

# Eastern Louisiana Baptist Association

1842 - 1937

Baptist history in Louisiana began in Mississippi. The French established Fort Rosalie at Natchez in 1712. Somewhere around 1720 the Natchez Indians were pushed from the Mississippi Territory opening the area for settlement.

During the American Revolution the British and Tory troops entered Georgia and South Carolina causing many people to look to the wilds of the west – the Mississippi Territory. Thus began the move into Mississippi. People built flat boats and floated down the Tennessee, Ohio, and Mississippi Rivers. Having been members of Baptist Churches, these deacons, ministers, and laypersons brought their religion with them, starting churches in their homes. As the Preachers began to minister to the people they widened the area of service until they were visiting and preaching all over Louisiana.

The early Ministers had many obstacles to contend with. Among them were the distances from one church to another, lack of transportation, and the Spanish Officials who often imprisoned them. Often the ministers had to hide out to stay out of prison.

The work of these early preachers from the Mississippi Territory established churches all over Louisiana. After 1806, as a church was established, east of the Mississippi River, it generally joined the Mississippi Association. Some moved to the Pearl River Association after it was established, while some churches held dual memberships.

As the number of churches east of the Mississippi River and south of the Mississippi – Louisiana State line grew they decided to form their own associations. So at the 1842 session of the Mississippi Association churches wishing to form a new association, in Louisiana, asked permission to do so and were given letters of dismissal. Thus on November 19, 1842 at Beulah Church, Livingston Parish, a convention of churches from West Florida met by previous arrangement and was constituted into an association by the name of Eastern Louisiana Baptist Association. This new body was composed of 22 churches with a total membership of 706 members.

The following Churches with the year each was constituted, the Parish where the church was located, and its membership were in the constituting group.

Mt. Nebo	1813	Washington	36
Beulah	1833	Washington	53
Bethlehem	1833	St. Helena	31
Enon	1836	Washington	25
Hebron	1837	Livingston	08
Mt. Enon	1837	Washington	50
Mt. Ebal	1839	Livingston	29
Mt. Moriah	1839	East Baton Rouge	35
Line Creek	1841	Washington	74
Sharon	1841	Washington	39
Mt. Pisgah	1841	Washington	18
Bluff Creek	1841	East Feliciana	74
New Orleans	1841	Orleans	24
Arnold's Creek	1841	Livingston	25
Springfield	1841	Livingston	68

Amite	1841	Livingston	22
Mt. Olive	1841	Washington	32
Bethany	1842	? [Stony Point]	17
Mt. Hope	1842	? St. Helena	11
Mt. Pleasant	1842	?	09
Palestine	1842	Miss.	14
Comite	1842	East Baton Rouge	12

During the first business session six resolutions were presented. The first was to “appoint annually three members to compose a board to employ one or more Baptist Preachers to labor within the bounds of the Association. The said Preachers were to be authorized to solicit funds in the aid of this project. Each Missionary was to report to this board every three months and the board to the Association at the annual meeting.”

Rev. W.L. Sibley presided over this meeting and Rev. Thomas M. Bond, Historian of the Mississippi Association, was secretary.

During this meeting of the new Association the Articles of Faith and the Gospel order were accepted, both coming from the Mississippi Association.

#### Articles of Faith

1. *We believe in one Triune God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost: the same in essence equal in power and glory.*
2. *We believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament were given by inspiration of God, and are the only rule of faith and practice.*
3. *We believe in the fall of Adam from his original rectitude, in the imputation of his sin to all his posterity, in the total depravity of human nature, and man’s inability to restore himself to the favor of God.*
4. *We believe that God has loves His people with an everlasting love; that He chose them in Christ before the foundation of the world; that He calls them with a holy and an effectual calling, and that they being justified alone through the righteousness of Christ imparted to them, are kept by the power of God, through faith, unto salvation.*
5. *We believe that there is one Mediator between God and man, the man Jesus Christ, who, by the satisfaction He made to law and justice in becoming an offering for sin, hath by His most precious blood redeemed the elect from under the curse of the law that they might be holy, without blame before Him in love.*
6. *We believe that good works are the fruits of faith and follow after justification, and are evidence of a gracious state, and that all believers are bound to obey every command of God, from a principle of love.*
7. *We believe that the salvation of the soul is wholly of grace; that man is accountable to God for his actions; that punishment is the effect of justice, but where the providence of grace with the accountability of man unites is not clearly revealed.*
8. *We believe that there will be a general resurrection of the dead, and a general judgment, and that the happiness of the righteous and the punishment of the wicked will be everlasting.*

The forty-eighth annual sessions was held at Broussard Grove Baptist Church, Ascension Parish, on October 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> 1890. The body proceeded with business by

appointing reading clerks, finance committee, and the committee on Religious Exercises. Letters and Messengers from thirteen Churches were received. Elder T.J. Wax preached the introductory sermon.

Committee reports were then given as follows: *Sabbath Schools* – most churches were not supporting this work. The committee reported that it was the parent's place to mold and cultivate the disposition of children and by doing so would lay the foundation for good Sabbath Schools. *Missions Report* – there were thirty-two Missionaries working throughout the State. Due to a lack of funds there was not one in this Association. The *Education Committee* recommended several Baptist schools for the education of the young people. The Baptist Chronicle, Our Home Fields, and the Foreign Mission Journal were recommended for everyone to read. The Churches were reminded to do everything in their power against drinking. The *state of Religion* committee reported there had been many successful revivals in the area. Rev. J.J. Baird served as missionary in our area for part of the year. He preached some thirty-eight sermons and traveled 128 miles, receiving seven people by Baptism.

A resolution against the Louisiana Lottery Company was passed and fellowship would be withdrawn from any Church or person who supported it. Delegates to auxiliary bodies were appointed before the Association adjourned. Total membership was 984 with 135 baptisms for the year.

Elder C. E. Reid served as moderator for the 1891 annual meeting. Salem Baptist Church, Livingston Parish was host. Fourteen churches sent letters and delegates while Beech Ridge and Pine Grove petitioned for admission. A mass rally against the lottery was held on Sunday afternoon where nine speakers admonished the people to banish this monster from the land and to withdraw membership from anyone who supported it.

A very stimulating Foreign Mission report was given. The body was reminded that prayer and funds were needed to continue this work. Home and State Missions were not as successful during the past year due to a lack of funds.

A resolution against the Lottery was drafted and passed. The resolution was to be published in the Baptist Chronicle, New Delta, Florida Parishes, and other papers.

The treasurer reported having \$112.63 on hand. The churches reported One hundred twenty one Baptisms.

The golden anniversary of Eastern Louisiana Baptist Association was held on October 15, 16 and 17<sup>th</sup> 1892 at Bluff Creek Church in East Feliciana Parish.

Elder J. T. Ott preached the introductory sermon after which the Association went into business. Thirteen Churches presented letters and delegates. Committees were appointed and delegates were received from the auxiliary bodies. After a bounteous repast, prepared by the ladies of the church and community, the body reconvened for business. The new Southern Baptist Sunday school Board was discussed and every church was encouraged to have Sunday School.

Several Baptist schools were recommended for the education of the children while the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary at Louisville, Ky. was recommended for the ministers.

The Missions committee reported that the churches seem to have forgotten that it is their duty to spread the Gospel to those around them.

The treasurer reported \$169.93 on hand. Only 25 baptisms were reported for the year.

The 1893 session met with Eden Baptist Church in Livingston Parish. The Moderator called the meeting to order, and after a song and prayer began appointing committees. Fourteen Churches presented letters and delegates. Pleasant Hill Baptist Church petitioned the Association and was received. Messengers from other Associations were then received. Elder H.H. Achord preached the opening sermon. Elder E.O. Ware addressed a special ladies meeting at the residence of Bro. Charles Carneaux. Elder J.T. Ott was appointed to represent the Association at the Southern Baptist Convention. The Sunday Sermons were preached outside due to the size of the crowd present.

The letters suggested the Churches were not interested in Sabbath Schools. The people were reminded that due to the rapid growth and advancing army of knowledge it is important to educate the minds of our children. The Baptist celebrated a century of Mission work which began with William Carey, and now having about eight hundred on the foreign field. In our State there were over thirty courthouse towns without a single white Baptist Church. Some ground had been gained against the evil liquor partly due to legislation on the state and national level. Most Churches in the area were still using a Circuit rider rather than supporting a pastor. The treasurer, Ivy Cockerham, reported having \$170.28 on hand. Our State board was sending out missionaries so each church was asked to send their mission money there. The day of meeting for the association was changed from Saturday to Thursday for the following year. The churches reported fifty-three baptisms with a total membership of 986.

Delegates from fourteen Churches met for the fifty-third annual session at Bethany Baptist Church in East Baton Rouge Parish. After prayer and a congregational song the moderator appointed committees. The delegates were seated and letters read. A Petition was received from New River Church and was reinstated and welcomed. Some of the meetings for this session were held in the College building (Bethany Male and Female Academy). The Home Missions report was given – the year had been extremely successful. A recommendation to divide the state into four districts was endorsed. The Churches were encouraged to send quarterly offerings for Home Missions. The committee on local missions recommended to the member churches that they should appoint two Brethren to work with the State Board to divide the state into districts. A motion was made to adjourn.

In 1896 the Association met with Galilee Church, East Baton Rouge Parish. Sixteen churches met to do the business of the Association. After the opening song and prayer the Association was called to order, letters were received, delegates seated and committees appointed. The Foreign Missionaries have baptized about 735 people. The work is so rewarding, and thousands of Bibles have been sold. Our state lags behind in its giving to this cause. As for our state the churches were reminded that “irreligion and lawlessness in any part of the state affects everyone.” North Louisiana gives the bulk of the money for the work in Louisiana. The Churches were encouraged to give on a quarterly basis to state missions. The Women were encouraged to do all kinds of work in the churches that “the Bible allows them to do” and to form *Women’s Missionary Societies* both in their churches and in the Association. They were encouraged to form the leadership themselves and to give a report to the next Association meeting of their work.

The treasurer gave his report having \$119.20 on hand. The people were again encouraged to educate their children at Baptist schools. Few churches had full time pastors because they did not have funds to support them. The Temperance committee reported that drunkenness was on the decrease, but much work was yet to be done. The churches had 1,217 members total.

The fifty-fifth annual meeting was held with New River Church, Ascension Parish, on November 26,27,and 28 1897.

Included in this annual report were the constitution of Eastern Louisiana Baptist Association, the Rules of Order, and the Abstract of Faith. Only ten churches were in attendance, presenting letters and delegates. G.R. Welch was elected moderator, W. P. Chaney treasurer, and S. N. Chaney was elected clerk. During the Missions report it was pointed out that Baptist of Louisiana were asked to give \$2,100.00 during the next year for Foreign missions. The churches of the Association were reminded of their responsibilities to do their part. It was also suggested that the Foreign Mission Journal be made available to every Church and home at a cost of twenty-five cents per year per subscription if you ordered at least ten. The church letters showed a lack of concern for Home and State missions. The committee on Missions recommended a Board consisting of one member from each church in the Association be formed, and the Association go back to providing a missionary to work within its bounds. Five members present would constitute a quorum. The people were reminded of their responsibility to be about the Masters Work in their daily lives. The publications recommended for use in every Church and home was: The Foreign Mission Journal published in Richmond, Home Field published in Atlanta, Sunday School literature published in Nashville, and the Baptist Chronicle published in Alexandria, Louisiana.

A resolution was passed asking the Board of Trustees to retire Dr. W. H. Whitsitt as President of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary because of his teachings.

The Church letters showed a total membership of 936 members.

On October 15<sup>th</sup>, 1898 the Association met at Hebron Baptist Church, Livingston Parish for the 56<sup>th</sup> annual meeting. Very little information from this meeting is available. The statistical table shows a total of twenty-five baptisms, and a membership of 624. Many Churches did not give any information in their letters for some reason.

Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, St. Helena Parish, hosted the 57<sup>th</sup> annual meeting. Moderator G.R. Welch called the meeting to order. After religious exercises were concluded Elder Welch appointed reading clerks. Delegates were seated and letters read. The Association was reorganized and elected Elder J.T. Ott, Moderator; F.F. Miller, clerk; and J.M. Blount, treasurer. Committees were then appointed. After the evening meal Rev. J.T. Ott preached to those in attendance. The Foreign Mission report was given. Louisiana Baptist sent \$2,077.00 to the Foreign Mission Board, yet only a few in our Association take part. An offering was taken amounting to ten dollars and twenty cents. Reports for Home and State missions were also encouraging. On Sunday morning a mass Sunday School was held led by Elder D.R. Warren, followed by the report on Sunday Schools. Elder A.L. Johnson delivered the eleven o'clock sermon. The meeting then adjourned until seven P.M. Elder J.W. Vining delivered an old time sermon from John chapter 3 verse 5.

On Monday the rest of the reports were given. The Education committee recommended the Association take steps toward establishing a Denominational School at

Baywood, La. A committee was appointed to take care of this matter and report back to the Association. Eight dollars and five cents was received as an offering for Home Missions. The Committee on Discipline recommended to the Churches Matthew chapter 18 verses 15, 16, and 17 and to have good rules of discipline for the members to live by. There were 56 people baptized in our Association this year with a total membership of 1,208.

Eastern Louisiana Baptist Association met in 1900 on October 20<sup>th</sup> with Zoar Church, East Baton Rouge Parish. After religious exercises the Moderator J.T. Ott, appointed three committees and reading clerks. Delegates and church letters were received and seated. A petition from Denham Springs Church was received and the delegates welcomed. Delegates to the SBC meeting in New Orleans were appointed, as were those to the Louisiana Baptist Convention meeting in Baton Rouge. There were only four churches with Sunday Schools. The people were again encouraged to educate their children at Baptist schools. The Temperance committee “deemed the liquor traffic the most gigantic evil in the world.” The lack of support for Foreign, Home, and State Missions was brought before the delegates. The churches were urged to support their Pastors, and have Sunday Schools and prayer meetings locally. An Offering was received for various purposes and missions amounting to \$119.36. Twenty-five baptisms were reported and a total membership of 1,385.

October 19, 1901 Eastern Louisiana Baptist Association met in annual session at Denham Springs Baptist Church. The three day meeting was called to order by Elder C. E. Reid. Seventeen Churches were represented and two others – Jones Creek and Broussard Grove – sent delegates asking admission and were received. The Louisiana, Mississippi River, and Tangipahoa Associations also sent delegates. Offerings received during the sessions were: Mt. Lebanon College - \$6.00, State Missions - \$17.05, Foreign Missions - \$10.00, Orphanage - \$16.20. The following reports were given: Foreign Missions, State Missions, Publications, Education, Pastoral Support, Orphanage, State of Religion, Temperance, Obituary, Woman’s work, Treasurers report, and Nominations committee. Twenty-one churches gave \$51.21 to the associational fund over the year with most of it coming during the annual meetings. There were 148 baptized during the year by the 20 churches reporting with a total membership of 1,518.

The 60<sup>th</sup> session was held at redwood Church, East Feliciana parish (Olive Branch Post Office). Rev C. E. Reid, Moderator and Pastor, Called the meeting to order and welcomed all present. Committees were then appointed. Letters and delegates were received from eighteen churches. Four sermons were preached during the sessions the Saturday night one was preached by Rev. Ott to a small gathering due to the inclement weather. \$164.48 was collected during the meetings for several funds. Rev. H. T. Comish was elected to represent the association at the Southern Baptist Convention. Eight men were elected to represent the association at the state convention. The State Mission report told of twenty-eight Missionaries being employed starting 5 or 6 new works in the southern part of the state. Ordained ministers of the Association were: C. E. Reid, J. T. Ott, H. H. Achord, T. J. Wax, G. R. Welch, H. T. Comish, and R. T. Carpenter. In the state of Religion report the Churches with a good Prayer Meeting and Sunday Schools were the ones with the best attendance and work. In the others there was a falling off in attendance and work. It was voted that a committee, representing the Association, meet with the State missions committee to get a missionary for this area. There were 135

baptisms during the year for the Churches in our Association and a total membership of 1,390.

Twenty-one Churches reported to the Annual meeting in 1903. The state Missions Chairman, elder R. M. Boone, preached at the 7 P.M. Sunday night service after which he ask for an offering to help with the work in the Hammond and Ponchatoula churches. He received \$73.60 in pledges and cash. An offering for Foreign Missions was taken amounting to \$17.00. 181 persons were baptized during the church year giving a total membership of 1,853.

20 Churches sent letters and delegates to the 1904 Annual meeting. One church sent a letter only. During the report time they learned that the Foreign Mission committee had 138 Missionaries over the world and that the Bible had been translated into many languages. Offerings taken were ; State Missions - \$59.30, Foreign Missions - \$9.90, Baptist State orphanage - \$27.95, Home Missions - \$12.50 Ministerial Relief - \$1.50, Ministerial education - \$3.45, Mt. Lebanon College - \$20.05 and Associational fund - \$69.35. Ninety persons were baptized during 1904. The total membership of the Baptist Churches was 1,750.

Eastern Louisiana Baptist Association met at Hebron Church in 1905. The meetings were held November 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, and 13<sup>th</sup>. Elder G.R. Welch was Moderator. Twenty-one churches reported 115 Baptisms and a total membership of 1,985. J.U. Vining was the missionary working in the Florida Parishes. The temperance committee reported that liquors are “one of the greatest enemies of the progress of Christianity.” It was further recommended that “no liquor dealer or dram drinker can hold membership in a Baptist Church”.

The 64<sup>th</sup> session of ELBA met at Beech Ridge Church, Livingston Parish, on October 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, and 22<sup>nd</sup>. The Moderator, G.R. Welch, called the session to order. F.F. Miller was elected Clerk and J.L. McAdams Treasurer. Most of the reports were given on Saturday or Monday with a mass Sunday School meeting ending with the Sunday School report followed by preaching on Sunday Morning and preaching again night. Letters and delegates were received from 21 churches. The home Mission report made the people aware that much work needed to be done in their own areas and among their own people and within their own state. This work could not be accomplished without proper funding. Each church was encouraged to begin this work in their ‘Home field’. They were encouraged to get help in the form of tracts from the State Board, Dr. Gray. The Woman’s work had improved in many of the Churches in the form of Women’s Missionary Unions. And as usual it was recommended the Churches care better for their pastors in better salaries. The education committee encouraged all to take advantage of the public schools and Baptist schools in the state – Keatchie female school, male college at Pineville, La., and the new school at Amite City. There were ten ordained and two licensed ministers serving the Association. The churches sent to the Associational meeting funds for missions, orphanage and associational use in the amount of \$168.24. Offerings at the meetings added another \$37.50 to these funds. There were 182 baptized during the year and a total membership of 2,031. An advertisement on the back of the 1906 Annual was for the Baptist Hymnal. It cost anywhere from 52 cents to 86 cents per book depending on which version you wanted (music only, words only, shaped notes, abridged, or hymn & tune book).

The 1907 session was held at Colyell Church. Rev. Welch and Bro. Miller were reelected to their current positions and Bro. J. M. Smiley was elected treasurer. Elder L. M. Phillips told the congregation of the newly organized church in Gonzales, and ask for funds to help build a building there. He received \$20.17. An interesting note was included on the Sunday Exercises: "At 3 o'clock p. m., Elder L. m. Phillips preached an able sermon from Isaiah 1:16, but owing to the restlessness of the congregation at this hour, Bro. Phillips was compelled to preach under very unfavorable conditions. Services were closed till Monday at 9 a. m." The Home Board (SBC) had work in Cuba, Panama, isles of the sea, the western frontier, and among the foreigners coming to our shores. Our state missions had work in New Orleans, Baton Rouge, and Natchitoches. Twenty-two churches sent letters showing 127 baptisms and a total membership of 2,083.

Bethlehem Church hosted the 66<sup>th</sup> session. Elder G.R. Welch was elected moderator, F.F. Miller, clerk, and R.R. Perkins, treasurer. Committees were appointed, delegates seated, and letters were received and read. In the Sunday School report it was recommended that all churches use the literature published by our Board in Nashville, Tennessee. It further recommended all church fields be divided systematically and each Sunday School "go out into the highways and hedges and bring the children in and teach them the word." The Mission reports reminded the delegates that their churches should not forget it takes money to go out into all the world and teach the word. The Bible, The Baptist Chronicle, Home Field, and the Foreign Mission Journal were the publications recommended by the Report on Publications. It was reported that more than 100 children now live at the Baptist Orphanage in Lake Charles. The finance committee reported receiving \$183.87 for various causes. Total membership of the Churches was 2,064 with 165 baptisms for the year.

Mt. Zion church in Ascension Parish hosted the 1909 session. Following the opening exercises the Association elected officers. Rev. J.T. Ott was elected moderator, F.F. Miller, clerk, and J.L. McAdams, treasurer. Pine Grove church petitioned for membership and letters were read from twenty churches. Committees were then appointed and messengers to other bodies were elected. The Association agreed to spend \$30.00 on expenses to the Southern Baptist Convention. During the mass Sunday School meeting, a program and place committee was appointed for the coming Sunday School Convention consisting of R. H. Harris, S. Holden, and Sister E.D. Dixon. An offering was taken to rebuild the Gonzales church that had been destroyed by a storm. The sum of \$62.00 was collected in cash and pledges. The storm and boll weevil did much damage in the state but, the mission work was progressing well. Every church was encouraged to have a WMU program. Home and Foreign Missions were growing. Two hundred and sixteen people were baptized during the year. The total membership was 2,287.

Judson Church hosted the 68<sup>th</sup> session in 1910. Twenty-one Churches sent letters and delegates. Walker Church petitioned for membership and after examining the Articles of Faith of the Church they were welcomed. A committee was appointed to look into the Association being reorganized as a new association consisting of churches in Livingston and St. Helena Parishes. On Sunday evening a collection was taken to help complete the building of Judson Church amounting to \$9.55. After all reports were given the Association adjourned. During the year there were 191 baptisms, giving a total membership of 2,543.

The sixty-ninth session of Eastern Louisiana Baptist Association met at Salem Church, Livingston Parish, on October 4, 1911. Elder H.T. Comish opened the session then appointed the following committees. 1. Finance committee - J.L. Lea, D.W. Felder, and S.J. Hatcher. 2. Reading Clerks - R.M. Boone and I.M. Wise. 3. Committee on Religious Exercises - the Pastor and Deacons of Salem Church. After the reading of letters from twenty-three churches officers were elected by acclamation. Petitionary letters were received from the following churches: Doyle, Tickfaw and Midway of Brignac, Louisiana. All were received and messengers from other bodies were then seated. Following a sermon by J.A. Smith messengers were appointed to meet with other associations. Elder I.M. Wise of the Baptist Historical association requested that each church appoint a historian. Bro. H.T. Comish was asked to collect all the histories from the churches. The meeting then adjourned for the night.

On Sunday a mass Sunday School was held, followed by preaching. Rev. E.O. Ware preached at Salem church while Bro. I.M. Wise preached in the nearby schoolhouse. At the close of each service an offering for State missions was taken totaling \$21.07. The messengers met again at seven P.M. for a sermon by Bro. R.M. Boone. On Monday, due to bad weather, the association got a late start. Reports were presented and discussed. The following reports were given; State Missions, Baptist State Orphanage (offering received \$7.05), Report on Education (pledges and cash to Ministerial Education was \$102.00), Publications, Temperance, Home Missions, Obituaries, State of Religion, Pastoral Support, Woman's Work, Nomination committee, and the Treasurers report. A letter of dismission was given to Redwood Church to unite with Judson Association. Two committees were the appointed. 1. To help start Sunday Schools in all the Churches, 2. A committee to look after and help the destitute in the association. There were 311 baptized during the past year in ELBA with a total membership of 2881. Twenty-six churches reported.

In 1912 the Association met at Walker Baptist Church, Livingston Parish. The meeting was called to order by Elder J.T.Ott. Bro. Ott then appointed the Finance committee and the Reading clerks. Letters were then read and messengers seated from the twenty churches attending.

The Association then reorganized electing Elder M.M. Voyles moderator, F.F. Miller clerk, and J.L. Mc Adams treasurer. Petitionary letters were then called for. Magnolia Church, Ascension Parish was presented, received and messengers seated. Various committees were then appointed beginning the business session. At 7:30 P.M. Elder H.T. Comish preached the introductory sermon. On Sunday after a mass Sunday School Rev. E.O. Ware preached in the Church while Rev. G.R. Welch preached to a large congregation out in the Grove. The group assembled at 2P.M. to hear Elder J.A. Smith. At the conclusion of this sermon he ask one of the Creole converts to give his experience. Speaking in broken English/French he told of his salvation experience then led a prayer in French. (this brother was from Ascension Parish name not given.) The day ended with a sermon, to a large congregation, by Elder E.O. Ware.

Opening the Monday session with song, scripture, and prayed the committee reports were given as follows: Sunday School work; State Home and Foreign Missions; Baptist State Orphanage; Education; Temperance; Obituaries; State of Religion; Pastoral support; Report on nominations; and Woman's Work. Twenty-six Churches sent letters showing

23 Sunday Schools, 98 baptisms, \$95.26 to Home Missions, \$54.62 to Foreign Missions, \$175.14 to State Missions, with a total membership of 2,616.

Zoar Baptist Church, East Baton Rouge Parish, hosted the seventy-first annual meeting. On October 18, 1913 Elder M.M. Voyles opened the session with Prayer. The moderator appointed the reading clerks and the finance committee. Letters and messengers from the following churches were seated. Amite, Beech Ridge, Pleasant Hill, Magnolia, Mt. Zion, Hebron, Broussard Grove, Pine Grove, Colyell, Galilee, Gonzales, Jones Creek, Judson, Midway, Salem, Walker, Zoar, Tickfaw, Bethany, Sandy Creek, Denham Springs, Eden, and Bluff Creek. J.L. McAdams was elected moderator, F.F. Miller, clerk, and G.W. Rice, treasurer. Elder N. Black preached the introductory sermon from the 8<sup>th</sup> chapter of Acts. Messengers to the State Convention were appointed followed by several reports. On Sunday after the mass Sunday School lead by Rev. N. Black, M.C. Corkern preached to a large congregation. At the close of the sermon Elder G.H. Crutcher spoke on State Missions. An Offering of \$55.55 was taken.

The Sunday night service was opened with a song followed by exercises by the B. Y. P. U. of Zoar Church. Elder G.N. Drumright gave the report on Woman's Work. The women were then given space in the book of reports for a statistical report. Rev. J.L. McAdams was elected delegate to the Southern Baptist Convention. The messenger New River Church arrived and was seated. Rev. M.M. Voyles gave a report of his trip to the Southern Baptist Convention. On Monday the rest of the reports were given and standing committees appointed. This year the churches baptized 203, gave \$171.86 to State Missions, \$82.38 to Home Missions and \$ 73.17 for Foreign Missions. Of the 26 churches 24 had Sunday Schools

Tickfaw Church of Holden, Louisiana, hosted the seventy-second Annual session. The moderator appointed the reading clerks and finance committee. The Church letters were read and messengers seated. The messengers elected by acclamation J.L. McAdams, Moderator, F.F. Miller, clerk, and G.W. Rice, treasurer. Petitionary letters were received from old Antioch Church, Satsuma, La., to be known as Satsuma Church and from Zachary Church of Judson Association. After an orthodoxy investigation Satsuma was seated and Zachary asked for a letter dismissing them from Judson Association. The morning session adjourned until 2 P.M. At two the house was called together by song, prayer and scripture reading. Messengers from other bodies were welcomed. The introductory sermon was postponed until the night session. Home and State Mission reports were then given and spoken to. Elder M.M. Voyles devoted the Night service to song, prayer, and sermon.

Sunday exercises consisted of a song service, Scripture reading from John 6. The Sunday School report was then given and discussed. Due to the large congregation, preaching, was held at the school house by Elder B.W. Cole and at the church by elder J.D. Norris who took an offering for missions amounting to \$7.50.

Monday, at the appointed time, the meeting was called to order with singing. Elder Voyles read the scripture then Bro. Finley offered the prayer. A roll call of messengers followed. Those absent without leave were stricken from the minutes. The remaining reports were then given and spoken to. After lunch the last session was called to order. The remainder of reports given, messengers to other bodies were appointed. J.M. Watts was appointed to attend the Southern Baptist Convention his alternate being J.F. Arceneaux. Standing committees were appointed then the nominating committee report

was given. This year the 26 churches baptized 233 persons. Total value of the property of the churches was \$15,705.00.

On October 15, 1915 at Midway Baptist Church in Ascension Parish the 73<sup>rd</sup> Annual meeting of Eastern Louisiana Baptist Association began. Elder H.T. Comish gave the scripture reading and prayer. The officers from last year were reelected. The churches and messengers seated were:

Amite	W.H. White
Bethany	T.J. Shillings, Bailey Shillings
Beech Ridge	Henry Sibley
Broussard Grove	B.F. Broussard
Colyell	Louis Harrell, Elder J.M. Watts
Denham Springs (letter only)	Elder H.T. Comish, Ivy Cockerham (visitors)
Doyle	C.D. Watts, Joseph Huse (Hughes ?)
Eden	A.D. Cockerham, Penny McDowell, W.T. Dixon
Gallilee	Elder S.E. Waseom, W.L. Frank
Gonzales	D.B. Miller, Sr., D.L. Bornman
Hebron	J.E. Garrison, L.W. Vincent, D.W. Felder,
Jones Creek	Wm.O'Neil
Judson	A.M. Parker, Louis LeBlanc
Midway	J.H. Muse
Mt. Zion	L.B. Smiley, J.H. Michael, Ernest Leabeau
New River	Elder J.D. Norris, Z.L. Causey, Albert Muller
Pleasant Hill	G.W. Rice, Elder J.F. Arceneaux, G.C. Williams
Tickfaw	Eugene Carroll
Walker	G.N. Drumright, J.E. Myers
Zoar	S.R. Stafford, Ivy Courtney
	J.L. McAdams, G.L. Sides, J.A. Shaffett, Fred
	Edwards

A petitionary letter from Oak Grove church, Ascension Parish was received and after examination she was receives and her messengers, E.D. Dixon, A. King, and I.L. Odom, seated. Zachary Church again petitioned for membership, but not having a letter of dismission from Judson Association, a committee was appointed to make a recommendation to the body. Appointed to this committee was: Brethren H.T. Comish, D.W. Felder, and G.N. Drumwight. After some study the committee referred the matter back to the body for decision. Following prayer by Bro. J.A. Shaffett and a lengthy discussion a vote was taken. The church was accepted and her messenger, Mrs. J.D. Norris, seated. Reports were read and spoken to. An announcement was made Saturday that "the sisters would meet in the grove near the church and hold their W. M. U. meeting." A number of the reports were read and adopted. Following the evening sermon a number of reports were read. The Sunday exercises opened with a song service lead by Prof. J.F. Arceneaux. The rest of the reports were read and adopted. A collection was taken for the work in Livingston Parish and Maurepas amounting to \$10.00. "Elder J.F. Arceneaux was engaged to hold a meeting in the near future in that destitute field." Total

baptized this year was 172. Total membership was 2,724 among 28 churches. Fourteen Churches had Women's Missionary unions.

Eastern Louisiana Baptist Association met with Oak Grove Church, Ascension Parish on October 13, 1916. The session was opened by J.L. McAdams, who appointed the finance committee {G.N. Drumright, F.E. Miller, and A. D. Ashford} and reading clerks ( H.T. Comish, and J.F. Arceneaux ). The letters from 25 churches were read and messengers seated. The committee on Religious exercises was appointed consisting of the Pastor and Deacons of Oak Grove Church. The messengers then elected officers for the new year. Moderator - J.L. McAdams, Treasurer - G.W. Rice, Clerk - F.F. Miller, and Vice Moderator - R.L. Cook. Following this election the session ended for lunch. The next session opened with song, prayer, and scripture. Visitors recognized were; Elders E.O. Ware, G.R. Welch, M.C. Corkern, S.E. Wascom, and R.T.D. Carpenter. Later that night Elder J.D. Norris led the Devotional exercises and preaching was by C.N. Kimberlin. A report on B.Y.P.U. was given for the first time. Saturday Walker church was seated; G.C. Williams was elected to represent ELBA at the Southern Baptist Convention in New Orleans. The Association agreed to pay \$10.00 of his expenses. F.F. Miller was elected associational Sunday School Superintendent. Elder H.T. Comish was elected to represent the Association on the State Board. State, Home and Foreign Mission and Sunday School reports were read. After Lunch the Education report was given and pledges taken for the support of two young ministers, J.D. Carroll and M.W. Salassi, at Louisiana collage. The W.M. U. also made pledges to these young men. Elder J.D. Norris read the report on Women's Work. Miss Georgia Barnette was present and led the W.M.U. ladies in Bible Study at their meeting. The ladies learned as much as possible about missions and what they could do to help. G.W. Rice gave the report on Pastoral Support. The house adjourned for the evening and reassembled at 7:30 P.M.

Other reports were given. State of Religion report was changed to State of the Churches. Elder R.T.D. Carpenter read the Report on Evangelism. Other reports were: Sabbath Observance read by J.P. Watts, Baptist Orphanage read by Elder H.T. Comish, Report on obituaries read by A.D. Cockerham, He stated that Rev. Marion Monroe Voyles had died July 29,1916. The association voted to endorse B.Y.P.U. and have a report at the following annual sessions. On Sunday morning J.F. Arceneaux gave a report on destitute parts of Livingston Parish. He labored 163 days, made 198 pastoral visits, preached 65 sermons, and preached at six mission points and five churches. Some of the points visited were Black Bayou, Maurepas, an English community, French Settlement where 10 made decisions at one service and fifteen at another, Head of Island was showing some prospects while Bear Island was untouched. The Sunday School report stated there was work with both the French and Italians. There were only eight brick churches outside of New Orleans. In our state there were 200 churches without a building, and there were 250 pastors for 700 churches. Other reports given were Foreign Missions, orphans Home, Treasurers report, and finance committee. The meeting closed with a resolution of thanks for kindness shown during the meeting.

The 1917 Meeting of Eastern Louisiana Baptist Association was held at Doyle Baptist Church, Livingston, Louisiana. The meeting was called to order by J. L. Mc Adams. The moderator appointed R. L. Cook, and W.M. Mc Gehee as reading clerks and B. Drumright, R.K. Lovett, and G.S. Garrison as the finance committee. Messengers were then seated from the twenty-three Churches present. The newly constituted Immanuel

Baptist Church of Baton Rouge, and Maurepas Church petitioned the Association for membership and both were accepted and welcomed. Messengers from 5 Churches arrived late, their letters read and messengers seated. Reports were assigned and given. Mrs. E.P. Daigle led the Association in Bible readings and a discussion on giving. An offering was then taken for aged ministers of the State. The W.M.U. met at the school near by following lunch on Friday. Following more reports Elder B.W. Cole brought a message from Psalm 47. Elder J.F. Arceneaux gave a report on the State Orphanage as well as his missionary service for the Association. He also led the Sunday morning worship service reading from Proverbs. All Churches were encouraged to begin B.Y.P.U. for their young people.

After the parting hymn the Association adjourned. During the year there were 316 baptisms among the thirty Churches who reported their progress.

The seventy-sixth meeting of E.L.B.A. was held with Denham Springs Baptist Church (First) on November 14, 15, 16, 1918. This meeting was held late because all churches were closed in October due to the epidemic. (This epidemic was the Spanish influenza. It affected the world and all of the U.S. and killed more people than WWI. It appeared mysteriously and disappeared just as mysteriously. This epidemic occurred during World War I.)

Bro. H. T. Comish led opening exercises. J.L. McAdams, moderator, appointed the following committees: Finance - J.E. Myers, J.H. Muse, and Sidney Garrison; Religious Exercises - Pastor and delegates from Denham Springs Church; Reading Clerks - L.M. Tyler, J.D. Carroll. Letters were received from 19 Churches although not all sent delegates. A letter of petition was received from Corbin Church, and a letter for dismission from Zachary Church. Both were granted. Reports were then assigned to the Churches to be given as soon as possible. The Introductory Sermon was postponed until 7 P.M. The afternoon session began with the following reports: Women's work, Layman's movement, Sabbath observance, War Work, and Evangelism. Several new pastors were welcomed; L.M. Tyler, Isaiah Watson, and J.H. Alford. A telegram was received from Dr. F.C. Flowers. Following the completion of reports and ensuing discussion the body voted to change the annual meeting time to Thursday before the second Sunday in September. They then voted to adjourn. The Association was made up of thirty Churches. During this year there were two hundred and eighty eight baptized. Pastoral salaries ran from \$24.25 to \$ 562.00 a year. Expenses for the churches ran from \$33.82 to \$1,951.00.

September 11, 12, and 13, 1919 was the meeting days for Eastern Louisiana Baptist Association at Gonzales Baptist Church. Twenty-four Churches sent messengers and several others mailed their letters. Cotton Creek and Livingston petitioned for membership. Their orthodoxy was examined, they were accepted and messengers seated. Visitors present were; E.O. Ware from the Baptist Message, Dr. G. H. Crutcher representing State Missions, Dr. F. C. Flowers from Baptist Orphanage, and Miss Mary Cason from the Baptist Bible Institute. Dr. Crutcher spoke on the "Organization of the Forces in Each Church for the 75 Million Campaign." The Association committee on the 75 Million Campaign consisted of: Isaiah Watson, H. T. Comish, and Bro. E. D. Dixon. Elder J. T. Ott was recognized as the oldest minister in the association. The reading of reports and discussion of each followed. Cash and pledges were taken to raise money to pay our Associational Missionaries for 1917 and 1918. It was decided that the Association would meet on Friday before the second Sunday in October at Hebron

Baptist Church. The conjuration sung a hymn and took the parting hand. There were 122 baptisms totally during this year. Total membership for the churches was 3,291 persons.

1920. The meeting was called together by J.L. McAdams, with Rev. J.T. Ott conducting the opening services. The moderator appointed the following committees: Reading clerks - E.O. Ware, and O. M. Corley. Finance committee - J. H. Muse, C. L. Tucker and Levi Garrison. Letters were read and messengers seated. Twenty-eight churches were represented. Later five other church letters and messengers arrived. The body then elected officers for the ensuing year and assigned reports to be given to various churches. Rev. O. M. Corley preached to the gathered group. On Saturday morning, after singing and prayer, reports were given. Following the report on Women's work by Mrs. Coxe of Gonzales they dismissed for lunch. The afternoon session opened with a solo by Prof. Williams. The letters showed a total of 217 baptized, 259 in B.Y.P.U., 1,726 in Sunday school, and 153 in the Woman's Auxiliary.

Meeting at Eden Church, Denham Springs, Louisiana the seventy-ninth annual session opened with religious exercises by Elder C. E. Reid. The association then reorganized. Moderator J. L. McAdams assigned reports and times for guest to speak. Speaking at the 2 P.M. service were Bro. Flowers and Elder Spurgeon Wingo. Elder Wingo spoke at length on the 75 million campaign and other topics. An offering of \$20.50 was taken for the orphanage. After several reports the group adjourned until 7:30 P. M. The night service began with songs and prayer. A solo by Miss Grace Allen and a sermon by J.F. Arceneaux from Jeremiah 6: 16. Saturday morning the meeting began with song and prayer. Reports were then given and continued until dinner. The afternoon meeting heard reports, a discussed the orthodoxy of New River Church, and a discussion on temperance. A committee was appointed to contact the legislature to increase their enforcement of prohibition laws. ( Members of the committee - J. E. Garrison, R. H. Harris, Howard Bowman, B. F. Broussard, and H. D. Ashford ) The night session began with reading of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Eden Church by Elder Comish. Miss Grace Allen again sang another solo. A sermon by Elder Flowers from Luke 16 ended the day. Sunday exercises began with a song service, Scripture from Psalms, and prayer. They then looked again at the New River Church problem and heard the rest of the reports. Letters arriving late were read. A resolution was adopted to change the number of messengers from each Church. The compiled letters show 27 people have died, 26 Churches have Sunday Schools, B.Y.P.U. work is growing, pastor salaries are increasing, 129 persons in the Woman's Auxiliary and 361 baptisms.

Pleasant Hill church, Pine Grove, La. hosted the 1922 session. Letters from twenty-one churches were read and messengers seated. Officers were then elected. J.L. McAdams was re-elected moderator, M.C. Corken vice moderator, F.F. Miller clerk, and D.L. Barnman treasurer. Twenty-three churches presented letters. Reports were assigned to different churches. In order to have more reports given the opening sermon was put off until Friday. Saturday morning opened with songs and prayer then it was moved to limit the speaking time for each report to no more than fifteen minutes each, in order to complete all business that day. During this year there were 237 baptized, 3,788 church members, \$11,133.92 total church contributions, 1,688 in Sunday School, \$1,584.00 in WMU contributions, and 348 enrolled in B.Y.P.U.

1923. The eighty-first annual meeting met with Sandy Creek Church. The session was called to order by Elder J. L. McAdams, moderator. He appointed J. F. Arceneaux

and D .E. Coyle as reading clerks. F. E. Roberts, J. E. Myers, and C. L. Tucker were appointed as the finance committee. Letters were received from twenty-six Churches, while only twenty-four sent messengers. Following the seating of messengers, and the welcoming of guests, Elder D. E. Coyle brought the introductory sermon. Reports were then assigned. The report on entertainment reported on homes for the messengers and visitors.

Other reports given were Foreign missions, Home Missions by Dr. H. C. Jones for Amite Church and State missions by Mrs. Jodie Edwards for Zoar Church - there are 9 missionaries to the French and 7 to the Italians. The state also has work among the Negro population. There is the Sunday School, and B.Y.P.U., W.M.U., Publications, and the Cooperative Missions under the heading of State Missions. The sermon on Friday night by Elder F. C. Flowers was on "Occupy 'till I come."

Saturday morning, after devotional exercises, late messengers were seated and the business of the Association continued with reports.

Time, after lunch, being set aside for a discussion of the 75 million campaign. Elder L. M. Tyler led this discussion then resigned as Associational organizer for the round-up campaign. A letter from the Churches in the territory of Ascension Parish asked to be dismissed to form a new association. The following Churches were dismissed: Oak Grove, Jones Creek, Gonzales, New River, Mt. Zion, and Broussard Grove. The Saturday night sermon by Dr. R. P. Mahon was on "Conditions in Mexico as A Mission Field." At 11 A.M. on Sunday business was suspended for the sermon by Elder D. E. Coyle. Business resumed with the appointment of assistant Sunday School superintendents; Bro. Crow from Bethany and Elder J.M. Watts. The treasurer's report was read and adopted. Messengers to other meetings were appointed and the Association Adjourned. There were 284 baptisms with a total membership in our Association of 3,801.

The 1924 meeting of ELBA was held at Holden Baptist Church. Nineteen Churches sent letters and messengers. Rev. J. T. Ott led the opening religious exercises then Rev. J. F. Arceneaux called the meeting to order and appointed reading clerks and finance committee. The reading clerks were told, after a vote, to give a summery of the letters instead of reading each one aloud. During reorganization the following were elected: J. F. Arceneaux - moderator, D. E. Coyle - vice-moderator, F. F. Miller - clerk, and H. O. Barnett - treasurer. The rules of decorum were read by Elder M. C. Corkern. Messengers from other associations were welcomed. Dr. L. P. St. Amant from Ascension Association and Bro. W. H. Durbin from Amite River Association were among the guests. The introductory sermon was preached by Elder S. E. Wascom. Following lunch the Association again was called to order. Reports were begun at this time. E. B. Miller read the State Missions report. Highlights from this report showed the state is divided into four districts, with a man in Charge of each one. There are eleven Missionaries to the French and six to the Italians. The State has sixteen Cooperative workers, twelve parishes without a Baptist preacher, Fifty -one towns of a thousand or more without a Baptist Church or Preacher, 183 Churches without a church house, and in 1923 242 Churches did not baptize one person.

The 75 Million campaign and the State Orphanage reports was discussed by a number of delegates. On Saturday morning reports and duties of committees filled the time. Miss Georgia Barnett met with the Women's Missionary Society. At 7 P.M. Dr. C. C. Carroll of the Baptist Bible Institute spoke to the assembled conjuration.

Sunday morning session opened with devotional exercises by Elder J.M. Watts. A roll call of messengers and corrections to said list was made. Reports were continued until time for the sermon on Missions delivered by Elder D. E. Coyle. A discussion of the 1925 campaign ensued and a committee appointed. One person from each church made up this committee. The last of the reports were given after lunch and the Association adjourned with prayer.

The letters showed 290 people were baptized during the year and a total membership of 3,414 members in twenty-two Churches.

1925. The eighty-third meeting of Eastern Louisiana Baptist Association was held at Amite Church, Livingston Parish, Seventeen Churches were represented by messengers when the session opened. J. F. Arceneaux called the meeting to order, and then appointed committees after the devotion by M. C. Corkern. The visitors were recognized followed by the election of officers. Rev. M. C. Durr delivered the introductory sermon. After dinner on the grounds M. C. Durr led in song while J. M. Watts led in prayer. Reports on State, Home, and Foreign Missions were then read and discussed. No other business was enacted. The two sermons by Dr. E. D. Solomon closed the day. J. W. Mont opened the Saturday morning meeting. Sandy Creek and Maurepas Churches having arrived were seated. The Missions reports from Friday were adopted. Reports were read, discussed, and adopted. These reports are listed in detail in the Annual for 1925. Song and prayer opened the Sunday morning service. It was reported that twenty-six people had died since the last Associational meeting. D. E. Coyle preached on "The Great Commission." An offering was taken for State Missions amounting to \$79.22. Lunch was then served, followed by a song and devotional service. Final reports were given, the Executive Board appointed, and with thanks to the community the session adjourned.

Magnolia Church opened its doors and community for the 1926 session of the Association. Letters and messengers from Amite, Bethany, Bluff Creek, Colyell, Corbin, Denham Springs, Eden, Hebron, Holden, Salem, and Zoar were enrolled. Visitors and new pastors were recognized. Election of officers was then held with the following results:

Moderator - M. C. Corkern; J.L. Garrison, vice-moderator; E. B. Miller, clerk; and J. E. Garrison, treasurer. The rules of Decorum were read and the program was adopted. Committees were appointed and a new committee on encampment was created. The introductory sermon, from Romans 1: 13 - 15, was delivered by Dr. E. D. Solomon. Elder D. E. Coyle opened the afternoon session with a devotion and prayer. A letter from the new Church at Frost was received and seated. Maurepas Church asked to be dismissed to join the Ascension Association. This was granted. Reports on Education, Woman's Work, Religious exercises, and publications were read and adopted. No more business was carried on. Rev. D. E. Coyle preached to an attentive audience that night. J. M. Watts led Saturday morning's devotional service. The following committees were announced: Obituaries, J. S. Garrison, C. L. Tucker, and Allen Martin; Nomination, J.M. Watts, Naul Pennington, and W.J. Hatcher; Resolutions, J.E. Myers, Bertice Hull, and W.E. Breland.

Letters from Doyle and Galilee arrived and messengers seated. State Missions report was read by J.L. Garrison while J.E. Garrison read the Home Missions report. Rev. A. D. Prentiss read the Foreign Mission report. E. A. Sandifer opened the afternoon session

with scripture and Rev. Prentiss led in prayer. The letter from Sandy Creek arrived and was read. Reports on orphanage, Encampment, and Temperance were read and adopted. The night sermon was by rev. J.W. mount on "The Unity of the Church." Sunday Morning Rev. Elbert Duvall read the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm followed by prayer. Walker Church having arrived presented her letter and messengers. The report on the Co-operative program was given and discussed. Rev. J.F. Arceneaux preached on "Sleeping People." At the same hour Rev. E.A. Sandifer preached to the overflow crowd, in the school building nearby. The last session opened with prayer and song. Reports were completed and the session ended. Total baptized this year was 185. Total church membership was 3,778 in the twenty-two Churches who made up the Association.

Eastern Louisiana Baptist Association met October 6, 7, and 8<sup>th</sup>, 1927 with Bethany Baptist Church, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Rev. M.C. Corkern, moderator, called the meeting to order. Several committees were then appointed. Reading clerks were named: Rev. C.W. Wright and Rev. Ernest Chandler. Next the roll call of messengers with seventeen churches responding. Rev. L.L. Hansen then brought the introductory sermon.

Each session opened with a devotion. Rev. J.T. Ott gave the opening devotion Thursday morning. The next session Rev. A.D. Prentiss read from Psalms. Rev. L.L. Hansen delivered the Thursday night sermon on *the Ministry of the Church*. On Friday morning the devotion was given by Rev. C.W. Wright from John 21. The Rev. J.M. Watts gave the Friday afternoon devotion. The sermon on Friday night was on the Co-Operative program by Rev. Ernest Chandler. Saturday the association went straight into business after the opening hymn, adjourning when all business was completed.

There was no report on Associational Missions. Reports were given on State, Foreign, and Home Missions. There was a need for someone to work with the Italians in the state. Eight Parishes and fifty one towns in are our state without a single Baptist Church. Our State Mission program has aided more than one hundred churches in the 1927 flood from the Mississippi River. Bro. G.H. Miller urged the churches to give more to the Cooperative Program so more work can be done in our state.

The committee on Temperance reminded the churches of the hypocrisy to support prohibition then over look the members who still drink. "A man is not a good citizen who will continue at lawbreaking." Parents were reminded that they were responsible for teaching their children to abide by the law.

Sunday School and B.Y.P.U. showed growth throughout the association. The Executive committee was authorized to arrange for an annual Associational Evangelistic Meeting. During 1927 there were 392 baptisms through out the Association.

The Eighty-sixth annual meeting met at Judson Baptist Church. Twenty-one Churches sent messengers and letters. Rev. D.E. Coyle was elected moderator, Rev. J.E. Chandler was elected vice moderator; E.B. Miller, clerk; and J.E. Myers, treasurer. Mrs. J.E. Myers gave the report on the W.M. U. after which Rev. N. Black preached. Dinner on the ground was served after the sermon.

Reports of committees along with discussions on each filled the afternoon. The Friday and Saturday sessions were filled with song, devotions and business. The State Mission report stated that Louisiana was the greatest mission field in the south. The Home Mission Board served the bounds of the Southern Baptist Convention as well as the Canal

Zone and Western Cuba. The Foreign Mission Board overlapped with the Home Mission Board in some areas. Due to this overlapping reorganization was expected to take place. Our Baptist Encampment was organized in 1918 and bought property in 1923 on Lake Ponchartrain near Mandeville, Louisiana. To go to the encampment for ten days cost \$1.50 per day plus \$1.00 registration fee.

A resolution was passed for the association to give \$100.00 to the work of Sunday School and B.Y.P.U. and for Mr. and Mrs. Joe Santo to continue working with these groups. The twenty-one churches making up Eastern Louisiana Baptist Association baptized 254 people this year.

Colyell Baptist Church hosted the eighty-seventh session of Eastern Louisiana Association in 1929. The session opened with singing "Amazing Grace" and a devotion by Rev. H.T. Comish. Several committees were appointed then the election of officers. Rev. D.E. Coyle was elected moderator; Rev. J.E. Chandler, vice moderator; E.B. Miller, clerk; and J.E. Myers, treasurer. It was reported that there were five Theological Seminaries and thirty-one Senior Colleges in the Southern Baptist Convention. The Associational WMU reported 11 societies' with 198 members. There were 7 junior organizations with a membership of 80. Publications suggested for the people to read were the *Teacher*, *Sunday School Builder*, and the *Baptist Message*. Mission work in the state was with the French, Italians, Jews, Spanish-speaking people, and other foreign-speaking people. There were fourteen parishes without a single Baptist church.

The State Brotherhood Secretary stressed the value of organizing the men of Louisiana into Associational Brotherhoods. "Believing that, God's business is the biggest business on the earth, we are anxious that Baptist people strive to make it the best." The Children's home in Monroe, La. had two hundred children and was in need of help from the churches. Our association had 11 standard Sunday Schools. Others were striving to reach that goal. The association had 33 B.Y.P.U. groups with a membership of 670. The Mandeville encampment was under the supervision of Rev. S.C. Dean, Missionary and Mr. C.M. Manigan Camp President. The cost for attending camp is \$1.50 a day and a registration fee of \$1.00. The idea of building an associational building on the camp grounds was discussed. There were 21 churches in the Association this year with a membership of 4,282. Together they baptized 218 people. A resolution was presented and passed to ask Judge Columbus Reid, of the 21<sup>st</sup> Judicial District, to be lenient on Ed. Murphy because he was trying to uphold the law ("although erroneously").

Denham Springs Baptist Church (First) hosted the 1930 annual meeting. Amite, Denham Springs, and Zoar were now full time with preaching every Sunday. The other eighteen were still part time. There were 163 baptisms and a total membership of 4,192 reported. The value of all church property was \$59,292.00.

Rev. D.E. Coyle was elected moderator, while Rev. J.E. Chandler was elected vice moderator, E.B. Miller clerk, and J.E. Myers treasurer. The report on education showed that only five of our churches out of twenty-one were receiving the *Baptist Message*. The Children's home in Monroe, La. has almost 200 boys and girls living there now. Giving to the Cooperative Program was down with a number of area churches giving nothing. All were reminded that to co-operate you had to take part. The W.M.U. report showed eleven active groups. They also sponsored G.A., R.A., Y.W.A. and Sunbeam Bands in the churches. Men were encouraged to join the local church Brotherhood programs in their churches.

The report on Law Enforcement reminded the people present that they live in a country with a government “of the people, by the people, and for the people. This fact carries with it, the obligation of every citizen to be law abiding.”

Six churches had the requirements for a standard Sunday School. Fewer churches had B.Y.P.U. this year.

The following nominations were read and adopted: Rev. D.E. Coyle for State Board Member, Rev. J.E. Chandler as messenger to the State Convention, Rev. W.L. Grafton as messenger to the Southern Baptist Convention, E.B. Miller to be Associational Sunday School Superintendent, C.L. Brannon as Associational B.Y.P.U. Superintendent.

The eighty-ninth meeting of our association met with Zoar Baptist Church, East Baton Rouge Parish. Frost and Livingston Churches had disbanded since the last meeting. Eighteen churches sent messengers and letters. After the opening exercises the following officers were elected: Moderator, Rev. D.E. Coyle; vice-moderator, Rev. M.C. Corken; clerk, E.B. Miller; and treasurer, J.F. McNabb. New pastors Revs. Van M. Dykes, Colyell, and Albert Hutchinson, Corbin, were introduced along with visiting ministers.

The Associational sermon was preached by Rev. L.L. Hansen on “The Need Of A Revival In The Missionary Movement.” The afternoon session was filled with reports such as the report on Foreign Missions which told of the evangelistic tour by George W. Truett through Brazil, Argentina and Chile along with work in China, Italy, Rumania, and West Africa. The Lottie Moon offering helped pay the salaries of one hundred missionaries. There were 147 baptisms and nineteen revivals held by our churches.

Zoar Baptist Church hosted the Eighty-ninth Annual Session of Eastern Louisiana Baptist Association. Rev. D.E. Coyle opened the conference followed by Devotional services. Committees for the conference reports were then appointed. Letters were read and messengers seated from seventeen churches. Frost and Livingston Churches have disbanded since the last Associational meeting.

The Temperance and Law Enforcement committee reported on the prohibition laws and the church and citizens responsibility in upholding them. Rev. W.L. Grafton gave the State Missions report. “Louisiana presents the greatest mission field of any State in the South.” Acadia Academy students are working among the French, and a church has been organized among the Italian and Spanish speaking people in New Orleans. The Lottie Moon offering has helped pay the salaries of one hundred missionaries. Support for missions must increase if they are to carry on God work around the world. The W.M.U. members are kept informed of needs through the Royal Service magazine. The Baptist Children’s home in Monroe had 180 children. It is in need of consistent support. Each church was encouraged to support the Co-operative Program and get each member to commit support too. The Sunday School and B.Y.P.U. report growth and encourage other churches to take part. At the states four Christian educational institutions: Louisiana College, Dodd’s College, Acadia Academy and the Baptist Bible Institute, there are seven hundred young men and women training for a life of service to the master. Everyone was encouraged to plan to attend Mandeville Encampment. The Association had a total membership of 4,249 with 147 baptisms.

On October 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, 1932, *Eastern Louisiana Baptist Association* met for its ninetieth annual session at Walker Baptist Church. The following Churches and Messengers were present:

Amite – R.H. Allen, Mrs. F. Tate, J.S. Garrison, G.O. Sullivan

Bethany – Mr. and Mrs. J.M. Wascom  
 Bluff Creek – A.G. Hatcher  
 Colyell – Rev. Van M. Dykes, Rev. J.M. Watts, Monroe Watts  
 Corbin – Letter only  
 Denham Springs – H.L. Keen, Jr., Mrs. D.E. Coyle, Mrs. J.E. Morrison, Calvert Corken  
 Doyle – A.B. McMorris, Rev. J.E. Chandler, Mrs. Ed. Daniel, Mrs. L.W. Hartman  
 Eden – Joe Minton, Ellis Warner, Harold Barnett, Miss Pearl Barnett  
 Galilee – P.S. Gurney, Mrs. Elizabeth Farrar  
 Hebron – A.C. Hammock, M.O. Watson, J.F. McNabb, J.E. Garrison  
 Holden – Mrs. B. Drumwright, Mrs. W.F. Starns, Alvin Hubbs  
 Judson – Leon Davis, Willie Graham, Harvey Muse, J.Y. Graham  
 Magnolia – Mr. and Mrs. F.D. Stillely  
 Pine Grove – J.H. Hardy, Lee McNabb, Miss Maud Clark  
 Pleasant Hill – Rev. and Mrs. W.L. Graften, Mrs. Clyde Wheat, Miss Davis Jenkins  
 Salem – not represented  
 Sandy Creek – Rev. J.H. Huccabee, T.J. Dreer, J.F. Kleinpeter, Mrs. T.L. Tucker  
 Walker – E.W. Henderson, Charles Lockhart, Mrs. N.E. Stafford, Mrs. Alvin Summers  
 Zoar, Rev. L.L. Hanson, George Watts, R.K. Lovett, Mrs. W.E. Robertson.

The Annual Sermon by Rev. W.L. Graften was from Matthew 16: 13-20. His theme was “The Custodian of the Key and its Mission.” In 1932 almost every report mentioned a lack of money. Christian Education, State, Home, and Foreign Missions were all suffering. A motion to have a local encampment, to be held the next summer, at Camp Garrison was presented. This passed with Rev. L.L. Hanson, Mrs. D.E. Coyle, and C.L. Brannon to make all arrangements. Looking back over this year there were fewer churches having Sunday Schools, B.Y.P.U., and W.M.U. The W.M.U. junior organizations increased. Gifts to the co-operative Program were mostly through the W.M.U. In the report by Rev. J.H. Huccabee on Temperance and law and order he stated, “the greatest war that was ever fought was not fought between nations; but between the forces of righteousness and the forces of evil.” The use of alcohol was a major problem. The people were reminded: “as God’s servants, we acknowledge ourselves as stewards, not only of money, time, and talents, but also of our citizenship and should diligently, and prayerfully use our privilege of voting to his glory. The treasurer’s report showed \$129.49 on hand with disbursements of \$129.49. The eighteen Churches in the Association baptized one hundred and sixty seven persons during this year.

The 91<sup>st</sup> annual session of the Association was held at Galilee Baptist Church, East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana. The meeting was called to order by Rev. J.E. Chandler. Rev. H.T. Comish read from the 103<sup>rd</sup> Psalm. Letters and messengers were presented from sixteen churches with three more coming for the second day. Rev. J.E. Chandler was elected moderator; Rev. J.F. Arceneaux, vice moderator; E.B. Miller, clerk; and J.F. McNabb, treasurer. In the State Mission report there were still eighteen parishes without a single Baptist Church. The pastors were encouraged to preach about missions more in the next year. The Board of Home Missions reported work with Mexicans in Texas, French in Louisiana, Indians in New Mexico, Negroes of Alabama, natives of Panama and Cuba, the Jews, seamen, deaf mutes, Rescue Missions, and Sanitariums.

The Gifts to Foreign Missions were down twenty-five per cent from 1932. There was a loss of seventeen missionaries, but the number being baptized was up. More churches were having B.Y.P.U. and Sunday School. The Amite River Encampment at Camp Garrison had about 200 attending. Five associations took part. The report on Woman's work showed increases in churches having W.M.U. and its auxiliary organizations. Increases in giving, interest and conversions were also shown. The Children's Home had 153 residences, with a long waiting list. They were much in need of funds. There had been a number of children ill and the crops were a failure due to the weather. There were three full time churches with the rest meeting once or twice a month. Total baptisms for the year 1933 were 197.

The 92<sup>nd</sup> Annual Session of Eastern Louisiana Baptist Association was held at Hebron Baptist Church on October 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, 1934. The 19 churches making up the association had baptized 267 people. Sermons and devotions were given by Revs. J.O. Hopper, L.L. Hanson, A.C. Hammock, J. D. Brown, J.M. Watts, and Miss Vera Carter, state Sunday School and B.Y.P.U. worker. The repeal of Prohibition laws gave birth to saloons and the sale of intoxicating beverages and the problems that come with them. Growth in B.Y.P.U. and Sunday School was reported. All churches were encouraged to take part in the Co-operative program as a way to support missions both at home and around the world.

The ninety-third session of ELBA was held at Doyle Baptist Church on October 10-11, 1935.

Letters were presented from the following Churches; Amite, Bethany, Bluff Creek, Colyell, Denham Springs, Doyle, Pine Grove, Pleasant Hill, Salem, Sandy Creek, Walker, Zoar, Eden, Galilee, Hebron, Holden, Judson, Livingston, and Magnolia.

Miss Edna Browning served as Associational B.Y.P.U. director. Bert Ezell as Sunday School superintendent; J.H. Hucabee as Promotional Chairman; J.O. Hopper as State Board Member; and R.C. Woodham as Brotherhood Director. Mrs. J. H. Hucabee served as Woman's Work Leader. She stated in her report that there were at least thirteen W.M.U. active organizations, The young people had held a rally, and offerings were given to our Association, Co-operative Program, Home Missions, Lottie Moon, Foreign and State Missions.

The Foreign Mission Report was read by Rev. H. T. Comish and discussed by L. T. Murray and Jno. A. Albernathy, Missionary from Tsi Nana, China. The Foreign Mission report showed work in fourteen countries, while State Missions had four Evangelist, one Spanish, and two Italian Missionaries. Four English mission Pastors and eight French Mission workers. The College at Pineville, La. had four hundred students. The Home Mission Board had more than 200 missionaries working through out the U.S. In our association there were twenty active churches with a membership of 5,410. These churches baptized 235 people in 1935.

The 1936 session met with Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, St. Helena Parish. The Moderator, J.O. Hopper, called the meeting to order. Rev. M.C. Corkern led the devotional service. Churches presenting letters and messengers were: Amite, Bethany, Bluff Creek, Denham Springs, Doyle, Eden, Galilee, Hebron, Holden, Judson, Livingston, Magnolia, Pine Grove, Pleasant Hill, Salem, Sandy Creek, Walker, and Zoar.

The following officers were then elected for the next year: J.O. Hopper, Moderator; J.H. Hucabee, Vice Moderator; J.F. McNabb, Treasurer; and J.E. Garrison,

Secretary. The introductory sermon was preached by Rev. H.T. Comish from I Timothy 3:15 entitled “the Pillar and Ground of the truth.”

Following lunch business and committee reports began. A motion was made and passed to endorse two students to Acadia Academy from our Association and that all funds sent to the Academy from E.L.B.A. be divided for their tuition. Those students were Murry B. Miller and Kemuel Cockern. In other reports we learned that Amite, Judson and Walker churches had Brotherhoods, ten churches had B.T.U.s (Baptist Training Unions), and sixteen had Sunday Schools. The total membership of our churches was 4,689. Two hundred sixty nine were baptized during this church year.

Eastern Louisiana Baptist Association met again at Pine Grove Baptist Church, Livingston Parish, on October 7, 8, 1937. The devotional service was led by Rev. J.M. Watts. Nineteen churches presented letters and messengers. Visitors to the session were: Revs. J. L. Pollard, H. H. Stilley, L.A. Matherene, J.E. McCemmand, F.J. Katz and W.A. Corkern.

Revs. C.N. Travis, J.M. Watts and G.D. Laurence were appointed to visit the C.C.C. Camp in Springfield “to ascertain their religious needs.” A committee was appointed to look into having a headstone placed on the grave of Bro. C.E. Reed, D.D.

In other reports we gather these facts: one hundred forty five children were living at the Children’s Home. There were 898 peopled saved through the State Missions work. The Home Mission Board reported that the Women gave \$113,981.15 in the Annie W. Armstrong offering. The Foreign Mission Board reported 14,882 baptisms from the work of 415 missionaries on foreign fields.

In our Association there are now five full time churches, eleven half time and 3 who meet only once a month. This year there were 203 baptisms.

Respectively submitted,  
Mary S. Broussard  
Historian for ELBA