

FROM MY SCRAP
BOOK MAY HAVE
YOUR BOOKIE WHEN
REVISED

Eld. R. G. Holland
Auburndale, Fla.

Pd. to Apr 11 10-48

Made made in 1946 Annual of
the State Assn. to compile a history
of our Baptist State work.

ORTHODOX BAPTIST

SEARCHLIGHT

"THY WORD IS A LAMP UNTO MY FEET, AND A LIGHT UNTO MY PATH" PSALMS 119:105

Volume 11

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July 10, 1947

Number 9

Let's Go To School

By H. Travis Hubbard

Going to a river or a lake to catch fish, a wise fisherman carries along more than one kind of bait. He carries two or three kinds or maybe more. If the fish refuse to bite one kind of bait, the fisherman reels in his line, puts on another variety of bait, and makes another cast. He tries one bait after another until he discovers the one which the fish will strike.

A preacher, too, is a fisherman who strives to catch—not fish—but men. And he needs several kinds of bait. The sermons which he preaches are his bait; and the preacher should know his Bible so completely that he can prepare various kinds of sermons. If he cannot catch men with one kind, he can try another.

A preacher, moreover, should know his Bible as thoroughly as a machine gunner knows his gun. In world War II, the machine gunners knew their weapons so well that, in the darkness, they could take their guns apart and put them back together. They could perform this operation in dense darkness; they needed no light. In other words, those gunners knew their guns from beginning to end—knew each piece and where each piece belonged, even on the darkest nights. They did not have to guess, nor falter and fumble. Since those men actually knew their guns, they could handle them expertly.

In this way, a preacher should know his Bible. He should be so completely acquainted with it that he can analyze it verse by verse, chapter by chapter and book by book. He should know how to divide it rightly, and how to use it effectively against his opponents. Young preacher, you receive this knowledge in the Missionary Baptist Institute. This is a school, in which you are taught the Bible and how to study the Bible yourself.

Furthermore, Uncle Sam, in the last war, had battleships whose armor plating was so tough and uncrackable that the heaviest Japanese bombs failed to pierce it. The bombs, released from the Jap planes whistled through the air, clashed against the ship and exploded; but they could not tear open the armor.

A preacher, for his own protection, should encase himself in an armor-plate of this kind. For the devil is constantly shooting shells or tossing bombs at Baptist preachers. And with your mind chock-full of Bible knowledge, young preacher, you have this armor-plated protection. The devil may hurl, at you, thousands of heavy bombs; but if you really know your Bible, you can stand and toss back a greater number, blasting the Devil out of your path and coming out as victor.

Aren't you coming to the Missionary Baptist Institute? Certainly, you want to come! You want to give this school the opportunity to incase you in an armor plate which can withstand the bombing assaults of Satan.

Let nothing hinder you. Come on (Continued on page 3)

Mississippi Baptists

FACTS CONCERNING MISSISSIPPI BAPTISTS

Reading the last minutes of the Mississippi State Association, I notice that the messengers requested the Moderator to appoint a committee to dig up and prepare for publication as much of the history of Mississippi Baptists as possible. To assist that committee, I have found in my files a historical statement written by Eld. J. Alvin Rester, of Poplarville, Miss., and it was first published in "The Candlestick" and it is reproduced here because my recent tour of the churches in Mississippi stirred up recollections that may do all concerned good. This should be cut out and preserved in scrap books by the Mississippi brethren, and it may assist that committee to do what was requested by the messengers at the last session of the State Association:

INTERESTING HISTORY OF MISSIONARY BAPTISTS

By J. Alvin Rester

"In 1939, Elder J.E. Roberson requested me to write an article for the Candlestick giving the facts concerning the Missionary Baptists that now compose the Mississippi State Baptist Association. To give due credit to those who are responsible for the organization of the Mississippi State Baptist Association, I give some of the outstanding facts. We are now and have been the type of Baptists that Christ was and of such that He established His church, and gave her the commission to go and preach the gospel.

There has been much said about Baptist origin and continuity. But we are the only people on earth who can begin at the churches here and trace back to the churches of Apostolic time. In 1906, the old Mississippi Association celebrated her one hundredth anniversary and too, this was the one hundredth anniversary of the old Ebenezer Church where the Association was held. (This was in Amite County.)

"All the churches of early origin in Mississippi are the fruits of the missionary efforts of the churches from Tennessee and that section which is now Louisiana. One of the first preachers to preach in Mississippi was Eld. Richard Curtis, and he was put in jail for preaching for the law said, 'that if more than nine people were found together, it was considered a disorderly assembly.'

It is accepted by historians that the first church to be organized in Mississippi was Salem Church, about eighteen miles from the present city of Natchez, in the year 1798. Two years later, New Hope Church in Adams County and Bethel Church in Wilkerson County were organized. In the years, 1805 and 1806, the Ebenezer Church and

New Providence Church in Amite County were organized. These were the original five churches in the Old Mississippi Association, in the year 1806. Thus, it is seen that we had a Regular Missionary Baptist organization before the Southern Baptist Convention, and eight years before the "Triennial Convention of America."

"The Ebenezer Church and Old Mt. Nebo Church are still doing business for the Lord. These are the first churches organized and the first associations organized in the State of Mississippi.

"Reading from "Abstract History of the Mississippi Baptists" we find that Dr. J. R. Graves, who was pastor of a church in New Orleans, La. which was for some time in the old Mississippi Association for two years, 1864—1865, and it is refreshing now to note that it was through the writing of Dr. Graves probably, that we received the nickname of "Landmark" Baptists.

"Old Mt. Nebo Church was organized in 1803. She has never been affiliated with the Convention, neither has she ever failed to do MISSION WORK. She had been doing business for the Lord eleven years before there was a Baptist Convention known on the earth. The Triennial Convention of America was organized in the year 1814, eleven years after the organization of this church, and I repeat for the sake of emphasis, that she has never cooperated with the Convention and she stands today as a true old-fashioned Missionary Baptist Church.

"The churches of early organizations cooperated through the various local Associations in mission work until about the year 1853. When the old General Association of South Mississippi was organized this association was organized of messengers from the churches composing the Harmony, Mt. Pisgah, Pearl River, Biloxi, Ebenezer, Liberty and Bethlehem Associations. This association continued in the interest of mission work and through her as our medium for state and foreign work.

"Leavell and Bailey in their "History of Mississippi Baptists" list the outstanding men of the old General Association in the year 1874 when the body met with Union Church in Smith County on the 24th of October, as Eld. James P. Johnson, I. Anderson, N. L. Robertson, N. L. Clark, William Thigpen and J. L. Cochran. N. L. Clark was president, William Thigpen was Vice president, James P. Johnson, 2nd Vice—Pres., B. Thigpen, Secretary and P. T. Howse, Treasurer.

"In 1886, quoting from the history we find the General Association defending a misrepresentation in a historical statement made in Catharts Baptist Encyclopedia. This correction was made in defense of

the statement that criticized the Association as being organized in "opposition to the state convention." The defense states that the Association was organized in 1885 to supply destitution in the southern part of the state, a long neglected territory.' (Leavell and Bailey, page 1357.) Quoting from same history page 1362, quoting for the year 1891, showing that our missionaries were Elders, 'Abner Walker, J. P. Johnson, and G. W. Boyd. They had also in the Indian Field, Elders Jackson, Johnson, Williamson, Baken and Thomas. But in the year 1893, there was a motion recommending that the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention set apart one Missionary to be supported in part or in whole by the Association.' This was the entering wedge that caused the churches that now compose the Mississippi State Baptist Association to leave the 'Old General Association. Our churches severed their relations in part or in whole on or about the year 1900. This severing of the relationship was because of turning the Foreign Mission work over to or sending all funds through the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. Our churches continued without a medium of cooperation until 1908. In December of 1907, the General Association of America (now the American Baptist Association) met with Little Rock, Arkansas. (At the meeting, Brethren John Rogers, Bay Springs, Miss., Dr. Harrelson, Sylvan, Miss., and Elder G. W. Boyd, Laurel, Miss., attended this association and were seated as visitors. They publicly requested that someone be sent to Mississippi to bring the churches together in an organized capacity. Brother Boyd stated to the association that they had associations in Mississippi, (Landmark—now the Big Creek, and Red Creek) that could be used as a nucleus to begin the work.

"The General Association by unanimous vote requested Elder Ben M. Bogard to go to Mississippi as an Interstate Missionary, and if possible, do the work requested. Bro. Bogard accepted the work and came to Mississippi to attend a fifth Sunday meeting at a church near Purvis, Miss. Quoting from Bro. Bogard's record, 'I arrived at Purvis, Mississippi about 2 A.M. and did not have any money to get a bed or breakfast, only ten cents in my pocket, and knew no one. I went to the hotel and no one was up, but a light was burning in the office, and I lay down on a lounge and rested until day. Then the train from Laurel pulled in bringing Brethren John Rogers and A. J. Boyd from Bay Springs and Louin respectively, and Brother Boyd paid for my breakfast, and after breakfast, a wagon came in to take us out to

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MISSISSIPPI BAPTISTS (Continued from page 1)

the meeting; from that I made the work finance itself.

"Brother Bogard preached four sermons at this meeting in the last of December, 1907, and outlined the work, looking to the organization of the Mississippi State Association. The messengers at this meeting voted to have, if possible, a State Association, and the messengers from Bay Springs agreed to go home and have the Bay Springs Church call for such a meeting to be held in the spring following. The messengers at the fifth Sunday meeting agreed to route Bro. Bogard through the southern part of Mississippi; he was to go from church to church, and advocate the organization.

"Quoting again from Bro. Bogard's record, 'During January 1908, I visited and preached in 44 churches and schoolhouses, and at each place announced that there would be a meeting at Bay Springs in the spring to organize a State Association.' and so far as possible, he got these churches to agree to send messengers to Bay Springs for that purpose and the majority did. During the month of January, Bro. Bogard's record shows that he collected \$107.43 above expenses, thus more than paying the salary promised by the General Association.

"Bro. Bogard's record shows that in February and March he preached in 16 churches, and held a debate with a Mormon at Van Cleve, Miss. preached 87 sermons and collected \$75.00 above expenses. While Dr. Bogard was thus working, he had the assistance of the preachers and many outstanding laymen in central and south Mississippi. These brethren labored unceasingly for the bringing together of the churches in Mississippi. While the preachers preached and advertised the meeting, the laymen were also engaged in stirring up the churches to the necessity of a medium of cooperation, thus it was that the churches were made ready for the organization. So, in answer to the invitation extended by the Mt. Nebo Church of Bay Springs, the messengers met on November 27, 1908.

"The first officers to serve the association were Elder Abner Walker, Moderator; Asst. Moderators, Eld. M. Walters, Brethren E. B. Cox, Clerk; F. H. Bush, Asst. Clerk; S. F. Thigpen, Treasurer; J. C. Rogers, Asst. Treasurer.

"From the very beginning of the association, they were missionary in spirit and in practice. And from the organization until this present date, this association has been doing mission work on the Bible plan, supporting fully and freely every phase of the work taught in the Word of God.

"There has not been a year since the organization that the association has not maintained in the mission work by keeping men actively engaged on the state field. Also, the churches have actively supported the interstate and foreign mission through our national bodies, to wit: The American Baptist Association (successor to the Old General Association of America.)

"We are happy in the work and extend to all Regular Missionary Baptist Churches an invitation to join us in the furtherance of the gospel of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Mississippi Baptist State Association

The Miss. Baptist State Association held its THIRTY-EIGHTH annual session with the Big Creek Church, Laurel, Mississippi, last October. This was vividly brought to my mind as I recently made a tour in Southern Mississippi. I read the minutes and refreshed my memories of by-gone years.

Thirty-nine years ago, the old General Association (now called the American Baptist Association) met in North Little Rock, Arkansas. There came from Mississippi, Brother John Rogers of Bay Springs, and Dr. Harrelson of Sylvirna, and they came pleading for help to organize a State Association in Mississippi, and the messengers recommended Eld. Ben M. Bogard to go to Mississippi, for the purpose of organizing the Mississippi State Association. He went as missionary from the First Baptist Church, North Little Rock and was recommended by the messengers for support. He began his work at a fifth Sunday meeting at a church a few miles out from Purvis.

The brethren at that fifth Sunday meeting arranged a series of appointments for Bogard and several brethren took him to these appointments. Brother Matthew Broadus showed him all over the extreme southern part of the state and Brother Andrew Boyd showed him all over the section just above the extreme southern part of the state. Then came Brother Marion Walters who showed him all about in the section of the state of which Bay Springs, Laurel and Louin are the centers. He spent NINE SOLID WEEKS on that trip and preached practically every day, and part of the time, twice a day, until he had been heard in about fifty churches in the Southern part of the state.

It was decided by the brethren who were at the fifth Sunday meeting that a State Association would be organized at Bay Springs, as soon as the messengers from the churches were elected for that purpose, and it was tentatively agreed that the organization would be started the first week in May, as I now remember. Everywhere Bogard went, he asked the churches to elect messengers to go to Bay Springs for that purpose. THEY WENT and they organized THIRTY-EIGHT YEARS AGO. After the organization of the State Association, Bogard went into NORTH MISSISSIPPI and made a tour telling what had been done, and he organized the church at Hatley, and another church at Ford's Well and visited several other churches, encouraging the churches to represent in the next session of the Association. Thus, it can be seen that the Mississippi State Association was organized by the missionary of the General Association.

Several times since then, Bogard has made trips to Mississippi at the invitation of the churches. He has held SEVEN DEBATES in that great state and it has always been a joy to go there. Such is the origin and a partial statement of the Mississippi State Association. The churches there have a wonderful opportunity and it is hoped that designing men may not destroy the great opportunity.

RECENT TRIP TO MISSISSIPPI

Dropping the third person method

of reporting, I will speak in the first person about the recent trip because the brethren, and churches as such, were wonderfully good to me.

ELDER J. E. ROBERSON MY BISHOP

Baptists do not have bishops, but he was really my voluntary bishop (OVERSEER) while I went from church to church with him. He conveyed me to Union Church near Lucedale where he is the much appreciated pastor for half time. Then we went to New Home Church across the line in Alabama, where he is also half time pastor. While in Alabama, we ran over to Citronelle, and at these churches, I was treated so well that I almost wished I could live with them. No man stands higher in their estimation than does J. E. Roberson. Here is a picture that shows how this great preacher looks.



Elder J. E. Roberson

Brother Roberson is a well educated man, having graduated from Mississippi College with DISTINCTION. He taught in the Mississippi High Schools for twenty years, and he was Superintendent of Education in the county where he lives for eight years. He is therefore, a well qualified school man and his excellent wife is also an experienced teacher in the public schools, and it was a pleasure, rarely experienced, to spend some time in their excellent home. Their older children are well educated and a cultured daughter, whose scientific cooking I shall not soon forget, made my stay a delight. Brother Roberson is editor and manager of "The Candlestick" an excellent paper with the widest circulation of any Baptist paper in Mississippi. I wish the reader might send him a dollar and subscribe for this good paper. The address is Eld. J. E. Roberson, Wiggins, Mississippi, and he will send you "The Candlestick" It will keep you informed concerning Mississippi work.

NEW BIBLE SCHOOL STARTED

Brother Roberson brought me to Wiggins and Perkinston, Mississippi, where I enjoyed preaching to good congregations and saw the new building, nearing completion, where the new Bible School will be located in a quarter of a mile from the Mississippi Junior College, where the students can complete their literary

fall in and help Brother Roberson?

IS IT BECAUSE SOME MEN TRY TO DESTROY WHAT THEY CANNOT CONTROL? The proposed "SEMINARY" that will be in opposition to the Bible School at Perkinston cannot secure more efficient teachers than the one Brother Roberson is leading in. The NEW MOVE does not have a man who can match Roberson's scholarship. O! I see! The NEW SCHOOL will be JOINTLY OWNED! That will make the teachers know more and teach better. It would be better to TRY A JOINTLY OWNED AMERICAN BAPTIST PAPER first and see how it works—then would be time for the JOINTLY OWNED SCHOOL—pardon me, I mean "SEMINARY." Talk about a "SEMINARY" when there is not a seminary scholar in the whole bunch who can be secured as teacher. Selah! Then who will be the

JOINT OWNERS? It is CERTAIN the American Baptist Association will not have it. It is almost equally certain that the Mississippi State Association will not have it, because a majority down that way will favor other schools, especially the one at Perkinston. Shall the brethren be harassed and the fellowship disturbed by this "SEMINARY" stuff? The ones who are advocating the "SEMINARY" never built anything, but some of them are wonderful at trying to "TAKE OVER AND CONTROL" what others have established. We shall see what we shall see. I will be watching and will report the results, whether good or bad, because the Searchlight publishes the news—turns on the light—whether good or bad.

My last stop in Mississippi was at Paramount Church, where Eld. Toney is the efficient pastor. He is there for half time and gives the other half of his time to Sunflower, the good church near Perkinston. I have been twice before to Paramount and I note wonderful improvement in every way. They treated me so well I really wanted to stay there. Brother Toney is an able young preacher and bids fair for the future.

FROM MISSISSIPPI INTO LOUISIANA

Eld. J. E. Moore, the efficient pastor at Wiggins, Mississippi, drove me

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"We are happy in the work and extend to all Regular Missionary Baptist Churches an invitation to join us in the furtherance of the gospel of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

"This article is sent forth without malice, or the intention of doing any person an injustice, but to set forth facts to help correct the erroneous idea that we, the Regular Missionary Baptists are something new, and to set forth the fact that we are doing business for the Lord many years before the conventions as such were known. Then further,

then came Brother Marion Walters who showed him all about in the section of the state of which Bay Springs, Laurel and Louin are the centers. He spent NINE SOLID WEEKS on that trip and preached practically every day, and part of the time, twice a day, until he had been heard in about fifty churches in the Southern part of the state.

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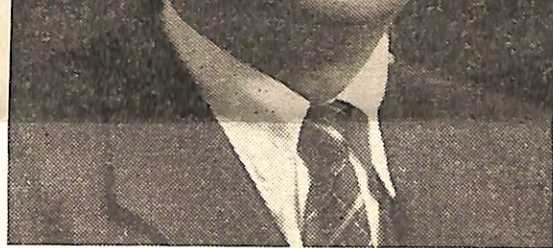
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RECENT TRIP TO MISSISSIPPI

Dropping the third person method

to acquaint the Baptists of Mississippi with the truth as to those taking the lead in bringing into being the Mississippi State Association, and to give due credit and recognition to those outside of our state who gave of their time and means in this endeavor.

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