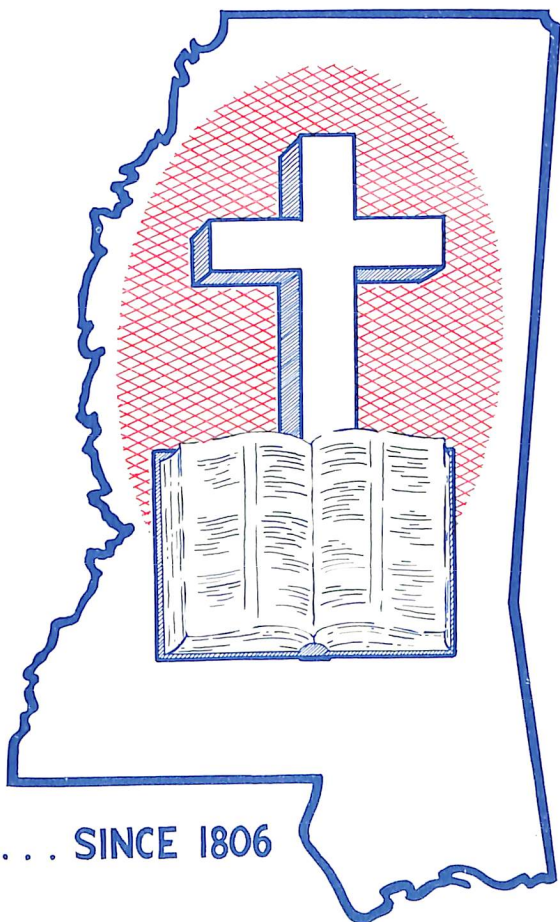


# MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST ASSOCIATION



... SINCE 1806

## WHAT IS THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST ASSOCIATION?

The Association's heritage is rooted deep in the soil of Mississippi's history. The Mississippi Baptist Association is composed of conservative, fundamental, independent, orthodox, evangelical, and missionary Baptist churches.

There have been cooperating associational Baptist churches in Mississippi ever since the original organization of the associational work of Mississippi Baptists in 1806 at "Old Salem Baptist Church" on the south fork of Cole's Creek in Jefferson County. This church was established by "Eld. Richard Curtis, Jr." and a company of emigrants from South Carolina traveling overland and by barges down the Holston and Mississippi Rivers about 1791.

The "Old Mississippi Baptist Association" was composed of the following five churches: The Old Salem Church which was founded in 1798; New Hope in Adams County and Bethel in Wilkinson County about 1800; New Providence and Ebenezer in Amite County in 1805 and 1806 respectively.

Due to the ravages of war and other providential hinderances, the associational work was disrupted several times in the intervening years. God has richly blessed the Association and the work of Mississippi Baptists is much alive and in evidence throughout the length and breadth of our beloved state today. The Association is perhaps enjoying its most fruitful years in the work of the Master.

### OLD AND NEW CHURCHES

While many new churches have been established in more recent years through the mission efforts of individual churches, district and state associations, there are many of the older churches over the state working with us who have never been identified with any other than old-line Association Baptists.

Among these are the Antioch Baptist Church near Soso which was organized in 1805; and the Farmington Baptist Church near Corinth organized sometime before 1812 — many think it as far back as 1803. The First Baptist Church, Bay Springs, was established about 1828. Others are First Baptist Church, Mantachie, 1843; Hopewell Baptist Church, Dorsey, 1843; First Baptist (Boguefala), Mooreville, 1848; Mt. Moriah

Baptist Church near Ellisville, 1854; Big Creek Baptist Church near Soso, 1862; Parkview Baptist Church, Laurel's oldest Baptist Church, 1875; First Baptist Church of Henleyfield, Rt. 1, Carriere, 1874; Bethel Baptist Church, Dorsey, 1875; Shiloh Baptist Church near Mt. Olive, 1885; Springhill Baptist Church near Laurel, 1886; and Shady Grove First Baptist Church, Laurel, 1888 and others.

### MISSIONS, OUR WATCHWORD

We sincerely believe every true New Testament church has been commissioned "to carry the gospel into all the world" — to every race, color and tongue. Matthew - 28:19-20. We believe in local missions (Jerusalem), state missions (Judea), interstate missions (Samaria); and foreign missions (utmost part of the earth), Acts - 1:8.

### DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS

Scattered over the state are ten local or district associations working within the framework of the state association. Some of these associations are old and some are relatively new. This will doubtlessly continue to be so, as necessity brings into being other more localized district associations.

These ten associations include the following: the Judson Association in northeast Mississippi, organized in 1852; the Hobolochitto Association with churches in Pearl River and the northwest area of Hancock County, organized in 1856; the Big Creek Association, Jones, Jasper and Smith Counties with other surrounding areas, organized in 1896; the Washington Association, George, Greene and Perry Counties, 1912; the Ten Mile Association, Stone and parts of adjoining Counties, 1950; Harmony Association, north central Mississippi, 1955; Oak Grove Association, Forest County and adjoining areas, 1957; Capitol Association, Hinds, Rankin and adjoining County areas, 1958; Gulf Association, Gulf Coast Counties of Jackson, Harrison and part of Hancock, 1962; and the Tombigbee Association in northeast Mississippi, 1964.

### GOD'S MESSAGE TO ALL THE WORLD

The Churches of the Mississippi Baptist Association cooperate in a positive program of world-wide missions. evangelism, benevolence and Christian education in keeping with the Divine plan as set forth in the scrip-

tures, Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15-16; John 17:18-23; and Acts 1:8.

The churches cooperate in the national, continental and world-wide work of the North American Baptist Association, with cooperating churches in thirty states, supporting churches, missions, and educational institutions in thirteen countries on six continents.

Mississippi Baptist churches use the literature published by the Baptist Publications Committee of the North American Baptist Association with offices at 716 Main Street, Little Rock, Arkansas. We **DO NOT** use the international outlines of the National Council of Churches in our literature. We use **BAPTIST** outlines prepared by Baptists.

Our churches share in the support and operation of the North American Theological Seminary at Jacksonville, Texas, along with the N. A. B. A. seminaries in Brazil, Portugal, Mexico and other countries. The instructors in these seminaries are dedicated men who believe the Bible as it is for men as they are.

Mississippi Baptists enthusiastically support and participate in the fine summer program of the National Baptist Encampment at Gary, Texas, and the National Oasis for Christian Workers held annually at Central Baptist College, Conway, Arkansas. Our churches further support all the other great endeavors of the churches of the North American Baptist Association, with her greatest concentration of churches in our own southland.

### **FIVE DEPARTMENTS OF STATE WORK**

The cooperative associational work of the churches of the Mississippi Baptist Association is implemented through the following five departments:

#### **STATE MISSIONS**

The state mission work is coordinated and directed through this department. Offices are located at 537 Central Avenue, Laurel. Rev. Vern D. Holifield, secretary, P. O. Box 2416, Laurel, Mississippi. All our state missionaries can be contacted through this office.

The State Revolving Loan Fund established to assist state missionaries and mission churches in acquiring property and with building construction is also under the direction of this department. The annual State Baptist Missions and Evangelistic Conference is also directed from this department.

### **SOUTHEASTERN BAPTIST COLLEGE**

Southeastern Baptist College was established by the churches of the State Association in its annual session in October, 1948, to render educational service on the Junior College level and also as a Bible training center. The College is located at 4229 Highway 15 North, Laurel, Mississippi, with the Rev. William Bernice Dykes as President.

It is the philosophy of Southeastern College that Christian Education is education in all forms based on Christian principles; therefore, Christian principles are the basis of all her educational endeavors. As a matter of policy the college strives to maintain a Christian environment at all times both on the campus and in the classroom.

#### **BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME**

The Children's Home was established and is maintained by the churches of the association for Christian care and training of homeless children. It is located on Route 3, Laurel, Mississippi. Mr. Preston Royals is the superintendent of the home.

#### **PUBLICATIONS DEPARTMENT**

There are actually two divisions of this department: The Mississippi Baptist state paper and the Publications and Distribution work.

The "Mississippi Baptist," Rev. P. M. Cochran, Editor, 4229 Highway 15 North, Laurel, Mississippi, is the official organ of the association. It is published twice monthly with an immediate goal of becoming an enlarged weekly publication.

The Publications Department is under the direction of Rev. G. H. Gordon, P. O. Box 6591, Jackson, Mississippi. This department publishes and distributes tracts and such other literature as the churches may direct. The annual Pastor's Retreat and the State Mobile Workers Clinic is also under this department.

#### **YOUTH DEPARTMENT**

The Mississippi Baptist Youth Fellowship was authorized by the messengers of the churches in annual session to offer assistance in leadership training in Christian service for the young people of our churches.

The annual Mississippi Baptist Youth Retreat held in August at Southeastern College is under the supervision and direction of this department.

The annual Mississippi Baptist Encampment held in June is under the supervision and direction of trustees elected by the churches.

### SOME CARDINAL BELIEFS

The churches of the Association heartily subscribe to and agree to defend and promulgate the historic Baptist Faith and Practices, the interpretation of which is tersely stated as follows:

1. The infallible and plenary verbal inspiration of the Scriptures.
2. The Trinity of the Godhead.
3. The Biblical account of creation.
4. The hereditary and total depravity of man in his natural state involving his fall in Adam.
5. The virgin birth and diety of Jesus Christ.
6. Christ's blood atonement for fallen man.
7. Justification before God by faith without any admixture of works.
8. The eternal security of the believer in Christ.
9. Christ's bodily resurrection and ascension back to His Father.
10. The person and work of the Holy Spirit.
11. The Personality of Satan.
12. Water baptism (immersion) to be administered to believers only and by Divine authority as given to scriptural Baptist Churches.
13. The Lord's Supper, a church ordinance to be administered to baptized believers only and in Scriptural church capacity.
14. The establishment of a visible church by Christ Himself during His personal ministry on earth.
15. The perpetuity of Missionary Baptist churches from Christ's day on earth until His second coming.
16. World-wide missions according to the Great Commission which Christ as Founder, Foundation, and Head, gave to His Church. (Matthew 28:18-20).
17. The right of scriptural churches to be held as equal units in their associational capacities. The Church being the scripturally authorized unit of representation, and not the individual or individuals, we believe in the principle of equal (three) messenger representation regardless of size or financial strength in the general associational meetings.
18. The subjection of all scriptural associational assemblies and their committees to the will of the

churches; so that they will forever remain as servants of the churches originating them.

19. The separation of the Lord's Church from all so called churches or church alliances which advocate, practice, or uphold heresies and other human innovations which are not in harmony with the Word of God. We hold that open communion, alien baptism, pulpit affiliation with heretical churches, modernism and all kindred evils arising from these practices are unscriptural.
20. The personal, bodily, and imminent return of Christ to earth.
21. The bodily resurrection of the dead; one of the saved at the appearing of Christ in the air, and one of the unsaved at the close of the millennial reign of Christ on earth. (I Thess. 4:13-17; Rev. 20:4-6, 12-15).
22. The reality of heaven, involving Divine assurance of eternal happiness for the redeemed of God.
23. The reality of hell, involving everlasting punishment of the incorrigible wicked.

### THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST ASSOCIATION . . .

Does NOT endorse ecumenical movements.

Does NOT belong to nor endorse the National Council of Churches.

Does NOT subscribe to the modern liberal theology of a social gospel.

WE BELIEVE in the historic Christian principles of the separation of church and state; the dignity of the individual and his equality in God's love and concern for all men; the purity and integrity of the races; and of racial segregation as opposed to racial mongrelization.

WE FURTHER BELIEVE that Baptists are "Baptists" and NOT "Protestants." Protestants "protested" or came out from the Catholics. Baptists have never been a part of the Catholic hierarchy. Our heritage goes back to Jesus and the material prepared by John. "His name shall be John" but he was called the "Baptist", meaning the "immerser".

As MISSISSIPPI BAPTISTS, we invite you to attend our churches and investigate our work. If there is not a church of our fellowship in your immediate locality,

you may write to P. O. Box 6591, Jackson, Mississippi, or to any of the addresses listed in this pamphlet.

### **“What Must I Do To Be Saved?”**

This is the most important question an unsaved person can ever ask. This same question was asked in Acts 16:30 and the simple answer was, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved.”

Paul further declared in Acts 20:21 the only prerequisites for salvation are “Repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Romans 10:9 reads, “That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.” Verse 13, “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

John 3:16, “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

All have sinned and come short of the glory of God.

Romans 3:23

Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. Acts 16:31.

Confess your sins and call upon Him. Romans:10:9-13

Do the will of God and follow Him in baptism after salvation. Matthew 3:13-17.

Enter into His service in the Church. Ephesians 3:21;  
Acts 2:41.

Prepared by L. S. Walker

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