WISEMAN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION 2012



Held with Mt. Juliet Missionary Baptist Church

WISEMAN BAPTIST ASSOCATION

One Hundred Twenty First Annual Session October 26th and 27th, 2012

CONVENED WITH MT. JULIET MISSIONARY BATPIST CHURCH Mt. Juliet, TN

Officers:

Kenneth Massey, Moderator 1100 Bedfordshire Court Nashville, TN 37221 615-622-5352 masseyjudy@att.net

Jeremy Wilson, Clerk 134 Ivy Farm Court Alvaton, KY 42122 270-791-0309 jeremytwilson@insightbb.com

Robby Cornwell, Treasurer 620 Highland View Court Hermitage, TN 37076 615-394-0008 sccsprink@msn.com Johnny Carver, Assistant 1110 Kendall Farms Drive Hendersonville, TN 37075 615-824-3818 preachermcf@comcast.net

Charles Patterson, Assistant 524 Jim Chitwood Drive Lafayette, TN 37083 615-666-4422 charlesp111@nctc.com

Larry Gregory, Assistant 1805 Clemmons Road Cookeville, TN 38501 931-528-1684 lsgregory@frontiernet.net

The next session will convene at Gladdice Missionary Baptist Church 120 Salt Lick Creek Gainesboro, TN 38562 on October 25th & 26th 2013 at 10:00 AM

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ABSTRACT OF PRINCIPLES

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.

We believe in one true and living God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

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

We believe in the doctrine of election, according to the foreknowledge of God, through sanctification of the Spirit and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ.

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.

We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God by the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ.

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 after justification.

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.

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.

We believe in the resurrection of the dead and a general judgment, and that the joys of the righteous and punishment of the wicked will be eternal.

RULES OF DECORUM

- 1. The Association shall be opened and closed with prayer.
- 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 or herself to the subject under discussion and shall not be interrupted unless he or she 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 chairperson 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 or Sister.
- 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, provided 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 reproved or such other course taken with him as the Moderator may think proper, either at his own option or any other member.

CONSTITUTION

- Article I. This Body shall be known as the Wiseman Assocation
- **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 the Churches to the Association shall give the number of members of fellowship, received by experience and baptism, received by letter, received by statement, restored, excluded, 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 brothers and sisters 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 transaction of business.
- **Article X.** It is expected that these meetings shall be missionary in practice as well as theory.
- **Article XI.** New churches may be admitted into this 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's 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 principal 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 sittings, may welcome any visiting brethren present, who shall have 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 in 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 carries 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.

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION

On Friday morning, October 26, 2012, the messengers to the One Hundred Twenty First Annual Session of the Wiseman Baptist Association arrived in Mt. Juliet, Tennessee at the meeting place of Mt. Juliet Missionary Baptist church who had prepared breakfast to enjoy while welcoming each one who had come. The gathered joyously greeted one another before convening.

Brother Donnie Hines opened the session by leading the congregation in singing, "When the Saints Go Marching In" and "I Want to Be Ready to Meet Him" accompanied on the piano by Sister Leslie Church.

The association's temporary moderator Brother Kenneth Massey began by welcoming the messengers and visitors to the 121st session of the Wiseman Baptist Association. He added thanks to the Lord for bringing us to Mt. Juliet Church, and he thanked Mt. Juliet for the bountiful hospitality they have shown. He shared with the congregation how in 1922, the association met at Rock Bridge Baptist Church and Brother A.J. Sloan was to bring the doctrinal sermon during that meeting. During the hour scheduled for the doctrinal sermon, revival broke out among the congregation and the association moved to have the doctrinal sermon that evening. Brother Massey mentioned how wonderful it would be for revival to break out during the association meeting like that again.

Brother Massey read from the Psalm 107:1-7, remarking on the need for our churches to have more leadership of the Holy Spirit. Brother Massey then called on Brother Lynn Stapleton, pastor of Huntingdon Missionary Baptist Church from the Southwest District Baptist Association, to offer prayer.

Following prayer, Brother Hines led the congregation in "The Haven of Rest." Brother Sam Vance then favored the congregation by singing, "Beulah Land."

INTRODUCTORY SERMON

After the moving special singing, Brother Massey called for the introductory sermon, brought by Brother Jeremy Wilson, pastor of Three Springs Baptist. Brother Wilson opened by thanking the association for the opportunity to bring the introductory message. He also expressed how thankful he was for the Lord's mercy and grace that has been bestowed upon the Wiseman

Association churches in the past year. He took Matthew 12:38-42 for his lesson:

Then certain of the scribes and of the Pharisees answered, saying, Master, we would see a sign from thee. But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas: For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. The men of Nineveh shall rise in judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: because they repented at the preaching of Jonas; and, behold, a greater than Jonas is here. The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: for she came from the uttermost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and, behold, a greater than Solomon is here.

Brother Wilson explained how in the text, we see the Pharisees demanding a sign from Jesus. Jesus responds by telling the gathering how evil and adulterous their generation was. Brother Wilson expressed how today we are also living in an evil and adulterous generation.

In Paul's writing to Timothy, Paul explains that evil will be seen in greater intensity in the last days. We can see this is true, as evil is seemingly accepted in a greater degree in today's world. So what can we do to help this generation?

Brother Wilson explained that one thing we can do to help is to preach the truth from our pulpits so we may cause sinners to repent. In 2 Timothy 4:1-2 Paul encourages us to "Preach the word, be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort will all longsuffering and doctrine." While we may be tempted to gloss over sins, we will not do our congregations any favors if we are not specific in our preaching on sin. We should not preach to them only what they want to hear, but what they need to hear.

He explained that this kind of preaching is uncomfortable for hearers. He referenced the day of Pentecost in Acts 2 when the apostles were asked, "...Men and brethren, what shall we do?" While these sermons are uncomfortable, there must be preaching on sin. And in our preaching, we should direct these men to the source of forgiveness, Jesus Christ. Some people will reject this preaching, but some will accept it.

We can also help this generation by being Christian examples in our everyday lives. Brother Wilson spoke of role models that he watched. Often, these men had leadership positions in the church where he grew up. He learned how to live a Christian life in large part by watching these older men in the church. Christian, churches, and preachers do not command respect like they once did. This is not the world's fault, rather it is possibly our own faults because the world does not see any difference between Christians and non-Christians. He referenced Titus 1:6, They profess that they know God: but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.

Finally, we can help this generation on our knees. Praying for the work of the church, praying for our families, our pastors, our leaders, and our schools can bring revivial to our land. He referenced 2 Chronicles 7:14 If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

The devil may present traps and obstacles in our way, but he cannot interrupt the prayer line to the Father. Our generation will be made better or made worse dependent upon the frequency and fervency of God's people praying for it.

Brother Wilson closed his message by saying that we should love one another, be patient with one another, and help one another. Love requires sacrifice, but if we truly love one another, then we can reflect the love of Jesus Christ to a generation who needs to witness it.

Brother Massey thanked Brother Wilson for the message, and called for the congregation to pass into the altar and extend a hand of endorsement and fellowship to Brother Wilson and to one another. Brother Don Hines led the congregation in singing, "Standing on the Promises of God" during the handshake.

PERMANENT ORGANIZATION

Brother Massey called for the Roll of Messengers. The temporary clerk, Brother Jeremy Wilson, read the list and the following messengers were enrolled:

Bethlehem: Brother Kenneth Zink, Brother Brady Meeks Gladdice: Brother Jeff Kemp, Brother James Draper, Sister Amanda Draper, Brother Charles Patterson Longview: Brother Steve Anderson, Brother Larry Garrett, Brother Randy

Norman

McFerrin: Brother Paul Patterson, Brother Don Hines, Brother Eugene

Brown, Brother Johnny Carver.

Mt. Juliet: Brother Phillip Church, Brother Johnnie Brewer Sr., Brother

Danny Miller, Brother Robby Cornwell

Murfreesboro: Brother Sam Vance, Brother Bill Green, Brother Ron

Stewart, Brother Adam Cox

New Zion: Brother Larry Gregory

Three Springs: Brother Jerry Thomas, Brother Wayne Howard, Brother

Christian Howard, Brother Jeremy Wilson.

Having a quorum of messengers present, Brother Massey instructed the meeting to continue.

Brother Wilson then read the associational rules of decorum.

There was a call for new letters of petition but none came.

The following officers were elected by acclamation to serve the association for the 2012 session:

Moderator: Brother Kenneth Massey

Assistant Moderator: Brother Johnny Carver

Clerk: Brother Jeremy Wilson

Assistant Clerk: Brother Charles Patterson

Treasurer: Brother Robby Cornwell

Assistant Treasurer: Brother Larry Gregory

SELECTION OF 2013 MEETING PLACE

After several churches extended invitations to host the 2013 session, the messengers decided to meet with Gladdice Missionary Baptist Church.

SERMONS FOR 2013

The messengers elected brethren to bring the sermons in 2013 as follows:

Introductory: Brother Johnny Carver Alternate: Brother Charles Patterson Doctrinal: Brother Larry Gregory Alternate: Brother Paul Patterson

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Brother Massey called for visitors to stand and be recognized. Brother Massey welcomed the following visitors on behalf of the Association:

Caney Fork Missionary Baptist: Elder Charles A. Gentry, Elder Danny

Raines, Deacon Bobby Gentry

Victory Missionary Baptist: Elder Jeff Brown, Sister Vicki Troutt West End Missionary Baptist: Elder Jerry Boze, Deacon James Mathis,

Deacon G.W Cox

Shiloh Missionary Baptist: Elder Scott Carter

North Carthage Missionary Baptist: Deacon Bill Cothron

Huntingdon Missionary Baptist: Elder Lynn Stapleton, Deacon Ray Smith

From this group of long-time friends of the Wiseman Association, Elder Danny Raines was selected to preach the fellowship sermon in the afternoon.

REPORT: BAPTIST FAITH AND PRACTICE

Brother Massey called for the report on Baptist Faith and Practice. The committee members preparing this report were Brothers Charles Patterson and Randy Norman.

We haven't always worn the name Baptist, bur our faith and practice has always been that of true Baptists.

Some names we have been given are Christians, Montonists, Donatists, Paulicions, Arnoldists, Albigenses, and Waldenses of which some were given to us by our enemies.

Though the names have changed throughout centuries, our faith and practice has been that Jesus Christ taught and gave to His church at the beginning when He established it.

Luke tells us "forasmuch as many have taken in hand to set forth in order a declaration among us" Luke (1:1)

Jude verse three records "Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you and

exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints."

True Baptists have bravely stood and defended the Bible taught faith by our practice. To make it simple as to what true Baptists have taught and stood for, we, your committee suggest you study, "Our Eighteen Articles of Faith, recorder, Brother J.M. Pendleton's, "Baptist Church Manual." It has been stated that these are our creeds and creed book. No, these are true Bible taught teachings.

Brother J.M. Carroll in his book "The Trail of Blood", gives us ten fundamental doctrines that also are Bible taught and true Baptists have held to before, during and after the dark ages. We still stand for them now and true Baptists always will.

True Baptists believe the church that Jesus built as recorded in the word of God, in Matthew 16:18, is vocal and visible.

True Baptists believe the commission was only given to His Church. The True Baptists, Matthew 28:18-20.

True Baptists believe in order for baptism to be valid it must be administered by the authority of a true new testament Baptist Church, only after a public testimony of "I know I am saved" because of having a personal experience of repentance and faith in Jesus Christ, in that order.

True Baptists know they have a direct succession back to the days of Jesus Christ.

There are just a few of the sound Bible taught truths practiced by true Baptist Churches.

Not every house of worship that has the name Baptist recorded over its door has sound faith and practice. Isaiah tells us that, "And in that day seven women shall take hold of one man saying, we will eat our own bread and wear our own apparel; only let us be called by thy name, to take away our reproach." (Isaiah 4:1)

The true faith and especially the practice of true Baptists is on a decline so dear saints let us take great steps in doing what is necessary to make sound Baptists by teaching true sound Bible Baptist doctrine and to love it and teach it to others.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles Patterson Randy Norman

Associated Speeches

Brother Charles Patterson remarked that we all believe in true salvation, which in repentance and faith, in that order. However, there are those who hold the Baptist name but not sound practice. He continued that the churches in our association should be encouraged, not discouraged. He explained that people do not seem to be interested in doctrine. He posited that it largely due to the fact that the pulpits are not educated about doctrine like they once were. People want Bible teaching from the pulpit and not showy worldliness. Preachers should provide good meals from the master's table. We need to teach the next generation, or else someone will re-divide us.

Brother Don Hines spoke about one of the most depressing words in the English language, "hopeless." He encouraged that our scripture and our practices are not hopeless. He thanked God for the hope that is within us. We know what the word says, and we believe it, and that hope makes life worth living. Our churches and our association should not be discouraged.

Following these speeches, the question was called and the messengers adopted the report as discussed.

REPORT: CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Brother Massey called for the report on Christian Education. The committee members preparing this report were Brothers Phillip Church and Sam Oldham.

The topic of Christian Education is a broad topic. It can range from the thought of "putting God back in school" to religiously training children at home. Some have chosen to remove their children from public schools altogether. While this report cannot address every issue facing our children and our responsibility as parents and churches, we must address the sources of education in the world today.

Psalm 119:11 tells us "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee." Education can come from a variety of sources. The question is what are our children "hiding within their heart?" What are they choosing as important material and where does it come from?" We have identified six sources of education:

- 1. Parents and family
- 2. Church
- 3. School
- 4. Media (TV, movies, computers and music)
- 5. Social Media (Facebook, Twitter and e-mail)
- 6. Peers

By attending church regularly, you are demonstrating through your actions that church is important. Make church events a priority. Churches, on the other hand, should offer opportunities for youth and adults to meet together other than just once a week on Sunday morning. Children are being bombarded with the doctrine of the world several days a week, while a good portion of our church members do not attend church more than once a week.

Church members should make it a priority to attend Sunday School every Sunday. Two scriptures come to mind: 2 Timothy 2:15, "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth," and Proverbs 22:6, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." We must be prepared as Christian adults to guide the children in our charge, whether they are related to us or not. Our churches need to maintain an active and rich Sunday School environment. Sunday School superintendents, teachers and the pastor need to examine the literature that is used in every classroom for its doctrinal soundness.

Schools can provide much anti-Christian education and a very limited Christian influence. The years that students spend in school are vital to their development. Parents need to play an active role in what goes on in school as well as spend time talking to their children every day. When your child is encountering ideas at school that do not mesh with what they are being taught at home, an open line of communication will help them be comfortable in talking it over with their parents. Do not underestimate the importance of a family meal around the dinner table. In this busy world, many families have abandoned this time and lost a valuable asset in child development.

Most TV, movies and popular music glorify sinful lifestyles and activities. Quite simply, they have sought to portray sin as normal. While it is impractical and counter-productive to eliminate internet, TV, and movies from the lives of our children, we need to guide their choices and exposure to these media. Sit down with your children as they watch shows. If you are there with them, you can guide them through any inappropriate content that appears on screen. Record shows you deem appropriate on TV instead of letting your children watch whatever comes on next.

Churches should provide Christian alternatives by opening their doors more frequently. Hosting a fellowship meal will give children exposure to Christian role models within the church. It does not have to be formal, and quite frankly, it should not be formal. Whether it is pot luck or a cookout, make time to gather together. Children who meet with other church members outside the rigidity of a Sunday morning service are more likely to see church a more comfortable place. Bring in board games, cards and snacks and host a Family Game Night. Sit around a table in the fellowship hall and have fun together without smart phones and Wi-fi.

Youth retreats are another great activity. When the group spends many hours together, they become closer. Studies and talks about God and church, both formal and informal, will be more meaningful. Simply, how important will the opinions of church members seem if the members seem like relative strangers. Compare this to the advice from a friend they see daily or the opinion of the pop star they frequently see on TV.

Colossians 2:8 tells us to "Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ." The world, under Satan's influence, is ready and willing to fill in the gaps with their philosophy and doctrine. If your children have questions, they are prone to turn to social media for the answers. As stated in the Roman letter, "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." (Romans 12:2) Do not underestimate the influence of friends and peers upon our children. Those who spend the most time with our children will have the greatest influence.

Most of our sister churches have the same Church Covenant. The start of the third paragraph reads: "We also engage to maintain family and secret devotions; to religiously educate our children." It is our job to train our children. Too often parents abdicate their role as primary Christian educator

and leave all education up to the school systems. The answer is not necessarily removing our children from public schools and turning to homeschooling. Children who are homeschooled are less likely to have the opportunity to learn valuable lessons that can be gained through involvement in school activities. Sports, band, chorus, cheerleading and school clubs can provide opportunities to learn teamwork, time management skills and promote respect for authority figures. Much of the leading public school research suggests that students who are connected to school activities achieve higher test scores.

In summary, it is our job to religiously educate our children. As stated in Paul's letter to the Ephesian Church "And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." (Ephesians 6:4) We must bring up our children in the proper manner. Not having enough time to devote to these ideals is not an excuse. If we neglect our biggest duty, we will not have a sustainable future. The children are the future generation of our church. We need to guide their choices, make church a comfortable place and get them involved as early as we can. Those who feel that we need to "put God back in school" and all will be solved are missing the issue. All "gods" will be presented equally and prayers of other religions will be promoted as equal with ours. It is our job to promote the Holy Spirit's task of hiding the word of God within the heart of our children so that they might not sin against God.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elder Phillip Church Brother Sam Oldham

Associated Speeches

Brother Phillip Church spoke from his experience as an educator. He explained his concerns about the notion of making public schools responsible for introducing teachings about God. The danger of this philosophy is that the school will be presenting all religions as being equal. We must take an active role in teaching our children the doctrines we know to be true, rather than leaving that job for someone else to do. He continued that the church needs to be warm, comfortable place that is inviting. Brother Church remarked how thankful he was for the young people who were present in the congregation because they are our future.

Brother Sam Oldham explained the "church family" idea and the importance of stressing to our young people that our churches should be familial in nature. He also spoke of the importance of school related extra-curricular activities. These activities teach teamwork, respect for authority, and reduces the amount of wasted time, which is where many young people find trouble. He encouraged the associational churches to work to start or support youth groups within the congregations. He explained how these groups are able to successfully promote the church family, allow young people to build friendships, and teach young people how to be saved.

Brother Johnny Carver remarked that our ultimate goal is to move God's people from where they are now to where they are growing in grace and knowledge. First, we teach them how to be saved, then when they are saved, it will produce a desire in them to see other people get saved. The idea of the church progresses in the minds of the members from "the" church, to "our" church, and then to "my" church. When our young people are truly connected, they will tell friends about their church. He spoke of the success of Christian Family Training at McFerrin which provides 30 minutes weekly of training about the family. He added that we need a practical gospel that tells them what to do with the truth they have heard. He concluded his remarks by saying, "We need to give them the tools and the opportunity."

Brother Eugene Brown offered remarks on talking to young people about choices they make in their youth. He related an opportunity that he had to speak to two young people about choosing the right mate. He explained that we should teach our young people not to look on external appearances, but look very closely at the character of those who will become their mates.

At the conclusion of these speeches, the question was called and the messengers adopted the report as discussed.

Following this report, the messengers moved to suspend business until after lunch. Brother Massey asked Brother Charles A. Gentry, pastor of North Carthage Baptist Church, to offer prayer and a blessing for the meal.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

After a delicious meal and wonderful fellowship, the messengers and visitors gathered once again to continue the work of the association. Brother

Massey thanked Mt. Juliet church for their work in preparing the satisfying meal. Brother Don Hines led the congregation in singing "Love Lifted Me" with Sister Leslie Church accompanying. Brother Massey read Psalm 117 for the devotional and related to the congregation how Brother W.T. Russell preached the doctrinal message before the Wiseman Association in 1953; taking as his theme, "Seven Distinct Principles of Baptists." Brother Massey then called upon his longtime friend and moderator of the Southwest District Baptist Association, Deacon Ray Smith, to offer prayer.

After Brother Smith offered a powerful, spirit-filled prayer, the congregation enjoyed a special rendition of "Wonderful City," by Brothers Don Hines, Phillip Church, Sam Vance, and Jeremy Wilson. Brother Massey remarked "But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him." He then proceeded to introduce the pastor of Longview Missionary Baptist Church, Brother Danny Raines, to bring the fellowship sermon.

FELLOWSHIP SERMON

Brother Raines began his remarks by saying how honored he felt to be in the presence of God's people. He said that he always enjoys going to places where he can be around God's people and that he wanted to echo Brother Wilson's comments from the morning's sermon. He also wanted to echo the comments about the importance of the church family that had been made during the report on Christian education. He mentioned that it was his first time to preach before the association. He related how he preached his first sermon in March 1990, and he was "...nervous then, and I am nervous now," and he asked prayers of the congregation. He remarked, "I may say something I have said before, but if we preach the word, we will say the same things over and over."

Brother Raines read Romans 8:15-31 for background:

For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together. For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath

subjected the same in hope, Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body. For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it. Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God. And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified. What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?

He took Revelation 21:7 as his text: "He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son."

He mentioned that the promise in verse 7 is that, "we are a blessed people," and he expressed his gratitude to the Lord for being part of a blessed people. He explained that "blessed" means happy, or prosperous. He further explained that Webster's 1828 dictionary defines "blessed" as, "enjoying heavenly felicity." He went on to expound that "felicity" means, "enjoying great happiness," and expressed that he is a blessed child of God, preacher, and church member. We have been given conviction and confidence and the Holy Spirit makes real the truth that God loves us. He preached that Romans 8:17 tells us a reminder that a life in the spirit is not always and easy life, but verse 18 explains that our troubles seem as nothing compared to the glory above that has been promised to us. "This will be fulfilled, and while we can enjoy the blessings God has for us now, but he has promised in glory one day we will fully experience this blessedness." God has purposed that the natural things will be redeemed, and this is evident from the truth revealed in Revelation 21:1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

Brother Raines explained that being a "saved" person is the key to being a "blessed" person. He shared, Ephesians 2:8, For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.

Salvation is God's gift to us, and God loved you before you turned to him, citing Romans 5:8, *But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

Further, the person who is born again enjoys blessings that unsaved people do not enjoy. We are part of the heavenly family, and the Holy Spirit makes that relationship real to us, as demonstrated in Titus 3:5, *Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost.*

God himself declares who will experience this in Revelation 2:7, He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.

Brother Raines concluded the message by sharing the experience of a young boy who told of being saved a few weeks prior. He talked about how blessed he feels personally and closed his message by saying, "When I depend on God, all things go pretty good."

Brother Massey thanked Brother Raines for the timely, spirit-filled message, citing Proverbs 10:22, *The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it.* The congregation passed into the altar to shake hands with Brother Raines while Brother Don Hines led, "What A Day That Will Be."

OBITUARY REPORT

Brother Massey called for the Obituary Report. The committee members preparing this report were Brothers Johnnie Brewer, Sr. and Danny Miller

Brothers and Sisters, another year has passed. Whereas death hath once more invaded our ranks and removed from the walk of life our friends, their souls have departed to dwell in the undiscovered country from whose road no traveler returns. These brothers and sisters worked in the harvest of the master until He came to take them home, and now their works will follow them. Their memory is branded in our hearts; their seat in church is vacant; they will be missed very much.

The night of death is before us all. So let us work in the vineyard of the Lord until he comes and takes us through the valley of the shadow of death to carry us home. Hebrews 9:27 says, "And It Is appointed unto man once to die, but after this the Judgment." Death is a debt that we all must pay, so let us, as God's children, live like he is coming to take us home today.

Respectfully Submitted, Elder Johnnie Brewer, Sr. Danny R. Miller

Brother Johnnie Brewer, Sr. spoke to the obituary report, saying "When I die, I will be looking Jesus Christ in the face...that's what I live for." He added that our churches are losing good teachers every year, reminiscing about the lesson he learned from Brother W.T. Russell many years ago. Brother Brewer exhorted the association, "Let us work in the vineyard while we still can."

Following Brother Brewer's speech, the question was called and the messengers adopted the report as discussed.

IN MEMORY OF OUR DEPARTED LOVED ONES

Bethlehem	Sister Margaret Zink	February 14, 2012
Gladdice	Brother Gid Forkum	September 22, 2012
McFerrin	Sister Ocie Powell Brother Kevin Howard Brother Tom Howard	January 26, 2012 May 4, 2012 September 2, 2012
Longview	Sister Ester Harrison Gregory	October 11, 2012
Three Springs	Sister Jean Garmon	September 13, 2012

REPORT: FINANCING THE LORD'S WORK

Brother Massey called for the report on Financing the Lord's Work. The committee members preparing this report were Brothers Paul Patterson and Larry Gregory.

The subject of tithing has forever been a difficult one for Pastors to teach. In today's economy, when everyone's money is tight, it is even more sensitive to discuss tithing with our church members. The truth behind tithing is that it was not meant to benefit God. The Lord God already owns the cattle on a thousand hills, therefore the few dollars we drop into the offering plate are insignificant when compared to all of His riches. Yet even though God does not need our money to fulfill his divine plans, He still commands us to give a tithe to His church to be used for the purposes of spreading the gospel and helping the poor. He doesn't force us to tithe. He invites us to participate. Let's examine this.

Only one of the original Ten Commandments has a promise attached to it. Exodus 20:10 "Honour thy father and thy mother; that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee." Though not one of the original ten, tithing is no less a commandment, and it comes with several promises attached to it. It can be found in Malachi 3:10-12, "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the Lord of hosts. And all the nations shall call you blessed; for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the Lord of hosts." In simpler terms, if we are obedient and bring our full tithes to God, He will give us blessings beyond our imaginations, we will have plenty to eat, and most of all, our nation will be blessed. The Lord of Hosts will not force us to tithe but He urges us to *prove me, try me, test me and watch me keep my promise*. The New Testament reinforces this promise in 2 Corinthians 9:6, "He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully."

Tithing is an opportunity for the children of God to show our obedience to Father who owns it all. When we are obedient to the Word of God, there is always a blessing awaiting us. If we as Pastors teach the whole concept of tithing in its context, our church members will understand that the Lord uses tithing to bless us. Then it will be easy to fulfill 2 Corinthians 9:7, "...so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity; for God loveth a cheerful giver."

Elder Paul Patterson Elder Larry Gregory

Associated Speeches

Brother Larry Gregory commended Brother Patterson for the good report. He related how when New Zion Missionary Baptist Church called him to pastor in the 1980's they were a very small group. He related that he had always been taught that lost people should not have to pay to hear the gospel preached. He shared that New Zion does not take a collection during their service, rather, they place two baskets at the back of the church for members to make contributions. He spoke of his experience in education and the contributions to charity of the people in Mississippi. He mentioned that during the Apostle Paul's time, the church at Corinth was in a city on a trade route. This city had lots of money, but Paul does not mention the Corinthian church being liberal in their giving, rather he commends the Macedonian church for being liberal. He spoke of being discouraged and how John the Baptist was also discouraged. He referenced John 7:22 Then Jesus answering said unto them, Go your way, and tell John what things ye have seen and heard; how that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, to the poor the gospel is preached.

Brother Kenneth Massey shared an experience from Bolivar, Missouri. He had spoken with one of the Missouri state representatives, who shared with him that they were in the poorest county in Missouri. However, that church gave the largest love offering he had ever seen in his ministry.

Brother Jerry Boze from West End Missionary Baptist Church, was granted leave by the moderator to speak on the subject. Brother Boze spoke about mission work that is going on all over the world. He mentioned how especially in Kenya, Africa, some of the poorest people in the world are working hard to support the preaching of the gospel.

Brother Sam Oldham spoke about offerings. He mentioned that several years ago, he started giving offerings above and beyond his duties in tithing. He found that God blessed him and he had more disposable income than he did before he began giving these additional offerings.

Brother Ron Stewart related a story about his daughter having a car accident. While she was concerned about the condition of his car, he was far more concerned about the condition of his daughter. It is because it is

she whom he loves, not the car. He admonished the association that "where your heart is, that is where your support will be."

Brother Johnny Carver spoke about giving to the church and the honor God bestows upon it if given in the right spirit. There are two ways to finance the Lord's work: Tithing and Offerings. He mentioned that some churches have bake sales or other means of raising funds. While there is nothing inherently wrong with this, these methods are not God's primary ways to finance the work of the church.

Following these speeches, the question was called and the messengers adopted the report as discussed.

The messengers then moved to adjourn until 10:00 AM Saturday, October 27. Brother Massey made a special prayer request for Brother Charles A. Gentry, whose health is failing. The messengers voiced their agreement with this very worthy prayer request. Brother Jeff Brown prayed the dismissing prayer.

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

On Saturday morning, October 27, 2012 the messengers to the One Hundred Twenty First Annual Session of the Wiseman Baptist Association reconvened in Mt. Juliet, Tennessee displaying a warm Christian spirit in fellowship. Brother Don Hines led the congregation in singing "I'm Bound For the Kingdom," with Brother Jeremy Wilson accompanying on the piano.

The Assistant Moderator, Brother Johnny Carver, opened the meeting by thanking everyone for coming to the second day of the Wiseman Baptist Association meeting. He expressed how much he appreciates the great job that Mt. Juliet church has done for the association this year. Brother Caver took Psalm 133 for the devotion: Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments; As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the LORD commanded the blessing, even life for evermore.

Brother Carver then asked Brother Johnnie Brewer, Sr. to offer prayer. After a spirit-filled prayer, Brother Carver called for the Roll of Messengers. The clerk read the list and the following messengers were enrolled: Bethlehem: Brother Kenneth Zink

Gladdice: Brother James Draper, Sister Amanda Draper, Brother Charles

Patterson, Sister Heather Shepherd

Longview: Brother Steve Anderson, Brother Randy Norman

McFerrin: Brother Paul Patterson, Brother Don Hines, Brother Eugene

Brown, Brother Johnny Carver.

Mt. Juliet: Brother Johnnie Brewer Sr., Brother Danny Miller, Brother

Robby Cornwell, Brother Otis Agee

Murfreesboro: Brother Sam Vance, Brother Bill Green, Brother Ron

Stewart, Brother Adam Cox

New Zion: Brother Larry Gregory

Three Springs: Brother Jerry Thomas, Brother Wayne Howard, Brother

Christian Howard, Brother Lee Hatcher.

Having a quorum of messengers present, Brother Carver instructed the meeting to continue.

The following visitors were recognized:

Victory Missionary Baptist Church: Brother Carney Troutt

MISSIONS REPORT

Brother Carver called for the Missions Report. The committee members preparing this report were Brothers Bill Green and Eugene Brown.

Go ye therefore an 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 I have commanded you, and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.

This is the mission statement of the Lord's church. This commission is as modern and up to date now as it was written when the 11 apostles received these words directly from the Lord himself. It has not expired and will not until Jesus returns. In order for people to be saved, added to the church, and trained to live the Christian life to the fullest, this commission must be carried out. It is God's plan for reaching the lost world.

What are churches within the Wiseman Association doing to promote this work? What are we doing first in our own individual communities; our own

span of influence? How visible are our churches in the places we have been planted? Are we a city set on a hill, or of the majority of people not even know we exist? How well are we equipping our members to go out of the church building and share their testimony with the people they come in contact with daily? When we leave the house of worship, we enter the mission field.

Many of our churches are actively supporting a variety of organized mission efforts. On the home front, the word is being taken into a number of nursing homes, retirement facilities and the prison system. Often the elderly and the imprisoned are forgotten communities of people, but they do have a need to hear the gospel. Thankfully, there are ministers and people within our churches that follow the leadership of the Holy Spirit to reach out to these people.

The Do Re Mi Gospel Music Academy continues to extend their teaching of music. A separate report of its activities is attached.

Many of our churches are helping to support foreign mission efforts. Brother Brown continues to work with the Words of Hope ministry.

Brother Paul Bryson reports that work continues in Africa. There are now five Missionary Baptist Churches in Ghana; two in Kenya, on in Nigeria, and one in Liberia. And each church has at least one mission and sometimes more going out of them.

Brother Rick Jones continues the work in Jamaica and reports that people are being saved and baptized into the church. For the first time this year, he has baptized a second generation into the church. He also reports that he is going to start one more mission point on the island. Brother Rick also wanted to thank the Wiseman Association for their help in getting the church building back together after the fire.

The good news we hear from all these works is encouraging. We are reminded of Luke 10 when the Lord sent the seventy out, two by two. He told them, "The harvest is truly great, but the laborers are few; pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest."

Let us pray today that God will direct every God called minister and every church member to do the labor He has for them to do.

May we following the direction of the Holy Spirit in all aspects of our mission work whether it be finding ways to become more visible in our own community or visiting/supporting a work in a foreign country. In closing, remember what Jesus told the seventy who returned to Him so joyful that the devils were subject to them through Jesus' name, "Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven."

Respectfully Submitted, Brother Bill Green Brother Eugene Brown

Brother Green then read a letter from the Do Re Mi Gospel Music Academy.

The Do Re Mi Gospel Music Academy held its 11th annual session June 8-14, 2012 on its own campus, The Do Re Mi River Retreat, 275 Cedar Bluff Road, Hartsville, Tennessee. One hundred-twenty five students, ages three through adult, from seven states and fifty one churches attended this year's session. The week was filled with classes in music theory, directing, private vocal and instrumental lessons, special classes for church singing groups, band, and lots of congregational singing.

This year, the students sang for the first annual "Singing on the Steps" of the Trousdale County courthouse. Throughout the week, devotionals and soul stirring songs brought tears of joy and testimonials. Revival broke out on Wednesday night, and three souls testified they were saved during this service.

The emphasis of Do Re Mi is to improve church music. Churches have reported improvement in their music/song services after sending students to the academy,

Representatives from the academy are available to speak to churches about Do Re Mi and/or provide singing schools upon request. The next session will be held June 9-15, 2013. Contact Brother Key Dillard at 615-890-0288 or email keydillard@gmail.com.

The Do Re Mi River Retreat includes dormitories, classrooms, and a pavilion located on 22 acres along the river. The facilities are available for rent for church functions, family gatherings, weddings, retreats, etc.

Additional information about the academy is available at www.doremigospelmusicacademy.com.

Brother Bill Green gave an associated speech, and he began by explaining that we come to church to get fed and then we go out to get involved in our communities. Our churches are primarily responsible for the communities closest to us. He exhorted each member of the congregation to ask God for a work to do in each of their communities, and then the word will spread from there. He also spoke of being encouraged by the work we find in foreign mission fields. Churches are being organized in these foreign fields, and they are sending our missionaries to other communities. He spoke of how Brother Paul Bryson reports about how many of these preachers are facing opposition but they are still going, and we should support these efforts. He mentioned how Brother Rick Jones is appreciative of the support he receives from Wiseman Association churches. He related about a lay member in a church in Missouri who had started going to a local nursing home to teach Sunday School lessons, because some preachers who had been doing it had stopped going. Brother Green concluded his remarks by sadmonishing, "encourage someone to go with you and work together; the Lord has told us to go, and he would be with us."

Following Brother Green's speech, the messengers moved to adopt the report as read and discussed.

AMBASSADOR'S REPORT

Brother Don Hines, the Wiseman Association Ambassador gave his report. He mentioned that the visiting he has done in the past year has not produced any fruit, but seeds have been planted. He spoke that he hears that people know about the sweet spirit in our association, and if they would come, they would love it. He encouraged the association to continue to keep spreading the word.

Brother Kenneth Massey mentioned that the key to what Brother Hines is doing is planting seeds. Brother Massey suggested that the clerk be authorized to send a letter of invitation to all the churches who have ever been a member of the Wiseman Association asking them to consider coming back to join again. He said, "I enjoyed the fellowship yesterday, but I would have enjoyed it more if the churches of yesteryear would have been present."

A motion and second was passed by the messengers to authorize the clerk to prepare the letter of invitation.

CORRESPONDENCE

Brother Wilson read correspondence received from Sister Associations, as well as correspondence from New Life Missionary Baptist Church. The following pages reflect copies of this correspondence.

Greetings from the Bethel Missionary Baptist Association,

We pray that our God in heaven has richly blessed your church bodies and that many souls have been saved and added to the Lords church. During the SS^{III} annual session the association has chosen to elect Elder Chris Jones as the Moderator, Elder Bradley Hicks as Clerk and Brother Tim Shoulders as Treasurer.

This year the association seated 15 churches and the churches have been blessed to see 12 members added to the churches they attend. It was also reported that 13 members have passed and have gone on to be with our Lord in heaven. For the year 2013 meeting, the association has elected Bro. Derek Mobley to preach the Introductory Sermon, Elder William Shoulders to preach the Memorial Sermon and Elder Nathan York to preach the Doctrinal Sermon.

The 56th annual Bethel Missionary Baptist Association will be held on Friday September 13th and Saturday September 14th starting each day at 10:00 a.m. The location of this session will be held at Bethel Missionary Baptist Church located at 222 E. Epler Ave, Indianapolis, IN 46227.

Yours in Christ

Brother Jeffrey Brown

Brother Mark Ramey

Brother Roger Elamon

(Correspondence Committee)

BIG BEAR CREEK MISSIONARY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Keith L. Hood - Clerk 428 Rainbow Drive Double Springs, AL 35553 (205)489-2343

August 24, 2012

Wiseman Baptist Association:

We trust everything is going well with you and your lost are being saved. We also trust God is continuing to bless you.

This past October, we convened for the One Hundred Seventy-Sixth Annual Session with Prairie Grove Missionary Baptist Church. We had 22 churches reporting an increase of 86 with 36 of those being by baptism. We had a decrease of 46 with a total membership of 2,008. We still need to see many souts 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 177th Annual Session to be held with Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church in Winston County, Alabama. The church is located southeast of Haleyville, Alabama, south of Alabama Highway 195. This session will be held October 13, 14, 15, 16, 2012. The service Saturday morning will begin at 11:00 a.m.

In Christ's love.

Keith L. Hood

Keith L. Hood, Clerk

Keith Prince - Moderator 124 County Road 165 Moulton, AL 35650 Billy Myrick - Vice Moderator 202 W. Douglas Street Sheffield, At. 35660

Siloam Missionary Baptist Association

August 27, 2012

Wiseman Baptist Association Brother David Woodard

Greetings:

With the 2012 associational meetings nearly upon us we are prayerful that God has richly blessed each church in your association. As always we are thankful to hear of souls being saved and members being blessed by the spirit of the Lord.

The churches of the Siloam Association met the Friday and Saturday before the first Sunday in October, 2011 at Maple Grove #2 Missionary Baptist Church for its fifty-ninth annual session. The churches brought with them good news of 53 souls being saved along with a goodly number of additions to their memberships. The Lord also blessed with two more churches that joined the association. The spirit of the Lord was apparent throughout the association.

Lord willing, the sixtieth session of the Siloam Missionary Baptist Association will meet at New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church located at 5935 Brownsford Road (Highway 98), Scottsville KY beginning at 10:00 a.m. Friday October 5, 2012. Elder Mitchell Giasscock is scheduled to preach the introductory sermon Friday morning and Elder Jason Stotler is scheduled to preach the memorial sermon Friday night. Elder Ron Spurgeon is scheduled to preach the doctrinal sermon Saturday morning. We invite you to come and worship and fellowship with us during the Siloam Associational meeting. A copy of the 2011 Siloam minutes is enclosed.

Your Brother in Christ

Elder Roger Carter, Clerk Siloam Missionery Baptist Association 1434 Alvaton Greenhill Road Bowling Green, KY 42103

Southwestern District Missionary Baptist Association

October 26, 2012

Bethel Missionary Baptist Association:

Greetings from the Churches that make up the Southwestern District Missionary Baptist Association. It is our prayer that the fruits of your labor in the Lord have been most productive. As we met for our one hundred sixty fourth annual session October 12-13, 2012, 21 churches reported 28 baptisms with a total membership of 2,174.

At the past session, the messengers of our association elected Bro. Ray Smith as our moderator. Bro. Andrew Stokes was elected as the Assistant Moderator. Bro. Clint Sanders was selected as the assistant clerk.

God blessed us again with the visitation of His Holy Spirit. We are thankful for those who were able to visit with us during the 2012 session and pray that you found it an uplifting visit.

We want to remind you of the association website. On this site you will find audio sermons and topics along with minutes. You may visit our website at www.swdmba.org.

We would like to invite all to join us for the 2013 session to be held with Concord Missionary Baptist Church located a few miles off Highway 22, on Westport Road in Huntingdon, Tennessee. The sessions will be held October 11-12, 2013, starting at 10:00 am. Bro. David Leslie will be preaching the Introductory Sermon on Friday, and Bro. John D. Small will be preaching the Doctrinal Sermon on Saturday.

Please remember our efforts in your prayers, and we look forward to hearing from you soon. May the Lord bless you in your efforts to serve him.

Until He Returns.

Bro. Scott Carter, Clerk 400 Chickssaw Drive Huntingdon, TN 38344 Home: (731) 986-4701 Cell: (731) 415-1688

E-mail: clerk@swdmba.org

NEW LIFE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH 202 Gosben Valley Road Church Hill, TH 37642

Pastor: Tim Johnson

Clerk: Linda Williams

TO: The Wiseman Baptist Association

FROM: New Life Missionary Baptist Church

This is to advise that, again, this year we will not be able to have any representatives present for the annual association meeting. We fully understand that this means we will be automatically dismissed from the association since this makes two consecutive years that we have been unable to have representatives present for said meeting.

Therefore, please accept this letter as our resignation from the association. This is not being done with any malice or for any reason other than the fact that we are just not able to attend due to the disadvantage of the driving distance and our delegates having scheduling problems at work. During the times that we have had representatives present, they have always returned with good reports from having been uplifted in spirit from the fellowship and praise and worship they enjoyed while attending.

We sincerely appreciate all the prayers and financial assistance that has been afforded to us as a church from both individuals and churches associated with The Wiseman Baptist Association. At the present time we have only good things to report concerning New Life Missionary Baptist Charch. We are growing in number, as well as financially, but most importantly the Holy Spirit is so powerful each time that we meet whether it be Sunday morning. Sunday night or Wednesday night and for that we are most thankful. Without the obvious presence of God among us each time that we most, we would only have a beautiful church building setting on a hill overlooking a river with the most peaceful scemic view that should be a witness to whomever is enjoying it that there truly is a God of creation.

Please continue to remember us in prayer that God will always keep a hedge of protection around us and that we have learned from past experience that if it seems too good to be true then it definitely is as the Bible teaches..."there is none good, no not one."

Again, we will always be grateful to, and consider it a privilege to have been associated with, the members of The Wiseman Baptist Association and will always lift you up in our prayers. If any of you, or anyone that you are acquainted with, are ever in our area we cordially invite you to come by and worship with us.

Bleasings always
Linda Williams,

Clark

Brother Carver spoke of how the association was saddened to see New Life Missionary Baptist Church leave our association, but the driving distance makes it understandable. He mentioned that he was hopeful they would be able to connect with other churches in their area.

Brother Wilson suggested that the association prepare and send a letter to New Life thanking them for their years of fellowship in the association and providing a recommendation for them to use if they choose to meet with another association in their area. The messengers passed a motion to authorize the clerk to prepare and send this letter to New Life.

The messengers passed a motion to authorize the clerk to include all received correspondence in the associational minutes.

NEW BUSINESS

Brother Charles Patterson called for discussion about changing the association's constitution to eliminate the rule that no preacher can preach before the association in successive years. After discussion by Brother Eugene Brown, no action was taken on this item.

Brother Massey shared that at last year's association, the messengers had discussed working to place a fence around the grave of Brother John Wiseman, our association's namesake. Brother Massey reported that a family member has since constructed the fence. Brother Massey then mentioned he would like to organize a trip to visit the grave site, as well as the graves of other ministers who have meant so much to our association over the year.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance October 22, 2011	300.60
Donation to Printing Fund	1,700
Extra Donation-Three Springs	1000.00
Extra Donation-McFerrin	500.00
Balance December 15, 2011	3500.60
2011 Minutes Printing Fee	1676.14
Clerk's Fee	500.00
Balance October 26, 2012	1324.46

Respectfully Submitted, Robby Cornwell, Treasurer

2013 ORDER OF SERVICE

The following Order of Business for 2013 was read by Brother Johnny Carver and adopted by the messengers:

SPECIAL SINGING: Don Hines

Brewer, Sr.

BAPTIST FAITH AND PRACTICE: Brother Ron Stewart (chair), Brother

Jerry Thomas, Brother Brady Meeks

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: Brother Larry Gregory (chair), Brother Sam Oldham, Brother Larry Garrett

OBITUARY REPORT: Brother Sam Vance (chair), Brother Jeff Kemp, Brother John Draper

FINANCING THE LORD'S WORK: Paul Patterson, Larry Gregory, Brother Kenneth Massey (chair), Brother Don Hines, Brother Johnnie

MISSIONS REPORT: Brother Bill Green (chair), Brother Eugene Brown, Brother Steve Anderson

DOCTRINAL SERMON

Brother Carver introduced Brother Kenneth Massey, who was selected by the association one year prior to bring the doctrinal message. Brother Carver related how he first came to know Brother Massey. He explained, "In 1966, Brother W.O. Overton was pastor at Madison. I saw a red-headed fellow and I thought it was John F. Kennedy. I found out later, he was Frank Massey's son, and he was a preacher." Brother Carver shared how much Brother Massey had meant to him, especially early in Brother Carver's ministry when he pastored his first church at Longview Missionary Baptist Church. He referred to Brother Massey as "my closest and dearest friend in the ministry." Also, he mentioned that "nobody loves the Lord more than him" and "he is a perfectionist, and while I can't live up to it, he has given me a target to aim at." He then gave way to Brother Massey to bring the message.

Brother Massey began by relating how much he was feasting on Friday's session. He mentioned the sermons from Brothers Wilson and Raines and the timeliness of both messages. He spoke briefly about his background and

family history, relating of how he had come from very humble beginnings. His parents did not have a lot of prestige, education, or money; however, his father was the best man and his mother the best woman he has ever known. Also, his parents took him to good churches which had men who knew how to preach. Brother Massey related of how when he was first called to preaching ministry, he did not feel qualified or worthy and he still wishes he was qualified and worthy today.

Brother Massey read Isaiah 45:20-25 as background

Assemble yourselves and come; draw near together, ye that are escaped of the nations: they have no knowledge that set up the wood of their graven image, and pray unto a god that cannot save. Tell ye, and bring them near; yea, let them take counsel together: who hath declared this from ancient time? who hath told it from that time? have not I the LORD? and there is no God else beside me; a just God and a Saviour; there is none beside me. Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else. I have sworn by myself, the word is gone out of my mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, That unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear. Surely, shall one say, in the LORD have I righteousness and strength: even to him shall men come; and all that are incensed against him shall be ashamed. In the LORD shall all the seed of Israel be justified, and shall glory.

He then took Isaiah 46:9-10 as his text: Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure.

He introduced his theme as "Five Divine Declarations." He directed the congregation to Ephesians 1:12, *That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ*, explaining that God receives glory from the faithful saved, as this is his purpose He also has a plan in order to get this glory, and this is called the plan of salvation. Salvation is where glorifying God begins for each Christian. He explained that we do not get glory, and he related how Brother W.T. Russell used to say, "Glory doesn't fit me." Brother Massey continued, "We get <u>blessed</u>, only God gets <u>glory</u>."

He then quoted Ephesians 2:8-10: For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

In creation, after man fell from grace God provided a plan of redemption. Everyone who was saved before the coming of Christ looked forward, everyone who is saved after Calvary looks back.

God's plan has a method as well. God was the first one to preach his message, followed by the prophets in the Old Testament. Then came John the Baptist, the harbinger of Christ who fulfilled Isaiah's prophecy from 750 years prior. Jesus Christ was baptized by John, and he had Christian Baptism. Brother Massey shared the following scriptures:

Deuteronomy 32:2, My doctrine shall drop as the rain, my speech shall distil as the dew, as the small rain upon the tender herb, and as the showers upon the grass.

Titus 2:1 But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine:

2 Tim 3:16-17 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works

The first divine declaration is **Original Sin, or the Sin of Adam**. Adam was created finitely holy, once removed from the holiness of God, who is infinitely holy. While he was created in the image of God, he was not God. However, Adam was a very special creature, in that he named every animal that God created. God gave a declaration concerning the tree of life, and this is where sin began. Eve ate of the forbidden fruit and gave to Adam, and he also did eat. Adam, and the federal head of all mankind, brought sin into the world and upon the human race. He quoted the Apostle Paul who writes in Romans 5:12, *Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:*

Gen 3:15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

God is talking to Satan and the woman he is referring to is Mary.

Hebrews 6:17-18 Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath: That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we

might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:

God promised that he would redeem man.

The second divine declaration is **The Virgin Birth**. Brother Massey shared Isaiah 7:14, *Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.*

Many theologians diminish the fact of the virgin birth. If Jesus Christ was not born of a virgin, then he is the world's biggest impostor. God held Adam responsible for until Calvary. At Calvary, the sin of Adam was put away.

Luke 1:34-35 Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.

The Old Testament sacrificial system rolled sins forward year after year. There was prophecy that foretold of the coming of Christ, and he came. The virgin birth did not save us, but it gave us a Savior.

The third divine declaration is **Atonement**. Brother Massey quoted the following scriptures:

Hebrews 2:9, But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.

Romans 5:11 And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.

Hebrews 10:14 For by one offering he hath perfected forever them that are sanctified.

John 1:11 He came unto his own, and his own received him not.

Hebrews 7:25 Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

"Uttermost means when he saves someone, he saves them "fully," or "completely." Jesus took our place, and when he come to him, we apply for his blood to be applied to our souls. Brother Massey related of visiting Charleston, South Carolina and standing in the place where men were once bought and sold. Also, he shared the story of Brother Woodrow Barrett, a preacher in our association, who was traded by this father to another man for a mule. Brother Massey declared, "Adam sold us out, but Jesus bought us back!" He cited, Proverbs 22:28 Remove not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set.

The fourth divine declaration is **The Church**. He cited Matthew 16:18, And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

When an individual is saved, he is not automatically in the church, rather, he is in the family of God. However, every saved person should go into the church, otherwise, he or she is not showing the right appreciation for what God has done for them. He explained there is one baptism, one Lord, one faith, one gospel, and one church. He observed that the church has two ordinances: Baptism and The Lord's Supper, quoting I Corinthians 11:2, Now I praise you, brethren, that ye remember me in all things, and keep the ordinances, as I delivered them to you. Both of the ordinances represent the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

He addressed the notion that "footwashing" is considered by some to be an ordinance. He expounded that this practice represents humility and fellowship, but it is not an ordinance because it does not represent the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ, and it also causes us to take our eyes off Jesus and put them on each other. He cited 1 Pet 1:18-19, Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: Brother Massey continued by explaining that Paul had passed one of the greatest compliments on the church at Thessalonica. Thessalonica was filled with idolatry and Paul went right into the middle of them and started preaching. The Thessalonians were hungry to hear what Paul preached. Brother Massey demurred that the places he grew up seem to be the least hungry to hear the gospel. He related how one morning, Jesus called his disciples together on Mt. Hermon and gave them instructions and comfort. He quoted John 14:1, Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God. believe also in me.

The fifth and final declaration is the fact that **Jesus Will Come Again**. There are four parts to this coming and can be remembered as, "return, resurrection, rapture, and reunion."

These events are documented in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

Brother Massey explained that while the word, "rapture" is not explicitly found in scripture, it means "caught up," which is clearly demonstrated by the text. Additionally, "prevent" means "to precede," and we can learn that the day of judgment is not to determine who is saved.

2 Tim 1:9-12 Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began, But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel: Whereunto I am appointed a preacher, and an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles. For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.

The "calling" in verse 9 is explained in Romans 8. "That day" noted in verse 12 is the last day, the final day, the separation day.

Revelation 7:9 After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands:

Revelation 19:9 And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.

Our weddings down here are the opposite of the marriage of the Lamb. Here, the groom waits in the sanctuary for the appearance of the bride. There, the bride will be in the banquet hall, and the bridegroom will appear with the "friend of the bridegroom." In other words, the church will be waiting and Jesus will appear with John the Baptist. While down here we play, "Here Comes the Bride," up there, we would be able to sing, "Here Comes the Groom." All the saved will be in attendance, and his church will make up the bride.

Brother Carver called for a Christian handshake to thank Brother Massey for this wonderful, spirit-filled message of doctrinal truth. As the congregation shook hands and fellowshipped, the spirit could be felt following this powerful message from the man of God.

Following this, the messengers moved to adjourn until the one hundred twenty second annual session to be held at Gladdice Missionary Baptist Church on October 25, 2013 at 10:00 AM. Brother Carver thanked the messengers and visitors for their attendance and participation. He called on each one to pray for every church in our association, that we may experience, "one more great revival."

Brother Carney Troutt offered the closing prayer and thanks for the meal, bringing to a close a wonderfully harmonious and blessed meeting of the Wiseman Baptist Association.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

BETHLEHEM MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

879 Long Hollow Pike, Goodlettsville, TN 37072 (615) 859-3925 www.bethlehemmbc.com

Pastor: Paul Patterson 101 Walnut Trace, Hendersonville, TN 37075 (615) 822-0162

Clerk: Steve Thurman 803 Churchill Crossing, Madison, TN 37115 (615) 500-3659 email: steveturman@att.net

Treas.: Jeana Ball 110 Terry Lane, Cottontown, TN 37048 (615) 310-5228 email: jeanaball@comcast.net

SS Supt.: Steve Turman 803 Churchill Crossing, Madison, TN 37115 (615) 500-3659

GLADDICE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

120 Salt Lick Creek, Gainesboro, TN 38562

Pastor: Charles Patterson 524 Jim Chitwood Lane Lafayette, TN 37083 (615) 666-4422*email: charlesp111@nctc.com*

Clerk: Dustin Kemp 404 Antietam Drive Lebanon, TN 37087 (615) 418-6534

Treas.: Jeff Kemp 43 Little Salt Lick Road, Carthage, TN 37030 (615) 774-3336

SS Supt.: John Draper 711 East Fork Road, Whitleyville, TN 38588 931-678-4038

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798 Spencer Ave. Gallatin, TN 37066 (615) 452-8638 www.longviewmbc.org

Pastor: Danny Raines 561 Walnut Grove Road, Lebanon, TN 37090 (615) 449-6439 email: dannyraines61@gmail.com

Clerk: Mike Patterson 102 Crosspointe, Hendersonville, TN 37075 (615) 824-0816 email: mike.patterson@wearwell.com

Treas.: Mike Patterson-see above

SS Supt.: George Snow 525 Restone Drive, Gallatin, TN 37066 email: gcsnow@msn.com

McFERRIN MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

431 W. Old Hickory Boulevard Madison, TN 37115

(615) 865-7980 www.mcferrinmbc.org

Pastor:Johnny Carver 1110 Kendall Farms Dr. Hendersonville, TN 37075 (615) 824-3818 email: preachermcf@comcast.net

Clerk: Frank McClanahan 1579 Saundersville Road, Hendersonville, TN

37075 (615) 822-0162 email: cmmcclanahan@comcast.net

Treas.: Brad Shoulders 2090 Brookstone Drive Mt. Juliet, TN 37122 (615) 553-2304 email: bradshoulders@comcast.net

SS Supt.: Greg Hines 134 Ballantrae Drive Hendersonville, TN 37075 (615) 594-6450

MT. JULIET MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

1426 N. Mt. Juliet Rd. Mt. Juliet, TN 37122 (615) 758-8155 www.mtjulietmbc.org

Clerk: Kristi Agee 503 Terry Ln. Lebanon, TN 37087 (615) 596-4361 email: kristiagee@yahoo.com

Treas.: Dianne Travis 1540 Old Shannon Rd. Lebanon, TN 37090 (615) 444-5628

SS Supt.: Erik Travis 8164 Cairo Bend Rd. Lebanon, TN 37087

MURFREESBORO MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

316 Fortress Blvd. Murfreesboro, TN 37128 (615) 890-4999 contact@murfreesboromissionarybaptistchurch.org

Pastor: Kenneth Massey 1100 Bedfordshire Court, Nashville, TN 37221 (615) 622-5352 email: masseyjudy@att.net

Clerk: John Miller 124 Dalton Circle, Rockvale, TN 37218 931-581-8041 email: luv2flygv1@gmail.com

Treas.: Kris Dillard 7111 Hutson Road, Christiana, TN 37037 (615) 230-3049

SS Supt.:Ricky Williams 2311 North Court, Murfreesboro, TN 37127 (615) 893-6960*rczalw@comcast.net*

NEW ZION MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

Corner of Martin Creek Rd and Highway 56 38545 (931) 528-1684

Pastor:Larry Gregory 1805 Clemmons Road, Cookeville, TN 38501 931-528-1684 email: lsgregory@frontiernet.net

Clerk: Jeremy Warren 4841 Skyview Drive, Cookeville, TN 38506 931-252-0399 email: jdwarren@twlakes.net

Treas.: Mattie Gregory 1805 Clemmons Road, Cookeville, TN 38501 931-425-1684 email: lsgregory@frontiernet.net

THREE SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH

1440 Three Springs Road, Bowling Green, KY 42014 (270) 746-9444 www.threespringsbaptistchurch.org

Pastor: Jeremy Wilson 134 Ivy Farm Court, Alvaton, KY 42122 270-791-0309 email: jeremytwilson@insightbb.com

Clerk: Wayne Howard 794 Old Pleasant School Road, Alvaton, KY 42122

270-392-0400 email: wayngo3@peoplepc.com

Treas.: Scott Randolph 2950 Schweizer Road, Franklin, KY 42134

270-598-0581

SS Supt.: Leroy Jackson 235 Fairview Boiling Springs, Bowling Green, KY

42101270-842-3213

PREACHERS DIRECTORY *Denotes Licensed Ministers

BETHLEHEM

Bobby Sutton (615) 824-6266 2102 Sanders Ferry Road, Hendersonville, TN 37155

*John Cole (615) 444-5456 148 Blue Grass Parkway, Lebanon, TN 37090

*David Gregory (615) 859-2342 1069 Ridgecrest Drive, Goodlettsville, TN 37072

GLADDICE

Charles Patterson (615) 666-4422 524 Jim Chitwood Dr. Lafayette, TN 37083 charlesp111@nctc.com

Charles Watts (931) 678-4038 711 East Fork Rd Whitleyville, TN 38588

LONGVIEW

Steve Perrigo (615) 451-1302 155 Gayle Avenue, Gallatin, TN 37066

Charles Reece (615) 774-3663 127 Dean Hill Road, Pleasant Shade, TN 37145 creece@nctc.com

*Stephen Barrett (615) 451-7724 309 Trina Street, Gallatin, TN 37066

McFERRIN

Johnny Carver (615) 824-3818 1110 Kendall Farms Drive, Hendersonville, TN 37075 Eugene Brown (615) 824-5285 110 Linda Drive, Hendersonville, TN 37075

Mark Carver (615) 822-8075 187 Gatone Drive, Hendersonville, TN 37075

Paul Patterson (615) 822-0162 101 Walnut Trace, Hendersonville, TN 37075

Ray Smith (615) 794-0441 1211 Carriage Park Circle, Franklin, TN 37064

*Kent Collier (615) 860-8178 1646 Neelys Bend Road, Madison, TN 37115 debbie.collier@comcast.net

*Jay Donoho (615) 554-7876 825 Pinnacle Hill Road, Kingston Springs, TN 37082

*David Woodard (615) 669-4329 310 Draper Circle, Goodlettsville, TN 37072 davidc.woodard@qmatl.com

*Danny Norman (615) 315-9697 5163 Regent Drive, Nashville, TN 37220

* Jeremy Ritchie (615) 451-7117 149 New Douglas Loop, Gallatin, TN 37066 jaritchie07@gmail.com

*Keith Whitley (615) 306-1077 1008 Sunset Trail, Kingston Springs, TN 37082

*Kenny Glover (615) 883-6543 540 Scotts Creek Trail, Hermitage, TN 37076

*Troy Ellis (615) 788-5810 4794 Highway 31 W, Cottontown, TN 37148

MT. JULIET

Philip Church (615) 418-1113 126 Deer Ridge Lane, Hendersonville, TN 37075 Johnnie Brewer, Sr. (615) 758-7911 3918 East Division Street, Mt. Juliet, TN 37122

MURFREESBORO

Kenneth Massey (615) 662-5352 1100 Bedfordshire Ct, Nashville, TN 37221

Bill Green (615) 895-4960 2948 Arthur Drive, Murfressboro, TN 37128

Ron Stewart (615) 624-6522 1280 Middle TN Blvd, Unit B5, Murfreesboro, TN 37130

*Sam Vance (615) 793-9177 1105 Ben Hill Blvd., Nolensville, TN 37135

*Kenny Oldham, (615) 217-6000 10130 Manchester Hwy, Christiana, TN 37037

NEW ZION

Larry Gregory (931) 528-1684 1805 Clemmons Road, Cookeville, TN 38501

Kevin Perdue 669 CreswoodDr, Creswood, OR 97426

THREE SPRINGS

Jeremy Wilson (270) 791-0309 134 Ivy Farm Court, Alvaton, KY 42122

*Jack Garmon 4633 Maple Lane, Bowling Green, KY 42101

*Justin Wilson 5612 Russellville Rd. Apt 105 Bowling Green, KY 42101

DEACONS DIRECTORY

BETHLEHEM

Odie Shoulders (615) 859-6396 3095 Patton Branch Road Goodlettsville, TN 37072

GLADDICE

Jeff Kemp (615) 774-3336 43 Little Salt Lick Road Carthage, TN 37030

Dustin Kemp (615) 418-6534 404 Antietam Dr Lebanon, TN 37087

Draper Graham (931) 678-4756 1291 Salt Lick Creek Pleasant Shade, TN 37145

Mack Sircy (615) 374-3690 280 Sadle Ln Hartsville, TN 37074

LONGVIEW

Steve Anderson (615) 230-6721 513 Saint Blaise Road Gallatin, TN 37066 sanderson@grandfire.net

Larry Garrett (615) 452-6029 1351 Gibbs Lane Gallatin, TN 37066 Igarrett57@gmail.com

Mike Patterson (615) 824-0816 102 Crosspointe Hendersonville, TN 37075 mike.patterson@wearwell.com

Wayne Scott (615) 654-8761 4719 Hwy 31W Cottontown, TN 37048 wayne.scott@gmail.com

Mike Stokes (615) 824-3394 2725 Long Hollow Pike Hendersonville, TN 37075 stokesmr@bellsouth.net

George Snow (615) 451-2124 525 Redstone Drive Gallatin, TN 37066 gcsnow@msn.com

McFERRIN

Collier Kent (615) 860-8178 1646 Neelys Bend Road Madison, TN 57115 debbiecollier@comcast.net NordeanCopas (615) 859-3583 160 Allen Road Goodlettsville, TN 37072

Wilson Dillard (615) 754-2576 144 Lake Forrest Drive Mt. Juliet, TN 37122

Billy Gammons (615) 382-5522 104 Brook View Court Springfield, TN 37172 billy.gammons2009@comcast.net

Don Hines (615) 824-7848 1019 Dorset Drive Hendersonville, TN 37075 PCI@precolorTN.com

Greg Hines (615) 594-6450 134 Ballentrae Drive Hendersonville, TN 37075 ghines01@comcast.net

Troy Hooten(615) 871-4815 5884 Seven Points Trace Hermitage, TN 37076 troy_hooten@bellsouth.net

Todd Inman (615) 382-7324 3935 Windland Drive Springfield, TN 37172 tinman@jwmcd.com

Frank McClanahan (615) 824-6644 1759 Saundersville Road Hendersonville, TN 37075 cmcclanahan@comcast.net

Sam Oldham (615) 824-6842 109 Choctaw Drive Hendersonville, TN 37075 oldhams@bellsouth.net

Gust Pappas (615) 859-5560 1972 Lynn Circle Greenbrier, TN 37073 gpappas@imagecommunications.us

Harold Petty (615) 269-7472 101 Chatsworth Drive Nashville, TN 37215 harold.petty06@comcast.net Hugh Shoulders (615) 824-6644 1102 Lake Rise Place Gallatin, TN 37066 hughandlynn@att.net

Stewart Sykes (931) 358-0413 500 Clubhouse Lane Clarksville, TN 37043 stewarts@sykesfuneralhome.com

William Woodall (615) 824-7534 334 Sanders Ferry Road Hendersonville, TN 37075 deewoody@comcast.net

Billy Woodard (615) 868-1988 4052 Yoest Drive Nashville, TN 37207

MT. JULIET

Otis Agee (615) 207-7844 1531 Quarry Road Mt. Juliet, TN 37122

Danny Miller (615) 430-2423 1960 Safari Camp Rd Lebanon, TN 37090

Robby Cornwell (615) 394-0008 620 Highland View Ct. Hermitage, TN 37076

MURFREESBORO

Lanny Jenkins (615) 459-5719 6700 Scenic Drive Murfreesboro, TN 37129 lannyj@comcast.net

Key Dillard (615) 890-0288 721 Rucker Lane Murfreesboro, TN 37128 keydillard@gmail.com

Kevin Dillard (615) 907-2381 2343 Garrison Cove Murfreesboro, TN 37130 dillard71@juno.com

Roger West (615) 890-2478 1701 Avon Road Murfreesboro, TN 37129

NEW ZION

Brian Cobb (931) 372-8835 1020 Fish Park Drive Cookeville, TN 38506 wildcats5@charter.net

Tommy Maynard (615) 897-2589 PO Box 57 Elmwood, TN 38560 maynardj1@k12tn.net

Jeremy Warren (931) 252-0399 4841 Skyview Drive Cookeville, TN 38501 jdwarren@twlakes.net

THREE SPRINGS

Coy Allen (270) 784-7149 131 Plainfield Ave Bowling Green, KY 42104

Lonnie Cockriel (270) 843-6362 74 Coral Court Bowling Green, KY 42101

David Elliott (270) 392-4423 310 Fisher Lane Bowling Green, KY 42103

Steve Holman (270) 586-8430 527 Longview Drive Franklin, KY 42134

Jason House (910) 425-6268 1450 Thoroughbred Trail Parkton, NC 28371

Chris Krebs (270) 793-0402 104 Caiborne Court Bowling Green, KY 42104

Jimmy Meadors (270) 842-9337 2421 Heather Drive Bowling Green, KY 42104

Scott Randolph (270) 223-7796 2950 Schweizer Road Franklin, KY 42134

Wendell Strode (270) 842-0510 212 Mizpah Road Bowling Green, KY 42101 Jerry Thomas (270) 842-8979 3010 Hunting Creek Drive Bowling Green, KY 42104

Terry Thornton (270) 842-1949 840 Culpepper Road Bowling Green, KY 42103

HISTORICAL TABLE

Doctrinal W.M.S Wilks A.D. Robinson J.H. Grime J.T. Oakley C.B. Massey J.H. Grime A.J. Sloan J.T. Oakley A.J. Sloan J.Y. Freeman T.Y. Freeman T.Y. Freeman
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Glerk B.R. Hawkins B.R. Hawkins B.R. Hawkins B.S. Pardue D.S. Reed
Moderator W.M.S. Wilks W.M.S. W
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Year 1891 1892 1893 1894 1895 1896 1896 1900 1900 1900 1900 1910 1911 1911 19

Doctrinal A.J. Sloan A.J. Sloan A.J. Sloan A.J. Sloan A.J. Sloan James Carter Calvin Gregory C.B. Massey Calvin Gregory	C.B. Massey A.J. Sloan
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Location Fairview Pleasant Grove New Zion Rock Bridge Cedar Bluff Long Creek Mt. Zion Old Hopewell Union Brattontown Meadorville Haysville	Capitol Hill Siloam Rocky Mound Pleasant Hill Goodwill Spring Creek New Harmony New Bethel Union Red Hill Lafayette Siloam Athens Union Hill Brattontown Drakes Creek Long Creek
Year 1919 1920 1921 1923 1924 1925 1926 1928 1929	1931 1932 1933 1934 1935 1936 1940 1944 1945 1946 1946 1946

Year	Location	Moderator	Clerk	Treasurer	Introductory	Doctrinal	
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1951	Rocky Mound	F.L. Ray	F.W. Lambert	H.H. Harrison	M.R. Drury	W.T. Taylor	
1952	East Main Street	F.L. Ray	F.W. Lambert	H.H. Harrison	Albert Crouch	W.T Russell	
1953	McFerrin	F.L. Ray	W.T. Russell	J.C. Walker	Albert Crouch	W.T Russell	
1954	Cedar Bluff	F.L. Ray	W.T. Russell	J.C. Walker	H.C. Vanderpool	J.C. Walker	
1955	West End	F.L. Ray	W.T. Russell	J.C. Walker	H.C. Vanderpool	J.C. Walker	
1956	Buffalo Springs	F.L. Ray	W.T. Russell	J.C. Walker	H.C. Vanderpool	W.T. Russell	
1957	Concord	F.L. Ray	W.T. Russell	J.C. Walker	G.O. Templeton	J.C. Walker	
1958	Pleasant Hill	F.L. Ray	W.T. Russell	J.C. Walker	A.G. Gregory	H.P. Brown	
1959	Enon Chapel	F.L. Ray	W.T. Russell	J.C. Walker	A.G. Gregory	J.C. Walker	
1960	New Bethel	F.L. Ray	W.T. Russell	Paul Oldham	A.G. Gregory	W.T Russell	
1961	Liberty Hill	F.L. Ray	W.T. Russell	Paul Oldham	A.G. Gregory	W.T Russell	
1962	Longview	F.L. Ray	W.T. Russell	Paul Oldham	James Porter	W.T Russell	
1963	Old Hopewell	F.L. Ray	W.T. Russell	Paul Oldham	James Porter	W.T Russell	
1964	White Hill	F.L. Ray	W.T. Russell	Paul Oldham	James Porter	W.T Russell	
1965	Salem	F.L. Ray	W.T. Russell	Paul Oldham	James Porter	W.T Russell	
1966	Piper's Chapel	F.L. Ray	W.T. Russell	Paul Oldham	James Porter	W.T Russell	
1961	Fairview	F.L. Ray	W.T. Russell	A.G. Gregory	H.D. Linville	W.T Russell	
8961	Goodwill	F.L. Ray	W.T. Russell	A.G. Gregory	H.D. Linville	W.T Russell	
1969	Faith (TN)	F.L. Ray	W.T. Russell	A.G. Gregory	H.D. Linville	W.T Russell	
1970	Gateway	F.L. Ray	W.T. Russell	A.G. Gregory	H.D. Linville	W.T Russell	
1971	Faith (KY)	F.L. Ray	W.T. Russell	A.G. Gregory	H.D. Linville	W.T Russell	
1972	Grace	F.L. Ray	W.T. Russell	A.G. Gregory	H.D. Linville	W.T Russell	
1973	Cedar Bluff	F.L. Ray	W.T. Russell	A.G. Gregory	H.D. Linville	W.T Russell	
1974	Liberty Hill	F.L. Ray	W.T. Russell	A.G. Gregory	H.D. Linville	W.T Russell	
1975	Rock Bridge	F.L. Ray	H.C. Vanderpool	A.G. Gregory	H.D. Linville	H.G. Taylor	
9261	Lafayette	F.L. Ray	H.C. Vanderpool	A.G. Gregory	H.D. Linville	H.G. Taylor	R
1977	Buffalo Springs	F.L. Ray	H.C. Vanderpool	A.G. Gregory	J.W. Briley	James Porter	FI
1978	МсFеrrin	F.L. Ray	H.C. Vanderpool	A.G. Gregory	Kenneth Woodall	H.G. Taylor	Ü
1979	Harmony	H.G. Taylor	H.C. Vanderpool	A.G. Gregory	Hilman Duncan	J.W. Briley	O.
1980	New Bethel	H.G. Taylor	H.C. Vanderpool	A.G. Gregory	Everett Scruggs	James Porter	Bol

Memorial Edgar Copeland C.L. Russell W.E. Massey James Porter James Shoulders James Shoulders W.E. Massey Henry Smith Gary Duncan Johnny Meador Ottis Jones Bobby Sutton Johnny Carver Eugene Brown William Overton Johnny Carver Eugene Brown William Overton Johnny Carver Lynn Stapleton Scott Carter Lynn Stapleton Charles Patterson Jackie Wilburn Dackie Thoman	Kandy I nompson Tim Binion Jerry Boze Wesley Woods C.A. Gentry Danny Raines
Doctrinal J.W. Briley H.D. Linville H.C. Vanderpool A.G. Gregory H.D. Linville C.L. Russell James Porter Hilman Duncan J.W. Briley W.T. Russell James Shoulders Kenneth Massey Don Curtis Jimmy Roberts Johnny Carver William Overton Eugene Brown William Overton Bobby Sutton Henry Smith Kenneth Massey Deric McClard Bobby Sutton Henry Smith Kenneth Massey Deric McClard Bobby Sutton Henry Smith	Charles Reece Ricky Oliver Mark Carver Johnny Carver Charles Patterson Manager Massey I
Introductory Guthrie Thompson Bobby Pitt Charles Patterson Ray Sutton Gary Duncan Ottis Jones Terry Lyles Jeff Brown Lonnie Meador Charles Patterson Kenneth Massey Jimmy Roberts Larry Gregory Paul Patterson Deric McClard Benny Snoddy Paul Patterson Johnny Carver Deric McClard Benny Wilson Trey Crews Johnny Carver Jeremy Wilson Trey Crews Johnny Carver Jeremy Wilson Brian Johnson Brian Johnson Brian Johnson	Monty Shoulders Jeremy Wilson Larry Gregory David Woodard Phillip Church Jeremy Wilson
Treasurer A.G. Gregory Bobby Sutton	James Hill Robby Comwell Robby Comwell Robby Comwell Robby Comwell
Clerk H.C. Vanderpool D.C. Vanderpool H.C. Van	Deric McClard Brian Johnson David Woodard David Woodard David Woodard Jeremy Wilson
Moderator H.G. Taylor H.G. Tay	Kenneth Massey Kenneth Massey Kenneth Massey Kenneth Massey Kenneth Massey
Location Faith (TN) Longview Salem Cedar Grove Old Hopewell Gateway West End Goodwill New Bethel McFerrin New Bethel Lafayette Parkwood New Bethel Longview McFerrin Harvest Three Springs New Zion Longview McFerrin Bethlehem Mt. Juliet New Life Murfreesboro Gladdice	Three Springs New Zion McFerrin Longview Murfreesboro Mt. Juliet
Xear 1981 1982 1983 1984 1985 1986 1987 1989 1990 1990 1997 1999 1999 1999 1999 2000 2001 2005 2005	2007 2008 2009 2010 2011

STATISICAL TABLES

	Received	Received	Restored	Received	Dismissed	Dismissed	Death	Rescinded	Total
	Baptism	Letter		Statement	Letter	Exclusion			Members
Bethlehem	1	0	0	0	3	0	1	0	156
Gladdice	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	57
Longview	0	0	1	0	5	0	1	0	182
McFerrin	14	10	0	0	4	0	4	0	712
Mt. Juliet	8	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	122
Murfressboro	2	12	0	2	0	0	0	0	135
New Zion	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	41
Three Springs	9	5	0	0	3	0	1	0	430

SUNDAY SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

	Year Organized	2006	2002	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Number of Teachers
Bethlehem	1962	18	18	18	21	21	21	15	4
Gladdice	1894	16	15	12	15	15	19	61	2
Longview	0961	7.5	7.5	70	0/	09	20	09	8
McFerrin	1948	310	314	321	339	326	293	296	18
Mt. Juliet	1982	91	25	20	20	25	38	38	S
Murfressboro	1984	40	40	40	n/a	50	50	50	10
New Zion	1981	20	18	n/a	26	22	22	22	3
Three Springs	1995	150	140	140	140	140	140	140	14

2013 Order Of Service

Friday, October 25, 2013

- Call to Order
- Special Singing
- Introductory Sermon
- Enrollment of Churches and Roll Call of Messengers
- Reading of Rules of Decorum
- Letters of Petition
- Election of 2013 Officers
- Selection of 2014 Meeting Place
- Selections for 2014 Sermons
- Recognition of Visitors
- Selections for 2013 Fellowship Sermon
- Report: Baptist Faith and Practice
- Break for Lunch
- Special Singing
- Fellowship Sermon
- Report: Christian Education
- Obituary Report

Saturday, October 26, 2013

- Roll Call of Messengers
- Recognition of Visitors
- Special Singing
- Doctrinal Sermon
- Report: Financing the Lord's Work
- Missions Report
- Ambassador's Report
- Treasurer's Report
- Reading of Correspondence
- New Business
- Order of Business for 2014
- Closing Song and Parting Handshake
- Closing Prayer