

# *Yearbook*



## *The Missionary Baptist Association of Texas*

**1953**



### **NEXT SESSION**

**November 9-10, 1954**

**Antioch Missionary Baptist Church, Waco, Texas**

**Elder C. W. Bell, Pastor**

**State Ladies' Auxiliary ..... 1:00 P. M. November 8, 1954**

**Annual Sermon ..... Elder Jack Dean**

**Alternate ..... Elder Geo. B. Crawford**

**Moderator ..... Elder A. J. Findley, Omaha, Texas**

**Assistant Moderator ..... Elder O. P. Meador, Augusta, Texas**

**Recording Secretaries: Dr. Albert Garner, Box 1112, Henderson, Texas**

**Elder O. H. Griffith, Box 741, White Oak, Texas**

## THE MISSIONARY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

Messenger Meeting, November 9-10, 1954

Antioch Missionary Baptist Church

Waco, Texas

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### MODERATOR:

Elder A. J. Findley ..... Omaha, Texas

### ASSISTANT MODERATOR:

Elder O. P. Meador ..... Augusta, Texas

### RECORDING SECRETARIES:

Dr. Albert Garner ..... Box 1112, Henderson, Texas

Elder O. H. Griffith ..... Box 741, White Oak, Texas

### CORRESPONDING SECRETARY-TREASURER:

Elder J. W. Harper ..... Box 11, Gallatin, Texas

### MISSIONARIES

Elder J. W. Harper ..... Gallatin, Texas

Elder R. E. Rodgers ..... Henderson, Texas

Elder H. E. (Edd) Rhodes ..... Port Arthur, Texas

Elder J. E. Sherrill ..... Dallas, Texas

Elder Richard Encinia ..... Carthage, Texas

## ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Devotional
2. Welcome address
3. Organization
4. Annual Sermon
5. REPORTS:
  - a. Report on State Missions
  - b. Report on Christian Education
  - c. Report on Interstate and Foreign Missions
  - d. Report on Benevolence
  - e. Report on Publications
  - f. Report on Women's Work
  - g. Report on Young People's Work
  - h. Report on Finances
  - i. Report on Miscellaneous matters
6. Special: Regular business shall be suspended each day at 11 o'clock a. m. and 8 o'clock p. m. for preaching services unless the messengers shall otherwise direct. Any report may be made a special order in connection with the evening service, and as committees may be ready to report.

1953

MINUTES OF THE MISSIONARY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION  
OF TEXAS

November 10-11, 1953

TUESDAY MORNING

The services opened by singing "Am I Soldier of the Cross?" and "Jesus Saves" directed by Elder Wilson Garner, with Mrs. Barnett Ripetoe at the piano. The opening prayer was by Elder A. T. Powers.

After another song, "Standing on the Promises," Elder C. W. Bell conducted a devotional reading Romans 12:1,2 and Ephesians 6:13,14.

The moderator, Elder A. J. Findley, declared the 1953 messenger meeting of The Missionary Baptist Association of Texas in regular session. A prayer was led by Elder Jack Dean.

The moderator called Elder Jack Dean, pastor of the host church, to deliver a message of welcome. The response to the welcome address was given by Elder R. E. Rodgers.

At this time the moderator appointed Elders Wilson Garner, A. J. Kirkland, and J. W. Harper a committee to draw up and submit rules of decorum.

Nominations for officers of the association were called for.

Nominated for moderator were: Elders Wilson Garner, O. H. Griffith, and A. J. Findley. Elder A. J. Findley was elected.

Elder O. P. Meador was nominated for assistant moderator and elected by acclamation.

Elders Albert Garner and O. H. Griffith were nominated for recording secretaries and elected by acclamation.

The moderator appointed Mrs. Jack Dean chairman of the Enrollment Committee. Mrs. Dean was to select her helpers.

Elders R. E. Rodgers, W. A. Simmons, and Jesse Watson were appointed for the Finance Committee.

Motion prevailed that speakers for sermons other than the annual sermon be elected by all the people assembled.

Invitations for the next annual session of the association were received from Antioch, Waco; Grace Temple, Mt. Pleasant; and Missionary Baptist, Corsicana. Antioch was selected.

Nominations for one to preach the annual sermon for the 1954 session were declared in order. Elders R. B. Short, Ray Brooks, Jack Dean, and Geo. B. Crawford were nominated.

Motion prevailed that the person receiving the second highest vote be declared alternate for the annual sermon.

Elder Jack Dean was elected, with Elder Geo. B. Crawford as alternate.

Time for the annual sermon having arrived Elder Earl Cresswell directed the congregation in singing "Tis so Sweet to Trust in Jesus." Elder Bruce Hibbitt offered a prayer.

The moderator presented Elder W. Herbert Brown who was elected last year to preach the annual sermon. Bro. Brown read I Samuel 30:24, and delivered a very inspiring message on the subject, "Sharing Equally the Rewards of Victory."

The congregation was asked to stand while Elder H. L. McNish gave Bro. Brown the hand of appreciation for the message.

The report of the committee on Rules of Decorum was made and unanimously adopted.

The report of the committee on Appointment of Committees was approved.

Motion prevailed to adjourn until 1:30 P. M. today.

Announcements were made by several brethren.

The assembly was dismissed with prayer by Elder Vernon L. Barr.

#### TUESDAY AFTERNOON

The afternoon session was opened with songs, "My Faith Looks up to Thee" and "Have Thine Own Way, Lord," led by Elder H. L. McNish with Mrs. R. W. Mitchell at the piano. Prayer was led by Elder W. L. Leslie.

The following visitors were recognized:

**Mrs. Willie Miller**—Texarkana Baptist Orphanage, Texarkana.

**Elder James M. Poynor**—Wewoka, Oklahoma.

**Mrs. Sam Brown**—Wewoka, Oklahoma.

The report on State Missions was called for.

The report of the Corresponding Secretary-Treasurer of Missions was read by Elder J. W. Harper. A motion to adopt the report carried. The report was discussed by Elder J. W. Harper. Among other things he suggested that an offering be taken this afternoon to pay the balance owed Antioch Baptist Church, Waco, for a gospel tent purchased from them for the use of State Missionaries. An offering of \$100.28 was taken. This was enough to pay the balance.

Elder H. E. Rhodes gave a report of his work as State Missionary from January 1, 1953, to October 31, 1953. Report adopted.

Elder R. E. Rodgers gave a report of his work as State Missionary from November 1, 1952, to October 31, 1953. Report adopted.

Considerable discussion was indulged to inform the messengers about the work being done by Elder Larry Romero with the Mexicans at Pharr, Texas, and in Old Mexico; and by Elder Richard Encinia at Bryan, Texas. Those participating in the discussion were: Elders V. L. Barr, Richard Encinia, Albert Garner, O. P. Meador, A. J. Kirkland, and G. P. Allen.

The report of the committee on State Missions was read by Elder R. E. Dale. Motion to adopt. The report was discussed by Elders J. W. Harper, H. L. McNish, V. L. Barr, and A. J. Kirkland. Report adopted. A motion to endorse two fulltime missionaries, and a Corresponding Secretary-Treasurer at same salaries as of last year was offered. Discussed by Elders O. P. Meador, and G. P. Allen.

A motion to amend by raising the salaries of the two missionaries to \$350.00 per month was offered. Discussed by a number of messengers.

A substitute amendment to raise the salaries of the missionaries and the Secretary-Treasurer each \$25.00 per month was offered. Discussed by Elders H. L. McNish, A. J. Kirkland, and V. L. Barr. The substitute amendment prevailed.

The original motion as amended was adopted.

(Clerk's note: Elders R. E. Rodgers and H. E. Rhodes are on recommended salaries of \$350.00 including expenses, and Elder J. W. Harper receives \$75.00 per month as Corresponding Secretary-Treasurer of Missions. This is after the above voted raise in salaries.)

A motion to retain the two missionaries now on the field—Elders R. E. Rodgers and H. E. Rhodes—prevailed.

Elder J. W. Harper was nominated for Corresponding Secretary-Treasurer of Missions and was elected by acclamation.

A motion to recommend Elder J. E. Sherrill as State Missionary on undesignated salary prevailed.

A motion recommending Elder Richard Encinia as worthy of support by our churches for the work he is doing among the Spanish speaking people of Bryan, Texas, provided he secures the recommendation of the church where he holds membership was offered. Discussed by Elders A. J. Kirkland, Richard Encinia, Don Miller, V. L. Barr, and J. W. Harper. Motion carried.

Elder O. P. Meador offered a motion on the basis of a recommendation by the Rocky Springs Baptist Church to recommend Elder A. T. Suskey as an evangelist for our churches. After discussion by a number of brethren a substitute motion was offered as follows: That we receive and record in the minutes the recommendation of the Rocky Springs Baptist Church. Substitute motion prevailed.

A motion prevailed that the Orphans Home report be made a special order for the evening service, and that pictures of the home and children taken by Elder Jack Dean be shown.

Nominated to deliver the sermon for the evening services were: Elders V. L. Barr, Bruce Hibbitt, R. E. Dale, R. T. Ferritt, and H. E. Rhodes. Elder V. L. Barr was elected.

A motion to re-elect Elder James W. Griffith to audit the books of the Secretary-Treasurer of Missions carried.

The report of the committee on Publications was read, and discussed by Elder Wilson Garner. Report adopted.

Motion to adjourn until 7:00 P. M. today prevailed.

Dismissed with prayer by Elder A. J. Kirkland.

### TUESDAY EVENING

The services were opened by singing "At the Cross" and "Amazing Grace" directed by Bro. Dewey Covington with Bro. McGaha at the piano. The prayer was by Elder C. W. Pierce.

The vice-moderator, Elder O. P. Meador, was in charge during the evening services.

Elder Wilson Garner delivered the devotional by reading II Corinthians 4:3-5 and relating items of special interest on his recent tour of parts of Europe, Palestine and neighboring lands.

Report of the committee on Orphans Home was read by Elder G. P. Allen. Motion to adopt. The report was discussed by Elder G. P. Allen and Mrs. Willie Miller. At this time the song, "We'll Work Till Jesus Comes" was sung while Elder Jack Dean set up a projector for showing a film of the Texarkana Baptist Orphanage. Bro. Dean discussed several things about the home while the film was showing and afterward. Report adopted.

A solo, "The Pearly White City" was sung by Mrs. R. W. Mitchell, Lamesa, Texas, accompanied on the piano by her daughter, Margaret.

It now being time for the evening message, Elder Vernon L. Barr was presented. Bro. Barr read II Timothy 4:1-8, and used for a subject, "How to Live and How to Die."

The moderator asked the congregation to stand while Elder C. W. Bell gave Bro. Barr the hand of appreciation in behalf of the congregation for the message.

A motion to hear now the report of the committee on Christian Education to be followed by an offering to be divided equally to the Tex-as Baptist Institute and the Texarkana Baptist Orphanage prevailed.

The report of the committee on Christian Education was read by Elder A. J. Kirkland. Motion to adopt. The report was discussed by Elders A. J. Kirkland, O. P. Meador, and Dan Griffith. Report adopted.

The offering was taken and amounted to \$78.36.

A motion to adjourn until 9:00 A. M. of the next day prevailed. The assembly was dismissed with prayer by Elder James L. Carpenter.

### WEDNESDAY MORNING

The second day of the association was opened by singing "When We All Get to Heaven" and "Tell It to Jesus" directed by Elder C. H. Gwathney with Bro. McGaha at the piano. The prayer was by Elder James W. Griffith.

The Wednesday session was presided over by the moderator, Elder A. J. Findley.

The report of the committee on Ladies' Auxiliaries was read by Mrs. Bruce Hibbitt. Motion to adopt. The report was discussed by Mrs. Jack Dean and Mrs. A. T. Powers. Report adopted.

Motion that Mrs. A. T. Powers be elected chairman of the committee on organization of a State Ladies' Auxiliary as called for in the report of the committee on Ladies' Auxiliaries, and that she select her helpers, prevailed. Mrs. Powers selected Mrs. W. H. Brown, Mrs. A. J. Kirkland, and Mrs. Wilson Garner.

An offering in the amount of \$54.54 was taken to help pay for printing the minutes of the association.

The moderator declared nominations in order for one to preach this morning. Elders A. J. Kirkland and R. E. Dale were nominated. R. E. Dale was elected.

The report of the committee on Interstate and Foreign Missions was read by Elder Vernon E. Lierly. Motion to adopt. The report was discussed by Elders Vernon E. Lierly and A. T. Powers. Report adopted.

The report of the committee on Young Peoples Work was read by Elder Kenneth L. Bazar. Motion to adopt. The report was discussed by Bro. Bazar. Report adopted.

The report on Young Peoples Work called for the organization of a State Young Peoples Assembly. Elders Kenneth L. Bazar, Geo. B. Crawford, Albert Garner, and Jack Dean were elected as a committee to draw up a constitution and by-laws to be presented for adoption at a meeting of the young people of the Missionary Baptist Association on a date to be set.

The Grace Temple Baptist Church, Mt. Pleasant, Texas, extended an invitation for the young people to meet with them on June 29-30, 1954, to organize a State Young Peoples Assembly. The invitation was accepted.

A motion prevailed that the messengers and visitors to the 1953 annual session of the Missionary Baptist Association express by standing vote their appreciation to the Northside Baptist Church, Snyder, Texas, for their hospitality shown during the meeting.

The report of the committee on Enrollment was read by Mrs. Jack Dean. Report adopted.

The report of the committee on Finances was read by Elder R. E. Rodgers. Report adopted.

A motion to pay the recording secretaries \$35.00 each for their work carried.

The moderator called for the missionaries to make known whether they would accept the work.

Elder J. W. Harper made a statement accepting the work of Corresponding Secretary-Treasurer of Missions.

Elder R. E. Rodgers made a statement accepting the work of State Missionary.

Elder H. E. (Edd) Rhodes made a statement accepting the work of State Missionary.

Elder J. W. Harper, Secretary-Treasurer of Missions reminded the messengers that he and the missionaries were on set salaries. He requested that our people not tempt them by trying to get them to accept "love offerings" without same being reported to the Secretary-Treasurer of Missions to be applied on salaries. He further suggested that our missionaries lead the newly organized churches to care for their own financial needs to the greatest extent of their ability, and that as soon as possible they take care of all their financial needs.

Elder Richard Encinia expressed his appreciation for the confidence placed in him as missionary to the Mexicans in Bryan, Texas.

Elder E. M. Bain told about a mission project that is being sponsored in Sulphur Springs, Texas.

The business of the messengers having been completed the congregation sang, "Blessed Assurance" directed by Elder C. H. Gwathney, accompanied at the piano by Bro. McGaha. Bro. Tom Taylor led a prayer.

At this time Elder Dale was presented to bring the message. He read Hebrews 13:10 and spoke on the subject, "Let Us Go Forth."

The moderator asked the congregation to stand while Elder Wilson Garner gave Bro. Dale the hand of appreciation in behalf of the congregation for the message.

A motion prevailed that the messengers give Elder A. J. Findley a rising vote of thanks in appreciation of the faithful discharge of his duties as moderator.

A motion to adjourn to meet with the Antioch Missionary Baptist Church, Waco, Texas, November 9-10, 1954, carried.

After announcements the congregation sang, "God Be With You," and was dismissed with prayer by Elder G. F. Lee.

### REPORT ON STATE MISSIONS

We have had two full time missionaries on salary and several other missionaries who have labored without a stipulated salary during the past year. All have labored faithfully and done commendable work.

Reports indicate that our churches have given with more regularity and with more liberality than ever before. While we believe we can do more in the future, we commend each church that has given in the past and urge that each church do her best to be both a regular and liberal contributor in the future.

It is the belief of this committee that our state mission work can be enlarged, but we leave the details as to the number of missionaries to be approved to the will of the messengers, without offering any particular recommendation of our own.

Signed: R. E. Dale

A. T. Powers

Ray B. Short,

Horton O. McGaha

### REPORT ON CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

This year Texas Baptist Institute has reached its goal of becoming a four year seminary so that students may earn and receive the degree of Master of Theology. All courses which are being offered have been approved by the State Approval Agency, under Public law 550, 82nd Congress for the training of Veterans.

It is gratifying indeed that our churches are supporting our educational work as never before. We believe that ministers of the gospel must first be called of God to the ministry of the Word, and that the work of the school is to train men whom God has called. We do not believe that schools are even essential to the qualifying of one to preach, but we do believe that they will more quickly and better qualify one for doing a greater work.

In order to better meet the need in our educational work, the school must have an administration building soon. Therefore the plan is under way to erect such a building next year and our effort to raise funds for this purpose is being made. This effort was begun last June and since that time, some \$21,800.00. (Twenty-one thousand, eight hundred dollars), have been raised or subscribed. Of the above amount \$5,950 in cash has been received and the subscriptions are being paid as planned.

The property previously purchased for the school is now paid for and the titles have been cleared.

The beginning of construction on the administration building will be determined by the receipt of funds, and it is our hope to begin in time to have it ready for the opening of school next year.

We earnestly request the prayers and cooperation of our churches and people everywhere in this great work.

Your committee A. J. Kirkland

O. P. Meador

Dan Griffith

### REPORT ON INTERSTATE AND FOREIGN MISSIONS

Our Lord Jesus in Matt. 28:19-20 commanded His church to preach the gospel to every creature in every nation, and then to baptize and teach them. In view of this we urge that the churches take this command seriously and really be active in carrying out the Great Commission.

We urge that the messengers attending this meeting present our interstate and foreign missionaries to your churches as being worthy of their support. We also urge that each church initiate systematic methods of supporting the interstate and foreign missionaries of the American Baptist Association. As a system we recommend that our churches take regular weekly offerings to be used in the different phases of missions, especially remembering the field of Interstate and Foreign missions.

We further urge that we not only remember our missionaries with our finance, but also in our prayers. Let us pray that the Lord will keep them from harm and lead them in paths of useful service.

Vernon Lierly

H. L. McNish

J. E. King

C. W. Bell

L. Stoneseipher

### REPORT ON BENEVOLENCE

We, Your Committee on Benevolence, submit the following:

We believe the Lord instructed His church to do benevolent work, in caring for the needy, widows and orphans, and that such is embraced in carrying out the Great Commission of our Lord.

We have a Christian Orphans' Home at Texarkana, Arkansas, under the supervision of our Missionary Baptist Churches with Bro. Willie Miller and wife in charge at the home. We recommend the support of this home as a worthy object for our churches.

Respectfully submitted:

G. P. Allen

R. E. Rodgers

Geo. B. Crawford

### REPORT ON PUBLICATIONS

We, your committee on publications, report as follows:

We recommend that our people put the Bible first in their study, and that each member of the family be provided a Bible as soon as he is old enough to read. We also encourage systematic Bible study.

We recommend that our people remember our own Baptist Book Store at 214 East Broad Street, Texarkana, Ark.-Tex. There is always an ample stock of Bible-related books available as well as all types of Bibles.

We further recommend the literature published in Texarkana as being the soundest Christian Literature to be found anywhere, excepting the Bible.

We also recommend that an effort be made to get our two Texas Papers: The Baptist Monitor and The Soul Winner, in every Baptist home in the State of Texas. We believe it would be profitable for our people to read all the papers published by our brethren.

Respectfully submitted:

Vernon L. Barr

Wilson Garner

J. E. Corbin

Leldon Rawls

### REPORT ON WOMEN'S AUXILIARY

We, your committee on Women's Work, have been handicapped in making any definite reports about what the various ladies' auxiliaries of our churches of the State have accomplished during the past year, due to the fact that we have no reports from them.

We believe that Scripturally organized auxiliaries are approved of God, for we read that Paul instructed one of the New Testament Churches to "receive these women who have helped me" and of Paul's telling Timothy of his thankfulness for the teachings of Timothy's mother and grandmother, and how that other women ministered to the physical needs of the Apostles and others who needed them. The church is assisted in the various phases of its work by the auxiliaries.

The very word "Auxiliary" means HELPER. We women who love the Lord want only to be a help, through the Missionary Baptist Churches of Texas, to His Cause, and we feel that we can accomplish more for Him when we are organized into auxiliaries within the church.

In order to further the organization of Women's Auxiliaries in our churches, we recommend, subject to the approval of the entertaining church for our 1954 Session, that the Ladies of our churches meet together in a pre-session meeting, beginning at 1:00 p. m. on Monday before our regular meeting, for the purpose of organizing a State Ladies' Auxiliary and that we have the afternoon and evening sessions on that day for our program.

We further recommend that a program committee be appointed to plan the program for this first meeting and to send out advance notices to the churches of this meeting.

Signed: Mrs. Bruce Hibbitt  
Mrs. Sam Hogan  
Mrs. A. J. Findley  
Mrs. Wilson Garner

### REPORT ON YOUNG PEOPLE'S WORK

Considering that our young people constitute a great part of our churches and shall be the leaders of our churches in soon coming years, we make the following recommendations:

1. That the pastors and churches emphasize the great importance of Young People's Work. Training of youth is no less important than the teaching of youth. The Baptist Training Course is no less important than Sunday School.
2. That the churches in local associations organize local monthly youth rallies and that these rallies shall not only be for but also carried on by the young people themselves.
3. That plans be laid for the formation of an annual State Youth Assembly. We suggest that a committee be appointed to draw up a proposed set of by-laws and prepare a program for the first meeting, and that if possible a date for two days in June be set and a place selected for this first meeting before we leave this messenger meeting.

Respectfully submitted:  
K. L. Bazar  
William Hitt  
James Carpenter  
G. T. Smith  
Larry Reeves

**REPORT OF J. W. HARPER, CORRESPONDING SECRETARY****OF MISSIONARY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS****NOVEMBER 1, 1953****RECEIPTS:**

State Missions .....	\$8,358.54
Inter-State & Foreign Missions .....	171.54
Tent Fund .....	50.75
Minutes .....	247.00
Tex. Bap. Institute .....	8.25
Lone Star Church .....	10.00
Hughes Springs Church .....	10.00
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Total Receipts .....	\$8,856.08
Balance on hand Nov. 1, 1952	
State Missions .....	349.78
Tent Fund .....	131.50
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Grand Total .....	\$9,337.36

**DISBURSEMENTS:**

State Missions, Missionaries and Secretary .....	\$8,523.60
Office Expense, Stamps, Cards, Stationery .....	29.69
Inter-State and Foreign Missions .....	171.54
Minutes .....	247.00
Tent Fund .....	181.65
Lone Star Church .....	10.00
Hughes Springs Church .....	10.00
Texas Baptist Institute .....	8.25
Dishonored Check .....	4.00
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Total Disbursements .....	\$9,185.73
Balance on hand Nov. 1, 1953, State Missions.....	151.03
Balance in Tent Fund .....	.60
	<hr/>
	\$9,337.36

**ASSETS AND LIABILITIES****Assets**

Cash in Bank Nov. 1, 1953 .....	\$151.03
Cash in Tent Fund .....	.63
Total Assets .....	\$151.63

**Liabilities**

Owe Antioch Church, Waco, Texas, on Tent .....	\$ 99.99
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**Comparison****VARIOUS ITEMS**

Collections in 1951-52 for State Missions .....	\$7,645.92
This year, 1952-53 .....	8,338.54

Excess of 1953 Collections over 1952 .....	\$ 692.62
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**Collections by Missionaries on Field:**

R. E. Rodgers .....	\$ 791.49
H. E. Rhodes .....	1,030.45
J. W. Harper .....	529.50

**Churches Organized**

H. E. Rodgers, 2; R. E. Rodgers, 3.

**Revivals**

H. E. Rhodes, 6; R. E. Rodgers, 10; J. W. Harper, 7.

**Conversions**

H. E. Rhodes, 11; R. E. Rodgers, 23; J. W. Harper, 20.

**Additions to Churches**

H. E. Rhodes, 74; R. E. Rodgers, 71; J. W. Harper, 38.

Your Secretary attended NINE of our local Associations in the interest of State Missions, traveled over twelve hundred miles and spent about twenty days in this work. No charge is made for time, only expenses were charged.

**AUDITOR'S REPORT**

This is to certify that I have this day, Nov. 5, 1953, made an audit of the books of Elder J. W. Harper, Secretary of Missions of the Missionary Baptist Association of Texas, at his home in Gallatin, Texas, and have found all to be in order. Bro. Harper is an able bookkeeper, has kept an accurate record of all receipts and disbursements, and is to be commended for his work.

Signed: J. W. Griffith

**REPORT ON FINANCE**

We, your committee on finance, report as follows:

**Received:**

Minutes .....	\$243.39
Tent Fund off .....	100.28
Orphans Home .....	39.15
Texas Baptist Institute .....	39.15
State Missions .....	6.00
Total Received .....	\$427.97

Signed: R. E. Rodgers

W. A. Simmons

**REPORT ON ENROLLMENT**

We, your committee on enrollment, report as follows: There were sixty-eight (68) churches represented by messengers and eighteen (18) by letter, with 138 messengers enrolled.

Signed: Mrs. Jack Dean  
Mrs. Dayton McCarter

(Note: Good written reports by State Missionaries Elder R. E. Rodgers and Elder J. E. Sherrill and a detailed itemized tent fund receipt and disbursement statement by Bro. J. W. Harper are omitted in minute and other reports condensed to conserve space in printing of minutes.)

## THE MISSIONARY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT

### ARTICLE I—Name

This Association shall be known as The Missionary Baptist Association of Texas.

### ARTICLE II—Object

The object of this Association shall be to awaken a deeper interest in the welfare of the churches, to cultivate a closer fellowship among the churches, and to encourage, and perpetuate the very greatest possible activity in missionary, educational, and benevolent enterprises.

### ARTICLE III—How Composed

Section 1. This Association shall be composed of such regular independent Missionary Baptist Churches as may voluntarily choose to co-operate in carrying out the object of this Association.

Section 2. The Messenger Assemblies of this Association shall be composed of messengers elected by the churches composing it.

Section 3. Each church choosing to represent in this Association shall be entitled to three messengers.

Section 4. Each church shall be the sole judge of the qualification of her messengers.

### ARTICLE IV—Nature

The Messenger Assembly of this Association shall be, in nature, formed as a council in matters pertaining to missionary, educational, and benevolent work.

### ARTICLE V—Principles

The Messenger Assembly of this Association shall recognize the freedom of speech as essential to the highest achievement in its work. It shall stand or fall on its own conformity to the truth. It shall exercise no ecclesiastical authority, but it shall, by every precaution, recognize the independence and sovereignty of every individual church. It shall also encourage on the part of the church and the messengers the greatest possible freedom of expression in discussing matters pertaining to its work.

### ARTICLE VI—Powers

The action of the Messenger Assembly shall be limited to the work of awakening enthusiasm in missionary, educational, and benevolent enterprises, and receiving and distributing funds for the same.

### ARTICLE VII—Funds

Section 1. All funds of this Association shall be raised by voluntary donations secured solely upon the merits of the cause in the interest of which appeals are made for gifts; provided, this is not to prevent the use of any income or any property that may be acquired by donation or by purchase.

Section 2. Distribution of funds shall be authorized by an act of this Messenger Assembly, or by an act of properly authorized committees of this assembly hereinafter provided for; but in no instance shall

the assembly or any committee of it use means in violation of the expressed preference of the donor.

#### ARTICLE VIII—Officers

Section 1. The officers of this Messenger Assembly shall be a moderator, an assistant moderator, two (2) recording secretaries, and a corresponding secretary-treasurer.

Section 2. All officers of this assembly shall be chosen annually, and shall hold their offices until their successors are elected and the same shall be true of all members of standing committees. All officers shall be elected by a majority of the messengers voting. No moderator shall succeed himself more than one year.

Section 3. The duties of all officers shall be as may be directed by the Messenger Assembly, unless otherwise directed by the churches.

Section 4. It shall be the duty of the corresponding secretary-treasurer to take charge of the money and valuables not specifically entrusted to someone else and to dispose of same as he may be directed by this Messenger Assembly. He shall make an annual report to this assembly of all monies received and disbursed.

Section 5. The recording secretaries, in addition to keeping the records of this Association, will superintend the printing and distribution of minutes of such regular meetings as the messengers may direct.

#### ARTICLE IX—Committees

Section 1. The missionary committee shall be composed of one representative of each church choosing to be represented. The duty of the committee shall be to meet quarterly, or as directed by the Messenger Assembly, in the interest of all the work. It shall be empowered to fill vacancies of regular offices, between sessions of the Messenger Assembly and to call a special meeting of a Messenger Assembly when needed.

Section 2. The following standing officers of the assembly shall be the trustees of the Association: Namely, the moderator, assistant moderator, two recording secretaries, and secretary-treasurer, subject to the direction of the Moderator Assembly, and they are empowered to act in legal capacity as trustees of this Association.

#### ARTICLE XI—Meeting

The regular meeting of the Church Messengers shall be at such time and place as the assembled messengers may appoint.

#### ARTICLE XII—Amendments

The Messenger Assembly shall have no power to change the Articles of Agreement. Any church desiring a change shall send to the annual meeting a copy of the proposed change; the Messenger Assembly will then submit the proposed change to each co-operating church; if two-thirds of the co-operating churches vote for the change, then the Articles of Agreement shall be amended to conform to the proposed change. Two-thirds of the churches representing in the assembly in the previous year shall be the number in determining the results.

This form is given for the convenience of all churches in the Association, to assist in the keeping of records of enrollment, and to assure accuracy in our reports of the number of churches in the Association. Please clip this form and fill it, and bring it to the Messenger meeting to be held in 1954, or mail it to either of the Clerks.

NAME OF CHURCH	
ADDRESS OF CHURCH	
Pastor: _____	
Address: _____	
Clerk: _____	
Address: _____	
Representing by (Check one)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Messenger	<input type="checkbox"/> Letter