

Wiseman Baptist Association



October 25-26, 2002

In Loving Memory



Elder William R. Overton
1911-2002

ORDER OF SERVICE

October 24 and 25, 2003

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2003

- **Call to Order**
- **Special Singing**
- **Introductory Sermon**
- **Enrollment of Churches and Roll Call of Messengers**
- **Reading of Rules of Decorum**
- **Petitionary Letters**
- **Election of 2003 Officers**
- **Selection of 2004 Meeting Place**
- **Selection of Brethren for 2004 Sermons**
- **Selection of Brother for 2003 Fellowship Sermon**
- **Recognition of Visitors**
- **Report: "Promotion of Christian Music Training in Our Churches"**
- **Special Singing**
- **Fellowship Sermon**
- **Obituary Report**
- **Associational Missionary's Report**
- **Associational Ambassador's Report**
- **Closing Prayer**

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2003

- **Roll Call of Messengers**
- **Recognition of Visitors**
- **Special Singing**
- **Doctrinal Sermon**
- **Report: "Christian Education"**
- **Correspondence**
- **Treasurer's Report**
- **Call for New Business**
- **Approval of 2004 Order of Business**
- **Approval of 2003 Minutes**
- **Closing Song and Parting Handshake**
- **Closing Prayer**

WISEMAN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
One Hundred Twelfth Annual Session
October 25 and 26, 2002

Convened With
BETHLEHEM MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
879 Long Hollow Pike
Goodlettsville, TN 37072

OFFICERS:

Elder Kenneth Massey, Moderator
31 Talbott Drive
Bowling Green, KY 42103
(270) 745-9974

Elder Deric McClard, Clerk
1120 Spencer Avenue
Gallatin, TN 37066
(615) 230-6149

Elder B. G. Sutton, Treasurer
130 Cliff Top Drive
Hendersonville, TN 37075
(615) 824-6266

The one hundred thirteenth annual session will be held October 24 and 25, 2003, at the Mt. Juliet Missionary Baptist Church, 1426 South Mt. Juliet Road, Mt. Juliet, TN, beginning at 10 a.m.

2003.SERMONS

Introductory Sermon **Elder Darren Bonee**
Alternate **Elder Trey Crews**
Doctrinal Sermon **Elder Henry Smith**
Alternate **Elder Eugene Brown**

CONSTITUTION

- Article I. This body shall be known as Wiseman Association.
- Article II. These Associations shall be composed of members duly chosen by regular and orderly Missionary Baptist Churches within our bounds.
- Article III. The letters from churches to the Association shall give the number of members in fellowship, received by experience and baptism, received by letter, restored, excommunicated, and dead, since last annual meeting.
- Article IV. Each church shall be entitled to four messengers.
- Article V. These Associations shall elect annually as officers, a Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer, whose duties shall be to serve their brethren in their several capacities.
- Article VI. These associations shall never interfere with the independence of any Church, or claim any ecclesiastical power or rights of supervision over any of the Churches.
- Article VII. It shall be the object of these Associations to promote the union of the faith of the Gospel with our educational and mission interests.
- Article VIII. These Associations shall meet annually on Friday at 10 o'clock A.M., after the third Sunday in October, and continue two days, the meetings to be held at such places as may be agreed upon by the Association at its annual sitting.
- Article IX. A majority of the members of any regular meeting shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.
- Article X. It is expected that these meetings will be missionary in practice as well as theory.
- Article XI. New Churches may be admitted into the Association who shall petition by letter and messengers, and on examination, if found orthodox and orderly, may be received and made known by the Moderator giving the right hand of fellowship to the Messengers present.
- Article XII. The Association may exclude from the union any Church or Churches that are heterodox in principle or disorderly in practice.
- Article XIII. No proceedings shall be had against any Church except on charges preferred by a Sister Church, which shall first have followed the direction of Matthew 18:15, in attempting to bring it to repentance.
- Article XIV. The Association, at its sitting, may welcome any visiting brethren present, who shall have the liberty to join in the discussion of any report listed in the Order of Business, but shall have no vote in any action of the Association.
- Article XV. Any alteration may be made to this Constitution at any regular meeting by a majority vote of the members present.
- Article XVI. All questions arising before this Association shall be decided by a majority vote, except in the reception of churches into our fellowship, and that such reception be by a two-thirds vote.
- Article XVII. If any Church fails to represent one or more years, and then desires to reenter the fellowship of this Association, there being, evidently, a reason for not representing, there must be a motion for their reentering the Association to be carried by a two-thirds vote. This action is to be taken after permanent organization and at the time to receive petitionary letters.
- Article XVIII. No preacher shall preach before the Association two years in succession.

RULES OF DECORUM

1. The Association shall be opened and closed with prayer.
2. A Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer shall be chosen annually to serve the Association.
3. Only one person shall speak at a time, who shall arise and address the Moderator by the appellation of Brother Moderator, and shall, while speaking, confine himself to the subject under discussion and shall not be interrupted unless he digress from the subject; and shall in no wise reflect on any other speaker, so as to make remarks on his slips, failings or imperfections, but shall fairly state his views without sophistry or criticism.
4. No member shall absent himself from the Association without leave of the Moderator.
5. No member shall speak more than three times on the same subject without leave of the body. The chairman on each subject shall have an opening speech of ten minutes and two other speeches of five minutes each.
6. Each motion and second shall come under the immediate consideration of the Association, unless withdrawn by the one who made it.
7. No member shall address another by any appellation other than that of Brother.
8. On the first day, immediately upon permanent organization, it shall be the duty of the Clerk to read the Rules of Decorum. A roll call of messengers shall be made on the second day.
9. The Moderator shall be entitled to the same privilege of speaking as any other member, providing the chair be filled, but shall have no vote unless the Association be equally divided.
10. Any member violating these rules, or at any time manifesting a spirit contrary to the Gospel, shall be reprovved or such other course taken with him as the Moderator may think proper, either at his own option or any other member.

ABSTRACT OF PRINCIPLES OF WISEMAN ASSOCIATION OF BAPTISTS

We, the Missionary Baptists of Christ, being regularly baptized upon the profession of our faith in Christ, are convinced of the necessity of a combination of the churches in order to maintain the general union and communion among ourselves; and being convinced that there can be no communion without union, we think it our duty to set forth in a concise manner the grounds upon which we propose to maintain this union.

1. We believe in one true and living God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
2. We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the word of God, and that they are the only rule of faith.
3. We believe in the doctrine of election, according to the foreknowledge of God, through sanctification of the Spirit unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ.
4. We believe in the doctrine of original sin and in man's impotency to recover himself from the fallen state he is in by nature of his own free will and ability.
5. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God by the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ.
6. We believe in the final preservation of the saints, that they will never finally fall away and be lost, and that good works are fruits of faith and follow after justification.
7. We believe that baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of Christ, and that they were given to the Church by Him; and that true believers are the only proper subjects for baptism, and that baptism is an immersion, and that orderly members of the Churches of Christ, only, have a right to the Lord's Supper.
8. We believe that no minister has a right to administer the ordinances except such as are regularly baptized and come under the hands of the Presbytery.
9. We believe in the resurrection of the dead and a general judgment, and that the joys of the righteous and the punishment of the wicked will be eternal.

MORNING SESSION FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2002

On Friday morning, October 25, 2002, the messengers to the one hundred twelfth annual session of the Wiseman Baptist Association were welcomed by the members of the Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church in Goodlettsville, TN, and her pastor, Elder Bobby Sutton. Those who arrived early enjoyed food and fellowship with their brothers and sisters.

Elder Kenneth Massey welcomed all messengers and visitors to the service. Brother David Gregory led in singing "I Know I'm Saved" and "When I've Traveled My Last Mile" as Elder Deric McClard played the piano and Sister Annette Sutton played the organ. After making introductory remarks, Brother Massey read Isaiah 46:1-13, related his experience of salvation, and rejoiced in the goodness of the True and Living God. Brother Ray Smith, Moderator of the Southwest District Missionary Baptist Association, then led the assembly in prayer. He humbly thanked God for His goodness and appealed for special blessings for the churches that were present, the speaker of the hour, and each home that was represented in the service. He thanked God for giving him the privilege of being a member of the Lord's Church and pleaded for help in service and forgiveness for failures.

Brother Gregory led the congregation in singing "I Must Tell Jesus" as Sister Sutton played the piano. Brother Donnie Hines then delighted the assembly by singing "He Did It All For Me" as Brother McClard accompanied on the piano. Brother Massey introduced Elder Jeremy Wilson, pastor of the Mt. Juliet Missionary Baptist Church, who had been selected by the association last year to preach the introductory sermon.

INTRODUCTORY SERMON

In his introductory remarks, Brother Wilson commended the association for the harmony that was displayed last year. He expressed his gladness that different people from different churches could come together and fellowship as one body in Christ and encouraged the assembly to continue in unity during this session and throughout the coming year. He proceeded to warn us of the dangerous consequences of being divided.

Brother Wilson introduced as the theme of his message “Don’t Sweat the Small Stuff.” He challenged us to focus on our mission and commission as God’s children. Using powerful illustrations from history and archeology, he reminded us of the truth of Paul’s words in Galatians 5:15: “If ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another.”

Brother Wilson read Romans 14:1-8 for his text and took as his subject “The Seven Rules of Christian Harmony,” each beginning with one of the seven letters of the word H-A-R-M-O-N-Y. He warned us of the dangers of being distracted by arguing that Satan’s chief interest lay in stealing our focus. He exhorted us with Paul’s words to the Romans: “Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate” (12:16). Brother Wilson suggested that, like the Roman Church, we agree about the basic doctrinal principles but are sometimes divided by little things. He proceeded to present and elaborate on the seven rules of Christian harmony.

RULE #1 - Hold back judgment on disputable matters. Brother Wilson defined the “doubtful disputations” (v. 1) as matters that are not covered in the Scriptures. He stated that the Romans were divided about diets and dates.

RULE #2 - Avoid looking down on those who do not share your views. Brother Wilson reminded us that our attitude toward others is important and that one opinion on a disputable matter is just as valid as another. Citing I Corinthians 15:9, Ephesians 3:8, and I Timothy 1:15, he spoke of the humility of Paul and commended this virtues to all who were present.

RULE #3 - Realize that you must live for God and God alone. Brother Wilson argued that we answer not to each other, but to God, and with an athletic illustration, reminded us of the harmful consequences of losing our focus. He emphasized Paul’s words to the Romans: “For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord; whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord’s” (v. 8).

RULE #4 - Make certain that you do not put obstacles in the way of others. Just as Paul warned the weak about judging the strong, he also warned the strong about offending the weak. Brother Wilson

suggested that we should not flaunt our freedom in Christ before those who do not understand. In elaborating on this rule, he read Romans 14:13-16 and I Corinthians 8:13.

RULE #5 - Only do what leads to peace and edification. Brother Wilson used a poem to distinguish between those who skillfully build in the service of God and those who carelessly wreck what others have built. He insisted that we should not do something that will injure a brother or sister if we know that it will cause injury.

RULE #6 - Never publicize your personal convictions about disputable matters for the purpose of injuring others. Brother Wilson skillfully showed with an illustration how such publicity is self-defeating and destructive to others.

RULE #7 - Yield your personal preferences for the common good. Brother Wilson reminded us of the importance of the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19, 20) and encouraged us to yield whatever may hinder our performance of the commission for the sake of lost souls.

As Brother Wilson concluded his message, he reminded us of many great preachers from our ranks in the past and present who served God together in spite of disagreement about doubtful disputations. He assured us that if we remain focused on doing God's will, then we will be like Christ and will see the salvation of many lost souls.

Brother Massey expressed his appreciation for the timeliness of the message and the boldness of Brother Wilson. As Brother David Gregory led the assembly in singing "I See Jesus," all present gathered in the altar to shake hands with Brother Wilson and one another as God's blessings were poured out on the well-admonished congregation. Many testimonies were given to endorse the message.

PERMANENT ORGANIZATION

Elder Deric McClard read the letters from the churches representing in the association. The following brethren were enrolled as messengers.

- BETHLEHEM - Eld. B. G. Sutton, Eld. Gary Nicholas, Bro. David Gregory, Bro. Kenneth Zink
- LONGVIEW - Eld. Deric McClard, Bro. Steve Franklin, Bro. Arthur Troutt
- McFERRIN - Eld. Paul Patterson, Eld. Eugene Brown, Bro. James Bro. Greg Hines
- MT. JULIET - Eld. Jeremy Wilson, Eld. Johnnie Brewer, Bro. Mark Scott, Bro. Robby Cornwell
- NEW LIFE - Bro. Jimmy Tate, Bro. Bobby Mullins, Bro. Tim Simpson, Bro. Branton Williams
- NEW ZION - Bro. Clyde Dilleha, Eld. Larry Gregory
- THREE SPRGS - Eld. Trey Crews, Bro. Bob Morrison, Bro. Wayne Bro. Dale Chaffin

Brother McClard then read the Rules of Decorum.

PETITIONARY LETTERS

When Brother Massey called for petitionary letters, Elder Darren Bob, Brother Jay Loving, and Brother Key Dillard presented themselves to the association and requested that the Murfreesboro Missionary Baptist Church be accepted into the association. Brother Massey then read the Abstract of Principles of the Wiseman Association of Baptists, and the brothers from Murfreesboro Church declared their belief in each principle. Elder Bobby Sutton moved to welcome the church into the association. Elder Deric McClard seconded the motion. After the messengers voted unanimously to accept the church into the association, Brother Massey extended the right hand of welcome to each of the three brothers. He remarked with thankfulness that the association had received a new member into its fellowship during each of the past three years. He also thanked the Juliet Missionary Baptist Church for the gift of a beautiful gavel, which was given prior to this meeting of the association.

OFFICERS FOR 2002

The following brethren were elected to serve the association during its one hundred twelfth annual session.

MODERATOR	Elder Kenneth Massey
Assistant	Elder Johnny Carver
CLERK	Elder Deric McClard
Assistant	Elder Jeremy Wilson
TREASURER	Elder Bobby Sutton
Assistant	Brother James Hill

MEETING PLACE FOR 2003

Three churches extended an invitation to the association for 2003: Mt. Juliet, New Zion, and Three Springs. Brother Sutton moved to accept the invitation of Mt. Juliet Church, the motion was seconded by Brother Steve Franklin, and the messengers unanimously selected Mt. Juliet as the meeting place for the next session of the association.

SERMONS FOR 2003

The following were chosen to preach before the association in 2003.

INTRODUCTORY SERMON	Elder Darren Bonee
Alternate	Elder Trey Crews
DOCTRINAL SERMON	Elder Henry Smith
Alternate	Elder Eugene Brown

Brother Massey recognized all visiting ministers, Elder Lynn Appleton, pastor of the Huntingdon Missionary Baptist Church in West Tennessee, was selected to preach the fellowship sermon during the afternoon session.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Brother Massey recognized and welcomed the following visitors.

Elder Rufus Chandler, Concord MBC, Carroll County, TN
 Elder Kenneth Davis, Beech Grove MBC, Barren County, KY
 Brother Harold Eubanks, Huntingdon MBC, Carroll County, TN
 Elder Kenneth Grizzle, Grider Memorial Baptist Church, Glasgow, KY
 Brother Ray Smith, Huntingdon MBC, Carroll County, TN
 Elder Lynn Stapleton, Huntingdon MBC, Carroll County, TN

After Elder Bobby Sutton, pastor of the Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church, warmly welcomed the large congregation to Bethlehem Church, the association voted to adjourn for lunch for one hour. Elder Kenneth Grizzle then dismissed the assembly with prayer.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON

After enjoying a plentiful meal, the association was reconvened as Brother David Gregory led in singing "Heaven's Jubilee" while Sister Annette Sutton played the piano. Brother Massey thanked the church for the wonderful meal and then read Revelation 3:7-13. Elder Kenneth Davis led the assembly in prayer. Special music was then provided by Brothers Donnie Hines, Key Dillard, Jeremy Wilson, and Wayne Scott. The brethren sang "I'm Gonna Be There" and "God's Sweet Peace (Will Rest My Weary Soul)" as Brother McClard accompanied on the piano. Brother Massey then introduced Elder Lynn Stapleton, who was selected to deliver the fellowship sermon.

FELLOWSHIP SERMON

Brother Stapleton humbly stood before the association as he commended Bethlehem Church for its hospitality and expressed his thankfulness for being able to attend the association. After his introductory remarks, he read Matthew 3:1-12 and commented on the expressive pictures that John the Baptist used in his preaching. Just as God blesses us with artists who

convey truth through the images they paint, God has painted many beautiful and easy-to-understand pictures in His Word. Like John the Baptist, Jesus was hailed as "a teacher come from God" (John 3:2), who employed many word pictures in His teaching. Brother Stapleton selected as his theme "God's Masterpiece."

Brother Stapleton reminded us that John referred to himself as "the voice of one crying in the wilderness" (Matthew 3:3) and elaborated on the expressive images that Isaiah used 700 years before John to describe the Baptist's ministry (Isaiah 40:3, 4). Just as the prophet used powerful pictures to describe John's work, and just as John used similar pictures to prepare the way for the coming Messiah, God has painted many pictures in His Word to teach us about what He has done for lost humanity.

Alluding to Michaelangelo's famous rendition of Creation on the ceiling of the Cistine Chapel, Brother Stapleton thankfully declared that God touches us every day to allow us to see many things about Him. We are the daily recipients of His grace. After reminiscing about his personal experience of salvation, he spoke about the expressive images that David created when he related his testimony of salvation in Psalm 40:2, 3.

Brother Stapleton then referred to many powerful pictures from the Old Testament. He spoke about the masterpiece that God painted as He prepared coats of skins for the fallen Adam and Eve in Genesis 3:21. He insisted that the covering of the skins is a picture of what God has done for us and reminded us that we may look forward to the hour in which we will receive a robe of righteousness to cover our nakedness.

Next, Brother Stapleton spoke about Abraham, who had obediently followed God's call. He admonished us to follow the patriarch's example and elaborated on the picture that God painted in His Word in the story of Abraham's sacrifice of Isaac. He spoke of the father's faith in God throughout the trial and of his joy when at last God provided a "ram caught in a thicket by his horns" (Genesis 22:13).

Brother Stapleton spoke also of Israel's bondage in the land of Egypt. He reminded us of God's instructions to Moses concerning the slaughter of the lambs and the application of their blood upon the doors of the homes of the children of Israel. He delighted the assembly by declaring that when the cry of sorrow arose from the land of Egypt because of the death of the firstborn,

the shout of joy rang out from Goshen because of God's gracious provision for the well-being of His people. Brother Stapleton reminded us that this, too, is one of God's great paintings.

Finally, Brother Stapleton argued that as each of the previously mentioned stories from the Old Testament is a beautiful painting, a greater picture is found in the Gospels. He then movingly spoke about the Good Shepherd, who performed many wonderful works during His earthly ministry. He reminded us, however, that we are not saved by Jesus' miracles, but by His death, which Brother Stapleton described as God's greatest masterpiece. The hearts of all present were blessed as he reminded us that Jesus remained on the cross until He declared about God's masterpiece, "It is finished" (John 19:30). He spoke of the agonies that Christ endured and insisted that the doctrine of the cross is of paramount importance.

He argued that the saints who lived in the days before Jesus saw enough in the pictures of the Old Testament to believe and be saved. He then reminded us of the importance of Paul's words to the Galatians: "O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you?" (3:1). Finally, he exhorted his brothers in the ministry to continue lifting up Jesus in our preaching and trusting God for His grace.

As the congregation sang "Amazing Grace," all in attendance passed into the altar to shake hands with one another and Brother Stapleton as the blessings flowed from God's throne and shouts of joy from the lips of His saints.

Brother Massey then quoted Isaiah 45:22 and read two often-forgotten stanzas of "Amazing Grace" before calling for the report "How the Church Can Fulfill the Great Commission through the Work of Sunday School." Brother Kenneth Zink read the report. After discussion by Brother Zink and Brother Mike Blair, the report was adopted. Brother Zink reminded us of the importance of our young people, and Brother Blair explained the impact that Sunday School had had on his daughter.

HOW THE CHURCH CAN FULFILL THE GREAT COMMISSION THROUGH THE WORK OF SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our Lord has blessed the church by allowing the Sunday School to be used as a method of ministry.

Two key elements are still instrumental in the success of our Sunday School. The Bible has been and will continue to be the centerpiece of teaching, and the teachers are to understand and embrace the concept of the Great Commission.

In times past, we have read and heard sermons preached from Matthew 28:18-20. This is the Great Commission. Simply put, we are to "make disciples."

The first step in making disciples is an evangelistic effort in which the Gospel is presented and hearers respond in faith to the convicting power of the Holy Spirit.

We must be obedient to our Father in Heaven on this matter. We also need a deep conviction about teaching and making disciples in our Sunday School.

Let us look at the Commission.

First, don't forget who has "all power . . . in Heaven and in Earth" (Matthew 28:18). Jesus. Then, He said, "Go, Teach, Baptize." Further, "Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen." (Matthew 28:19-20).

Making disciples includes teaching obedience to the commandments of Christ. Obedience reflects Christian maturity. Sunday School should be used to deepen our relationship with Christ, and to promote ministry, or meeting the needs of the church.

These five essential functions are found in Acts 2:42-47 and are related to the fulfillment of the Great Commission.

1. **EVANGELISM** - believers sharing the gospel with lost people
2. **DISCIPLESHIP** - after salvation, the believer becomes more Christ-like
3. **MINISTRY** - meeting another person's needs in the name of Jesus Christ
4. **FELLOWSHIP** - a oneness of believers working in relationship with Christ
5. **WORSHIP** - showing love, adoration, and reverence in a spiritual way to God

All of these functions are important. Our people in Sunday School need to become a part of our spiritual growth. So many times we get new members coming to Sunday School and Church. They may get saved and we are all happy;

but, then what do we do to keep them coming or meeting their particular needs?

We need members of our Sunday School who are responsible for caring for their needs. We have the organization; all we need is for us to implement structural ways or means to accomplish this task. In other words, don't let anyone "slip through the cracks."

Everyone should help to make contact with members that are absent; sick; or have experienced trouble in family, loss of a job, or death of a loved one. We should also show our concern with visits, cards, or telephone calls.

This does take extra effort and commitment for all parties--Pastor, Sunday School Superintendent or Director, teachers and class members.

With this clear vision of the Great Commission and team effort from each Sunday School class and member, we will not become stagnant and our purpose will be accomplished.

The teacher teaches what they have been taught so that their students may become teachers to teach what they have learned.

Prayerfully submitted,

Tom Howard, George Snow, Kenneth Zink, Mike Blair

Brother Massey then called for the obituary report. The report was read by Brother Johnnie Brewer. After discussion by Brothers Brewer, Bobby Mullins, Kenneth Massey, and Paul Patterson, the report was adopted. Brother Brewer reminisced about his grandfather who had taught him the Word of God. Brother Mullins alluded to the responsibility that befell Joshua and Elisha after the death Moses and Elijah, respectively. He reminded us that God brings people into our lives for a reason. Brother Massey expressed his desire to have shown more respect to the ministers who have now gone on to their eternal rewards. He reminisced about Brothers Tom Armstrong and William Overton, both of whom had crossed the divide into eternity since last year's meeting. He thanked everyone present for everything they had ever done for the Lord and encouraged us to unite our hearts and hands in God's cause. Brother Patterson spoke of the void that is created by the passing away of God's children and expressed his thankfulness for the younger brothers and sisters who must now rise to fill it. The clerk then read the names of those brothers and sisters who had passed into eternity since the meeting of the association last year.

OBITUARY REPORT

From the letters to the Wiseman Baptist Association, we learn with breaking hearts that 15 brothers and sisters have gone to be with the Lord. As we sit in our sadness, our loved ones are basking in the presence of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To the bereaved ones we extend our deepest sympathy.

As we sit in our churches, we look around and see empty seats where our loved ones sat. And as we reminisce about the work that they did in our church, it grieves our hearts. Then we realize that their labor is over and that we have a greater task before us than we had a year ago. The fields are white and ready to harvest. I think as the fields grow larger perhaps our opportunities increase. So let us do the tasks before us.

Our dead will not come back to us, but we can go to them. Even though their memory is in our hearts, and it hurts when we think of them, it won't be very long before we meet them again. But for now we must carry the torch until our work on earth is over, then it must be passed on to someone else.

Respectfully submitted,

Johnnie Brewer, Kevin Perdue, Bobby Mullins

OBITUARY - ELDER TOM ARMSTRONG

Marion Thomas Armstrong was brought into this world as the first born of Lula and Frank Armstrong on May 19, 1933, and met his Maker on January 30, 2002.

Bro. Armstrong's Christian journey began on August 30, 1956, at the age of 23. He was saved at River Road Missionary Baptist Church in Nashville, Tennessee. Because he thought he would "shout all over the house" when he got saved, he didn't fully accept his salvation until the following day. Upon the realization that he had received peace from the Lord and that was all he was going to get, he said he "got happy" the following day on his way to work.

Approximately one year after being saved, Bro. Armstrong became burdened to preach the gospel. His first sermon was preached at Faith Missionary Baptist Church in Nashville, Tennessee. Bro. Haywood Tuttle and Bro. Armstrong became partners in sharing the gospel wherever they could. They started a mission in West Nashville and remained there for 2-3 years. The two ministers held a number of revivals in Only, Tennessee, in Hickman County, for several years. A mission was also started in East Nashville where the two shared the gospel with the lost in that area. Both of these men delivered more than the gospel to the areas where they found a place to preach. Whether it was a load of

wood, groceries or clothes for needy children--they went into the neighborhoods and bonded with the people.

Beckwith Missionary Baptist Church in Wilson County was the first church where Bro. Armstrong served as pastor; he worked with Beckwith Community for eight and one-half years. Following his pastoral duties at Beckwith, he started a mission in the center of Mt. Juliet. One of the attendees owned a laundry mat and offered his facility for the people until they could make other arrangements. There were 70 people present the first Sunday. The mission was organized as Mt. Juliet Missionary Baptist Church and soon began remodeling a building for worship.

The next pastorate was Parkwood Baptist Church in Nashville, Tennessee, for eight years. On two different occasions, Bro. Armstrong pastored Concord Missionary Baptist Church in White House, Tennessee. Concord was his last pastorate. He was forced to leave both times due to health problems. Bro. Armstrong served as interim pastor of Longview Baptist Church in Gallatin, Tennessee, for 18 months between the two times he served Concord.

His church membership was held at McFerrin Missionary Baptist Church in Madison, Tennessee, for the last several years of his life. When his work on earth was done, his funeral was held on 02/02/02 at McFerrin Church by Bro. Johnny Carver and Bro. Morris Watson. This was truly a service of celebration for his life and that the sufferings of the past year from Congestive Heart Failure were over.

For 50 years and 3 months, Bro. Armstrong was married to his high school sweetheart, Retta Lou Lewis. They had four children: James Ricki Armstrong, Cynthia Louann Dyer, Kristi Lori Stewart and Jon "Robin" Armstrong. The four grandchildren, Jennifer Armstrong, Stephanie Stewart, Angela Stewart-Usery and Ricki Austin Armstrong were certainly "grand" in his sight. They renamed him "Big," which is short for "Big Daddy."

Bro. Armstrong always felt blessed when he could do any kind of work for the Lord. He was delighted when asked to assist in revivals, weddings, funerals and especially visitation. Great pleasure was derived from being elected to serve as the Clerk of the Wiseman Baptist Association from 1996-1999 at which time he was forced to step down from the position due to his declining health.

Bro. Armstrong treasured his Christian friends and had a special adoration for his fellow ministers of the faith. He was honored to work with the following ministers during revivals: Elds. Kenneth Massey, D. C. Barton, Gillespie Smith, Levy Smith, Charles Patterson, Kenneth Davis, Billy Moran, Paul Bryson, Walter Deweese, Haywood Tuttle, Lynn Stapleton, Alton Lewis (father-in-law), Ron Stewart (son-in-law), Raymond Sutton, Charles Stapleton, Eugene Brown, Johnny Carver, Edward Rader, Danny Tomlinson, "Pee Wee" Massey, Paul Oldham and

others.

During some of the last days of his life, Bro. Armstrong shared much wisdom with his family and friends. One comment he made with tears rolling down his cheeks was, "You never know how precious life is until you get to this point." We believe his advice for anyone today would be to make the most of each day: live life to the fullest and be sure you've made preparations to meet God. As he would often ask (even strangers), "Have you ever been saved?"

(This report was written by Kristi Stewart.)

OBITUARY - ELDER WILLIAM OVERTON

William Russell Overton was born September 19, 1911, in Sumner County, Tennessee, near Bethpage. He was the son of Horace Russell and Emma Vance Overton. Horace Overton was the son of Walter Overton and the brother of Elder Jim Overton, a Pioneer Baptist preacher. Elder Jim Overton also had a son, John Overton, who was a Baptist minister.

Brother Overton had four sisters and one brother. His father was a farmer early in life; his parents were poor, but they made sure that the children went to church. He remembered going to service in a two-horse surrey; he first remembered attending church at Siloam.

He married Dorothy Greer on February 27, 1930; at his death they had been married for over 72 years. They had two children--Emma Jean Overton Dyer (deceased) and Billy Tom Overton, currently residing in Franklin, Kentucky. Brother Overton had seven grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

On May 27, 1937, while attending a revival meeting two miles north of Goodlettsville, Tennessee, William Overton was saved. He had been under great conviction before being converted. He first joined New Bethel Baptist Church with his wife Dorothy, who was also saved at the same revival meeting. In August of 1937, they were both baptized by Elder A. J. Sloan.

Brother Overton was burdened with the call to preach the gospel and surrendered to the Lord in 1941. He preached his first sermon the fourth Sunday in March of that year at New Bethel Church. His text was Matthew 1:21: "And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins."

His work in the ministry began with Brother G. A. Gregory in the hills about six miles northeast of Goodlettsville in the home of a Brother Russell. They had to remove the partitions between the front two rooms in the house to make a place for a revival meeting. People tell about walking nearly a mile from where they

had parked to attend the services. Six people were saved and baptized by extension into New Bethel Church by Brother Overton.

On March 28, 1942. William Overton was ordained a minister by New Bethel Church. In 1944 he began to have prayer meetings in different homes in Gallatin, Tennessee. This led to two tent meetings, and in September of 1945 to the organization of West End Baptist Church. He was the pastor at West End from its beginning until November of 1951. At the same time he was also pastor of Old Union Baptist Church in Warren County, Kentucky.

Faith Baptist Church in Detroit, Michigan, called Brother Overton in 1951. The church had 16 members and over \$12,000.00 of debt. In the three years he pastored the church, most of the debt was paid and the church grew to 175 members.

Brother Overton left Faith Church in 1954 to begin a mission in Detroit that was finally organized in May of 1955 as Grace Baptist Church. Many of the members of Grace Church were converted from other faiths, several of them Catholics.

In 1960, Brother and Sister Overton returned to the South and he pastored again at Old Union in Warren County, Kentucky. In 1962, he started Madison Missionary Baptist Church, moving from a storefront mission in downtown Madison to a new church house nearby.

He was again called to Grace Church, and then returned to Tennessee to pastor churches at Plunket's Creek and Caney Fork. Brother Overton was the pastor at Victory, Hendersonville, and South Carthage over the next twenty years. After many preachers had retired or passed away, Brother Overton was still preaching, conducting weddings, helping with funerals, and visiting the sick and elderly in his various churches. For a period of time he even drove from Hendersonville, Tennessee, to Huntingdon, in West Tennessee, to fill in for a church that needed a pastor. This lasted for nearly two years.

Brother Overton's final church was Knob Springs. He loved the people and returned year after year until he finally had to retire at age 90. About six months later he passed away at Highland Manor Nursing Home after a brief illness.

William Overton was a 50-year member of the Goodlettsville Masonic Lodge and a 32nd degree Scottish Rite Mason. In his younger days he hunted and fished and enjoyed baseball, particularly the Atlanta Braves.

Brother Overton was a master carpenter and ran a woodworking business for several years during his years as a minister. He was called to many churches with small congregations and little money. That never made any difference to William Overton. He supported his family and took care of his wife until the day he entered the hospital, six weeks before he died. At the time of his death, he had

been a minister from 1941 until 2002, an enviable record for anyone.

(Most of this information was obtained from *Twentieth Century Baptists* by H. C. Vanderpool and W. T. Russell. Monroe County Press, Tompkinsville, Kentucky, 1962.)

Brother Massey then called for the Associational Missionary's report. The report was read by Brother Jeremy Wilson. After discussion by Brothers Wilson and Eugene Brown, the report was adopted. Brother Wilson spoke of the interest concerning a work in the Franklin, TN. area and about alternative methods of spreading the Gospel--i.e. through television, radio, and Internet. Brother Brown spoke about his short-wave radio ministry.

ASSOCIATIONAL MISSIONARY'S REPORT

Brothers and Sisters in Christ.

The commission that Jesus Christ gave His Church is recorded in three of the four Gospel records. In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus charged His church to "go . . . and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever [He had] commanded" (28:19, 20). In Mark's Gospel, Jesus admonished His followers to "go . . . into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature" (16:15). In Luke's Gospel, Jesus encouraged His disciples to "tarry . . . in the city of Jerusalem" until they were "endued with power from on high" and then to preach "repentance and remission of sins . . . in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem" (24:47, 49). Since the New Testament Church still bears this divine responsibility, it is the solemn duty of this association to promote the mission interests of the several local churches that unite each year to form this body.

Last year we reported on the growing interest among some of our brothers and sisters in the Franklin, TN. area in possibly organizing a work in that location. No action has yet been taken. Let us be prayerful concerning God's will in this matter and pledge our support of this work if the Lord directs one of His own to this field of endeavor.

Lovingly submitted,
Deric McClard & Jeremy Wilson

Brother Eugene Brown moved to adjourn until 10 a.m. the following morning. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed. After Brother

Massey expressed his thankfulness for the day, the church's hospitality, and the association's work, he called on Brother Harold Eubanks to dismiss the assembly in prayer.

SATURDAY MORNING

The association reconvened on Saturday morning, October 26, 2002, at 10 a.m. Brother Donnie Hines led the congregation in singing "Everybody Will Be Happy Over There" and "I Will Be Glad" as Elder Jeremy Wilson accompanied on the piano.

Elder Kenneth Massey welcomed the members of the association and visitors to Bethlehem Church. He then read I Corinthians 3:1-23, commented on the relevance of these verses to preachers, and warned about the dangers of pride. Elder Henry Smith led the assembly in prayer. He thanked God for the blessings of the past and present and pleaded for His help in the day's meeting. Donnie Hines then led the congregation in singing "God Will Be There" while Brother Wilson played the piano. Brother Clyde Dilleha and his daughter Judy Formosa then sang "Don't Be Late" to the delight of all present. The clerk called the roll of messengers, and Brother Massey recognized the visitors.

THE RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Brother Massey recognized and welcomed the following visitor on Saturday morning:

Sister Judy Formosa, Gateway MBC, Davidson County, TN

THE DOCTRINAL SERMON

After reminiscing about his experiences with Brother Bobby and Sister Annette Sutton, Brother Massey introduced Brother Sutton, who had been elected to preach the doctrinal sermon.

During his introductory remarks, Brother Sutton expressed his love for the association and recalled many experiences with the association and in

pastoring churches. Commenting that his subject had been on his heart since 1972, he read Luke 2:42-52 and announced as his subject the words of Jesus in verse 49, "My Father's Business."

Brother Sutton began his message by distinguishing between Jesus' earthly father (v. 48) and His Heavenly Father (v. 49). He reminded us that nothing is more important than the business of our Heavenly Father and seeing people get saved. He argued that all Christians are different even though we all have the same calling, are all blessed with some talent, and all have a place in God's service. Referring to I Corinthians 12:16, 17, he said that all of God's children are important in the Master's work. He used such verses as Isaiah 6:8 and Romans 10:14 to challenge us to do all that we can to further God's cause.

As Brother Sutton reflected on his experiences in the ministry, he shared with the congregation his desire to preach the truth. He spoke about the importance of giving our all in God's cause and of sharing the gospel in all places. He then spoke about the payment that God gives His workers. Citing Luke 18:29, 30, he argued that God repays us for all our sacrifices. Brother Sutton shared with us the many ways that God had paid him for his service in the ministry and warned about the dangers of material prosperity.

Brother Sutton challenged us to be on fire for God and to serve God. He then identified the qualifications for those who do their Father's business. He insisted that God is the One who qualifies us and that salvation is the means by which God equips us for His service. Using Psalm 116, he spoke about the importance of relying on God and the glories associated with salvation.

Brother Sutton reminded us that the retirement plan which God has prepared for His workers is "out of this world." It involves the promise of streets of gold, walls of jasper, and many other things which have not "entered into the heart of man" (I Corinthians 2:9). He closed his message by thanking the association for allowing him to bring the message.

As the congregation gathered into the altar to shake hands with Brother Sutton, Donnie Hines led in singing "O I Want to See Him." Many testimonies were given in which the saints of God reflected on the goodness of God and the faithfulness of His servants. Among those who testified were Elder Charles Stapleton and Brother Bobby Mullins who expressed

their appreciation to the association for the help that New Life Baptist Church had received in building their building. Brother Key Dillard also thanked the association for welcoming Murfreesboro Church and expressed his joy for the blessings which he had received during this and past association meetings. Brother Massey then recognized Brother Branton Williams from New Life Baptist Church who reported on the progress of the building of New Life's new church building. Brother Williams delighted in relating how God's goodness had been made manifest in the endeavor and encouraged the association to continue to pray from the work in East Tennessee.

The association was adjourned for one hour for lunch. Brother Massey gave permission to the brothers from New Life to leave before the afternoon service and then called on Brother Adam Troutt to dismiss the assembly in prayer and to ask God's blessings on the meal.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON

After another wonderful meal, the association was reconvened. Brother Donnie Hines led the group in singing "Blessed Assurance" as Brother Wilson played the piano. The moderator then thanked the church for the meal, read II Timothy 4:1-11, and reminisced about his experiences with God and many Baptist people through the years. Brothers Donnie Hines, Wayne Scott, Key Dillard, and Jeremy Wilson then favored the association by singing "Oh Happy Day" and "How Wonderful Is He" as Brother McClard accompanied on the piano. Brother Gary Nicholas led the congregation in prayer.

Brother Massey called on Brother Donnie Hines, the association's ambassador, to report on his work in the past year. Brother Hines read II Corinthians 5:20 and commented on the work of an ambassador as described in the scriptures. He expressed his feelings of gratitude for the honor of being able to serve as an ambassador for Christ Jesus. He indicated that he had enjoyed the work through the past year and reported that he had visited several churches. He thanked God for His blessings on the association in the past several years and welcomed Murfreesboro Church into the association.

Brother Massey then called for the report "Promoting Worship in the Lord's Service." The report was read by Elder Deric McClard. After discussion by

Brother McClard and Brother Steve Franklin, the report was unanimously adopted. Brother Franklin spoke about the importance of using God-centered songs in worship and of seeing God as He really is.

PROMOTING WORSHIP IN THE LORD'S SERVICE

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Before considering how to promote worship in the Lord's service, we must answer an important question--*i.e.* What is worship? A brief review of three of the Bible's most familiar worship scenes will help. The first is found in Genesis 22:1-14. God called Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac. Without hesitating or even questioning God, Abraham "rose up early in the morning," gathered his provisions, prepared his son and servants for the journey, and started out for "the place of which God had told him" (v. 4). When he and his companions arrived at Mt. Moriah, Abraham declared, "I and the lad will go yonder and worship" (v. 5). This illustration teaches us that true worship assumes our preparation. Worship does not just happen, nor is it ever accidental; instead, it is a deliberate act which requires preparation.

The second is found in Job 1:1-21. In a short period of time, Job lost almost everything. His response, though unusual by our standards, reflects his sadness: He "arose, and rent his mantle, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground" (v. 20). Then, he "worshipped" (v. 20). This illustration teaches us that true worship accepts God's providence. Nothing can ever be attributed to the turning wheel of fortune. All things happen according to the plan of God, who "worketh all things after the counsel of his own will" (Ephesians 1:11), and "work together for good to them that love God" (Romans 8:28). A true worshipper must be sensitive enough to see the hand of God at work in all circumstances.

The third is found in Revelation 4:1-11. At the center of all activity in this chapter is the throne of God. Lightnings and thunderings proceed from it, seven lamps of fire burn before it, four creatures stand guard in the midst of it, and twenty four elders are seated around it. John observes as the elders fall from their thrones before the presence of God, cast their crowns at His feet, and cry, "Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created" (v. 11). This illustration teaches us that true worship acknowledges God's preeminence. The emphasis is always on God, never on ourselves, and God is to be viewed not as our equal, but as our superior, our creator, our sustainer, our redeemer, our sovereign ruler, our God.

While it is now understood that true worship assumes our preparation, accepts

God's providence, and acknowledges God's preeminence, it remains to be said what true worship is. In short, worship is our answer to God's worthiness. It is our celebration of who God is and what He does. It is a work that begins in the heart. As Hannah prayed, she said, "My heart rejoiceth in the Lord" (1 Samuel 2:1). Also, Jesus taught that we must worship "in spirit and in truth" (John 4:24). Worship happens when we delight in God in our hearts. Moreover, this delight finds expression in our actions. Singing, shouting, preaching, praying, thinking, working, serving, learning, listening, resting, sharing can all be acts of worship if in the performance of the act, the heart delights in God. The key to true worship is what happens in the heart, not what is performed by the mind or body. Jesus said, "This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me" (Matthew 15:8).

The question remains--*i.e.* how do we promote true worship in the Lord's service? First, we must encourage our brothers and sisters to prepare for worship. Praying, reading and studying God's Word, and meditating can help to prepare our hearts for worship. While Sunday mornings are always busy times for church-goers, we should challenge our brothers and sisters to alleviate as much stress as possible by taking the time to prepare for worship and to set aside time to reflect on God. Second, we must teach our brothers and sisters about the sovereign control of God over every aspect of our lives. We should challenge them to see God's hand at work in all of life's circumstances. We should also be careful to give God credit for all things in our public ministry. Third, we should strive to create an atmosphere in our churches that is conducive to worship. Our singing, our preaching, our teaching, our testifying, and our praying should be God-centered. Whenever the focus of a service begins to shift, we should humbly redirect that focus back to God.

The New Testament church has many responsibilities. While we educate, evangelize, fellowship, and minister to the needs of others, let us be mindful that all our responsibilities can be simplified into one single task--*i.e.* "Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve" (Matthew 4:10). This responsibility reaches into every area of our lives and finds expression in the performance of all of our duties. May we be found diligent in our endeavor to worship God and to promote worship in our services.

Lovingly submitted.

Deric McClard, Charles Patterson, Branton Williams, Steve Franklin

Brother Massey called for the reading of correspondence. Brother Clint Greer read correspondence from Bethlehem Baptist Church. The association unanimously elected to adopt the report after discussion by Brothers Greer and Gary Nicholas.

HOST CHURCH CORRESPONDENCE

We, the members of Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church, wish to thank the Wiseman Baptist Association, for giving us the honor and privilege of hosting this wonderful body of people.

In Proverbs 18:24 we find, "A man that hath friends must show himself friendly." In I John 3:11 it says "For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another."

It has been a pleasure to extend to you Christian love and friendship. We feel it has drawn our Church closer together and have benefited by your presence.

May God's richest blessings rest upon each sermon, report, prayer and song rendered during this 112th annual meeting and may our Heavenly Father receive all honor and glory for this gathering.

We are grateful for each visitor who came and for each member who participated in any manner. We prayerfully trust we will all leave with a renewed strength and purpose of heart to serve God more earnestly.

Respectfully submitted,
Clint Greer and Bob Newman

The treasurer's report was then read by Brother Bobby Sutton and adopted by the association.

TREASURER'S REPORT

October 26, 2002

10/27/01 - Balance	\$11,497.50
10/30/01 - Deposit	+ 975.00
05/13/02 - Check #1005 (Bible & Literature Missionary Foundation - 700 minute books)	- 675.34
Interest	+ 258.29
10/26/02 - Balance	\$12,055.45

Elder B. G. Sutton, Treasurer

BIG BEAR CREEK MISSIONARY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

January 6, 2003

Wiseman Missionary Baptist Association:

We trust everything is going well with you all and your lost are being saved. We also trust God is still blessing you.

This past October, we convened for the One Hundred Sixty-Seventh Annual Session with Elam Creek Missionary Baptist Church. We had 29 churches reporting an increase of 135 with 77 of those being by baptism. We had a decrease of 87 with a total membership of 3,626. We still need to see many souls saved for the Lord.

We are truly thankful for the visitors that were able to be with us. We invite each one to join us for the 168th Annual Session to be held with Mt. Nebo Missionary Baptist Church in Franklin County, Alabama. The church is located near Russellville, Alabama. This session will be held October 11, 12, 13, 14, 2003.

We look forward to your correspondence this coming year. May God richly bless you.

In Christ's Love,
Keith L. Hood, Clerk
Keith Prince, Moderator
Billy Murphy, Vice Moderator

NEW BUSINESS

Brother Larry Gregory moved to authorize the clerk to correspond with sister associations. The motion was seconded and passed.

Brother Massey then encouraged the messengers to attend the meetings of sister associations. Brother Donnie Hines suggested that the moderator appoint messengers to attend those meetings. The following brethren were appointed to represent the Wiseman Baptist Association at the meetings of our sister associations in 2003:

ENON	Deric McClard, Jeremy Wilson
SILLOAM	Donnie Hines, Johnny Carver
SWEST DISTRICT	Bobby Sutton, Trey Crews
POLK COUNTY	Kenneth Massey, Wayne Scott
BIG BEAR CREEK	Kenneth Massey, Trey Crews, Larry Gregory
BETHEL	Deric McClard

Brother Johnny Carver moved to send \$1,000.00 to Brother Rick Jones in Jamaica. The motion was seconded and passed after discussion by Brother Bobby Sutton.

Brother Deric McClard moved to expand the association letter to include information about each church's deacons, e-mail addresses for the church officers, and web addresses for the churches. The motion was seconded and passed.

Brother Bobby Sutton moved to re-elect Brother Donnie Hines as the association's ambassador. The motion was seconded and passed.

Brother Carver moved to send \$1,000.00 to assist in the building project in Trinidad. The motion was seconded and passed after discussion by Brother Key Dillard.

Brother Carver then moved to send \$1,000.00 to New Life Baptist Church to assist in their building project. The motion was seconded and passed.

The recommended order of business for 2003 was read by Brother Carver and adopted by the association. The report can be found on the front inside cover of the minutes.

The minutes for the 2002 session of the Wiseman Baptist Association were read by the clerk and approved by the association. Elder Eugene Brown recommended that a picture of Elder William Overton be printed on the back cover of the minutes.

After many heartfelt expressions of gladness for the good association, Brother Sutton moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded and passed. Brother Donnie Hines then led the assembly in singing "Hold to God's

Unchanging Hand" while all in attendance passed into the altar to shake hands with their brothers and sisters in the Lord.

SPECIAL REPORTS FOR 2003

REPORT - "Promotion of Christian Music Training in Our Churches"

Chair: Key Dillard; Committee: Clyde Dilleha, Donnie Hines, Adam Troutt

REPORT - "Christian Education"

Chair: Paul Patterson; Committee: Johnny Brewer, Trey Crews, Greg Hines, Charles Stapleton, Mike Stokes

REPORT - Obituaries

Chair: Larry Gregory; Committee: Bobby Mullins, Morgan Scott, Bobby Sutton

REPORT - Association Missions

Chair: Eugene Brown; Committee: Robby Cornwell, Jay Loving

Elder Kenneth Massey, Moderator

Elder Deric McClard, Clerk

IN LOVING MEMORY

BETHLEHEM	
Brother Roy Sutton	March 28, 2002
LONGVIEW	
Sister Edith Driver	May 23, 2002
McFERRIN	
Brother Chuck Hulshof	November 21, 2001
Brother Lewis Pappas	November 23, 2002
Elder Tom Armstrong	January 30, 2002
Sister Donna Graves	April 30, 2002
Brother Doyle Powell	May 17, 2002
Sister Thelma Baird	May 17, 2002
Brother Jimmy Donoho	June 25, 2002
Elder William Overton	July 25, 2002
Brother Wendell Ray	September 16, 2002
MURFREESBORO	
Brother A. M. Jones	April 22, 2002
NEW ZION	
Sister Marie Dilleha	September 10, 2002
THREE SPRINGS	
Brother Arlis Copas	October 29, 2001
Sister Eva Tucker	March 29, 2002

DIRECTORY OF CHURCHES

BETHLEHEM: 879 Long Hollow Pike, Goodlettsville, TN 37072
(615) 859-3925

Pastor.....B. G. Sutton
130 Cliff Top Drive, Hendersonville, TN 37075 (615-824-6266)

Clerk & Treasurer.....Marelle Newman
101 Christina Court, Goodlettsville, TN 37072 (615-851-7720)

S.S. Supt.....Kenneth Zink
102 Veebelt Drive, Hendersonville, TN 37075 (615-824-2494)

- LONGVIEW:** 798 Spencer Street, Gallatin, TN 37066
(615-452-8638)
- Pastor.....Deric McClard
1120 Spencer Avenue, Gallatin, TN 37066 (615-230-6149)
- Clerk & Treasurer.....Mike Patterson
102 Crosspointe, Hendersonville, TN 37075 (615-824-0816)
- S.S.Supt.....George Snow
1019 Brave Hill Road, Castalian Springs, TN 37031 (615-451-2124)
- McFERRIN:** 431 West Old Hickory Blvd., Madison, TN 37115
(615) 865-7980
- Pastor.....Johnny Carver
1110 Kendall Farms Drive, Hendersonville, TN 37075 (615-824-3818)
- Clerk.....Frank McClanahan
1759 Saundersville Road, Hendersonville, TN 37075 (615-824-3268)
- Treasurer.....Bobby McCain
1330 South Bass, Mt. Juliet, TN 37122 (615-758-8533)
- S.S. Supt.....Tom Howard
106 Airfloat Drive, Hendersonville, TN 37075 (615-824-7368)
- MT. JULIET:** 1426 S. Mt. Juliet Road, Mt. Juliet, TN 37122
(615-758-8155)
- Pastor.....Jeremy Wilson
777 Guy Brown Road, Scottsville, KY 42164 (270-622-4346)
- Clerk.....Myrna Russell
111 Oak Grove Road, Red Boiling Springs, TN 37150 (615-699-2303)
- Treasurer.....Dianne Travis
1540 Shannon Road, Lebanon, TN 37087 (615-443-5628)
- S.S. Supt.....Johnnie Brewer, Sr.
3918 E. Division Street, Mt. Juliet, TN 37122 (615-758-7911)

MURFREESBORO: 816 N. Church Street, Murfreesboro, TN 37130
(615-896-0720)

Pastor.....Darren Bonee
707 Irongate Blvd., Murfreesboro, TN 37129 (615-867-2736)

Clerk.....Beth Griewahn
2609 Lone Oak Drive, Murfreesboro, TN 37128 (615-848-0808)

Treasurer.....Kris Dillard
1088 Hickory Harbor Drive, Gallatin, TN 37066 (615-230-3049)

S.S. Supt..... Jay Loving
370 Chippen Court, Murfreesboro, TN 37128 (615-849-1771)

NEW LIFE: 3540 Stanley Valley Road, Surgoinsville, TN 37857
(423-345-3334)

Pastor.....Charles Stapleton
414 Silver Lake Road, Church Hill, TN 37642 (423-357-9307)

Clerk.....Michelle Blair
152 Sturbridge Lane, Church Hill, TN 37642 (423-357-0953)

Treasurer.....Billy Joe Williams
408 Dover Avenue, Mt. Carmel, TN 37645 (423-357-7836)

S.S. Supt.....Branton Williams
420 Dover Avenue, Mt. Carmel, TN 37645 (423) 357-6465

NEW ZION: Bloomington Springs (near Cookeville), TN 38545

Pastor.....Larry S. Gregory
2231 Sparta Pike, Lebanon, TN 37090 (615-449-0837)

Assoc. Pastor.....Kevin Perdue
490 Dogwood Circle, Cookeville, TN 38501 (931-528-9091)

Clerk & Treasurer.....Mattie Gregory
2231 Sparta Pike, Lebanon, TN 37090 (615-449-0837)

THREE SPRINGS: 1440 Three Springs Road, Bowling Green, KY 42104
(270) 746-9444

Pastor.....Kenneth Massey
31 Talbott Drive, Bowling Green, KY 42103 (270-745-9974)

Assoc. Pastor.....Trey Crews
325 Whitecotton Drive, Bowling Green, KY 42103 (270-393-9879)

Clerk.....Dale Chaffin
3427 N. Cedar Bluff Road, Woodburn, KY 42170 (270-529-2091)

Treasurer.....J. C. Conatser
215 Cale Drive, Bowling Green, KY 42101 (270-782-9163)

S.S. Supt.....Jackie Strode
734 Hampton Drive, Bowling Green, KY 42103 (270-842-0416)

**DIRECTORY OF ORDAINED
AND LICENSED (*) MINISTERS**

BETHLEHEM:

- B.G. Sutton, 130 Cliff Top Drive, Hendersonville, TN 37075 (615-824-6266)
- Gary Nicholas, 199 Wessington Place, Hendersonville, TN 37075 (615-824-1774)
- *David Gregory, 1069 Ridgecrest Drive, Goodlettsville, TN 37072 (615-859-2342)

LONGVIEW:

- Deric McClard, 1120 Spencer Avenue, Gallatin, TN 37066 (615-230-6149)
- *Steve Franklin, P.O. Box 124, Gallatin, TN 37066 (615-452-4080)
- *Kenny Glover, 376 Woodlands Drive, Gallatin, TN 37066 (615-452-3579).
- *Stephen Barrett, 309 Trina Street, Gallatin, TN 37066 (615-451-7724)
- *Adam Troutt, 101 Brights Lane, Gallatin, TN 37066 (615-451-2502)

McFERRIN:

- Johnny Carver, 1110 Kendall Farms Drive, Hendersonville, TN 37075 (615-824-3818)
- James Henry Smith, 1169 Hunters Lane, Nashville, TN 37207 (615-865-6398)
- Paul Patterson, 101 Walnut Trace, Hendersonville, TN 37075 (615-822-0162)
- Ray Smith, 1235 Carriage Park Drive, Franklin, TN 37064 (615-595-9012)
- Eugene Brown, 110 Linda Drive, Hendersonville, TN 37075 (615-824-5285)
- *Keith Whitley, 1508 Clover Street, Hermitage, TN 37076 (615-885-4887)
- *Danny Norman, 5163 Regent Drive, Nashville, TN 37220 (615-834-3755)
- *Don Escue, 121 Arrowhead Drive, Hendersonville, TN 37075 (615-822-4033)
- *Kent Collier, 1646 Neelys Bend Road, Madison, TN 37115 (615-860-8178)
- *Jay Donoho, 6566 Brownlee Drive, Nashville, TN 37205 (615-353-0966)

MT. JULIET:

- Jeremy Wilson, 777 Guy Brown Road, Scottsville, KY 42164 (270-622-4346)
Johnnie Brewer, Sr., 3918 E. Division Street, Mt. Juliet, TN 37122 (615-758-7911)
Charles Patterson, 5009 Porter Hurt Drive, Hermitage, TN 37076 (615-449-9676)
*Jeff Brewer, 4505 E. Division Street, Mt. Juliet, TN 37122 (615-754-4365)
*Dwight Massey, 711 Veneta View, Mt. Juliet, TN 37122 (615-758-8589)

MURFREESBORO:

- Bill Green, 2948 Arthur Drive, Murfreesboro, TN 37127 (615-895-4690)
Darren Bonee, 707 Irongate Blvd., Murfreesboro, TN 37129 (615-867-2736)
*Jay Loving, 370 Chippen Court, Murfreesboro, TN 37128 (615-849-1791)
*Sam Vance, 5001 Sam Davis Road, Smyrna, TN 37167 (615-223-7905)

NEW LIFE:

- Charles Stapleton, 414 Silver Lake Road, Church Hill, TN 37642 (423-357-9307)
Ron Lafferty, 234 Catawba Street, Church Hill, TN 37642 (423-357-1352)
*Ronnie Short, 120 Alexander Crossing, Church Hill, TN 37642 (423-357-1737)
*Bobby Mullins, 214 Colonial Drive, Rogersville, TN 37857 (423-345-4591)
*Tim Simpson, 359 Spangler Road, #9, Piney Flats, TN 37686 (423-323-9332)

NEW ZION:

- Larry S. Gregory, 2231 Sparta Pike, Lebanon, TN 37090 (615-449-0837)
Kevin Perdue, 490 Dogwood Circle, Cookeville, TN 38501 (931-528-9091)

THREE SPRINGS:

- Kenneth Massey, 31 Talbott Drive, Bowling Green, KY 42103 (270-745-9974)
Trey Crews, 325 Whitecotton Drive, Bowling Green, KY 42103 (270-393-9879)
*Jack Garmon, 4633 Maple Lane, Bowling Green, KY 42101 (270-746-9042)
*Dewayne Reid, 6147 Plano Road, Bowling Green, KY 42104 (270-781-3931)

HISTORICAL TABLE

Wiseman Association was organized at Cedar Bluff Church, near Gap of Ridge, Macon County, Tennessee, on November 18, 1891.

DATE	PLACE	PREACHER	MODERATOR	CLERK
1891	Cedar Bluff	J.H. Grime	W.M.S. Wilks	B.R. Hawkins
1892	Meadorville	W.M.S. Wilks	W.M.S. Wilks	B.R. Hawkins
1893	Dixon's Creek	J.S. Pardue	W.M.S. Wilks	B.R. Hawkins
1894	Lafayette	J.S. Pardue	W.M.S. Wilks	J.S. Pardue
1895	Hartsville	J.S. Pardue	W.M.S. Wilks	D.S. Reed
1896	Cedar Bluff	J.A. Stone	W.M.S. Wilks	D.S. Reed
1897	Independence	J.F. Lambert	M.C. Fitzpatrick	D.S. Reed
1898	Dixon's Creek	W.M.S. Wilks	W.M.S. Wilks	D.S. Reed
1899	Friendship	J.L. Hawkins	W.M.S. Wilks	D.S. Reed
1900	Siloam	J.W. McQueen	J.F. Lambert	D.S. Reed
1901	Rocky Mound	J.J. Dyer	M.C. Fitzpatrick	D.S. Reed
1902	Shady Grove	H.H. Grime	M.C. Fitzpatrick	D.S. Reed
1903	New Harmony	W.M.S. Wilks	W.M.S. Wilks	D.S. Reed
1904	New Hopewell	J.W. McQueen	W.M.S. Wilks	D.S. Reed
1905	Rock Bridge	J.W. McQueen	W.M.S. Wilks	D.S. Reed
1906	Corum's Hill	Earl D. Simmons	W.M.S. Wilks	C.D. High
1907	Long Creek	W.M.S. Wilks	C.N. Simmons	D.S. Reed
1908	Hillsdale	C.B. Massey	W.M.S. Wilks	D.S. Reed
1909	Hartsville	E.E. Folk	C.N. Simmons	D.S. Reed
1910	Cedar Bluff	J.T. Oakley	J.T. Oakley	D.S. Reed
1911	Meadorville	C.B. Massey	J.T. Oakley	D.S. Reed
1912	Friendship	J.W. Gillon	A.J. Sloan	D.S. Reed
1913	Bledsoe's Creek	A.J. Sloan	J.T. Oakley	D.S. Reed
1914	Siloam	J.T. Oakley	P.S. Burnley	D.S. Reed
1915	Pleasant Hill	W.J. Summar	W.K. Johnson	D.S. Reed
1916	Spring Creek	C.B. Massey	A.J. Sloan	T.C. Harrison
1917	Dixon's Creek	T.F. Moore	A.J. Sloan	T.C. Harrison
1918	New Harmony	T.F. Moore	A.J. Sloan	T.C. Harrison
1919	Fairview	P.S. Dyer	A.J. Sloan	T.C. Harrison
1920	Pleasant Grove	W.S. Jenkins	A.J. Sloan	T.C. Harrison
1921	New Zion	P.S. Dyer	A.J. Sloan	T.C. Harrison
1922	Rock Bridge	R.O. Sanders	A.J. Sloan	T.C. Harrison
1923	Cedar Bluff	N.C. Fuqua	R.Y. Hawkins	A.J. Sloan
1924	Long Creek	I.N. Sloan	R.O. Sanders	A.J. Sloan
1925	Mt. Zion	R.O. Sanders	L.A. Stewart	A.J. Sloan
1926	Old Hopewell	L.A. Stewart	L.A. Stewart	A.J. Sloan
1927	Union	A.W. Keen	L.A. Stewart	A.J. Sloan
1928	Brattontown	R.O. Sanders	L.A. Stewart	A.J. Sloan
1929	Meadorville	W.T. Taylor	LA. Stewart	A.J. Sloan
1930	Haysville	F.W. Lambert	L.A. Stewart	A.J. Sloan
1931	Capitol Hill	A.J. Sloan	L.A. Stewart	A.J. Sloan
1932	Siloam	R. Thompson	N.C. Fuqua	A.J. Sloan
1933	Rocky Mound	C.B. Massey	N.C. Fuqua	A.J. Sloan
1934	Pleasant Hill	R.O. Sanders	N.C. Fuqua	A.J. Sloan
1935	Good Will	F.W. Lambert	N.C. Fuqua	A.J. Sloan
1936	Spring Creek	W.T. Taylor	N.C. Fuqua	A.J. Sloan
1937	New Harmony	R.O. Sanders	N.C. Fuqua	A.J. Sloan
1938	New Bethel	F.W. Lambert	N.C. Fuqua	A.J. Sloan
1939	Union	R.O. Sanders	N.C. Fuqua	A.J. Sloan
1940	Red Hill	F.W. Lambert	N.C. Fuqua	A.J. Sloan
1941	Lafayette	R.O. Sanders	N.C. Fuqua	A.J. Sloan
1942	Siloam	F.W. Lambert	N.C. Fuqua	A.J. Sloan
1943	Athens	R.O. Sanders	N.C. Fuqua	A.J. Sloan
1944	Union Hill	F.W. Lambert	N.C. Fuqua	A.J. Sloan

1945	Brattontown	H.H. Smith	N.C. Fuqua	F.W. Lambert
1946	Drake's Creek	F.W. Lambert	N.C. Fuqua	F.W. Lambert
1947	Long Creek	F.L. Ray	N.C. Fuqua	F.W. Lambert
1948	Old Union	F.L. Ray	N.C. Fuqua	F.W. Lambert
1949	Macedonia	F.L. Ray	F.L. Ray	F.W. Lambert
1950	Old Hopewell	F.L. Ray	F.L. Ray	F.W. Lambert
1951	Rocky Mound	M.R. Drury	F.L. Ray	F.W. Lambert
1952	East Main St.	Albert Crouch	F.L. Ray	F.W. Lambert
1953	McFerrin Ave.	Albert Crouch	F.L. Ray	W.T. Russell
1954	Cedar Bluff	H.C. Vanderpool	F.L. Ray	W.T. Russell
1955	West End	H.C. Vanderpool	F.L. Ray	W.T. Russell
1956	Buffalo Spgs.	H.C. Vanderpool	F.L. Ray	W.T. Russell
1957	Concord	G.O. Templeton	F.L. Ray	W.T. Russell
1958	Pleasant Hill	A.G. Gregory	F.L. Ray	W.T. Russell
1959	Enon Chapel	A.G. Gregory	F.L. Ray	W.T. Russell
1960	New Bethel	A.G. Gregory	F.L. Ray	W.T. Russell
1961	Liberty Hill	A.G. Gregory	F.L. Ray	W.T. Russell
1962	Longview	Jas. (Pete) Porter	F.L. Ray	W.T. Russell
1963	Old Hopewell	Jas. (Pete) Porter	F.L. Ray	W.T. Russell
1964	White Hill	Jas. (Pete) Porter	F.L. Ray	W.T. Russell
1965	Salem	Jas. (Pete) Porter	F.L. Ray	W.T. Russell
1966	Pipers Chapel	Jas. (Pete) Porter	F.L. Ray	W.T. Russell
1967	Fairview	H.D. Linville	F.L. Ray	W.T. Russell
1968	Good Will	H.D. Linville	F.L. Ray	W.T. Russell
1969	Faith # 1	H.D. Linville	F.L. Ray	W.T. Russell
1970	Gateway	H.D. Linville	F.L. Ray	W.T. Russell
1971	Faith #2	H.D. Linville	F.L. Ray	W.T. Russell
1972	Grace	H.D. Linville	F.L. Ray	W.T. Russell
1973	Cedar Bluff	H.D. Linville	F.L. Ray	W.T. Russell
1974	Liberty Hill	H.D. Linville	F.L. Ray	W.T. Russell
1975	Rock Bridge	H.D. Linville	F.L. Ray	H.C. Vanderpool
1976	Lafayette	H.D. Linville	F.L. Ray	H.C. Vanderpool
1977	Buffalo Springs	J.W. Briley	F.L. Ray	H.C. Vanderpool
1978	McFerrin	Kenneth Woodall	F.L. Ray	H.C. Vanderpool
1979	Harmony	Hillman Duncan	H.G. Taylor	H.C. Vanderpool
1980	New Bethel	Everett Scruggs	H.G. Taylor	H.C. Vanderpool
1981	Faith (TN)	Guthrie Thompson	H.G. Taylor	H.C. Vanderpool
1982	Longview	Bobby Pitt	H.G. Taylor	H.C. Vanderpool
1983	Salem	Charles Patterson	H.G. Taylor	H.C. Vanderpool
1984	Cedar Grove	Ray A. Sutton	H.G. Taylor	H.C. Vanderpool
1985	Old Hopewell	Gary Duncan	H.G. Taylor	H.C. Vanderpool
1986	Gateway	Ottis Jones	H.G. Taylor	H.C. Vanderpool
1987	West End	Terry Lyles	H.G. Taylor	H.C. Vanderpool
1988	Goodwill	Jeff Brown	H.G. Taylor	H.C. Vanderpool
1989	New Bethel	Lonnie Meador	H.D. Linville	H.C. Vanderpool
1990	McFerrin	Charles Patterson	H.D. Linville	Ottis Jones
1991	New Bethel	Kenneth Massey	Jerry Shrum	Kenneth Massey
1992	Lafayette	Jimmy Roberts	Jerry Shrum	Don Curtis
1993	Parkwood	Larry Gregory	Jerry Shrum	Don Curtis
1994	New Bethel	Paul Patterson	Jerry Shrum	Don Curtis
1995	Longview	Deric McClard	Jerry Shrum	Kenneth Massey
1996	McFerrin	Benny Snoddy	Larry Gregory	Tom Armstrong
1997	Harvest	Paul Patterson	Kenneth Massey	Tom Armstrong
1998	Three Springs	Johnny Carver	Kenneth Massey	Tom Armstrong
1999	New Zion	Deric McClard	Kenneth Massey	Tom Armstrong
2000	Longview	Paul Patterson	Kenneth Massey	Larry Gregory
2001	McFerrin	Kevin Perdue	Kenneth Massey	Larry Gregory
2002	Bethlehem	Jeremy Wilson	Kenneth Massey	Deric McClard

SUNDAY SCHOOL ENROLLMENT SUMMARY

CHURCH	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	Teachers
Bethlehem	0	0	20	23	15	3
Longview	40	45	50	50	70	9
McFerrin	304	300	308	329	348	16
Mt. Juliet	NA	NA	NA	34	38	4
Murfreesboro,	NA	NA	NA	NA	35	6
New Life	NA	NA	67	67	68	4
New Zion	12	17	15	8	11	1
Three Springs	100	112	115	118	116	15
TOTALS	456	474	575	629	701	58

CHURCH MEMBERS

CHURCH	Year When Organized	Gains by		Gains by Statement	Loss by Letter	Loss by Expulsion	Loss by Death	Current Enrollment
		Baptism	Letter					
Bethlehem	1962	3	4	0	0	0	1	148
Longview	1960	4	11	0	0	0	1	179
McFerrin	1948	12	10	9	4	0	9	592
Mt. Juliet	1982	4	2	2	0	0	0	95
Murfreesboro	1984	2	1	0	0	0	1	65
New Life	2000	3	2	0	4	0	0	68
New Zion	1981	0	0	0	0	0	1	36
Three Springs	1995	11	12	6	1	0	2	303
TOTALS		39	42	17	9	0	15	1,486