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MINUTES

OF THE

SHELBY ASSOCIATION OF BAPTISTS,

Convened at Six Mile Meeting House, Shelby County, on the 1st
Friday in August, 1820.

At 11 o'clock, Elder John Penny delivered the Introductory Sermon from the latter clause of the 21st verse, 1st chapter of Matthew.

"For he shall save his people from their sins."

Letters from nineteen churches were received, read and the messengers names enrolled as follows :

CHURCHES.	MESSENGERS.	Baptized.	Rec'd. by letter.	Dis'm'd. by letter.	Excluded.	Dead.	Present Num-ber.
North Benson,	W. Nickman, J. Brown, B. Taylor, and George	6	2	5	3	1	106
Salt River,	J. Penny, T. Hanks, P. Rigg and J. Cummings.	51	4	3	4		242
Twins,	J. Scott, T. Brown, J. D. Alexander, W. Blanton and R. Adams.		844	4	2		293
Papewell,	L. B. Crutcher.	15		3	1		96
At Cook's bottom.	T. Craig and R. Scanland.		242	4	1		149
White's Run,	D. Partlow, E. Barrett, H. Ramey & J. Lister.	1	220	1	1		98
Cosken,	S. Sale, J. Downing & N. Burrows.	16	3	3	1	3	91
Freshfort,	G. Slaughter, G. W. Graham, J. Gibbs, S. M. Noel and J. W. Wooldridge.	5	4	2	1		43
Mo. Cedar Crk.	H. Hawkins and S. Calvert.		2		1	1	23
Go's creek,	R. Jesse and J. Roper.	2	7	2	1		26
Wm. Pleasant.	E. S. Pattison.		212	1	4		53
Buck Run,	J. Taylor, B. Taylor and J. Wilson.	3	5		1		66
Beech Creek,	S. Tinsley, W. Ware and R. Graves.	1	2	8	1		72
Indian Fork,	A. Cook, A. Bohannon, S. Cook and W. Christie.		2	1	2	1	73
Six Mile,	E. Ford, J. Miles, J. Ford, and W. W. Ford.		2	1	2		113
Buffalo Lick,	M. Baker, T. Lee and W. T. Web- ber.		8	3	1		60
Fox Creek,	S. Trower and S. Crossfield.	5			3		64
Long Ridge,	Thomas L. Bryan.						9
Emmans,	M. Baker and J. Arnold.						27

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Records by Miss Susan Burson, Sunday the

The association then proceeded to the choice of moderator and clerk, when it appeared that Elder John Scott was chosen moderator and J. Dudley clerk to this association. The two last churches, to wit: Long Ridge and Emmaus, applied for union and correspondence with us; they were received and invited to seats in the association.

Letters from associations with whom we correspond, were received, read, and their messengers took their seats with us as follows:

From Elkhorn—Charles W. Crittenden.

From North Bend—W. Kendall.

From Long Run—A. M'Guire, G. Waller, P. H. Vorice, and J. Metcalf.

From North District—Thomas Boon, W. Rash Jr. and Joseph Kelly.

From Licking—John Conner.

From South District—John Rice and David Jones.

From Union—J. Munson.

The circular letter called for, read and adopted.

Brethren appointed to write letters of correspondence to the associations as follows:

To Elkhorn—T. Craig.

To North Bend—B. Taylor.

To Long Run—S. M. Noel.

To North District—J. W. Wooldridge.

To Licking—J. D. Alexander.

To South District—W. T. Webber.

To Union—E. S. Pattison.

And report to the association to-morrow morning.

The moderator and clerk appointed a committee to arrange the business for to-morrow.

Prayer by Brother Waller.

Agreed that we adjourn until to-morrow morning, nine o'clock.

SATURDAY MORNING. The association met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by the moderator.

The report of the committee of arrangements called for, read and approved.

On motion,

Agreed that we attend to the business in the order in which it stands in the report.

Question from Goshen.—"Would it not be expedient to strike out the fourth article of your constitution?"

Answer.—"We think the fourth article entirely innocent, and in cases of heresy, disorder, &c. we think the rule a good one, to which it was exclusively intended to apply: Therefore, ought not to be stricken out."

The next association to be held at the Twin Meeting-house in Gallatin county, on the 1st Friday in August, 1821.

Elder A. Cook to preach the introductory sermon next year; and in case of failure, Elder John Scott.

Brother Benj. Taylor to write a circular letter for next association.

Corresponding letters called for, read and approved, and messengers appointed to bear them, to-wit:

To Elkhorn—J. Taylor, G. Slaughter, E. S. Patterson, S. M. Noel, A. Cook and J. W. Wooldridge.

To Long Run—J. Scott, J. Taylor, J. Penny, A. Cook, A. Bohannon, M. Baskett and S. Tinsley.

To North Bend—J. Taylor, R. Adams and T. Craig.

To North District—B. Taylor, J. W. Wooldridge and J. Gibbs.

To Licking—S. M. Noel, J. W. Wooldridge and J. Dudley.

To Union—J. Scott E. Barrett, R. Adams and H. Ramsey.

To South District—G. Slaughter, W. Hickman J. Taylor, Joseph Roper, J. W. Wooldridge, S. M. Noel and A. Bohannon.

Elders George Waller, John Rice and John Taylor, appointed to preach on to-morrow.

The clerk appointed to superintend the printing of the minutes.

Agreed that the association do now adjourn.

Attest, JOHN SCOTT, *Mod'r.*
J. DUDLEY, *Clerk.*

CIRCULAR LETTER.

To the Churches of whom we are members, grace and peace be multiplied.

BELOVED BRETHREN,

THROUGH the tender mercies of our God, we are favored with the privilege of meeting together. The Gospel has been preached amongst us to our comfort. The letters from the churches do in general give an account of their be-

ing in peace. We have enjoyed a comfortable degree of harmony in our consultations, for which we desire to be thankful. And in conformity to our custom of communicating to you such information and advice as may be thought expedient, we shall now address you partly on the subject of the christian warfare, and partly on a few of the duties connected therewith; and as a prelude thereto, we will observe, that man having turned aside from that primeval state of innocence in which he was created, and by transgression transformed into the image of Satan, the enemy of all righteousness—led captive by him at his will, and not only became estranged from God his creator; but raised his impious hands in rebellion against him, and thereby merited everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and the glory of his power. But God, who is rich in mercy, in the fullness of time sent forth his son, by the sacrifice of himself to be a propitiation for sin, and by his holy spirit, to purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works, enlightening their understandings, cleansing their vile affections, and setting them on things above. And thus, dear brethren, the spiritual war commences between those regenerated souls and the powers of darkness. Permit us, therefore, to exhort you to put on the whole armor of God, keep those heavenly weapons bright by using them; fight the good fight of faith; be vigilant centinels on your post; remember you have potent and inveterate enemies to withstand; the sensual dictates of the flesh, the allurements of the world, the guileful insinuations of Satan, all combined to impede your march to the Heavenly Canaan. It is altogether essential in this holy war, that you follow the captain of your salvation closely whithersoever he goeth; that you deny yourself, and take up your cross daily; and also watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit may be, and indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak. You must not be weary in well doing, but persevere; for none but those who endure to the end, shall be victorious in this war: And therefore, you must endure hardness as good soldiers of the cross; with a holy boldness meet every conflict, trial and tribulation, relying on the grace of God, which alone is sufficient to sustain you through the arduous struggle, he having proclaimed aloud in his word to the christian warrior, “be thou faithful unto death and I will give thee a crown of life.” Beloved, what are the momentary conflicts and trials of the present life, when compared to an eternity of blessedness? They are nothing—they are lost in the comparison.

The christian warfare being a subject of greater magnitude than can be comprised in a short letter, we will only add on this part of our subject, that it is a contest in which vigilance must not relax ; in which no truce can be admitted, no proposals for capitulation can be accepted ; nothing short of perpetual resistance can ensure tranquility. Pray, therefore, that you may neither faint or be weary, but prevail unto victory ; for though the conflict may be sharp and long, yet the joy of the triumph will abundantly recompence the toils of the war. And secondly. We would stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance. As you desire to prosper as churches of Jesus Christ, you should in the first place be united in the strongest ties of love, and unity of the spirit. Remember also, that God hath created you in Christ Jesus unto good works. Yea, he hath before ordained that you should walk in them. By this, you will give evidence to all men that you are his disciples. Let it be your great object to glorify God, by promoting vital piety in the world, your own examples leading thereunto. Neglect not the assembling of yourselves together at church meetings as the manner of too many is. Brethren, this is a serious evil ; may the Lord grant it may be reformed ; and when met, sit down in the valley of humility, esteeming each other better than yourselves. Support pure discipline in your churches, adhering closely to the sacred scriptures for your guide therein. Encourage a pure Gospel ministry by your support and attendance thereon, lest the faithful laborers be made weak. And as a measure of imperfection cleaveth to all men, foster not their vanity by imprudent commendation or applause, by which many have been injured. Ye Elders, we would also remind you in the words of an apostle ; “ Feed the flock of God which is among you ;” taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly ; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind ; neither as being lords over God’s heritage, but examples to the flock. And when the chief shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away. And finally, brethren, be subject to one another, be of one mind, and to that end may we all be inclined to search the scriptures which are given by the inspiration of God. For as beholding an object in the open light of day, or through the same medium, will enable many to discern that object and judge of it in the same point of view, so similar attention to, and acquaintance with the sacred scriptures, will produce unity of sentiment in the great truths of religion. And as

the various divisions and brigades of an army are directed by an attention to the grand standard in uniform and regular movements to the same object, or as a number of vessels on the vast expanse of waters, regarding the position of the polar star, are brought through waves and tempests into the same port; so a regard to the glory of God, as our grand object, will bring us safe, through the mediator, into the haven of truth, of peace, and of love. And now, dear brethren, may the God of all grace, bless, preserve and keep you thro' faith unto salvation, is the prayer of your brethren in gospel bonds.