

# MINUTES

of the

ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH ANNUAL SESSION

of the

RED RIVER-BOWIE

MISSIONARY BAPTIST

ASSOCIATION

Held with the

HODGSON MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 1-3, 1954

## OFFICERS

Moderator ..... Elder Hassell Johnston  
Avery, Texas  
Clerk ..... Elder Reginald E. Deem  
P. O. Box 1002, DeKalb, Texas  
Treasurer ..... Elder E. L. Merrill  
DeKalb, Texas

The next session will be held with the Lydia Missionary Baptist Church, Lydia, Texas, beginning Wednesday night before the first Sunday in September, 1955.

Introductory sermon by Elder Reginald E. Deem. Alternate, Elder J. C. Askew.

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### ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Introductory Sermon.
2. Reading Letters; Enrolling Messengers.
3. Election of Officers.
4. Petitionary Letters.
5. Miscellaneous Business.
6. Appointment of Committee on Divine Service.
7. Special Order of Business.
8. Associational Missions.
9. State Missions.
10. Foreign Missions and Interstate Missions.
11. Sunday School.
12. Christian Education.
13. Denom national Literature.
14. Temperance.
15. Orphan's Home.
16. Old Ministers' Relief.
17. Special Reports.
18. Treasurer's Report.
19. Financial Report.
20. County Missionary's Report.
21. Resolution of Thanks.

**PROCEEDINGS**  
**Of the One Hundred and Eleventh Annual Session of the**  
**Messengers of the Churches**  
**of the**

**RED RIVER-BOWIE MISSIONARY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION**  
**Held with the**  
**HODGSON MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH**

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT**

The body was called to order by the Moderator, Elder R. T. Stephens. Opening song was "Standing on the Promises" led by Elder J. B. Watson. Prayer was by Elder R. E. Deem. Song, "Victory In Jesus" was followed by prayer led by Cecil Hill on the book of 1st Timothy the 3rd chapter. Enjoyed by all. Elder H. L. Johnston led in prayer. Motion and second to Adjourn until 10 A. M. Thursday morning carried, and Elder J. B. Watson dismissed in prayer.

**THURSDAY MORNING 10 A. M.**

The session opened with a song, "He Loves Me," led by Elder E. L. Merrill. Elder G. D. Walters then led in prayer. Following this another song, "Must Jesus Bear the Cross Alone" was led by Elder E. L. Merrill accompanied on the piano by Miss Patsy Elliott. Elder A. L. Patterson led in prayer.

Welcome Address was given by Elder A. L. Kennedy, pastor of the Hodgson Missionary Baptist Church.

Rules of Decorum were read by the Moderator, Elder R. T. Stephens.

Appointed as Reading Clerks, Elder R. E. Deem, Elder H. M. Johnston. The Association Letters were read and the messengers seated by motion and second, carrying. (Hodgson's letter was no. read due to it being absent at time.)

Motion and second to invite the visiting brethren to sit in counsel was made and carried.

Hodgson's letter was then presented and adopted.

Motion and second to suspend the Regular order of business in order to have the morning message carried.

Elder H. E. Rhodes, State Missionary of Texas, brought a

great message on "LOVE" using Galatians 5:22-26 and Hebrews 6:9-10. At the close of the message Elder E. L. Merrill asked that an offering for State Missions be taken and given for Bro. Rhodes. The offering amounted to \$34.55.

Motion and second to adjourn until 1:30 P. M.

The afternoon session began with the song "Where the Soul Never Dies" led by Elder L. H. Owens. Accompanied by Patsy Elliott. A special no. was rendered by Miss Patsy Elliott titled "Heaven." Elder McNeil led in prayer.

#### ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Elder H. L. Johnston was elected Moderator.

Elder Reginald E. Deem was elected Clerk.

Elder E. L. Merrill was elected Treasurer.

#### Committees Appointed

Divine Service Committee appointed, Elder J. B. Watson, Chairman; Elder E. L. Merrill, Elder Cecil Hill.

#### MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Lydia Missionary Baptist Church was elected to be the next host of the Association Messenger Meeting to meet on Wednesday night before the first Sunday in September, 1955.

The next Fifth Sunday meeting to meet with the New Haven Missionary Baptist Church.

The next Workers Meeting will be held with the Hodgson Missionary Baptist Church Friday night before the fourth Sunday in September, 1954.

Finance Committee composed of Bro. Elliott, Bro. Humphrey, Bro. Holcom.

Elder L. H. Owens led the song "I Am Thine, O' Lord."

Moderator called attention to the ninth Article respecting the election and way of election as found in the Article and that the Association had not conformed to this way of election. A motion and second to set aside regular order of business and that all that had been done by the association in the way of electing officers stand as is. This motion carried. Also Elder J. B. Watson stated that to the best of his knowledge that this had been changed and instead of ballot vote and only messengers eligible to office that the vote was to be the show of hands and that anyone present of the churches was eligible for office.

#### REPORTS

Report on Association Missions read by Elder Roy I. Pedigo, motion and second to adopt made, spoken to by Eld. J. C. Askew, Eld. McNeil, Eld. Roy I. Pedigo, and Eld. H. E. Rhodes. Adopted.

Report on State Missions read by Eld. Blalock, motion and second made to adopt; spoken to by: Eld. Blalock, Eld. J. B. Watson, Eld. R. E. Deem, adopted.

Report on Interstate and Foreign Missions read by Eld. L. H. Owens, motion and second to adopt; spoken to by: Eld. L. H. Owens, Eld. A. L. Patterson, Eld. Roy I. Pedigo, Eld. J. W. Askew, and Eld. E. L. Merrill. Adopted. Offering taken for this phase of the work from messengers was \$29.01. Turned over to Elder A. L. Patterson.

Report of the Sunday School was read by Eld. G. D. Walters, a motion and second to adopt. Spoken to by Eld. G. D. Walters, and Eld. Cecil Hill. Adopted.

Divine Service Committee announced that Eld. G. D. Walters would bring the evening message.

Election of the one to bring the Introductory Sermon next year with Eld. R. E. Deem selected and Eld. J. C. Askew as Alternate.

Motion to Adjourn until 7:30 P. M. was seconded and prevailed.

Announcements made: Eld. H. E. Rhodes announced the Southwestern Association of Arkansas also by Eld. L. H. Owens to be at Cove, Ark.

Eld. H. E. Rhodes announced the Southeast Texas Association to be held Oct. 19, 1954 at Texas City, Texas.

Eld. McNeil announced the Hopewell Association to be held Oct. 13-14, 5 mi. northeast of Mt. Pleasant, Texas on Fm-Mkt. 1001.

Eld. J. C. Askew announced the Mt. Zion Association to meet Oct. 1, 1954 at Sulphur Springs, Texas, south of Mt. Enterprise, Texas.

Eld. H. E. Rhodes announced the opening of Texas Baptist Institute of Henderson, Texas on Sept. 7, 1954.

Adjourned until 7:30 P. M.

Body called to order at 7:30 P. M. with Eld. L. H. Owens leading the song, "Victory In Jesus," and "Are You Washed In the Blood." Eld. J. B. Watson led in prayer. Eld. L. H. Owens led



another song, "I Will Pass Over You." Eld. Noel Harrison led in prayer. Eld. and Sister Merrill, Eld. L. H. Owens, and Eld. G. D. Walters sang "Hand in Hand With Jesus" accompanied on the piano by Miss Patsy Elliott. Also sang "Heaven Will Surely Be Worth It All." Moderator introduced Eld. G. D. Walters who brought a great soul stirring message on "If Men and Women Go to Hell Who Cares?" using as his text: Psalms 142:1-7, "If Your Sons and Daughters Go to Hell Who Cares?"

Motion and second to adjourn until Friday morning at 11 A. M. made and carried.

Elder Vannie Odom dismissed the messengers with prayer.

### FRIDAY MORNING

Elder E. L. Merrill led the opening song "I Need Jesus" after which Sister Brooks led in prayer. Sang "How Firm A Foundation." Moderator called the session to order before Sister Brooks prayer.

Report on Publications read by Eld. E. L. Merrill, motion and second to adopt; spoken to by Eld. E. L. Merrill. Adopted.

Report on Temperance read by Eld. Charlie Gammill motion and second; spoken to by: Eld. Gammill, Eld. Cecil Hill, and Eld. E. L. Merrill. Adopted.

Report on Texarkana Orphans Home read by Eld. J. W. Askew motion and second to adopt; spoken to by: Eld. J. W. Askew, Eld. Cecil Hill, Eld. Gammill, and Eld. R. E. Deern. Announcement that there would be an open house at the Orphanage on Oct. 19, 1954. Adopted and an offering taken amounting to \$14.07.

Motion and second to dismiss with regular service in order to have morning message brought. Carried.

Five minute recess granted at this time to messengers to precede the message.

After recess services commenced with Eld. E. L. Merrill leading the song "Rock of Ages" accompanied on piano by Patsy Elliott. Then nominations for one to bring the morning message were made with Eld. R. E. Deern being chosen. He brought a message on Philippians 3:10-18 on the "Christian Race." After the message Eld. E. L. Merrill led the song "At The Cross." Motion and second to adjourn until 1:30 P. M. for the afternoon session was made and adopted.

Friday afternoon session commenced with Eld. E. L. Merrill

leading the song "Wonderful Assurance." Bro. Bryant Elliott led in prayer.

Report on Christian Education read by Eld. R. T. Stevens motion and second to adopt; spoken to by Eld. E. L. Merrill, Eld. R. T. Stevens, Eld. E. L. Merrill, Eld. J. W. Askew, and by Eld. R. E. Deern. An amendment was added: that any church owned school of our churches be endorsed and assisted by means and prayer. Amendment and report both carried and were adopted.

Report on Old Ministers Relief was read by Eld. J. B. Watson motion and second to adopt; spoken to by: Eld. J. B. Watson. Amended that there was an old minister in the Association as well as the two Old ministers wives that are known. Both carried and were adopted. An offering was then taken for them in the amount of \$11.20.

Finance Report was read by Bro. Bryant Elliott—motion and second to adopt. Adopted as read.

Announcements made by various churches.  
Resolution of thanks read by Eld. R. T. Stevens motion and second to adopt. Adopted, also a rising vote of thanks was given in appreciation of the fine meals and reception of all by the Host church.

Motion and second to adjourn until next year was made and carried. Dismissed in prayer by Bro. Belomy.

### VISITORS IN ATTENDANCE

Eld. G. D. Walters, pastor County Ave. Church, Texarkana, Ark.

Eld. L. H. Owen, pastor Unity Church, Texarkana, Ark.

Eld. Vannie Odom, pastor Corinth Church, Timpson, Texas

State Missionary Eld. H. E. Rhodes, missionary pastor at Orange.

#### Texas

Eld. Noel Harrison, pastor County Line Church, Timpson, Texas

Eld. Harold Nichols, pastor Timpson M.B. Church, Timpson, Tex.

Secretary Treasurer of Missions Eld. A. L. Patterson, Texarkana.

#### Ark.

Eld. and Mrs. J. C. Askew, pastor First Baptist Church, Lone Star,

#### Texas

Eld. Roy I. Pedigo, Texarkana, Texas

Eld. M. G. McNeill, pastor Grace Temple Bapt. Church, Mt.

Pleasant, Texas

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### ASSOCIATIONAL MISSIONS

We your committee on associational missions submit the following recommendations: That each church support local missions, and since the Pinkham Memorial M.B. Church of DeKalb, Texas is a mission we recommend to the church of the Red River-Bowie Association give this church their prayer and financial support the following year, since we have no Local Missionary on the field. Eld. Foy I. Pedigo, Eld. J. C. Askew, Eld. M. G. McNeill.

### STATE MISSIONS

We your committee on state missions make the following report: In as much as we have two state missionaries recommended by their churches on the field that are not being supported as they should, we recommend that the churches of this Association rally to their support to the extent that it will not hinder the work of the Lord in this Association. We pray therefore that the Lord will lay it upon our hearts to support them with our means and our prayers to carry out the Commission of the Lord as is given to His Church. Eld. Alvin Blalock, Eld. J. B. Watson, Bro. J. T. Dennis

### INTERSTATE AND FOREIGN MISSIONS

The Lord's Commission to His Church requires that she go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature. The Interstate and Foreign Missionaries of the American Baptist Association are sent out by the churches where they hold membership at the time they are sent out and are recommended to all the churches of the American Baptist Association as being worthy of their support. We your committee URGE that the messengers remind their churches frequently to remember these missionaries in sincere prayer and with regular and liberal offerings. Offerings should be sent to American Baptist Association, Texarkana, Ark.-Tex. or they may send directly to any missionary the church wishes to support. Your Committee; Eld. L. H. Owen, Eld. A. L. Patterson, Bro. Bryant.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

In as much as the church has been commissioned by the Lord to Teach as well as to Evangelize, we recommend that all churches maintain Sunday Schools. We recommend the Literature of the American Baptist Association publications in connection with the Bible as sufficient for every need for study in Sunday School. Committee: Eld. G. D. Walters, Eld. F. B. Stevens, Eld. Roy C. Hill.

### PUBLICATIONS

We your committee on Publications submit the following report: We recommend, First—the reading of the Bible, and the reading of any good books relating to the Bible, as recommended by our Book-store at Texarkana, Ark.-Tex. We also recommend that our people read the "Baptist Monitor," "The Searchlight," and the "Soul Winner." We also recommend that our churches use the Sunday School Literature published by the Sunday School Committee of the A.B.A. Eld. E. L. Merrill, Eld. H. E. Rhodes, Bro. J. E. Shook.

### TEMPERANCE

We recommend that all Christians sustain from all appearance of evil, such as strong drinks, and false doctrines, and such worldly pleasures that would hinder the Cause of Christ. Eld. A. I. Bond, Eld. Charlie Gammill, Bro. E. E. Carey

### ORPHANS HOME

We your committee on Orphans Home submit the following: We have an orphans home at Texarkana, Ark. that we help support and we read in God's Word that we as churches are taught to help take care of Orphans therefore we recommend that the churches of this Association support this home. We urge that our Baptist people see that the orphans in their localities have the privilege of th's home. Eld. Harold Nichols, Eld. J. W. Askew, Bro. Jimmie D. Vickers.

### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

We your committee submit the following: Christian education is that part of the Commission that pertains to religious training, which should begin in the homes. We should use Re-

ligious Literature and books and other religious papers that teach the true principles of Christianity. Modernism is the very opposite of the above, the worst setback to Christianity is the modernist preacher and teacher of our day. Eld. A. L. Kennedy, Bro. J. B. Pearce.

Amended: That we recommend any church owned school of the American Baptist Association of churches to our churches for their prayer, financial, and moral support.

#### OLD MINISTERS RELIEF

We your committee on old ministers relief make the following report: Whereas we do not have any aged ministers in our local association that need our financial help, but do have some ministers wives that we could help, we recommend that a collection be taken for them. We further recommend that we keep in touch with them to know their needs that we may help if needed. Eld. J. B. Watson, Bro. Bledsoe, Bro. Scott Purtle.

Amended: This report should include Eld. Duren's name as a minister in need in this Association.

#### RESOLUTION OF THANKS

We your committee submit the following: Resolved that the messengers and visitors extend to Hodgson Church and her pastor our sincere thanks and days appreciation for their hospitality and kindness extended to us in this One Hundred and Eleventh Session of the Association. Eld. R. T. Stevens, Eld. E. L. Merrill, Eld. Roy C. Hill

#### PASTORS, CLERKS, AND SUNDAY SCHOOL

##### SUPERINTENDENTS

AIKIN GROVE: Pastor, D. D. Miller, Avery, Texas; Clerk, Uious Humphrey, Clarksville, Rt. 2, Texas; Supt., Burl Humphrey, Clarksville, Rt. 2, Texas.

AUSTIN CHAPEL: Pastor, E. L. Merrill, DeKalb, Texas; Clerk, Cleadith White, DeKalb, Texas; Supt., Raymond Tidwell, DeKalb, Texas.

AVERY: Pastor, H. L. Johnston, Avery, Texas; Clerk, Mrs. M. Carey, P. O. Box 242, Avery, Texas; Supt., O. C. Downs, Avery, Texas.

BETHLEHEM: Pastor, Alvin Blalock, Talco, Texas, Rt. 2.

Clerk, Dave Pirtle, Jontown, Texas; Supt., Earl Hawkins, Jontown, Texas.

BLAKNEY: Pastor, none; Clerk, W. W. Lawrence, Bagwell, Rt. 1, Tex. Supt., C. F. Northcutt, Bagwell, Rt. 1, Texas.

FRIENDSHIP: Pastor, J. B. Watson, Clarksville, Texas; Clerk, Fannie Hill, Clarksville, Rt. 1, Texas; Supt., Walter Hill, Clarksville, Rt. 1, Texas.

HODGSON: Pastor, O. L. Kennedy, Hughes Springs, Texas; Clerk, Anna Kennedy, DeKalb, Texas; Supt., Arvil Randolph, DeKalb, Texas.

HOPEWELL: Pastor, Cecil Hill, Clarksville, Rt. 6, Texas; Clerk, Harvie Fryar, Clarksville, Rt. 6, Texas; Supt., Basil McNabb, Clarksville, Texas.

LIBERTY: Pastor, none; Clerk, Mrs. Larkin Gooch, Detroit, Texas; Supt., Mr. L. O. Gooch, Detroit, Rt. 3, Texas.

LYDIA: Pastor, Melvin Finley, Hughes Springs, Rt. 2, Texas; Clerk, Alford York, Avery, Rt. 1, Texas; Supt., Alvin Peacock, Avery, Rt. 1, Texas.

MAPLE CREEK: Pastor, Garnette Walker, Mt. Pleasant, Texas; Clerk, Cora Mae Lovell, Clarksville, Rt. 2, Texas; Supt., Melvin Stewart, Clarksville, Rt. 2, Texas.

MT. PLEASANT: Pastor, Cecil Hill, Clarksville, Rt. 6, Texas; Clerk, Mrs. A. H. McDonald, Bagwell, Rt. 1, Texas; Supt., Oliver Fletcher, Negley, Texas.

NEW HAVEN: Pastor, R. T. Stevens, Clarksville, Rt. 6, Texas; Mrs. Ross Mitchell, Clarksville, Rt. 6, Texas; Supt., Jimmie D. Vickers, Clarksville, Rt. 6, Texas.

NEW HOPE: Pastor, Melvin Finley, Hughes Springs, Texas; Clerk, Dewey Murphy, DeKalb, Rt. 2, Texas; Supt., H. F. Neely, DeKalb, Rt. 2, Texas.

PINKHAM MEMORIAL: Missionary Pastor, R. E. Deem, Box 1002, DeKalb, Texas; Clerk, Mrs. J. A. Cunningham, DeKalb, Box 845, Texas; Supt., J. A. Cunningham, DeKalb, Box 845, Texas.

POST OAK: Pastor, Author I. Bond, Bogota, Texas; Clerk, Nancy Lenoir, Blossom, Rt. 2, Texas; Supt., Sidney Lenoir, Blossom, Rt. 2, Texas.

WEST SIDE: Pastor, Oley Rivers, 719 N. Zang, Dallas, Texas; Clerk, Mrs. Willie Stewart, New Boston, Rt. 2, Texas; Supt., W. B. Holt, New Boston, Texas.



**RULES OF DECORUM**

1. This body shall be opened with song and prayer.
2. Any member wishing to speak shall arise and address the Moderator and await his recognition.
3. When a member has been recognized by the Moderator he shall not be interrupted while speaking unless he departs from the subjects, or uses personal or indecorous language.
4. No member shall be allowed to speak more than twice on any subject.
5. No one shall be allowed to speak more than ten minutes on any one subject unless granted an extension of time by the body.

**CONSTITUTION**

Article 1. — This body shall be known as the Red River-Bowtie Missionary Baptist Association.

Article 2. — The object of this body shall be to awaken a deeper interest in the welfare of the denomination, to cultivate a closer union between the churches and to produce and perpetuate the very greatest activity as to missionary and educational enterprises, and to widen the scope of denominational benevolence.

Article 3. — This body shall be composed of such regular Baptist Churches as may agree to unite with this Association by means of messengers to carry out the objects set forth in Article 2 of this constitution: such messengers to present letters of petition for administration from their respective churches.

Article 4. — The messengers holding the annual session of this body shall be chosen by their respective churches, such action being certified by the churches in their letters to the Association.

Article 5. — Each church composing this Body shall be entitled to three messengers.

Article 6. — This Association shall be in nature a joint auxiliary to the churches composing it. It is not formed by any ecclesiastical end, but merely benevolent purposes, but reserves the right to withdraw from any church which becomes heterodox

**ASSOCIATIONAL STATISTICS**

AIKEN GROVE	5	3	90	352.24	61.95	5.00	5.00	132.99	130.19	49.75	30.00	40.23	688.81
AUSTIN CHAPEL	18	14	228	2190.00	377.00	38.35	206.46	1323.99	539.90	20.00	128.57	3.00	4902.21
AVERY	15	12	192	2144.80	193.43	51.50	55.95	1832.99	339.90	300.45	77.66	31.00	4051.49
BETHLEHEM	10	9	128	480.00	81.46						75.00	5.00	5.00
BLAKENEY	3	29	3	83.67	81.46						32.38	54.32	257.33
FRIENDSHIP	4	2	77	700.85	66.00	44.00	44.00	918.90	28.10	49.59	220.34	58.04	1360.74
HODGSON	3	4	98	659.84	35.00	25.25	5.55	38.50	32.82	38.50	21.66	12.00	1757.29
HOPEWELL	9	4	82	1020.40	119.65			41.98	3.20	140.33	44.95	4.00	1442.80
LIBERTY	1	1	57	34.81	139.77			59.75	19.50	6.42		2.00	354.84
LYDIA	37	1	86	470.47	15.00	59.22		116.68	62.19	15.00		5.00	976.03
MAPLE CREEK	2	6	61	420.00	62.00			43.56	32.00			5.00	592.56
MT. PLEASANT	11	1	70	430.00	60.00	41.64		67.25	52.02			5.00	689.52
NEW HAVEN	17	5	168	1680.00	165.88	63.00	26.00	243.73	13.08	28.26	210.58	82.13	2418.08
NEW HOPE	2	1	75	666.68	67.64			326.84			70.00	35.02	1219.85
PINKHAM MEMORIAL	11	2	18	149.34	65.25	3.84		9.15	984.26		21.49	8.50	1228.84
POST OAK	15	6	88	687.00				14.30					4.40
WEST SIDE	27	5	78	1715.80	150.00	85.17		52.86	1835.49				5393.98
TOTALS	186	77	1625	13935.90	1660.03	416.97	117.79	373.67	300.69	6854.19	805.05	2920.06	76.70

in faith or disorderly in practice.

Article 7. — Each church shall be the sole judge of her messengers.

Article 8. — The Association shall recognize freedom of speech as essential to the highest achievement of its work.

Article 9. — The officers of this Association shall be a moderator, a Clerk, and a Treasurer, who shall be chosen annually by ballot from the messengers composing the body and shall hold office for one year or until their successors are chosen.

Article 10. — It shall be the duty of the Moderator to preside over the Body, to keep order, and to discharge such other duties as belong to this office.

Article 11. — It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to keep a correct record of each session of this body and to have same published and distributed to the churches as the report of the Association.

Article 12. — It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to keep a correct account of all money received and disbursed, and he shall make a report of the same to the Association during its annual session.

Article 13. — This Association shall have an Executive Committee composed of one member from each church in this Association to be chosen by their respective Churches at the time the church elects its messengers to the annual meeting of the Association, to report at the next annual session of the Association. Five members of said Committee shall compose a quorum; the Moderator to be the chairman of said committee, to have charge of the work outlined by the messengers to the annual meeting of the Body.

Article 14. — In order to change or amend this Constitution, the amendment or amendments must be offered in writing and be presented in open session on the first day of the session and said amendment or amendments must lie over until the second day's meeting, and then it shall take a two-thirds vote of the messengers present to change or amend the Constitution.

Article 15. — This Constitution shall be effective and in full force from and after its adoption.