


1918

Beginnings of the Missionary Work and Plans in Arkansas, 1896-1918

Sarah L. Bostick

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**Beginning of the Missionary Work and
Plans in Ark., 1896---By Mrs. Sarah L.
Bostick, Colored---25 Years in Service.**

Historical Sketch Up to 1918

Beginning of the Missionary Work and Plans
in Arkansas.

1896

By Mrs. SARAH L. BOSTICK, Colored

25 Years Service---Historical Sketch Up to
1918



MRS. SARAH L. BOSTICK

THE MISSIONARY ORGANIZATION EFFECTED IN ARKANSAS
BY MRS. SARAH L. BOSTICK.

The first beginning of this work was done by Elder S. W. Scott of Greenville, Texas. He organized one auxiliary at Pea Ridge Church with eleven members and five officers. President, Mrs. Sarah L. Bostick; Vice President, Mrs. Sindsey Huddleston; Secretary, Mrs. Mollie Bright; Assistant, Mrs. Ellen Brock; Treasurer, Mrs. Ann York. At this time all of those officers are dead except one.

In these beginnings we kept half of the money at home, which was \$12.65, and sent the other half out of the State, to Paris, Ky., which was the amount of \$12.65. We did not stop at 15 cents per month, but gave as we felt like giving, which was \$25.30 per year from this one auxiliary. This money that was left at home was given to help support the evangelist on the field. In two or three conventions held this was the only auxiliary brought before the Convention by Mrs. S. L. Bostick. After the third year Mrs. Bostick began traveling over the State at her own expense. She organized an auxiliary at Sherrell, Ark., May 14th, 1899, with eight members, officers five. Mrs. Belle Ivy, President; Mrs. Mary Rice, Secretary and Treasurer. At this time we began sending our money out of the State to Miss Louis A. White of Indianapolis, Ind. Up until December 21st. After this we sent our money to Mrs. Helen E. Moses, the Corresponding Secretary, at Indianapolis. This year we sent \$12.60 to her and \$7.00 remained in the State. We sent as an offering to the Bible Choir funds \$1.50 in Michigan. This year we paid for the evangelistic work in Arkansas \$20.15, and \$4.00 was paid for the Gospel Plea, as this was our first subscribers. Mrs. Bostick was paid \$3.00 for her work. Total money raised this year was \$41.25.

Auxiliary organized at Pettus, Ark., with eight members. President, Mrs. Minnie Pittmore; Secretary, Mrs. Lelia Ross. Organized December 1, 1899. October 25th, 1900, organized the auxiliary at Argenta with five members. President, Mrs. S. L. Bostick; Secretary, Mrs. Truthey Alexander; Treasurer, Mrs. Eliza Horn. After this an auxiliary was organized at Toltec, with ten members. President, Mrs. Lizzie Harris; Secretary, Mrs. Anna Facing. Organized November 1. And later in November, 26th, organized an auxiliary at Pine Bluff with eleven members. President, Miss Mary Lamb; Secretary, Miss Willie Conier. At this time we had six auxiliaries, and we held our first convention at the Wrightsville Church in 1901. Thirty-eight dollars was reported having been sent to headquarters and \$5.00 kept in the State. Didn't but two of these auxiliaries hold their regular meetings on account of opposition against woman's work in the church. In 1902 Mrs. Bostick was appointed by the white sisters in Little Rock, with no definite salary, as organizer of the work.

Washington, Ark., August 1, 1902.

The State Convention convened with this church, Brown's Chapel.

Report of the organizer: Days on the field, 13; places visited,

7; addresses given, 7; miles traveled, 139; money received for railroad expenses, \$7.75.

Only three ladies were present at this Convention—Mrs. Mary Lamb, Mrs. Irene Smith and Mrs. S. L. Bostick. Each had a paper on missions.

After 1901 Mrs. Ellen Brock had the oversight of this work for eight years, up until her death. Our next Annual Convention convened with the Pea Ridge Church, August 13, 1903, and five auxiliaries represented at this church with \$48.24.

Organizer's report: Days spent, 35; places visited, 9; number of auxiliaries, 7; auxiliaries organized, 1, and reorganized, 3; members, 98; miles traveled, 321; money received from the white sisters, \$5.00; money received for the colored sisters, \$5.00; total, \$10.00; writing expenses, \$1.50; railroad expenses, \$9.63.

December, 1903, I visited the work at Parham and organized the work with 16 members, and they had \$10.00 in the treasury, and we sent that in to headquarters. Miles to Louisiana, 400. From there I went to the State of Mississippi. I visited 6 churches and put those ladies in touch with the National work. They were doing work, but not National. I spent two weeks on this field; then I returned to my own field of labor, traveling 350 miles in my own State. Writing expense, \$5.00. This money came by getting subscribers for the Gospel Plea, of which they gave me half of the money from each subscriber.

At a sacrifice I continued to go over the field. Our next Annual Convention was held August 12, 1904, at Blackton, Ark., and 7 auxiliaries represented in this Convention. Money raised for general fund, \$64.46, and State funds, \$8.00. We had 15 lady delegates at this Convention.

Organizer's report: Miles traveled, 642; days spent, 38; auxiliaries organized, 2; addresses given, 15; places visited, 12; letters written, 105; auxiliaries represented, 8; Tidings taken, 8; members of the Auxiliary, 108; subscribers to the Gospel Plea, 6; subscribers to the Arkansas Bulletin, 8; railroad expenses, \$23.40; money received from the white sisters, \$5.00; received on the field, \$20.00; writing expenses, \$3.15. Organized auxiliary at Minton; 13 members. At Blackton, with 13 members. Mrs. J. E. Baker, President; Mrs. Ella Hall, Treasurer. Finance report at this Convention, raised by both State and general funds, \$63.46.

This was the year 1904. In 1905 the Convention convened with the Pea Ridge Church. In this Convention nine auxiliaries reported by Mrs. Ellen Brock. She reported to have raised \$25.00 for general funds and \$7.00 in treasury. This Convention reported having raised for both State and general funds \$68.30. It was here we added an assistant organizer, who spent a few days on the field, which was Miss Minnie Carson, during the absence of Mrs. Bostick while on the field in Texas. Miles traveled over the field in Arkansas and Texas, 976; places visited, 19; days spent, 48; organized one auxiliary at Clover Bend, Ark., and visited one auxiliary which was organized by Miss Roxie Sneed of Readland, Ark. Letters written, 125; cards, 23; writing expenses, \$5.00. I reorganized one auxiliary in Texas and one in Arkansas. Places visited in Texas, 10, and held 3 Conferences there with the lady officers. Traveling ex-

penses in the two States, \$29.50. Received \$30.00 in Texas for my work, and received from the white Board of Arkansas \$5.00. This was the year of 1905.

The next Convention was held August 3, 1906, at Wrightsville Church. Report of the nine auxiliaries at this Convention, having raised \$68.73, and 150 members at this time. We raised \$20.00 cash in this Convention for State and \$15.00 from the 5 cents dues. Total raised for State, \$35.00. This \$20.00 raised went for the general expenses and for the printing of minutes. All heretofore we had used this money for the same purpose. Raised for general fund, \$33.73. This was the third visit that our President Lehman of the S. C. I. Miss. had made to us. His visits always meant so much to us. Our evangelist on the field was Rev. H. Martin, who did great work.

Organizer's report: Miles traveled, 380; days, 38; places visited, 11; letters written, 112; cards, 22; writing expenses, \$3.80; Gospel Pleas, 11; Tidings, 2; Bulletins, 3; money received on the field, \$5.00; money received from the sisters (white), \$10.00; for railroad expenses, \$11.40; total expenses, \$15.20.

September 25, 1907, the Convention convened with the Pea Ridge Church. Nine auxiliaries represented in this Convention; one new auxiliary organized, which was Russellville, with 11 members. Money raised for both State and general funds, \$68.94; raised cash in the Convention \$6.03; total \$75.03.

Organizer's report: Miles traveled, 916; days, 51; places visited, 17; addresses, 15; letters written, 189; cards, 50; 5 letters to the Gospel Plea; Tidings, 18; subscribers for the Plea, 10; members gained, 11; one auxiliary organized, at Plumerville, and I made a visit to St. Louis in September, 1907, and reorganized an auxiliary with 12 members. Expenses, \$5.25, and railroad expenses, \$27.48. Total money received was \$30.60. Ten dollars was received from the white State Board.

The next Convention convened with Plumerville Church, August mission work. Eight days were spent on the field; visited 4 auxiliaries organized up until this date, but three disbanded. The organizer was overtaxed with duties and required some help on this mission work. Eight days were spent on the field; visited 4 auxiliaries; cards written, 10; letters, 5; railroad expenses, \$8.80; writing expenses, 55 cents; received \$5.80 from the State Board (colored). By the assistant organizer, Miss Sarah Godbey.

Report of the organizer, Mrs. S. T. Bostick: Miles traveled, 1,760; places visited, 18; days on field, 62; letters written, 85; cards written, 58; members gained, 15; members died, 4; reorganized one and organized one new auxiliary; also one Junior Society with 19 members at Kerr, Ark. Subscribers for the Tidings, 13; Gospel Plea, 13; money raised on the field, \$7.60; money received from the colored Board, \$11.90; received from the white Board, \$9.00; railroad expenses, \$25.22 (half rate fare); writing expenses, \$3.95; money raised for literature, 75 cents; money raised from all sources for both State and general funds and C. W. B. M. Day offering, \$81.81.

In 1909 the Convention convened at Argenta, Ark., September 3d to 7th, Mrs. Sarah Godbey presiding. Various reports of the

auxiliaries, nine in number, were made, reporting having raised \$68.10. Only two auxiliaries observed Easter with an offering of \$6.75. After the death of Mrs. Helen E. Moses, we sent the money to Mrs. M. J. Harlan, the National Secretary.

At this time the work had grown so extensively that we saw fit to organize a colored State Board. In these meetings we raised a small sum, \$11.95. This money helped to bear the expenses of the State work among the organizers.

Report by Mrs. Sarah Godbey, assistant worker: Days spent, 8; miles traveled, 206. Our mission points were very far apart at this time. Places visited, 3; State Board meetings visited, 3; cards written, 23; letters written, 5; literature given out, 2 copies of the Missionary Tidings; railroad expenses, \$6.43; money received, \$8.05.

Organizer's report, by Mrs. S. L. Bostick: Miles traveled, 594; days, 65; places visited, 18; members gained, 12; reorganized one auxiliary; subscribers to the Tidings, 10; new subscribers added, 4; addresses, 18; addresses to the Baptist and Methodist churches, 6; literature bought, 30 cents; cards written, 128; letters, 104; letters written to the Plea, 9; stationery, \$5.40; money raised on the field, \$2.50; money raised for the Mexican Mission, \$20.00; total expenses, \$17.82. Money received from the State Board (white), \$12.50; money received from the colored State Board, \$11.95; total received, \$26.95. Money raised by two auxiliaries for Easter funds, \$8.00; money raised by three auxiliaries on C. W. B. M. Day funds, \$18.83; money raised for State funds, \$54.88, including the \$30.43 raised in this Convention. Money sent for general funds, \$44.50, making a total of \$126.21. We sent to the Conference which was organized at Edwards Miss. \$3.00.

I also visited in this same year 5 auxiliaries in Mississippi. Railroad expenses in Mississippi, \$21.10.; received in Mississippi, \$30.30; addresses given in Mississippi, 8; one auxiliary was organized, December 5, 1909, with 7 members, at Clover Bend, Ark. Mrs. Josie Wilson, President; Mrs. Georgia Shockley, Secretary; Mrs. Mary Shockley, Treasurer, with an offering of \$1.25.

The Convention convened with the Little Rock Church October 21, 1911. Mrs. Sarah Godbey presiding. The President's address was delivered by Mrs. Sarah Richardson. Reports from the auxiliaries, which was an Honor Roll year.

Mrs. Pennie Holden was President at Pea Ridge, and \$30.45 was raised by her work. Argenta auxiliary raised \$26.45, which put them on the Honor Roll. There were only six auxiliaries represented in this Convention, as three had disbanded. One auxiliary was reorganized at Minton; Mrs. Rebecca Frost, President; Miss Annie Frost, Secretary; Miss F. Turnage, Treasurer. We sent an offering to Jacob Kenoby's School in Africa to the value of \$11.55 in dry goods. This was the year that Mrs. S. L. Bostick became a life member of the C. W. B. M., and this \$25.00 was sent to Jacob Kenoby's School also.

Organizer's report: Days on the field, 112; places visited, 21; letters written, 81; cards written, 115; miles traveled, 1,221; expense, \$36.20; writing expenses, \$6.00; money received from the white Board, \$10.00; money received from the colored Board, \$14.00; money received on the field, \$7.10; total amount received, \$31.10; number of missionary members, 91; Missionary Tidings, 21;

money raised for general funds, \$40.00; money raised for State funds, \$10.00; money raised in the Convention, \$37.00, making a total of \$87.00.

Up to this date there were reported 638 missionary members (colored), and 75 Tidings taken. As Mrs. Bostick was the President of the Conference S. C. I., Edwards, Miss, and Miss Roxie Sneed Secretary, it was our responsibility to find out the number of colored women.

This organization was effected May 10, 1908. Officers: Mrs. S. L. Bostick, President; Mrs. Hattie Griffin, Vice President; Miss Roxie Sneed, Secretary; Mrs. J. B. Lehman, Treasurer. Eleven sisters were present, raising \$22.00.

Twelve States represented in this meeting, and 53 organized auxiliaries.

The Convention convened with the Pea Ridge Church August, 1912; Mrs. Sarah Richardson presiding, Mrs. Lillie Gillespie Secretary.

Report of the missionary work, by Mrs. S. L. Bostick: Members, 102; auxiliaries in good standing, 7; 12 on roll and 2 disbanded; places visited, 19; letters written, 128; cards, 86; writing expenses, \$4.30; money received on the field, \$4.00; money received from the colored Board, \$4.00; money received from the white Board, \$12.00; money received from Indianapolis, \$25.00; total received, \$45.00; expenses, \$30.20; visitors to this Convention, Prof. J. B. Lehman of Edwards, Miss., superintendent of the Negro school.

September 8, 1913, the Convention convened with the Argenta church, Mount Sinai, Mrs. S. A. Richardson presiding. At this Convention we were greatly favored by two great men, Bro. C. C. Smith, who has done so much for the Negro race, who left with us an everlasting message, and Rev. K. R. Brown of Port Gibson, Miss., whose helpful message meant so much to us. This was the last Convention that our faithful President, Mrs. Belle Ivy, attended, who served as President at Sherrill for seven years, with Mrs. Mary Rice, Secretary.

Missionary reports: Money raised for State funds, \$12.00; money raised for general funds, \$27.75. An offering was taken up this year and sent to Jacob Kenoby's School \$14. During this year we made a life member of Buford Matlock, and the \$25.00 was requested to be sent to Africa. Members gained, 5; Conferences held, 10; miles traveled, 900; days, 86; money received from C. W. B. M., \$25.00; money received from the white Board, \$5.00; money received on the field, \$2.20; money received from the Convention, \$3.00, making a total of \$36.65. We raised at this Convention \$31.45, and with the \$27.75 raised for both State and general funds, making a grand total of \$59.20.

August 25, 1914, the Convention convened with the Pea Ridge Church. We had with us again President J. B. Lehman and Mrs. Chasteen of Little Rock, both white workers. Eight auxiliaries represented in this Convention. Organized 1, reorganized 2; money raised in this Convention, \$30.25; miles traveled, \$12.25; places visited, 32; three district meetings visited; 13 subscribers to Missionary Tidings; 24 subscribers to the Plea. Letters and cards

written, 125; money received from headquarters, \$25.00; money received on the field, \$5.00; money received from the white Board, \$5.00; money received from the Conference at the S. C. I., \$5.00; total amount received, \$40.00; total amount expenses, \$28.50; total amount received from all sources, \$127.68.

During these Convention years we have been blessed with several of our field workers, namely: Mrs. Laura V. Thompson (white), Mrs. A. M. Fuller (white), Mrs. Dr. O. Gardner (white) from India; Mrs. L. P. Kraft, Little Rock (white), Rev. H. G. Smith of Liberia, Africa (colored), Miss Rosa V. Brown (colored), Mrs. Fannie Hay Johnson, Texas; Prof. P. H. Moss, Mississippi, Mrs. Birdie F. Omar (white). These noble characters have always left with us much information and much inspiration.

The 1915 Annual Convention convened at Plumerville Church, August 18-22, Mrs. Pennie Holden, Vice-President, presiding. Eight Societies represented at this meeting. \$23.95 cash at this meeting. Expenses, \$20.75.

Missionary report, Mrs. Bostick: Miles on the field, 1,183; days, 92; addresses, 30; places, 27; conferences in the homes, 15; organized one auxiliary at Imboden with seven members, President Mrs. Mary Shockly; new subscribers to the Missionary Tidings, 8; new subscribers to the Gospel Plea, 15; letters written for publication, 26; letters over the field, 125; cards over the field, 144; writing expenses, \$5.10; hack fare, \$1.10; luncheon, \$1.10; railroad expenses, \$33.60; total, \$40.90.

Money received from all sources: Headquarters, Indianapolis, Ind., \$25.00; from the field, \$5.30; Edwards, Miss., conference, \$5.00; colored Board, \$3.50; white board, \$1.00; total, \$39.80; money raised for State development funds, \$16.50; general funds, \$45.89; C. W. B. M. day funds, \$10.50; Easter funds, \$7.50; sent to the Conference, \$6.75; raised in this meeting, \$23.95; grand total, \$111.09.

Annual convention convene at Mount Sinai Church, Argenta, September 10, 1916. Represented with nine societies; organized two new societies, Russellville and Cobbs, with fourteen members in the two.

Report of the organizer: Miles, 1,140; days, 89; places, 29; addresses, 37; Conferences in the homes 10, and 8 with the societies; organized two Junior Endeavors; conferences with the white board, 3; expenses, writing, \$5.45; letters, 110; cards, 195; letters for publication, 17; subscribers to Gospel Plea, 12; subscribers to Missionary Tidings, 5; students to the S. C. I. Miss., 6; money raised for general funds, \$58.39; money raised for State Missions, \$22.95; money raised for Easter funds, \$17.55; money raised for C. W. B. M. day, 37.25; money raised for African missions, \$56.39; money raised in the Convention, \$33.00; total raised, \$225.53. Expenses, \$30.92; money received white board, \$19.32; money S. C. I. Conference, \$5.00; money on field, \$6.50; money colored board, \$4.60; money Convention, \$8.00; grand total, \$43.42.

Convention convened at Wabaseka Church, September 10, 1917. Mrs. Minnie Gyugdon, President, presiding. Ten Missionary Societies reported at this meeting.

Organizer's report: Miles, 1,214; days, 96; places, 45; organized one auxiliary at England, seven members, President Mrs. Mary

Gartrell; and a Junior Endeavor at Kerr, with nine members; conferences held, 4; mission members gained, 15; new subscribers to Plea, 20; new subscribers to Tidings, 8; letters and cards, 194; expenses, \$41.34; money received S. C. I. Conference, \$10.00; headquarters, \$12.50; white board, \$10.63; State Convention, \$8.25; on the field, \$2.05; total, \$43.43. Money raised for State funds, \$17.10; money general funds, \$49.75; money C. W. B. M. day funds, \$35.20; money Easter offerings, \$24.94; money at Convention, \$25.25; total this year, \$151.14.

Annual Convention convened at England Church, September 18, 1918, Mrs. S. A. Richardson presiding. Ten Missionary Societies reported. Raised at this meeting, \$56.30.

Organizer's report: Miles, 523; days, 96; addresses, 26; places, 32; conferences with white and colored works, 11; letters and cards, 174; expenses, \$42.00; money received from the colored board, \$1.50; from the white board, \$3.50; received from the Convention, \$5.00; received from headquarters as my train fare to the Kansas City International Convention, \$25.00; total, \$34.00. Money raised for Missionary purposes: State fund, \$18.61; general fund, \$43.65; Easter fund, \$18.25; C. W. B. M. day fund, \$34.20; total, \$113.71; raised at this meeting, \$53.30; grand total, \$170.01; new subscribers to the Missionary Tidings, 20, and for the Gospel Plea, 4; have three Junior Endeavors with 62 members; 10 working Missionary Societies, with 145 members, with six Societies disbanded. We are planning to try to regain this number back and gain more new points, not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord of Hosts. I am glad that I know of six Negro Industrial Colleges which are doing so much for humanity.

Attended State conventions, white 10, State Convention colored, 26; 18 Missionary C. W. B. M. Conventions; and also attended nine National Conventions. Two of those at Nashville, Tenn., at Rev. Preston Taylor's church. Attended nine Annual Conferences. Have visited three of our Industrial Colleges, Louisville, Ky., Edwards, Miss., and Hawkins, Texas.

Personal donations to various places: Edwards, Miss., S. C. I., one lot; Hawkins, Texas, school, \$51.00; Lum, Ala., \$5.00; Bible School, \$19.00; Educational work, \$14.00; day income, \$5.00; Johnson College, Tenn., \$3.00; W. A. Scott's school in Texas, \$2.50; S. C. I. Conference, \$14.00. 1910 was our first small bank account.

I can not close the history of this beginning of this Missionary Work without saying that my dear companion had a share in helping me to go. He always agreed for me to go to my Christian duties, when opportunity presented itself, and often gave helpful remarks in Convention. In 1874 came a great opportunity for the Christian woman in the churches to do something for humanity over the land and sea, to the utmost part of the world. We realized Phoebe, our mother in the gospel, made an appeal to all women to go after this missionary task, that the women must become helpers in the preaching of the gospel, and that this missionary effort should be handed down from generation to generation till every nation would know of our Christ Jesus.

My sisters and fellow workers, we are counting on you. For several years I have had the experience of a few things in Christian

duties, and had to tread the wine press alone. We have tried to teach our churches wherever we went the missionary spirit and its purposes.

The Love of Christ Constraineth Us.

Those years of beginning in order to meet my Christian duties, as my husband was a farmer and cotton 3 and 5 cents, to add help financially, I sold books a year or two, taking in sewing, raised chickens and made garden, and always tried to make my own money for the church. Never missed but four missionary meetings in my life. My fare was paid once to the National Convention and once to the Conference. Was born in Monroe County, Ky., May 27, 1868. My parents' name was Mr. and Mrs. Alex Howard, a family of ten children, all members of the church but one. There were eight girls of us.

