

Minutes
OF THE
104th Annual Session
OF THE
Mates Creek Regular
Primitive Baptist Association
Of Jesus Christ
HELD WITH
Calvary Church

KEMPER, PIKE COUNTY, KENTUCKY,
AUGUST 31, SEPTEMBER 1, 2,

1956

Next session to be held with the Johns Creek Church at
Kemper, Pike County, Kentucky, to begin Friday before
the first Sunday in September, 1957 at 10 a. m. Elder
Joe Thacker is to preach the Introductory Sermon, Elder
W. H. Thacker is to be his alternate.

OFFICERS

ELDER W. H. THACKER Moderator
ELDER A. P. JUSTICE Assistant Moderator
BROTHER STEARL HATFIELD Clerk
BROTHER J. E. HATFIELD Assistant Clerk

THE PRIMITIVE BAPTIST PUBLISHING HOUSE
Elon College, North Carolina

Proceedings

OF THE MATES CREEK REGULAR PRIMITIVE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION OF JESUS CHRIST

Held With the Calvary Church

FRIDAY MORNING, August 31, 1956.

The Association was called to order by the Moderator. Prayer by Elder E. S. Stevens. The Introductory Sermon was preached by Elder Fonso Justice, text, Eph. 1:1-4: "Paul an apostle of Jesus Christ," etc.

Ministers left on the stand for Friday:

1. Elder Vollie Church of the Union Association.
2. Elder S. S. Walker of the Union Association.
3. Elder Charley Littleton of the Rock Spring Association.
4. Elder Sammy Newsom of the Union Association.

Messengers assembled in the Hurricain School House, and were called to order by the Moderator. Prayer by Elder Hadley Edwards of the Washington Association.

Letters from the several churches were read, from which the following table was prepared:

Louisa Church: Elders W. H. Thacker, A. P. Justice and W. E. Thacker; Brethren T. J. Thacker, Flem Justice, A. L. Justice, John Leedy and Bradley Warrax.

Pond Creek Church: Elders George Hunt, Frank Wheeler, and Teddy Ball, Brethren Grant Blackburn, Anderson Farley, Willard Blackburn, Bob Dotson, and F. C. Runyon.

Big Creek Church: Elder Joe Thacker, Brethren Opa Thacker, John I. Smith, Daniel Roberts, Luther Smith, Lewis Elswick, John Mat Smith and M. B. Blackburn.

Raccoon Church: Elders Fonso Justice and Monroe Justice, Brethren Joe Morris, Dave Newsom, John Newsom, Milton Coleman, George McCoy, and Robert Collins.

Sulphur Springs Church: Elder A. J. Blackburn and J. H. Blackburn, Brethren Ira Simpkins and S. K. Smith.

Peter Creek Church: Elders Teddy Ball, Anderson Casey, Eli Estep. Brethren Philip Dotson, Buddy Dotson, Leo Coleman, Raymond Wagner, and Roland Dotson.

Little Hope Church: Brethren Dewey Dotson, Will Runyon, Ballard Ball, Lee Stiltner, A. H. Blackburn, and Lundy Charles.

Joppa Church: Elder Dan Adkins, Brethren Adrin Varney, Estill Varney, and Henry C. Blevins.

Grapevine Church: Elder V. V. Justice, Brethren Arville Justice, Willard Justice, Sam Lowe, Landon Webb, and Stewart Justice.

Samaria Church: Elders Teddy R. Ball and Kitt Ratliff, Brethren Willie Hatfield, C. C. Dotson, R. S. Hatfield, Jim Varney, J. E. Hatfield, Andy Dotson and Jessie Hager.

John's Creek Church: Elder Teddy R. Ball, Brethren John Stiltner Harvey Coleman, William I. Smith, Noah Smith Jr., Floyd Smtih, Elcana Smith, Taylor Coleman and Johnny Griffeth.

Calvary Church: Elders Teddy R. Ball, Fonso Justice and Glen Vipperman, Brethren Sid Varney, Roosevelt Coleman, Rosco Varney.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Association then elected Elder W. H. Thacker Moderator, and Elder A. P. Justice Assistant Moderator, Brother Stearl Hatfield, Clerk, secretary and Brother J. E. Hatfield, Assistant Clerk.

PROCEEDING OF BUSINESS

1. Newly constituted churches called for. None reported.
2. Abstracts of principles, rules of decorum, and constitution read and to be printed in the Minutes.
3. Messengers appointed last year to visit sister Associations reported and those unable to fill their appointments were excused.
4. Correspondents from sister Associations received and seated as follows:

Washington: Elders E. S. Stevens, M. M. Edwards, Hadley Edwards and Leland Street.

Indian Creek: Elder Hubart Morgan.

Union: Elders Dewey Mullins, Vollie Church, J. P. Holbrook, Bert T. Hall, and J. M. Holbrook, Brethren Booten Hamilton, Pat Church.

Senter: Elder G. D. Roten and Brethren Callie Severt and Ed Barker.

Rock Spring: Elders Floyd Hall and Charles Littleton.

Fisher's River: Elder Will Inman.

Visiting brethren received and seated as follows:

Washington: Brother Noah Vires.

Indian Creek: Brethren Ira Mann, Leonard Mann, Henry Mann Webster Morgan and Harry Morgan.

Fisher's River: Brethren Vance Jones, E. F. Hooker, J. I. Lawson. Mates Creek visiting Elders seated as follows:

Guy Campbell, John Fuller, Ostill Smith, George Hunt, and Wallace Chapman.

5. The Moderator is to make all temporary arrangements.

6. A messenger from each church together with all the messengers from the Calvary Church were appointed to arrange for the preaching at the stand.

They reported for Saturday:

1. Elder Dewey Mullins of Union Association.
2. Elder Floyd Hall of Rock Spring Association.
3. Elder M. M. Edwards of the Washington Association.
4. Elder E. S. Stevens of the Washington Association.

7. Committee to choose messengers to visit sister associations was appointed as follows: C. C. Dotson, A. L. Justice and Willard Blackburn. They reported as follows:

Washington: Elders W. H. Thacker, A. P. Justice.

Indian Creek: Elders Dan Adkins and Homer Little.

Senter: Elders Frank Wheeler and Teddy R. Ball.

Union: Elders Joe Thacker and M. C. Slone.

Fisher's River: Elders Frank Wheeler and Wallace Chapman.

Rock Spring: Elders Guy Campbell, and Monroe Justice.

8. Move and second the Association send Minutes to the following Associations: Washington, Indian Creek, Union, Senter, Fisher's River and Rock Springs.

9. Committee on Arrangement was appointed as follows: Brethren Roland Dotson, Philip Dotson, and Frank Wheeler.

10. Committee on Finance was appointed as follows: Brethren F. C. Runyon, Joe Morris, and Fonso Justice.

Moved and seconded that the Association be adjourned until 9 o'clock Saturday morning.

SATURDAY MORNING, September 1, 1956.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment and was called to order by the Moderator. Prayer by Elder Joe Thacker.

1. Roll called and absentees marked.

2. Committee on Arrangements reported the following and were discharged:

1. That the Association carry its work for Saturday on in the usual manner.

2. That the name of the Association be changed to read as follows: The Mates Creek Regular Primitive Baptist Association of Jesus Christ.

3. That the Clerk give an allowance to each messenger that visits sister Associations, this to be done after all other expenses have been paid, and to be done as nearly as possible on an equal basis.

Moved and seconded that the work of the Committee be accepted.

3. Finance Committee reported \$215.87 and was discharged.

4. Committee on Preaching reported as follows:

1. Elder Henry Vires; 2. Elder Will Inman; 3. Elder Hubert Morgan; 4. Elder G. D. Roten; 5. Elder Hadley Edwards.

5. Union Meetings and their appointees as follows:

Louisa Church, meet Friday before the second Saturday in August 1957. Elders Teddy Ball, Frank Wheeler, Joe Thacker, and Kit Ratliff to attend.

Pond Creek Church: meets Friday before the second Saturday in June 1957. Elders Dan Adkins, W. H. Thacker, Fonso Justice, A. P. Justice and Teddy Ball to attend.

Big Creek Church, meets Friday before the third Saturday in August 1957. Elders Dan Adkins, Frank Wheeler, W. H. Thacker, Fonso Justice and Wallace Chapman to attend.

Raccoon Church, meets Friday before the fourth Saturday in July 1957. Elders Teddy Ball, Dan Adkins, Frank Wheeler Guy Campbell to attend.

Sulphur Spring Church meets Friday before the first Saturday in August, 1957. Elders Teddy Ball, Eli Estep, Frank Wheeler and Fonso Justice to attend.

Peter Creek Church meets Friday before the fourth Saturday in June, 1957. Elders Frank Wheeler, Dan Adkins, J. H. Blackburn, A. J. Blackburn, and Teddy R. Ball to attend.

Little Hope Church meets Friday before the first Sunday in July 1957. Elders Teddy R. Ball, A. P. Justice, Joe Thacker, W. H. Thacker, Fonso Justice and Kit Ratliff to attend.

Joppa Church meets the first Saturday in June 1957. Elders Frank Wheeler, Guy Campbell, Fonso Justice and Homer Little to attend.

Grapevine Church meets Friday before the third Saturday in July 1957. Elders Frank Wheeler, J. H. Blackburn, Joe Thacker, Dan Adkins and A. P. Justice to attend.

Samaria Church meets Friday before the third Saturday in June 1957. Elders W. H. Thacker, A. P. Justice, A. J. Blackburn, Frank Wheeler, Teddy R. Ball, Dan Adkins and J. H. Blackburn to attend.

John Creek Church meets Friday before the second Saturday in July 1957. Elders Teddy R. Ball, Frank Wheeler, Dan Adkins, W. H. Thacker, Eli Estep, and John Fuller to attend.

Calvary Church meets Friday before the first Saturday in June 1957. Elders Teddy R. Ball, Kit Ratliff, A. P. Justice, Eli Estep, Wallace Chapman, and Fonso Justice to attend.

6. Secretary reports all work up and cash left on hand \$215.87.

7. Circular Letter called for, read, received and to be printed in the Minutes, and that Elder Anderson Casey to prepare the next.

8. Agreed that we have 1500 copies of the Minutes printed, and annex our Constitution, Articles of Faith, Rules of Decorum, and the obituaries of Brethren W. J. Jefferson Hatfield, H. D. Sumner, Robert Vipperman, Paris Coleman, and Sisters Polly West, Margie Dotson, Pearlle Bogar, Polly Thacker, and Gracie Varney; Brother and Sister Elijah and Caroline May, and Uncil Wayne and Sister Emily Smith, and Garley Church and Vernon Stanley.

9. Agreed that the Brother Clerk superintend the printing and distribution of the Minutes, and pay for same from the funds in his hands and the balance of the funds be left in his hands until the next Association.

10. The Finance was disposed of as follows:

Balance left on hand from last year	\$229.56	
Amount received from the churches	215.87	\$445.43
Amount paid for Minutes last year	\$115.00	
Paid for moving seats	30.00	
Allowed the Moderator	15.00	
Allowed the Clerk	10.00	
Balance cash left on hand	275.43	\$445.43

11. Agreed that our next Association be held with the Johns Creek Church at Kemper, Pike County, Kentucky, and to begin Friday before the first Sunday in September 1957 and that Elder Joe Thacker is to preach the Introductory Sermon and that Elder W. H. Thacker to be his alternate.

The Washington Association meets with the Prater Creek Church, and will begin Friday before the second Sunday in September, 1957 Go through Grundy Virginia and up the river to Vanzandt, Virginia.

The Indian Creek Association meets with the Sand Lick Church at Diana, Webster County, West Virginia. This is eighteen miles out of Webster Springs West Virginia.

Minutes read and approved, closed by prayer by Elder A. J. Blackburn then adjourned until the time our our next Association.

Signed by—

W. H. THACKER, Moderator A. P. JUSTICE, Assistant Moderator
STEARL HATFIELD, Clerk J. E. HATFIELD, Assistant Clerk

EVENING MEETINGS

Friday Evening at Brother Robert's Home:

Elders Sam Newsom, Vollie Church, Monroe Justice, Dewey Mullins.

Calvary Church House:

Elders Wallace Chapman, G. D. Roten, A. P. Justice, and Will Inman.

John's Creek Church House:

Elders J. H. Blackburn, M. M. Edwards, Hadley Edwards, and E. S. Stevens.

Saturday Evening, Calvary Church House:

Elders E. S. Stevens, Henry Vires, and Leland Street.

Elder Teddy R. Ball's Home:

Elders A. P. Justice, G. D. Roten, Wallace Chapman, Hadley Edwards.

Bud Chapman's Home:

Elders Dan Adkins, Frank Wheeler, Floyd Hall, and Fonso Justice.

SUNDAY MORNING, September 2, 1956.

Singing and prayer by Elder Henry Vires of the Washington Association.

Elders on the stand:

1. Elder Will Inman of Fisher's River Association, no special text.
2. Elder Hubert Morgan of the Indian Creek Association, text, Romans 6:23: "The wages of sin is death," etc.
3. Elder G. D. Roten of the Senter Association, text, "My sheep hear My voice and I know them," etc.
4. Elder Hadley Edwards of the Washington Association, text, Psalms 66:16: "Come and hear all ye that fear God, and I will relate unto thee what He has done for my soul."

To conclude, our beloved Moderator came forward and after thanking the people of the community for taking care of the Association and God for the many blessings that He blessed us with, closed the Association.

CIRCULAR LETTER

Dear brothers:—According to the appointment of old Mates Creek Association last year, it falls my unworthy lot to address you in the form of a Circular Letter for your inspection, hoping the good Lord will direct my poor feeble mind to call your attention to the first chapter of Ephesians, and note who Paul was addressing this letter to, to the saints and faithful in Christ Jesus which to my mind embraces the church of the living God that was chosen in Christ before the world began, in her life since but fell in Adam, sold herself for nought, had nothing to redeem herself with, so God the Father loved this bride so well, He sent His only begotten Son down here where His bride was sunk in sin, justly commanding in this world, and paid

everything that stood against her. He fulfilled the law to a jot and tittle and set His bride free. She was the church in wisdom before time; she was the church when Christ came to redeem her because, brothers, did not the apostle say, Husbands, love your wife as Christ loved the church and gave Himself for it. The church, not for something to make it out of, but it was the church. Christ is not building a church now. He is only bringing to pass the thing which He purposed, for He said, As I have thought, so shall it come to pass, as I have purposed, so shall it be. John saw this bride with her robe washed and made white in the blood of the Lamb.

Dear brothers, this is not just a little few. John said a number that no man could number coming up through great tribulations having washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. This is out of every kindred, tongue and nation and people of this earth and Christ is the Head of the bride, and she, the church, is His body and He, the Christ, is the Husband of the bride, and from time to time He visits her in the spirit power and she rejoices when her Husband comes in the spirit; and dear brethren, when this dull and mortal life is ended, then the Son of God will present this church to His Father, holy and without blemish or any such thing. Then brethren, our hope will be turned into reality. The thing that this poor mortal has been hoping for many years.

This is just a little thought and view I have about the great church of God. I don't want anyone to think this leaves out any poor souls that ever felt the need of a Savior. The chosen people embraces all that ever did do or does feel the need of Christ because the Bible tells us plainly that the foundation of God standeth sure having this seal, the Lord knoweth them that are His, always knew them as far as I am concerned.

Dear brethren, I hope this meets your approval, for if I have a home in this world, it is with the Old Regular Primitive Baptists, and my prayers are that peace and love may be among our people. May the God of all grace lead and guide you while you sojourn here in this world. Pray for me and my little family, when you feel like praying for yourself.

Your little brother, if one at all,

—ELDER TEDDY R. BALL

NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF MINISTERS

A. J. Blackburn, Ira, Va.	Kit Ratliff, Ransom, Ky.
W. H. Thacker, McAndrews, Ky.	Dan Adkins, McAndrews, Ky.
M. C. Slone, Fishtrap, Kentucky	Wallace Chapman, King, N. C.
A. P. Justice, Millard, Ky.	Frank Wheeler, Stone, Ky.
W. E. Thacker, Millard, Ky.	George Hunt, Hardy, Ky.
Teddy R. Ball, Coleman, Ky.	Fonso Justice Raccoon, Ky.
Noah Smith, Coleman, Ky.	W. M. Dotson, Stone, Ky.
Joe Thacker, Canada, Ky.	Hommer Little, McCarr, Ky.
John Fuller, Canada, Ky.	James Earl McIntosh, Hardy Ky.
Charley Holsinger, Pikeville, Ky.	Glen Varney, Kemper, Ky.
W. H. Praitier, Williamson, W. Va.	Green Coleman, Millard, Ky.
Lonnie Warrix, Fishtrap, Ky.	Monroe Justice, Canada, Ky.
Anderson Casey, Coleman, Ky.	Ostil Smith, Canada, Ky.
W. N. Smith, Kemper, Ky.	V. V. Justice, Fishtrap, Ky.
J. H. Blackburn, Ira, Va.	Plenna B. Justice, Cincinnati, O.
Joe Slone, Jr., Fishtrap, Ky.	Guy Campbell, R.2, Pikeville, Ky.
	Eli Estep, Phelps, Ky.

LICENTIATES

Williard Dotson, Redjacket, W. Va. John I. Smith, Belfry, Ky.
Clark Owens, Pinsonfork, Ky. Opa Thacker, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Church	Name, Address of Moderator	Communion Meeting
Louisa—	Elder A. P. Justice, Millard, Ky.	July, 2nd Saturday
Pond Creek—	Elder Teddy R. Ball, Coleman, Ky. ..	June 2nd Saturday
Big Creek—	Elder Joe Thacker, Canada, Ky.	June, 3rd Saturday
Raccoon—	Elder Fonso Justice, Raccoon, Ky.	June, 4th Saturday
Sulphur Springs—	Elder A. J. Blackburn, Ira, Va. ..	July, 1st Saturday
Peter Creek—	Elder Teddy R. Ball, Coleman, Ky.	June, 4th Saturday
Little Hope—	Elder W. H. Thacker, McAndrews, Ky.,	July, 1st Saturday
Joppa—	Elder Dan Adkins, McAndrews, Ky.	June, 1st Saturday
Grapevine—	Elder J. H. Blackburn, Ira, Va.	July, 3rd Saturday
Samaria—	Elder Teddy R. Ball, Coleman, Ky.	July, 3rd Saturday
John's Creek—	Elder Teddy R. Ball, Coleman, Ky.,	July 2nd Saturday
Calvary—	Elder Teddy R. Ball, Coleman, Ky.	June, 1st Saturday

DISTRIBUTION OF MINUTES

Louisa—	Bradley Warrix, Fishtrap, Ky.	125
Pond Creek,	F. C. Runyon, Belfry, Ky.	200
Big Creek—	M. B. Blackburn, Canada, Kentucky	100
Raccoon—	Joe Morris, Raccoon, Ky.	125
Sulphur Spring—	J. B. May, Kelsey, Va.	75
Peter Creek—	Roland Dotson, Stone, Ky.	125
Little Hope—	Dewey Dotson, Pinsonfork, Ky.	75
Joppa—	Estill Varney, Hatfield, Ky.	50
Grapevine—	Stewart Justice, Fishtrap, Kentucky	50
Samaria—	J. E. Hatfield, McCarr, Ky.	200
John's Creek—	Noah Smith, Jr., Kemper, Ky.	100
Calvary—	Rosco Varney, McAndrews, Kentucky	50

DISTRIBUTION OF MINUTES TO CORRESPONDING ASSOCIATIONS

Washington—	Leland Street, Stacy, Va.	25
Indian Creek—	J. R. Lilly, Box 136, Hinton, W. Va.	25
Union—	J. M. Holbrook, Shelby Gap, Kentucky	25
Fisher's River—	O. W. Sisk, King, N. C.	25
Senter—	W. M. Miller, Clifton, N. C.	25
Rock Spring—	Floyd Hall, Millard, Ky.	25
To the Clerk,	Stearl Hatfield, McCarr, Ky.	75

OBITUARIES

VERNON STANLEY

It is with much sadness that we attempt to write the obituary of Vernon Stanley, son of James and Margaret Ball Stanley. He was born at Canada Ky., on October 2, 1936, and departed from this life on January 1, 1956, making his stay on earth 19 years and three months.

He was engaged to be married to Marie Thacker, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Thacker, also of Canada, Ky.

Left to mourn the loss of this loved one is the father, mother and following brothers and sisters: Mrs. Joseph E. Smith Detroit, Michigan; Mrs. Paul Ramey, McAndrews, Kentucky; Mrs. Buster Reynolds, Belfrey, Kentucky; Mrs. Cletus Farley, Detroit, Michigan; Mrs. Mitchell Stanley, Canada, Kentucky; Mrs. Curney Fuller, Altus, Oklahoma; Eugene Stanley, Canada, Kentucky; Clinton Mitchell Stanley, Detroit, Michigan; Bobbie Stanley, Canada, Kentucky.

But we feel that our earthly loss is his heavenly gain and that we shall remember his humble and loving way of living with the family in this world.

Written by Eugene Stanley and Paul Ramey.



MARGIE DOTSON



Margie Dotson, daughter of Jordan Dotson and Rhoda Stump Dotson, was born April 18, 1883, and deceased August 2, 1956, making her stay on earth 73 years, 3 months and 15 days. She was married to Sharman Dotson in the year of 1899, and to their union were born 11 children, 6 boys and 5 girls. Two boys and her husband preceded her in death, leaving 4 boys and 5 girls to mourn their loss. She also leaves 10 grand children, 2 brothers, Paris, Elice, and one half-brother, Philip, all of Phelps, and one sister, Mary Stump, two half-sisters, Lizzie Coleman, Stone, Ky., Pet Coleman, Coleman, Ky.; two step-sisters, Sarah Dotson, of Phelps, and Nancy Coleman of Stone. Her children, namely: Elzie, Butler, Ralph, Ance, Sid, Dell, Lula, Bernice, and Ann.

Aunt Margie united with the Primitive Baptist Church at Peter Creek, September 28, 1946, and was baptized by Elder Teddy Ball, and Paris Coleman in which she was faithful until death, always filling her seat in the church. Everybody loved and always appreciated her. The Old Baptists have never given up a more faithful member; the children have given up a good mother; nor any children in the neighbor-

hood have given up a better neighbor. She was as good a member as Peter Creek has ever had. She always spoke kindly to everybody, and had a kind look and smile.

So Aunt Margie is resting in the arms of Jesus till the resurrection. We all miss her so much, but the loss here is Aunt Margie's eternal gain.

The one we love is sleeping,
The voice we love it still;
A seat is vacant in our home
Which never can be filled.

Written by Teddy Ball.

ROBERT VIPPERMAN

It is with a sad and aching heart that I try to write the obituary of my dear Father, Robert Vipperman. He was born January 5, 1884, and deceased this life Mar. 15, 1956, making his stay on earth 72 years, 3 months and 10 days.

He was the father of 17 children, ten are still living.

He joined the Primitive Baptist Church and was baptized the second Sunday in October, 1951. He lived a faithful member until his death.

Father never turned a beggar from his door.

We hope our loss is his eternal gain.

Written by his eldest son.

—Glen Vipperman



MRS. PEARLIE BOGAR

It is with a sad heart that I attempt to write an obituary of a dear sister in Christ, Mrs. Pearlle Bogar, beloved wife of Brother Leonard Bogar.

Sister Bogar was born March 1, 1888, at Canada, Pike County, Ky., a daughter of the late Lewis and Abbie Scott Smith. She was united in marriage to Leonard Bogar early in life, and was a faithful and loving wife and mother. To this union were born four loving children, two sons, Willie Bogar, Sidney, Ky, Fred Bogar of Hardy, Ky.; two daughters, Mrs. Verna Smith, Sidney, Ky., and Bertha Milby of Greensburg, Ky. One sister, Mrs. May McCoy, Road Fork, Ky.

She departed this life at 7:45 p. m., August 21, 1956, making her sojourn here on earth 68 years, 5 months, and 20 days.

Sister Pearlle had been in ill health for a long period of time, enduring her suffering with Christian fortitude, until the voice of her Beloved called, Daughter, come home.



As I write of whom the Lord loved better than we, her friends, I remember so vividly many years ago, Brother Leonard, her husband had meeting at his home where, with Elder Will Stanley I tried to preach for the small, but interested audience, using for a text: "This is now bone of my bone," etc. Then on Sunday at the school house my text was the gleaner Ruth. Sister Bogar was so touched, that her countenance was lighted up with an heavenly light and she asked for a home among the Old Baptists and was gladly received and I assisted in administering the ordinance of baptism in Big Creek, just above the Mount Pleasant Church House.

Her vivid interest in the things of God, her heavenly conversation gave her the evident marks of the child of God, who through grace was blessed to praise His great name here in this life, and to set an example to her children and friends, an example of honesty, and faithfulness, seldom equalled by humanity.

To her children and host of friends, I would plead, mourn not for her, but rather mourn for yourselves and suffering humanity.

Sister Pearlle has only paid the debt that we all must sooner or later pay. There is no escape from this judgment: "The soul that sinneth it shall die." O Lord, prepare us for that great day for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Written by G. B. Bird.

H. D. SUMNER

H. D. Sumner, age 67, of Canada, Kentucky, died at his home Monday, December 12, 1955, following an illness of one year.

He was born at Washington, Virginia October 3, 1889, the son of John and Rebecca Ago Sumner. He is survived by his wife, Martha Jane Sumner, a daughter, Juanita, one brother, Perry Sumner of Clintwood, Virginia. One sister, Mrs. Elizabeth Phillips of Sprigg, West Virginia. He was a member of the Primitive Baptist Church. We hope that the family's loss is his heavenly gain.

Written by Martha Sumner.

GRACIE VARNEY

Gracie Varney, daughter of Jim Varney and Jennie Blackburn Varney was born July 12, 1919, deceased November 13, 1955, making her stay on earth 36 years, 4 months and one day. She united in marriage to Clyde Varney the son of Landon Varney and Maudie Williamson Varney in the year of 1932, November 9. To this union no children were born. She reared one of her neices, Loretta Varney.

Gracie united with the Primitive Baptist Church about 17 years ago, and was a faithful member until death. Always filling her seat in the church. Her friendly smile and kind expression to the brethren and sisters of the church, and to everyone else made her many friends. As David said in his Psalm: "Let those who would have friends first show themselves friendly." This she did. She was a flower of Uncle Jim's home to the family and Clyde, her dear heart-broken husband, but she faded to go back to the dust. But Job said through



the scent of water which is the Spirit of Almighty God, it shall break forth and come out of the dust in the resurrection and bloom again. Then by the grace of God will be carried to that heavenly home where John said neither shall they die any more.

She was baptized into the fellowship of the Samaria Church by Elder Teddy Ball and Paris Coleman. May God bless her dear old father and mother, and little Loretta, and her dear husband that they may realize that their loss is great, but hope our loss is her eternal gain.

She is the sister of Sister Peggie Williamson, and Sister Dora Williamson, and her brothers are Brother Bill, Dock, Lewis, Fritz, and Fred Varney.

May it be the will of heaven's King that by the grace of God the family will be united together on that great day of the resurrection.

Written by her brother in hope of eternal glory.

—TEDDY BALL

CAROLINE BROWN MAY

Caroline Brown May was born March 30, 1874 in Pike County Ky, and passed away December 23, 1955, making her stay here 81 years, 9 months and 23 days. She joined the Primitive Baptist Church in 1902, and she too was a faithful member until death. She was the daughter of William and Delilah Blackburn Brown. She was married to Elijah May July 30, 1895. To this union 8 children were born, two of them preceded them in death. She left 6 children, 3 step-children, 21 grand children and 15 great grandchildren, 2 brothers and 2 sisters, and a host of friends and relatives to mourn their loss, but we feel our loss is her eternal gain. We children have lost a good, faithful father and mother. How they would always love to go to church and when they became unable to attend, they would often call for church at home. How they would rejoice when all their brethren and sisters would come in; and we children will never forget the good counsel they would give us. They are sadly missed by all who knew them.

We loved them, yes, we loved them, but Jesus loved them more;

The angels came and took them home to rest forever more.

MR. AND MRS. ELIJAH MAY



It is with a sad and aching heart that we will try and write the obituaries of our dear father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. Elijah May, who both passed away December, 1955, sixteen days between their deaths.

Elijah May was born February 28, 1883 in Pike County, Ky., and passed away December 8, 1955, making his stay here 92 years, 10 months and 7 days. He joined the Primitive Baptist Church in 1902, and had been a minister since 1905. He lived a faithful member until death.

He was a son of Daniel and Polly Stots May. He was married to Susie Pauley, July 28, 1883. To this union were born 8 children. His wife and 5 children preceded him in death. Later he married Caroline Brown. Also to this union were born 8 children. He left his

wife, 9 children, 53 grandchildren, 110 great grandchildren, and 18

great, great grandchildren; one brother and a host of friends and relatives to mourn their loss, but we feel our loss is his eternal gain.
Written by their daughters, Mrs. Joe Varney and Miss Anna May.

POLLY THACKER

It is with a sad heart that I try to write a little sketch of the life of my dear mother, Polly Thacker. She was born September 21, 1857, died December, 23, 1955. Making her stay on earth 98 years 3 months and 2 days. She was married to Albert Thacker who preceded her in death 25 years ago. To this union were born 5 children, all living at this time. Mother united with the Old Primitive Baptist Church, called Big Creek, thirty some years ago. The Church book does not give the date. She joined and was baptized by W. M. Stanley. Mother was a faithful member until death. She loved the old doctrine, salvation by the grace of God, and saved by His shed blood on the cross. She was a precious and loving mother. No one knows how much Mother means until they are gone. I almost



catch myself asking my brothers how Mother is getting along. The good Lord loved her so well, He blessed her to live a long life here in this world and then called her away from a world of trouble. I feel sure our loss is her eternal gain. My humble hope is that some day by the grace of God we will all live together again.

Written by a son,

—Joe Thacker

BROTHER AND SISTER WAYNE SMITH



Whereas it has pleased our heavenly Father to call from the shores of time our beloved brother and sister, Uncle Wayne Smith, son of Isaiah and Viola West Smith. They had a sweet hope in the Lord, born March 3, 1871, deceased April 11, 1956. Sister Emily Smith, daughter of Patten and Louise Blackburn Ball, born November 21, 1893, deceased February 14, 1956. They were married July 29, 1914, leaving two sons, Clyde Smith of Waverly, Ohio, Bogar Smith of Canada, Ky.; two daughters, Flora Smith of Belfry, Ky., Bertha S. Gannon, McVeigh, Ky., to mourn their loss. Sister Emily professed a sweet hope in the Lord and was baptized by Elders Teddy Ball and Dan Adkins, July 9, 1950, and lived faithful unto the end. They would often call

for the brethren and sisters to have church services for them. They loved the songs of Zion and rejoiced and praised God in their affliction.

Written by the children and Dan Adkins.

POLLY WEST

It is with a sad and contrite heart I try to write the obituary of my beloved wife, Polly Smith. She was born June 25, 1879, making her stay on earth 78 years, 7 months and 15 days. Polly and I were married April 18, 1895. To this union were born 11 children, 6 boys and 5 girls. Namely, Kenna, Marvin, Perry, Benton, Green D., all of Canada; Finis of Belfry; girls, Olly, Maudy, Bethel of Canada, Orpha of Alexandria, Va. 2 children preceded her in death. 31 grandchildren, 21 great grandchildren.

Polly was a strong believer in the old Primitive Baptist Church, though she never did make any confession to the church. For the past 5 years she has been in a very delicate state of health and not able to go to church, but few times. Her condition for the last year of her life grew so much worse that she was unable to attend. On the night of February 9, at 9 o'clock and 10 minutes, p. m., God called for her and took her home. I am satisfied that my loss is her gain.

Written by her unworthy husband.

—Amos West.

Blessed are they who have not seen and yet believed.



ELDER PARIS COLEMAN



Elder Paris Coleman of Coleman, Ky., son of Harve Coleman, and Rena Stump Coleman, was born into this troublesome world July 12, 1887, deceased this life February 9, 1956, making his stay here on earth 69 years. He united with the Old Baptist Church at Peter Creek about 40 years ago. Later in years the church felt he had a calling to the ministry in which he preached for several years and was always faithful to his calling as long as he lived. He always loved to preach on the subject of My doctrine shall drop as the rain. He was the pastor of John Creek Church for several years and after his departure when I went to the church, they seemed like a flock of orphan children, but God has been good to the little flock over there. We have had some wonderful meetings.

Uncle Paris was strong in the doctrine of salvation by grace and the resurrection of the dead, and he died in full faith and in hope of eternal glory.

He leaves 11 children, his wife, 3 brothers, one sister, and a host of friends and relatives to mourn their loss, but our loss is Uncle Paris' eternal gain.

Written by,

—Teddy R. Ball

GARLEY CHURCH

It is with sadness, but with love in our heart we write the obituary of one we loved so much, who was called home from this cold world to rest. Garley Church was born March 9, 1908, making his stay in this world 47 years, leaving a dear companion, Ida Thacker Church, three children, Viola Church of Canada, Ky.; Naomi Robinette of Cleveland, Ohio; Mrs. Nanette Tackett. He never united with the church, but bore the fruit of the Spirit. He was a strong believer in the doctrine believed by the Primitive Baptists as taught in God's word.

May the God of all grace bless his brother, Joe and all who knew him, as we all join in saying, Sleep on, dear brother and father until we meet again.

Written by one who loved him so much.

—Dan Adkins



SGT. WILLIAM S. SMITH



It is with much sorrow that I will attempt to write an obituary of our loving brother, Marine Sgt. Wm. S. Smith, who went down in the deep blue waters of Tokyo Bay, over Japan on the 6th of November, 1955. His body was never recovered, but we know that on that great and notable resurrection day, at the Lord's coming, when the sea must give up the dead, that he will be brought forth, we hope in the likeness of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and taken home to live forevermore.

He never made a confession to the church, but we know that he believed in the goodness of God, and a finished work in the Lord.

He was 28 years and 9 days old when God called him away from this unfriendly world. He was the son of Scott and Lula Aldrich Smith of Matewan W. Va. He left behind, his Dad and Mother, and the following sisters and brothers: Frulian Smith, Earl Smith, Mrs. Goldie Scalf, all of Norwalk, Ohio; Mrs. Orphia Bowling, Matewan, W. Va.; Mrs. Lula Pearl Huddle, McCarr, Ky.; and Virginia Dotson, Jamborn, Ky.

We are living in hope of meeting him in a world where there will be no more sorrow.

Written by his sister,

—Virginia Dotson.

W. J. JEFFERSON HATFIELD

W. J. Jefferson Hatfield was born July 30, 1874 at McCarr, Ky., the son of Elder Anderson Hatfield, and Polly Runyon Hatfield, deceased this life Tuesday, May 1, 1956. He was married to Polly Margaret Runyon in the year of 1896, and to this union were born 12 children, 5 girls and 7 boys. One girl and 2 boys and his wife preceded him in death, leaving 4 girls, Jeanette, Lettia, Meldia, Catherine; 5 boys, Estill, Clyde, Guy, Bob, W. J. Jr., and several grandchildren; one brother, R. R. Hatfield, to mourn their loss.

Uncle Jeff united with the Old Baptist Church in the year 1938, and was baptized by the unworthy writer. He lived a faithful member until the death angel called for him. He was ordained deacon of the Samaria Church in 1939, later moved his letter to Old Pond Church. In 1940 he married Aunt Zettie Farley, Boyd Farley's widow. She preceded him in death, leaving his children, grandchildren, brothers and sisters in the church to mourn, but we are sure our loss is heaven's gain.

Written by,

—Teddy R. Ball



ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. We believe in one true and living God, who is the Creator, upholder, and righteous disposer of all things; and that He is self-existent, independent, omnipotent and eternal.

2. We believe that Jesus existed in His mediatorial Person as the head and life of His body, the church, from everlasting.

3. We believe the doctrine of eternal, personal and unconditional election; that the elect, or church, is and was and shall forever remain His body and fulness, and their spiritual life is hid with Christ in God.

4. We believe in the doctrine of total depravity of human nature and that recovery from that condition is wholly and exclusively by the sovereign, free and unmerited grace of God.

5. We believe the atonement made by Christ was full and complete and exclusively for the elect, or heirs of promise.

6. We believe the doctrine of God's predestination in every sense as the Bible teaches it.

7. We believe that all the elect vessels of mercy, chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world, shall be called, regenerated and sanctified by the regenerating power of God's grace, and shall ultimately enjoy heaven and immortal glory.

8. We believe that there will be a resurrection of the bodies, both of the just and the unjust, and the happiness of the righteous shall be eternal and the punishment of the wicked shall be everlasting.

9. We believe that baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of Jesus Christ, and that true believers are the subjects, and the true mode of baptism is immersion, foot-washing an example.

10. We believe the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as translated under the reign of King James, are a revelation from God, inspired by the Holy Ghost, and that the New Testament is the standard of faith and the only authorized rule of practice to the church of God under gospel dispensation. We therefore consider ourselves solemnly bound by our allegiance to the King of Zion to reject, disclaim and disfellowship all modern and ancient religious institutions or societies of which we have neither precept nor example in the New Testament.

RULES OF DECORUM

1. The Association shall be opened and closed by prayer.

2. A Moderator and Clerk shall be chosen by the suffrage of the members present.

3. Only one member shall speak at a time, who shall rise from his seat and address the Moderator when he is about to speak.

4. The person thus speaking shall not be interrupted by any except the Moderator until he is done speaking.

5. He shall strictly adhere to the subject and in no wise reflect on the person who spoke before so as to make remarks on his slips, failings and imperfections, but fairly state the case and matter as nearly as he can as to convey his ideas.

6. No person shall rise and speak more than three times on one subject without liberty obtained from the Association.

7. No person shall abruptly break off or absent himself from the Association without liberty obtained from it.

8. No member of the Association shall have liberty of laughing during the sitting of the Association, nor whispering in time of public speech.

9. No member of the Association shall address another in any other term or appellation but the title of "Brother."

10. The Moderator shall not interrupt any member in a speech or prohibit him from speaking until he gives his light on the subject, except they break the Rules of Decorum.

11. Names of the several members of the Association shall be enrolled by the Clerk and called over as many times as the Association may require.

12. The Moderator shall be entitled to the same privilege of speech as another member, provided the chair be filled, and he shall have no vote except the Association be equally divided. In that event he shall give the casting vote.

13. Any member who shall wilfully or knowingly break any of these rules shall be reproved by the Association as they think proper.

CONSTITUTION

1. This Association shall be called Mates Creek District Primitive Baptist Association.

2. The Association shall be composed of members chosen by the different churches in our union and duly sent to represent them in the Association, who shall be members whom they judge best qualified for that purpose, and producing letters from their respective churches certifying their appointment, shall be entitled to seats.

3. In the letters from the different churches shall be expressed their membership in full fellowship, those baptised, received by letter, dismissed by letter, excluded and deceased since the last Association.

4. The members thus chosen and convened shall have no power to lord it over God's heritage nor shall they have any clerical powers over the churches, nor shall they infringe on any of the internal rights of any church in this union.

5. The Association when convened, shall be governed by a regular and proper decorum.

6. The Association shall have a Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer, who shall be chosen by the suffrage of the members present.

7. Newly constituted churches may be admitted into the union who shall petition by letter and messenger, and (if found upon examination to be orthodox and orderly), shall be received by the Association, and manifested by the Moderator giving the right hand of fellowship.

8. Every church in the union shall be entitled to a representation in the Association.

9. Every query presented by any church to the Association, being

first debated in their own church, shall be taken up by the Association.

10. Every motion made and seconded shall come under the consideration of the Association, except it shall be withdrawn by the member who made it.

11. The Association shall endeavor to furnish the churches with Minutes of the Association, the best way and method for effecting that purpose shall be at the discretion of future Associations.

12. We think it absolutely necessary that we should have an Association fund for defraying the expenses of the same, for the raising and supporting of which we think it the duty of each church in the union to contribute such sums voluntarily as they think proper, and send it by the hands of their messengers to the Association, and those monies thus contributed by the churches and received by the Association shall be deposited in the hands of the Treasurer, who shall be accountable to the Association for all monies received by him, and pay out of the same according to the Association.

13. There shall be an Association book kept, wherein the proceedings of every Association shall be regularly recorded by the Secretary chosen for that purpose, who shall receive compensation for his trouble.

14. The Minutes of the Association shall be read and corrected, if need be, and signed by the Moderator and Clerk before the Association arises.

15. Amendments to this plan or form of government may be made at any time by majority of the union when they deem it necessary.

16. The Association shall have power: (1) To provide for the general union of the churches. (2) To preserve inviolably a chain of communication among the churches. (3) To give the churches necessary advice in matters of church difficulty. (4) To inquire into the cause why the churches fail to represent themselves at any time in the Association. (5) To appropriate those monies by the churches contributed for an Association fund to any purpose they may think proper. (6) To appoint any member or members by and with their consent to transact any business they may see necessary. (7) The Association shall have power to withdraw from any church in this union which shall violate the rules of this Association, or deviate from the orthodox principles of religion. (8) To admit any orderly minister of our faith and order to a seat in the Association. (9) The Association shall have power to adjourn themselves to any time or place they may think most convenient to the churches of the Association.

CHURCH STATISTICAL TABLE

CHURCHES	NAMES OF CHURCH MESSENGERS	Contributions									
		Rec'd by Baptism	Rec'd by Letter	Rec'd by relation	Restored	Dis'd. by Letter	Excluded	Deceased	Total Membership	Sat. of Meeting	Contributions
Louisa	Bradley Warrix, Fishtrap, Ky.	3	1	..	..	1	..	..	90	2	\$21.40
Pond Creek	F. C. Runyon, Belfry, Ky.	2	..	..	..	..	1	5	118	2	18.00
Big Creek	M. B. Blackburn, Canada, Ky.	7	1	..	2	..	2	5	52	3	25.75
Raccoon	Joe Morris, Raccoon, Ky.	2	..	..	..	..	..	2	50	4	18.00
Sulphur Springs	J. B. May, Kelsey, Va.	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	32	1	5.57
Peter Creek	Roland Dotson, Stone, Ky.	11	..	1	..	..	3	1	93	4	20.00
Little Hope	Dewey Dotson, Pinsonfork, Ky.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	38	1	14.15
Joppa	Estill Varney, Hatfield, Ky.	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	12	1	7.00
Grapevine	Stewart Justice, Fishtrap, Ky.	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	29	3	10.00
Samaria	J. E. Hatfield, McCarr, Ky.	6	..	..	2	..	1	1	146	3	25.00
John's Creek	Noah Smith, Jr., Coleman, Ky.	1	..	..	3	..	2	1	48	2	22.00
Calvary	Roscoe Varney, McAndrews, Ky.	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	9	1	29.00
	Totals	34	2	1	7	1	10	19	717	..	215.87

