

# The Spring Presbyteries

**EAST ALABAMA PRESBYTERY.**  
Met in the First church, Montgomery, on Tuesday, April 13th, at 8 P. M., and was in session three days. The opening sermon was preached from the text, Rom. 10:1, by Rev. W. P. Neilson, by appointment of Elder B. H. Boyd, the retiring moderator.

**Present:** Fifteen ministers and twenty ruling elders.

**Moderator,** Rev. C. N. Wharton; **temporary clerk,** Rev. C. B. Yeagan.

**Received:** Rev. J. W. Atwood from Mangum Presbytery and Rev. C. B. Currie from Macon Presbytery.

**Dismissed:** Rev. W. P. Neilson to Upper Missouri Presbytery.

Dissolved the pastoral relation between Rev. W. P. Neilson and Trinity.

Calls from Florala and Geneva were accepted by Rev. C. B. Currie.

**Visitors:** Rev. E. D. McDougall, of North Alabama Presbytery; R. L. Walkup, of Mississippi Presbytery, and Rev. Palmer C. DuBose, of Charleston Presbytery.

A program on Home Missions, evangelism and stewardship was given the greater part of the day Wednesday, and was of special interest. It was marked by a number of excellent addresses made by laymen. Such was the enthusiasm aroused that a committee was appointed to arrange a program for the fall meeting to embrace some other causes.

The Home Mission reports were encouraging. The local Home Mission report revealed that all accounts were paid and a small balance in hand. All fields supplied or arranged for and a general tone of encouragement was manifest.

The Foreign Mission report was appreciated to the extent that its publication was asked in our Church papers. Mr. L. E. Morgan, an elder, is chairman of the committee. So aroused was the Presbytery over the debt and the threatened retrenchment that the following was adopted and telegraphed to Nashville: The Presbytery of East Alabama, with gratitude to God for His wonderful love and blessings, most earnestly protests to the General Assembly against any retrenchment in the Foreign Mission work. We call upon every minister and church throughout the Assembly to join with us in prayer and in a special effort to raise the \$63,000, the reported deficit, before the General Assembly meets. It is to be understood that this is extra and not to interfere with the gifts for the present year. An average of \$800 from each Presbytery will pay the debt.

It is needless to say that East Alabama Presbytery will try to bring up her part in addition to an increase of \$500 to the cause over that of last year.

The gifts to benevolence for the past year exceeded those of the preceding year, this, too, when several large personal gifts for education were included in last year's report, and none noted this year.

There was general dissatisfaction with the report blanks and the Assembly was overtured to amend same.

**Commissioners to the Assembly:** Principals, Rev. E. M. Craig, Prattville; Rev. C. H. Rogers, Marbury; Elder L. E. Morgan, Dothan; Elder J. B. Walter, Snowdown.

**Alternates:** Rev. D. F. McConnell, Alexander City; Rev. W. W. Woodburn, Union Springs; Elder J. W. Ramage, Montgomery; Elder G. W. Barnett, Montgomery.

**Stated Clerk:** Rev. E. M. Craig was re-elected for three years.

Rev. C. B. Currie was elected permanent clerk for three years.

Adjourned meeting, Montgomery, July 15, 1915.

Fall meeting, Florala, October 12, 1915.

A hearty vote of thanks was given for the delightful entertainment, and greetings were sent R. H. McCaslin, Jr.

E. M. Craig, Stated Clerk.

## FOREIGN MISSIONS.

### East Alabama Presbytery.

As this report is written we are in the midst of a world war. For more than six months millions of men have been marching and counter-marching across the plains and valleys and vine-clad hills of Europe, making devastation and carnage unparalleled in the history of the world. The conflict has literally been world-wide. The roar of artillery has shaken the Alpine Heights, the sandy wastes of Africa, the deserts of Asia and the frozen solitudes of Siberia. The entire world is feeling the economic and industrial effects, the natives of the Himalayas and the Indians of the Andean slopes no less than the people in Europe and America.

What does it all mean and what will be the effect upon the kingdom of God? For we must not think that God has in any way lost control of our planet. He gave His Son to restore lost humanity to a Father's love, and we should realize in this crucial hour that behind the dim unknown, stands God within the shadow, keeping watch upon His own.

It is too early to see things in their true perspective now. God has permitted this mighty conflict and His purpose in allowing it will, no doubt, be clearer to us at some future time. In the meantime, in this age of war, the need of the hour is the universal reign of the Prince of Peace. In this world buried in sin, the one eternal cure is the religion of Jesus Christ. To diffuse his Spirit throughout the world is the supreme mission of the Church, the one sufficient bond of human brotherhood. Upon this work, represented by the Foreign Mission Committee, the blessing of God has been manifested more than ever.

In the year just closed 4,059 new disciples were added to our membership in these fields, breaking all records. Hundreds have been baptized and many hundreds are waiting on the probation list. The attitude of almost the entire world is one of attentiveness and friendliness. The old spirit of hostility is gone and the people are now listening. As one reads and thinks of the forlorn, sin-stricken nations, now so providentially prepared and made ready for the tidings of a Saviour, the heart is sick that the Church cannot or will not meet adequately this supreme need, which simply means eternal life or death to so many human beings.

I am sure that we are all grateful to God that our Foreign Mission Committee closed the year only \$63,000 in debt, which includes the indebtedness of nearly \$40,000 from last year. Under the circumstances this is most remarkable, and is clearly the result of prayer. The total receipts for the year were \$542,000, of which \$28,000 was for specials, leaving \$514,000 for the regular work, which was \$6,000 more than the previous year.

While we should rejoice in a remarkable deliverance, a tragic note is sounded—the committee has reduced by \$45,000 its appropriations for the next year. In the midst of unparalleled victory, under the signal blessing of God, we have sounded a call for re-

presented his letter of transfer, and was enrolled. The reports from the churches were encouraging for the most part, quite so, when we consider the financial embarrassment that has afflicted this section of the country.

All our churches are now supplied, and but few report delinquency in supporting their pastors. Active measures were adopted looking to the Every Member Canvass on the part of all our churches. Only three have thus far adopted the Assembly plan.

The Foreign Mission cause was earnestly presented by Rev. W. H. Rowe. The following item of the report indicates its spirit. The times call for renewed and increasing sacrificial giving.

Every Christian should become an intercessor. Prayer is needed, and the work of faith, for now God is giving us great opportunity. Let our Presbytery do its part in praying, and giving and sending, that the Lord's command may be obeyed.

Arrangement was made for the licensing of Candidate W. C. Dolve concerning the matter of rotary eldership, no action was taken. It declined to give its consent to the rule returning one-half its commissioners to the succeeding Assembly. It also declined to express an opinion on the proposed union with the U. P. Church.

Presbytery sent up an overture touching the matter of reducing the expenses of the Assembly. Rev. H. W. Wallace and Elder J. R. Liddell, of Camden, Ala., were made principal commissioners, and Rev. O. C. Dolphy and J. R. Mix alternates.

A hearty vote of thanks was voted Brother Hensley and his good people for their very generous and pleasing entertainment.

Next meeting will be held at Brewton.

D. A. Planck, S. C.

Chairman.

**PRESBYTERY OF N. ALABAMA.**  
Place of Meeting.—Gadsden, April 13th.

Opening Sermon by Dr. Jno. S. Foster, Romans 8:28.

Moderator.—Rev. George A. Grille.

New Church.—The basement of the beautiful new church was used as the place of meeting and lunching.

Conferences on Sabbath-school Work and Stewardship were held.

Home Missions.—Most churches supplied, all workers paid, many meetings held and one church for organization. Rev. W. J. Garrison was elected chairman for new year instead of Rev. H. C. Kegley, resigned.

Candidates: Sixteen candidates for the ministry on our roll.

Dissolved: The churches of Mundeford and Bryson Memorial dissolved.

Received: Rev. William McDougall from C. P. church.

Overtures: One on colportage and one on Sabbath school work.

Doctrinal sermon for next meeting, Dr. F. L. Lewis.

Fayette place next meeting.

S. C.

**MOBILE PRESBYTERY**

Met in Broad Street church, Mobile, April 13th. By request of the retiring moderator, Elder Thad Harrison, the opening sermon was preached by Rev. H. W. Wallace.

Rev. O. C. Dolphy was elected moderator, and Elder J. P. Mix, temporary clerk.

All the ministers were present, and an unusually large representation from the churches. Rev. J. F. Ford, pastor-elect of the Brewton church,

presented his letter of transfer, and was enrolled. The reports from the churches were encouraging for the most part, quite so, when we consider the financial embarrassment that has afflicted this section of the country.

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**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO THE PRESBYTERY OF MOBILE.**

Your committee respectfully submits the following report:

1. We note with approval the action of the Assembly in recommending the tithe as a minimum offering.

2. The action of the Assembly in refusing to rescind previous deliverances declaring Romish baptism invalid is highly commendable and in strict accordance with our history and with the confession of faith.

3. It is gratifying to know that the following amendment to our constitution has been duly enacted. This requires that if a reunion of our Church with any other should be contemplated, such union must be recommended by the General Assembly, concurred in by at least three-fourths of the Presbyteries and enacted by a succeeding Assembly. This action is commended as both wise and conservative.

4. (Not adopted.)

5. On page 36 it is stated that the Assembly authorized and directed the Council of the Reformed Church to give careful and full attention to the whole subject of closer relations and more effective administrative co-operation between the several Presbyterian and Reformed churches represented in the Council, with particular reference to the formulation of an effective federation of their plans, work and executive, or administrative agencies, both in the home and foreign fields. It is the judgment of your committee that the Assembly has no authority from the constitution, or the Presbyteries, to convey such power to any other body. The alliance commended as a merely advisory body,