.

The following named persons were elected a committee to manage applications for elp in Ministerial Education. To look after destitute churches and to co-operate with tate Board in supplying same, to-wit:

J. M. RODEN,

J T. CAINE,

JOE LAMBERT,

A. C. THOMAS,

W. K. THOMAS,

H. C. SANDERS,

A. R. OXFORD.

ommittee to report at next session were appointed, to-wit:

Religious Literature-J. M. Roden, Joe Lambert, R. B. Caine.

Bible and Colportage-W. B. Glass, J. B. Williams, A. G. Westbrook.

Orphanage-W. V. Vice, Joe Smiley, S. B. Jackson.

State Missions-H. C. Sanders, Jas. Ervin, J. Winegar.

Home Missions-J. J. Pipkin, J. A. Cammack, A. R. Oxford.

Foreign Missions-A. C. Thomas, T. J. Jackson, Jas. Pritchett.

Temperance-J. B. Perkins, L. S. Stroud, J. W. Thomas.

Ministerial Education-D. J. Meador, Leon Dunaway, Samuel Wilkerson.

DELEGATES TO STATE CONVENTION.

J. J. PIPKIN, J. M. RODEN, P. B. GLASS, J. B. PERKINS,

J. T. CAINE,

W. V. VICK,

A. R. OXFORD,

J. E. SMILEY,

S. C. SANDERS, W. K. THOMAS, W. B. JACKSON.

SOUTH ALABAMA INSTITUTE,

THOMASVILLE, ALA.

BEST ADVANTAGES.

SMALL COST.

Calendar for School Year 1897-8:

The first Term begins Wednesday, September 15, 1897, and continues four and one-half months, closing January 26, 1898. Second Term begins January 26, 1898, and continues four and one-half months, closing June 1, 1898.

Cost of Tuition per Month:

Primary Department \$1.50 Collegiate Department \$3.00
Intermediate Department 2.00 Piano, Guitar or Voice 3.00
Preparatory Department 2.50 Art - - - - 3.00

English, Mathematics, Science, Greek, Latin, German, French, Music, Art, Elocution, Stenography, Typewriting, etc., etc.

Certificates and Diplomas.

In accordance with Charter granted by the last legislature, certificate and diplomas will be granted on completion of requisite studies. The principal course as at present outlined, with several elective studies, will lead to the degree of Bachelor of Science. (B. S.)

We Put Moral Culture Above all Else; Physical not Least.

FACULTY:

J. M. Melver, Pres., J. E. Hendley, See'y of Faculty, MISS JOSEPHINE RAY, Science and Mathematics. Languages and Literature. Intermediate Dept. and Elocution.

MISS BESSIE DAVIS. MISS S. F. McIVER, MISS BELLE PRITCHETT,

MISS BESSIE DAVIS, MISS S. F. McIVER, MISS BELLE PRITCHETT, Primary Dep't. Director Music Dep't, Piano, Voice and Harmony. Stenography, Typewriting, etc.

DR. T. C. KIRVEN, Institute Physician and Lecturer in Physiology, etc., Special personal attention given to securing suitable board, rates, etc.

For catalogue and further information, address

J. M. McIVER, Thomasville, Ala.