

KENTUCKY BAPTIST
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

MINUTES.

At 11 o'clock, A. M., a Sermon introductory to the business of the Association was delivered by Elder DANIEL RILEY, from St. John, 3d chapter, 6th and 7th verses.

"That which is born of the flesh is flesh and that which is born of the Spirit is Spirit."

"Marvel not that I said unto thee ye must be born again."

Letters from the several Churches were then called for and read, and the Messengers' names enrolled as follows:

CHURCHES.	MESSENGERS' NAMES.	Rec'd by Exp. and Baptism.	Rec'd by Letter..	Restored	Dismissed by Letter	Excluded	Dead	Total
Bethel,	Benj. Martin, Lewis Neal, D. Dodd, J. N. Guthrie, Wm. G. Rice, S. Jorden, Fleet Howard.		1		9	2	1	201
Beech Creek,	P. M. Robertson, J. Tipton, J. McCampbell, P. Bass, J. Morton, Chas. Ware, S. G. Jesse.	1	7		7			107
Mt. Moriah,	F. H. Garnett, E. Searcy, Wm. S. Shelburn, E. Hedden.		8			2	1	102
Pigeon Fork,	T. Oliver, M. Tipton, A. Tinsley, B. Ceders, R. Scott.	2	1		6			68
Salem,	J. Ford, T. McLane, J. C. Burnett, H. S. Carriss, W. Vaughan, T. Jennings.	5	13		11	2	5	218
Bethlehem,	T. Goodwin, C. Swope.					1	1	24
Mt. Pleasant,	John Hughs.				5			19
Total,		8	30		38	7	8	739

The Moderator of the last Association not being present, Br. L. Neal was appointed Moderator protem.

The Association then proceeded to the election of Moderator and Clerk, whereupon Br. L. Neal was chosen Moderator and Benj. Martin Clerk.

After prayer by Elder A. Cook, visiting Brethren invited to seats with us.

Letters from corresponding associations called for, and read as follows, viz:

From Sulphur Fork—F. H. Goodridge, J. Knight, W. Hill; E. G. Berry, B. Walker.

From Franklin—Jas. Gibbs, J. S. Major, A. Cook, L. W. Chambers, S. D. Schofield, W. Ford, H. L. Toore, N. E. Mitchusson, Jas. Ford.

From Baptist—W. L. Butts, Eli Penny.

From Elkhorn—No Letter nor Messenger.

Messengers of Corresponding Associations invited to seats with us.

Received Letters from Bethlehem and Mt. Pleasant Churches, proposing to join us—which were received into union with us and the Messengers invited to seats.

The Circular Letter prepared by Brother J. McCampbell was read and unanimously received.

H. S. Carress, J. McCampbell, F. H. Garnett, and J. N. Guthrie, appointed a Committee to prepare Corresponding Letters.

J. Ford, M. Tipton, J. C. Burnett, with the Moderator and Clerk, appointed a Committee of Arrangement.

The Association agrees to renew correspondence with Salem and South District Associations, our letters failing to reach them last year.

After prayer by Elder Wm. Ford, adjourned until Saturday morning, 9 o'clock.

Saturday morning, 9 o'clock—Met pursuant to adjournment, and, after prayer by Elder P. J. Burruss, proceeded to business.

The Report of the Committee of Arrangement received and proceedings had in accordance therewith, as follows, viz.:

Ist. Brethren appointed to preach to day—Elders A. Cook, E. G. Berry, and P. J. Burruss.

2d. Corresponding Letters called for, read and adopted, and Brethren appointed to bear them.

To Franklin—Wm. G. Rice, F. Howard, T. Oliver, A. Linsley, S. G. Jesse, J. McCampbell, M. Tipton, and P. M. Robertson. To meet at North Benson, Franklin county, the third Friday in September, 1838.

To Baptist—Jas. Phillips, and F. Howard. To meet at Clover, Woodford county, the first Friday in August, 1838.

To Elkhorn—Wm. G. Rice, L. Neal. To meet at David's Fork, Fayette county, the second Saturday in August, 1838.

To South District—F. H. Garnett. To meet at Doctor's Fork, Washington county, the Friday before the third Saturday in August, 1838.

To Salem—Wm. Vaughan, T. Jennings, and M. Tipton. To meet at Cox's Creek, Nelson county, the first Friday in October, 1838.

To Sulphur Fork—H. S. Carriss, M. Tipton, T. McLane, P. M. Robertson and L. Neal. To meet at Eighteen-mile the second Friday in September, 1838.

3d. Our next Association to be at Beech Creek, Shelby county, Ky., the fourth Friday in September, 1839.

4th. This Association agrees to change the day of holding her annual meeting from the last Friday in July to the fourth Friday in September.

5th. Brethren A. Cook, W. Ford, and E. G. Berry, chosen to preach on Lord's day; service to commence at 10 o'clock, A. M.

6th. Brother J. Holland to preach the next introductory Sermon; and Brother J. N. Guthrie to write the next Circular Letter.

7th. Money contributed for printing the Minutes, and Brethren B. Martin and J. N. Guthrie to superintend the printing and distributing the same.

8th. After prayer by Brother Flood, adjourned *sine die*.

Attest,

LEWIS NEAL, *Moderator*.

BENJ. MARTIN, *Clerk*.

CIRCULAR LETTER.

The Messengers composing the Middle District Association of Baptists, to the Churches which they represent, send greeting.

Beloved Brethren in the Lord, we have reason to be thankful to Almighty God for his great goodness to us; for the preservation of our lives through another year; He who is always mindful of his people, having by his loving kindness brought us to another anniversary of our Association.

As has been our practice heretofore, we again present you with a short Circular, the subject of which is watchfulness. As we, dear brethren, feel endeared to you by ties stronger than death, we are desirous to promote your spiritual welfare, and will therefore say a few things to you, on this important subject. Our Lord and Saviour well knew our situation, the dangers to which we would be exposed, and the difficulties with which we would be surrounded. He, therefore, has commanded us to watch, and says—"Blessed is that servant whom he will find watching when he comes." Watchfulness then, is a duty incumbent upon us all, and one which we should practice at all times, under all circumstances, and on all occasions, seeing that we are surrounded with enemies who are vigilant and powerful. There are things over which we should watch; we should watch over ourselves to see that our disposition and conduct are in accordance with the spirit and direction of the Gospel. Many are disposed to neglect this duty in relation to themselves; but we are commanded to watch in all things, and to keep our hearts with all diligence. Let us, therefore, in reliance on the Divine aid, watch over our thoughts, for the thoughts of foolishness are sin. God says he will remember those who reverentially think of his name. Let us watch over our words, for the fool is known by the multitude of his words. The Apostle therefore says, "that we should bridle the tongue, it being an unruly member." Let us therefore watch that our

conversation be in heaven. We should also watch over our conduct, and be guarded in our actions wherever we may be, seeing that the eyes of all are upon us. This is a subject of vast importance, as we thereby exhibit to the world the heavenly nature of our holy religion.

We should watch over one another in the Lord, for good, remembering that we are brethren, born of the same heavenly parent, to the same incorruptible inheritance. We should watch against the allurements of the world, the devices of Satan, and the seditions of men, for these, if disregarded, will most assuredly mislead, bewilder and deceive us. Let us watch against error, heresy, and false teachers, and against innovations upon the order of the Gospel not authorized by the word of God. Let us watch against dishonorable thoughts of Deity. Let us watch against degrading thoughts of one another. Let us watch against the spirit of heresy, discord and contention prevailing among us, and against those who would seek to destroy our peace. Let us watch for every opportunity of doing good in the sphere in which we move, how we may most promote the glory of God, and the good of souls.

We should seek for the most favorable and impressive opportunity of worshipping God in our families, and imparting religious instruction to our friends. We should watch for an answer to our prayers for the fulfilment of His promise and the indications of the Divine will. We should watch for our departure out of this world and the coming of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Ministers are more particularly called watchmen—"I have set watchmen upon thy walls, O Jerusalem, which shall never hold their peace day nor night; ye that make mention of the Lord keep not silence, and give him no rest till he establish, and till he make Jerusalem a praise in the Earth; so thou, O son of man, I have set thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: Therefore thou shalt hear the word at my mouth, and warn them from me." Let, therefore, those who sustain that high and holy relation to God and his people, see that they fill up the duties of so responsible an office, knowing that they have to give an account to God for their stewardship, as watching implies waiting with patience for the promised blessing. Let us therefore, Dear Brethren, watch at a throne of

Divine grace, with all perseverance, and supplication for all saints.

Now, Dear Brethren, do we faithfully discharge this and other Christian duties? Or, is there an awful neglect among us? Why that dulness, why that barrenness, why that coldness among us?—for God is the same yesterday, to-day, and for ever. It is we that have strayed. Let us therefore return to Him as disobedient children to an offended yet merciful Father. He will pity us, He will have mercy on us, He will save us. Let us, dear brethren, pray for one another; let us love one another; let us bear each other's burdens, and promote each other's happiness. Let us remember that this is not our rest, but that we seek a home above, where we shall be free from sin, and perfect in bliss; a few years at most and we shall be there to mingle with the happy bloodwashed society of heaven. Let us therefore, beloved brethren, be steadfast and immoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.