

MINUTES

OF THE

FOURTEENTH ANNIVERSARY

OF
resident

UNION ASSOCIATION,

FREE-WILL BAPTISTS,

HELD AT

BELL'S CHAPEL CHURCH,

GREENE CO., TENN.,

AUGUST 19TH, 20TH AND 21ST, 1886.

GREENEVILLE, TENN.:
Spencer & Brown, Steam Printers.
1886.



OPENING SESSION.

Promptly at 11 A. M. a service of song.

Elder C. A. Brooks invokes divine blessing on the delegates and their labors.

INTRODUCTORY SERMON.

Elder C. A. Brooks preaches from the 8th chapter of Romans, 9th verse—"But ye are not in the flesh, but in the spirit, if so be that the spirit of God dwell in you. Now, if any man have not the spirit of Christ he is none of his."

ORGANIZATION FOR THE ENSUING YEAR.

Officers of the Association are chosen by ballot.

Elder W. B. Woolsey, Moderator; P. O., Woolsey College, Tenn.

Elder C. A. Brooks, Clerk; P. O., Newport, Tenn.

The Moderator announces the Association in session pursuant to adjournment, and calls for letters from the Churches.

ENROLLMENT OF DELEGATES.

Bell's Chapel—W. Johnson.

Midway—H. D. Low, N. L. Pack.

Mt. Zion—R. D. Cagburn.

Chimney Top—L. West, A. Pierce, A. D. English.

Liberty—M. Copp, J. R. Stanton, G. W. Dunbar.

Woolsey College—T. H. Woolsey, W. H. Lovett.

Clear Creek—T. Holt, J. M. Gammon.

Philippi—A. J. Barnett.

NEW CHURCHES.

Pleasant Grove—Wm. Harrison, James Woods.

New Cross—James Bryant, John Arwood.

COMMITTEES.

On Arrangements—R. M. Johnson, T. Holt, R. D. Cogburn,
and the Moderator and Clerk.

On Religious Exercises—A. H. Burgess, M. Copp.

On Finance—M. Copp, W. V. Bell.

On Sabbath Schools—John Gray, L. West, R. D. Cogburn.

On Temperance—C. A. Brooks, W. B. Jones.

On Education—J. F. DeWitt, A. H. Burgess.

On Periodicals—C. A. Brooks, A. H. Burgess.

On Next Session—A. Pierce, N. L. Pack,

Adjourned until 2 o'clock P. M.

EVENING SESSION.

Moderator in the chair.

After prayer visiting brethren were invited to seats, viz.:
Elders Owens and Humphrey.

Elder A. H. Burgess offered a resolution requesting the churches to advise their members to consider the disrespect it is to leave a church without a letter of dismission, and call for a letter when desiring to go out from us.

By Elder Burgess—a resolution, and adopted—A request to the Minister's Conference to have their young ministers study theology before ordination.

Resolved, That we recommend the formation of mission societies in each of our churches.

Elder W. V. Bell is appointed as an itinerant minister for the ensuing year.

Moved and seconded to adjourn until 8 o'clock, A. M., Friday.

Preaching at candle-lighting. Elder Humphrey preached.

FRIDAY, 8 o'clock, A. M.

Moderator in the chair.

After a service of prayer the Committee on Education reported as follows:

Resolved, That the demand of this age requires our greatest energy to promote literary and theological education among our people, and especially the ministry.

REPORT OF THE MINISTER'S LABORS LAST YEAR.

Elder A. H. Burgess traveled 636 miles, witnessed 75 conversions, received for services \$60.85.

Elder W. V. Bell traveled 702 miles, spent 130 days, witnessed 115 conversions, received for services \$28.16.

Elder C. A. Brooks preached 160 sermons, witnessed 120 conversions, received for services \$60.00.

Elder H. W. Johnson witnessed 120 conversions, received \$7.37.

A visiting brother, Elder S. H. Hall, is invited to a seat.

Preaching at 11 announced.

Adjourned until 2 o'clock P. M.

EVENING SESSION—2 P. M.

Moderator in the chair. A service of prayer.

Resolved, That a collection be taken up on Sunday for the purpose of buying Butler's Theology and some of the Free Will Baptist Treatises for the ministry.

Moved, seconded and adopted, to appoint a committee to draft a constitution and by-laws for the government of the Association in the future. Committee as follows: J. F. DeWitt, J. W. Lucas, A. H. Burgess and the Moderator.

Moved, seconded and adopted, to appoint a delegate to the General Conference in Ohio, 14th of October, 1886.

Elder J. W. Lucas was appointed a delegate to that conference, and Elder W. B. Woolsey his alternate.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

Finding the Sabbath Schools in good working order we sincerely ask the Association to grant the S. S. agent authority to organize a S. S. convention and to appoint sub-agents at the various churches in the Association to look after the S. S. interest.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON TEMPERANCE.

Seeing that intemperance is a great evil we sincerely ask our ministers to make temperance a topic in their preaching.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON NEXT SESSION.

Our next session will set at Woolsey College, Greene County, Tenn., and, by vote of the Association, on Thursday before the fourth Sunday in October, 1887, at 11 A. M.

Preaching announced at candle lighting.

Adjourned until 8 A. M. Saturday.

Elder C. A. Brooks preached at night.

SATURDAY, 8 o'clock, A. M.

Moderator in the chair.

Committee on Finance reports total receipts \$6.20.

APPOINTMENT OF DELEGATES, AS FOLLOWS:

To the General Meeting at Jeroldstown, Greene County, Tenn., on Thursday before the fourth Sunday in November, 1886: A. H. Burgess, John Gray, R. D. Cogburn, A. Pierce, L. West, W. V. Bell, W. B. Woolsey, W. B. Jones.

Elders S. K. Brooks and N. A. Harrison invited to seats with us.

To the American Association: W. V. Bell, C. A. Brooks.

To the Tow River Association: W. H. Johnson, A. H. Burgess, W. B. Jones.

To the Clinch Valley Association: A. Pierce, L. West, A. H. Burgess.

Resolved, That the members of this Association tender the Church at Bell Chapel, and the good people in the vicinity thereof, their sincere thanks for their kind hospitality during this Association.

NAMES OF ORDAINED MINISTERS.

W. B. Woolsey, Frederick DeWitt, R. M. Johnson, Wm. Blazer, W. D. Strong, J. L. Case, J. A. Coats, W. V. Bell, J. F. DeWitt, A. H. Burgess, Perry Vaughn, J. W. Lucas, C. A. Brooks, E. P. Hults, H. W. Johnson.
Licentiate, W. B. Jones.

Adjourned until Thursday before the fourth Sunday in October 1887.
Preaching at 11 by R. M. Johnson.

MINISTERS' CONFERENCE.

SATURDAY, 2 o'clock P. M.

The Conference having no president the clerk calls to order, and calls on Elder Woolsey to invoke the divine blessing on this Conference.

The roll is then called and the following brethren answer to their names, viz.: W. L. Woolsey, A. H. Furgess, Frederick DeWitt, L. M. Johnson, H. W. Johnson, W. V. Bell, C. A. Brooks, W. B. Jones, J. F. DeWitt.

A ballot is taken for president, and W. B. Woolsey is declared elected, and takes the chair.

J. M. Hays is named and his case considered. Having been representing himself as a Free Baptist minister, and guilty of drunkenness and other things derogatory to the character of a Christian—

Resolved, That we do not recognize him as a minister.

By request of the Association to have the young ministers study theology before ordination—

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to draft a standard in literature and theology for ministers to attain to before ordination.

A committee was appointed as follows for the drafting of the standard: J. F. DeWitt, C. A. Brooks and J. W. Lucas.

Adjourned until next annual meeting, unless sooner called together by the president.

Prayer by Elder S. K. Brooks.

CIRCULAR.

THE LORD'S SUPPER.

• This ordinance is strictly and primarily a memorial service. It is intended to commemorate the death of Christ for our redemption. "For as often as ye eat this bread and drink this cup ye do show the Lord's death till He come." 1. Cor., 11:26. The partaker signifies his faith in Christ and hope of salvation through Him. It thus becomes a sign of fellowship and communion between Christ and the Christian. 1 Cor., 10:16., 1 John, 1:3. All who engage in this service acknowledge a common dependence on Christ and common faith in his atonement. In this sense only it may be regarded as a communion between saints.

WHAT IS PREREQUISITE?

If the Bible clearly teaches that any one thing only is an essential to fitness for this communion, we must insist that no one is prepared to commune without that fitness; and we dare not make anything a prerequisite which the Bible does not make such. Now, we think that Acts, 15th chapter, does teach clearly that one thing only is prerequisite to fellowship and communion. Those who have received the Holy Spirit, and thus had their hearts purified by faith, and only those may be received. God has received such. And, with Robert Hall, we say: "Whosoever is good enough for the Lord is good enough for me."

From this it follows: 1st. That penitents are not fit subjects for communion. 2d. It is not essential that communicants be "of the same faith and order." 3d. That baptism or Church membership even is not prerequisite. We believe that those truly converted will be as prompt as possible in obeying the commands of the Scripture. But we cannot conceive of a case in which a genuine Christian has not been able to discharge those important duties prior to the time for communion.

WHO SHALL DETERMINE THE FITNESS OF COMMUNICANTS.

If there is only one prerequisite, and from its very nature the possession of it can be positively known only to him having it, then it is evident that he alone is competent to judge of his individual fitness for the communion. This view accords with Scriptural teachings. (See 1. Cor., 11:28.) Let the administrator properly instruct the people relative to the design of the ordinance and the fitness required in communicants. When this is done the responsibility of the Church ceases. If an unworthy person then partakes the fearful consequences rest on him alone. 1 Cor., 11:29. An immoral person should not commune. But among Christians we are not authorized by Scripture to judge of our Brother's fitness. Besides we can not consistently recognize him as a Christian in all things else and then deny to him the right to the Lord's table. Those who do so are exceedingly inconsistent, and assume grave responsibilities. Matt. 18:6. All the Lord's children should be able to come together and agree around their Father's table. May God hasten the time when they "will flow together in the arms of pure Christian fellowship and brotherly love."

Parrottsville, Tennessee.

J. W. LUCAS.

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