

COLORED BAPTIST ASSOCIATION CLOSSES

The annual meeting of the La Grange Baptist Association (colored) which was held in Giddings, closed Sunday night. Large crowds attended each session which opened Thursday morning and continued day and night. Quite a number of white people attended the sessions, especially when the religious pageant "Heaven Bound" which featured Negro spirituals, was given Thursday night. It was a good entertainment. The large auditorium could not hold the crowd.

The La Grange Baptist Association was organized in 1874 at La Grange, hence its name, and is composed of 73 churches extending from San Antonio to Wharton, to Beaumont, thence to Rockdale and Belton, with a membership of 7,000. The Bethel Union church in Giddings and the following churches in Lee County: Antioch, Sweet Home, Corinthian, Betts Chapel and Globe Hill, give this county a large representation, comparing with the memberships in Fayette, Colorado and Bastrop counties, which also have large memberships. F. R. Ruffin, pastor of the Bethel Union Church, Giddings, for the past 28 years, is moderator of the Association, and is completing his 20th year in that office. He was first elected in 1912 and has served continuously since that time and was re-elected this year.

The Association which has just closed collected for missions \$500 cash, the women of the Association having collected \$200 of that amount. Julia Green, Prairie View, is president of the Woman's committee.

Among the proceedings of the meeting was a decision to hold the meetings every year in Giddings on account of the large and well located hall, centrally located, also the splendid facilities for reaching Giddings by railroad or automobile. This was a big question

and required some time to dispose of it, but it was finally voted. Some of the plans for the future include the establishing in or near Giddings of an old folks home. The well located colored fair grounds, equipped with electric lights, helped in making Giddings a favored point for future consideration. Aside from the Association, there is also an organized Sunday School Convention for the district with W. J. Mann, Welmar, secretary, and a B. Y. P. U. Convention with G. T. Burley, Rockdale, president and E. R. Clark, Giddings, secretary.

The local church in Giddings is organized with the following deacons and their years of service: J. M. Clark, 30 years; R. A. Anderson, 30 years; E. R. Clark, 10 years; Stafford Wormly, 10 years; Ed. Wade, 2 years. E. R. Clark is superintendent of the Sunday School.

It is reported that many came to Giddings from a distance to attend the meetings and the sessions were harmonious throughout. Quite a number camped on the grounds for the time.