

## **2023 ORDER OF SERVICE**

### **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2023**

- 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 2022 OFFICERS
- RECOGNITION OF VISITORS
- SELECTION OF 2022 FELLOWSHIP SERMON
- REPORT: WHAT CAN WE DO TO ENCOURAGE EVANGELISM AMONG OUR MEMBERS
- BREAK FOR LUNCH
- SPECIAL SINGING
- FELLOWSHIP SERMON
- REPORT: HOW CAN WE ENCOURAGE BIBLE STUDY AND BIBLE LIVING IN THE FAMILIES OF OUR CHURCHES
- OBITUARY REPORT

### **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2023**

#### **ROLL CALL OF MESSENGERS**

- RECOGNITION OF VISITORS
- SPECIAL SINGING
- REPORT: WHAT CAN WE DO TO ENCOURAGE BIBLICAL GIVING IN OUR CHURCHES
- MISSION'S REPORT
- AMBASSADORS REPORT
- TREASURE'S REPORT
- READING OF CORRESPONDENCE
- NEW BUSINESS
- ORDER OF BUSINESS FOR 2024
- DOCTRINAL SERMON
- CLOSING SONG AND PARTING HANDSHAKE
- CLOSING PRAYER

**WISEMAN BAPTIST  
ASSOCIATION  
One Hundred Thirtieth Annual Session  
October 21-22, 2022  
Gladdice Missionary Baptist Church  
120 Salt Lick Creek, Pleasant Shade Tn 37145**

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The next session will convene with New Zion Missionary Baptist Church.  
5645 Martin Creek Road Bloomington Springs, Tn  
October 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> of 2023, at 10:00 a.m.

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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.
2. A Moderator, Clerk, and Treasurer shall be chosen annually to serve the Association.
3. Only one person shall speak at a time, who shall arise and address the Moderator by the appellation of Brother Moderator, and shall while speaking, confine himself 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 reprovved 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 Baptist Association.

Article II. These Associations shall be composed of members duly chosen by regular and orderly Missionary Baptist Churches within our bounds.

Article III. The letters from 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 messenger's 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 carried by a two-thirds vote. This action is to be taken after permanent organization and at the time to receive petitionary letters.

Article XVIII. No preacher shall preach before the Association two years in succession.

## ARTICLES OF FAITH

### 1. OF THE SCRIPTURES

We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired, and is a perfect treasure of heavenly instruction;<sup>1</sup> that it has God for its author, salvation for its end,<sup>2</sup> and truth without any mixture of error for its matter;<sup>3</sup> that it reveals the principles by which God will judge us;<sup>4</sup> and therefore is, and shall remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union,<sup>5</sup> and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions should be tried.<sup>6</sup>

- 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:21; 1 Sam. 23:2; Acts 1:16; 3:21; John 10:35; Luke 16:29-31; Psa. 119:11; Rom. 3:1-2
- 2 Tim. 3:15; 1 Pet. 1:10-12; Acts 11:14; Rom. 1:16; Mark 16:16; John 5:38-39.
- Prov. 30:5-6; John 17:17; Rev. 22:18-19; Rom. 3:4.
- Rom. 2:12; John 12:47-48; 1 Cor. 4:3-4; Luke 10:10-16; 12:47-48.
- Phil. 3:16; Eph. 4:3-6; Phil. 2:1-2; 1 Cor. 1:10; 1 Pet. 4:11.
- 1 John 4:1; Isa. 8:20; 1 Thess. 5:21; 2 Cor. 8:5; Acts 17:11; 1 John 4:6; Jude 3:5; Eph. 6:17; Psa. 119:59-60; Phil. 1:9-11.

### II. OF THE TRUE GOD

We believe that there is one, and only one, living and true God, an infinite, intelligent Spirit, whose name is JEHOVAH, the Maker and Supreme Ruler of Heaven and earth;<sup>7</sup> inexpressibly glorious in holiness,<sup>8</sup> and worthy



of all possible honor, confidence, and love;<sup>9</sup> that in the unity of the Godhead there are three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost;<sup>10</sup> equal in every divine perfection,<sup>11</sup> and executing distinct and harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.<sup>12</sup>

- John 4:24; Psa. 147:5; 83:18; Heb. 3:4; Rom. 1:20; Jer. 10:10
- Exod. 15:11; Isa. 6:3; 1 Pet. 1:15-16; Rev. 4:6-8
- Mark 12:30; Rev. 4:11; Matt. 10:37; Jer. 2:12-13
- Matt. 28:19; John 15:26; 1 Cor. 12:4-6; 1 John 5:7
- John 10:30; 5:17; 14:23; 17:5, 10; Acts 5:3-4; 1 Cor. 2:10-11; Phil. 2:5-6
- Eph. 2:18; 2 Cor. 13:14; Rev. 1:4-5; comp. 2, 7

### **III. OF THE FALL OF MAN**

We believe that man was created in holiness, under the law of his Maker;<sup>13</sup> but by voluntary transgression fell from that holy and happy state;<sup>14</sup> in consequence of which all mankind are now sinners,<sup>15</sup> not by constraint, but choice;<sup>16</sup> being by nature utterly void of that holiness required by the law of God, positively inclined to evil; and therefore under just condemnation to eternal ruin,<sup>17</sup> without defense or excuse.<sup>18</sup>

- Gen. 1:27, 31; Eccl. 7:29; Acts 16:26; Gen. 2:16
- Gen. 3:6-24; Rom. 5:12
- Rom. 5:19; John 3:6; Psa. 51:5; Rom. 5:15-19; 8:7
- Isa. 53:6; Gen. 6:12; Rom. 3:9-18
- Eph. 2:1-3; Rom. 1:18, 32; 2:1-16; Gal. 3:10; Matt. 20:15

- Ezek. 18:19-20; Rom. 1:20; 3:19; Gal. 3:22

#### **IV. OF THE WAY OF SALVATION**

We believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace,<sup>19</sup> through the mediatorial offices of the Son of God;<sup>20</sup> who by the appointment of the Father, freely took upon him our nature, yet without sin;<sup>21</sup> honored the divine law by his personal obedience,<sup>22</sup> and by his death made a full atonement for our sins;<sup>23</sup> that having risen from the death, he is now enthroned in heaven;<sup>24</sup> and uniting in his wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfections, he is every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate, and an all-sufficient Saviour.<sup>25</sup>

- Eph. 2:5; Matt. 18:11; 1 John 4:10; 1 Cor. 3:5-7; Acts 15:11
- John 3:16; 1:1-14; Heb. 4:14; 12:24
- Phil. 2:6-7; Heb. 2:9, 14; 2 Cor. 5:21
- Isa. 42:21; Phil. 2:8; Gal. 4:4-5; Rom. 3:21
- Isa. 53:4-5; Matt. 20:28; Rom. 4:25; 3:21-26; 1 John 4:10;
- 2:2; 1 Cor. 15:1-3; Heb. 9:13-15
- Heb. 1:8, 3; 8:1; Col. 3:1-4
- Heb. 7:25; Col. 2:9; Heb. 2:18; 7:26; Psa. 89:19; Psa. 14

#### **V. OF JUSTIFICATION**

We believe that the great gospel blessing which Christ<sup>26</sup> secures to such as believe in him is Justification;<sup>27</sup> that

Justification includes the pardon of sin,<sup>28</sup> and the promise of eternal life on principles of righteousness;<sup>29</sup> that it is bestowed, not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through faith in the

Redeemer's blood;<sup>30</sup> by virtue of which faith his perfect righteousness is freely imputed to us of God;<sup>31</sup> that it brings us into a state of most blessed peace and favor with God, and secures every other blessing needful for time and eternity.<sup>32</sup>

- John 1:16; Eph. 3:8
- Acts 13:39; Isa. 3:11-12; Rom. 8:1
- Rom. 5:9; Zech. 13:1; Matt. 9:6; Acts 10:43
- Rom. 5:17; Titus 3:5-6; 1 Pet. 3:7; 1 John 2:25; Rom. 5:21
- Rom. 4:4-5; 5:21; 6:28; Phil. 3:7-9
- Rom. 5:19; 3:24-26; 4:23-25; 1 John 2:12

## **VI. OF THE FREENESS OF SALVATION**

We believe that the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the gospel;<sup>33</sup> that it is the immediate duty of all to accept them by a cordial, penitent, and obedient faith;<sup>34</sup> and that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth but his own inherent depravity and voluntary rejection of the gospel;<sup>35</sup> which rejection involves him in an aggravated condemnation.<sup>36</sup>

- Isa. 55:1; Rev. 22:17; Luke 14:17
- Rom. 16:26; Mark 1:15; Rom. 1:15-17
- John 5:40; Matt. 23:37; Rom. 9:32; Prov. 1:24; Acts 13:46
- John 3:19; Matt. 11:20; Luke 19:27; 2 Thess. 1:8

## **VII. OF GRACE IN REGENERATION**

We believe that, in order to be saved, sinners must be regenerated, or born again;<sup>37</sup> that regeneration consists in giving a holy disposition to the mind;<sup>38</sup> that it is effected in a manner above our comprehension by the power of the Holy Spirit, in connection with divine truth,<sup>39</sup> so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the gospel;<sup>40</sup> and that its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance, and faith, and newness of life.<sup>41</sup>

- John 3:3, 6-7; 1 Cor. 1:14; Rev. 8:7-9; 21:27
- 2 Cor. 5:17; Ezek. 36:26; Deut. 30:6; Rom. 2:28-29; 5:5; 1 John 4:7
- John 3:8; 1:13; James 1:16-18; 1 Cor. 1:30; Phil. 2:13
- 1 Pet. 1:22-25; 1 John 5:1; Eph. 4:20-24; Col. 3:9-11
- Eph. 5:9; Rom. 8:9; Gal. 5:16-23; Eph. 3:14-21; Matt. 3:8-10; 7:20; 1 John 5:4, 18

## **VIII. OF REPENTANCE AND FAITH**

We believe that Repentance and Faith are sacred duties, and also inseparable graces, wrought in our souls by the regenerating Spirit of God;<sup>42</sup> whereby being deeply convinced of our guilt, danger, and helplessness, and of the way of salvation by Christ,<sup>43</sup> we turn to God with unfeigned contrition, confession, and supplication for mercy;<sup>44</sup> at the same time heartily receiving the Lord Jesus Christ as our Prophet, Priest, and King, and relying on him alone as the only and all-sufficient Saviour.<sup>45</sup>

- Mark 1:15; Acts 11:18; Eph. 2:8; 1 John 5:1
- John 16:8; Acts 2:37-38; 16:30-31
- Luke 18:13; 15:18-21; James 4:7-10; 2 Cor. 7:11; Rom. 10:12-13; Psa. 51

- Rom. 10:9-11; Acts 3:22-23; Heb. 4:14; Psa. 2:6; Heb. 1:8; 8:25; 2 Tim. 1:12

## **IX. OF GOD'S PURPOSE OF GRACE**

We believe that Election is the eternal purpose of God, according to which he graciously regenerates, sanctifies, and saves sinners;<sup>46</sup> that being perfectly consistent with the free agency of man, it comprehends all the means in connection with the end;<sup>47</sup> that it is a most glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, being infinitely free, wise, holy, and unchangeable;<sup>48</sup> that it utterly excludes boasting, and promotes humility, love, prayer, praise, trust in God, and active imitation of his free mercy;<sup>49</sup> that it encourages the use of means in the highest degree;<sup>50</sup> that it may be ascertained by its effects in all who truly believe the gospel;<sup>51</sup> that it is the foundation of Christian assurance;<sup>52</sup> and that to ascertain it with regard to ourselves demands and deserves the utmost diligence.<sup>53</sup>

- 2 Tim. 1:8-9; Eph. 1:3-14; 1 Pet. 1:1-2; Rom. 11:5-6; John 15:15; 1 John 4:19; Hos. 12:9
- 2 Thess. 2:13-14; Acts 13:48; John 10:16; Matt. 20:16; Acts 15:14
- Exod. 33:18-19; Matt. 20:15; Eph. 1:11; Rom. 9:23-24; Jer. 31:3; Rom. 11:28-29; James 1:17-18; 2 Tim. 1:9; Rom. 11:32-36
- 1 Cor. 4:7; 1:26-31; Rom. 3:27; 4:16; Col. 3:12; 1 Cor. 3:5-7; 15:10; 1 Pet. 5:10; Acts 1:24; 1 Thess. 2:13; 1 Pet. 2:9; Luke 18:7; John 15:16; Eph. 1:16; 1 Thess. 2:12
- 2 Tim. 2:10; 1 Cor. 9:22; Rom. 8:28-30; John 6:37-40; 2 Pet. 1:10
- 1 Thess. 1:4-10
- Rom. 8:28-30; Isa. 42:16; Rom. 11:29
- 2 Pet. 1:10-11; Phil. 3:12; Heb. 6:11

## **X. OF SANCTIFICATION**

We believe that Sanctification is the process by which, according to the will of God, we are made partakers of his holiness; that it is a progressive work; that it is begun in regeneration; and that it is carried on in the hearts of believers by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, the Sealer and Comforter, in the continual use of the appointed means-especially the Word of God, self-examination, self-denial, watchfulness, and prayer.

- 1 Thess. 4:3; 5:23; 2 Cor. 7:1; 13:9; Eph. 1:4
- Prov. 4:18; 2 Cor. 3:18; Heb. 6:1; 2 Pet. 1:5-8; Phil. 3:12-16
- John 2:29; Rom. 8:5; John 3:6; Phil. 1:9-11; Eph. 1:13-14
- Phil. 2:12-13; Eph. 4:11-12; 1 Pet. 2:2; 2 Pet. 3:18; 2 Cor. 13:5; Luke 11:35; 9:23; Matt. 26:41; Eph. 6:18; 4:30

## **XI. OF THE PERSEVERANCE OF SAINTS**

We believe that such only are real believers as endure unto the end;<sup>58</sup> that their persevering attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial professors;<sup>59</sup> that a special Providence watches over their welfare;<sup>60</sup> and they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.<sup>61</sup>

- John 8:31; 1 John 2:27-28; 3:9; 5:18
- 1 John 2:19; John 13:18; Matt. 13:20-21; John 6:66-69; Job 17:9
- Rom. 8:28; Matt. 6:30-33; Jer. 32:40; Psa. 121:3; 91:11-12
- Phil. 1:6; 2:12-13; Jude 24-25; Heb. 1:14; 2 Kings 6:16; Heb. 13:5; 1 John 4:4

## **XII. OF THE HARMONY OF THE LAW AND THE GOSPEL**

We believe that the Law of God is the eternal and unchangeable rule of his moral government;<sup>62</sup> that it is holy, just, and good;<sup>63</sup> and that the inability which the Scriptures ascribe to fallen men to fulfill its precepts arises entirely from their love of sin;<sup>64</sup> to deliver them from which, and to restore them through a Mediator to unfeigned obedience to the holy Law, is one great end of the Gospel, and of the means of grace connected with the establishment of the visible Church.<sup>65</sup>

- Rom. 3:31; Matt. 5:17; Luke 16:17; Rom. 3:20; 4:15
- Rom. 7:12, 7, 14, 22; Gal. 3:21; Psa. 119
- Rom. 8:7-8; Josh. 24:19; Jer. 13:23; John 6:44; 5:44
- Rom. 8:2, 4; 10:4; 1 Tim. 1:5; Heb. 8:10; Jude 20-21; Heb. 12:14; Matt. 16:17-18; 1 Cor. 12:28

## **XIII. OF A GOSPEL CHURCH**

We believe that a visible Church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers,<sup>66</sup> associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel;<sup>67</sup> observing the ordinances of Christ;<sup>68</sup> governed by his laws,<sup>69</sup> and exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by his Word;<sup>70</sup> that its only scriptural officers are Bishops, or Pastors, and Deacons,<sup>71</sup> whose qualifications, claims, and duties are defined in the Epistles to Timothy and Titus.

- 1 Cor. 1:1-13; Matt. 18:17; Acts 5:11; 8:1; 11:31; 1 Cor. 4:17; 14:23; 3 John 9; 1 Tim. 3:5
- Acts 2:41-42; 2 Cor. 8:5; Acts 2:47; 1 Cor. 5:12-13
- 1 Cor. 11:2; 2 Thess. 3:6; Rom. 16:17-20; 1 Cor. 11:23; Matt. 18:15-20; 1 Cor. 5:6; 2 Cor. 2:7; 1 Cor. 4:17
- Matt. 28:20; John 14:15; 15:12; 1 John 4:21; John 14:21; 1 Thess. 4.2; 2 John 6; Gal. 6:2; all the Epistles

- Eph. 4:7; 1 Cor. 14:12; Phil. 1:27; 1 Cor. 12:14
- Phil. 1:1; Acts 14:23; 15:22; 1 Tim. 3; Titus 1

#### **XIV. OF BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER**

We believe that Christian Baptism is the immersion in water of a believer,<sup>72</sup> into the name of the Father, and Son, and Holy Ghost;<sup>73</sup> to show forth, in a solemn and beautiful emblem, our faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Saviour, with its effect in our death to sin and resurrection to a new life;<sup>74</sup> that it is prerequisite to the privileges of a Church relation; and to the Lord's Supper,<sup>75</sup> in which the members of the Church, by the sacred use of bread and wine, are to commemorate together the dying love of Christ;<sup>76</sup> preceded always by solemn self-examination.<sup>77</sup>

- Acts 8:36-39; Matt. 3:5-6; John 3:22-23; 4:1-2; Matt. 28:19; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 8:12; 16:32-34; 18:8
- Matt. 28:19; Acts 10:47-48; Gal. 3:27-28
- Rom. 6:4; Col. 2:12; 1 Pet. 3:20-21; Acts 22:16
- Acts 2:41-42; Matt. 28:19-20; Acts and Epistles
- 1 Cor. 11:26; Matt. 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:14-20
- 1 Cor. 11:28; 5:1, 8; 10:3-32; 11:17-32; John 6:26-71

#### **XV. OF THE CHRISTIAN SABBATH**

We believe that the first day of the week is the Lord's Day, or Christian Sabbath;<sup>78</sup> and is to be kept sacred to religious purposes,<sup>79</sup> by abstaining from all secular labor and sinful recreations;<sup>80</sup> by the devout observance of all

the means of grace, both private<sup>81</sup> and public;<sup>82</sup> and by preparation for that rest that remaineth for the people of God.<sup>83</sup>



- Acts 20:7; Gen. 2:3; Col. 2:16-17; Mark 2:27; John 20:19; 1 Cor. 16:1- 2
- Exod. 20:8; Rev. 1:10; Psa. 118:24
- Isa. 58:13-14; 56:2-8
- Psa. 119:15
- Heb. 10:24-25; Acts 11:26; 13:44; Lev. 19:30; Exod. 46:3; Luke 4:16; Acts 17:2, 3; Psa. 26:8; 87:3
- Heb. 4:3-11

## **XVI. OF CIVIL GOVERNMENT**

We believe that civil government is of divine appointment, for the interests and good order of human society;<sup>84</sup> and that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored and obeyed;<sup>85</sup> except only in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ<sup>86</sup> who is the only Lord of the conscience, and the Prince of the kings of the earth.<sup>87</sup>

- Rom. 13:1-7; Deut. 16:18; 1 Sam. 23:3; Exod. 18:23; Jer.30:21
- Matt. 22:21; Titus 3:1; 1 Pet. 2:13; 1 Tim. 2:1-8
- Acts 5:29; Matt. 10:28; Dan. 3:15-18; 6:7-10; Acts 4:18-20
- Matt. 23:10; Rom. 14:4; Rev. 19:16; Psa. 72:11; Psa. 2; Rom. 14:9-13

## **XVII. OF THE RIGHTEOUS AND THE WICKED**

We believe that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked;<sup>88</sup> that such only as through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and sanctified by the Spirit of our God, are truly righteous in his esteem;<sup>89</sup> while all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are in his sight wicked, and under the curse;<sup>90</sup> and this distinction holds among men both in and after death.<sup>91</sup>

- Mal. 3:18; Prov. 12:26; Isa. 5:20; Gen. 18:23; Jer. 15:19; Acts 10:34- 35; Rom. 6:16
- Rom. 1:17; 7:6; 1 John 2:29; 3:7; Rom. 6:18, 22; 1 Cor. 11:32; Prov. 11:31; 1 Pet. 4:17-18
- 1 John 5:19; Gal. 3:10; John 3:36; Isa. 57:21; Psa. 10:4; Isa 55:6-7
- Prov. 14:32; Luke 16:25; John 8:21-24; Prov. 10:24; Luke 12:4-5; 9:23- 26; John 12:25-26; Eccl. 3:17; Matt. 7:13-14

## **XVIII. OF THE WORLD TO COME**

We believe that the end of the world is approaching;<sup>92</sup> that at the last day Christ will descend from heaven,<sup>93</sup> and raise the dead from the grave to final retribution;<sup>94</sup> that a solemn separation will then take place;<sup>95</sup> that the wicked will be adjudged to endless punishment, and the righteous to endless joy;<sup>96</sup> and that this judgment will fix forever the final state of men in heaven or hell, on principles of righteousness.<sup>97</sup>

- 1 Pet. 4:7; 1 Cor. 7:29-31; Heb. 1:10-12; Matt. 24:35; 1 John 2:17; Matt. 28:20; 13:39-40; 2 Pet. 3:3-13
- Acts 1:11; Rev. 1:7; Heb. 9:28; Acts 3:21; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; 5:1-11
- Acts 24:15; 1 Cor. 15:12-59; Luke 14:14; Dan. 12:2; John 5:28-29; 6:40; 11:25-26; 2 Tim. 1:10; Acts 10:42
- Matt. 13:49, 37-43; 24:30-31; 25:31-33

- Matt. 25:35-41; Rev. 22:11; 1 Cor. 6:9-10; Mark 9:43-48; 2 Pet. 2:9; Jude 7; Phil. 3:19; Rom. 6:32; 2 Cor. 5:10-11; John 4:36; 2 Cor. 4:18
- Rom. 3:5-6; 2 Thess. 1:6-12; Heb. 6:1-2; 1 Cor. 4:5; Acts 17:31; Rom. 2:2-16; Rev. 20:11-12; 1 John 2:28; 4:17

## **FRIDAY MORNING SESSION**

On this 21st day of October of 2022, we met at 10:00 AM for the One Hundred Thirty First Annual session of the Wiseman Baptist Association at Gladdice Missionary Baptist Church Pleasant Shade, Tn. Services began with Brother Morris Watson leading the congregation in singing "When We All Get To Heaven" and "He Set Me Free" accompanied by Sister Teresa Kemp on the piano.

Our temporary Moderator Elder Johnny Carver came to the podium and welcomed all in attendance. Bro. Carver asked each one to pray for Bro. Kenneth Massey whose wife had recently went to her heavenly home. Bro. Carver then read scripture from the 131<sup>st</sup> Psalm. Bro. Carver spoke of enjoying fellowship like there is at this meeting and loved to go to church and worship especially with the power of God present. Elder Jesse Miller, Gladdice Pastor was asked to come and offer his welcome. Bro. Miller welcomed all to Gladdice Church and stated he wanted everyone to go away from this Association meeting encouraged. He stated that it meant a lot to Gladdice Church to host the Association. Bro. Carver then called on Elder Charlie Patterson to take us to the Lord in prayer.

After a good humble prayer Bro. Carver introduced Elder Danny Raines whom the Association had chosen to preach the introductory sermon.

### **Introductory Sermon**

Bro. Raines opened by expressing his appreciation for being at this association meeting. Comments were made about past Revival meetings that Bro. Raines had assisted in at Gladdice. Bro. Raines thanked God for salvation and the opportunity to stand before the association to preach.

Psalm 122 was read for a scripture lesson and Bro. Raines took for a sermon topic "Welcome To The House Of The Lord". The question was asked, Who is glad to be here today? Bro. Raines stated that he knew Gladdice Church was glad to host this association. Bro. Raines said as a pastor trying to fulfill his duties he is glad to be

here. He stated he was glad that we all had a house of worship to go to and that it is good to stand inside the spiritual house of the Lord.

Bro. Raines said what you find at the house of the Lord is what makes it good. Five points was made that Bro. Raines wanted to welcome people to.

1. Welcome to, Preaching of The Word. The Apostle Paul expressed the importance of preaching the word in II Timothy 4:2. This is the word of truth and the gospel of salvation. Hebrews 4:12 was read in relation to what the preaching of the word is to our spiritual well-being. The word of God is living and we need it. We are talking about preaching in the house of the Lord. Watching preachers on TV, Facebook and others ways does not and cannot replace the joy of experiencing preaching in the Lord's house. The Psalmist said, "I was glad (or rejoiced) when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord".
2. Welcome to, Worship. Worshipping with God alone is good but nothing can replace what you get from coming together in the house of the Lord for worship. Jesus said IN John 4:204, "God is a spirit and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and truth." So, real worship requires the Holy Spirit and who among us doesn't like to feel the Holy Spirit. Knowing God in spirit will cause a response of real worship.
3. Welcome to, The Opportunity To Exercise Your Gift". I Corinthians 12:6-8 God equips us with gifts to serve God. Do you know what it does when we exercise our God given gift? It glorifies God. If your church needs more help let me encourage you to do as Luke 10:2 says. Pray for more help.
4. Welcome to, The Opportunity To Encourage Your Pastor. Notice the heart of a pastor in the Apostle Paul in Philippians 1:3-7. I can assure you that your pastor loves you. When you become a partner with your pastor in spreading the glorious gospel of Christ be assured that it encourages your pastor.
5. Welcome to, The Opportunity To Help Your Fellow Church Members. Galatians 6:2. Life can be hard. Sometime a phone call, a text, an invite to go out to eat is what helps lift up someone. Let me encourage you to be a help to someone every day.

Did you know that going to the house of the Lord is an appointment we need to keep. Hebrews 10:25 Attending the house of the Lord should be a priority. It is where we find spiritual strength and find blessings.

After Jesus had risen from the grave, we find that he met with the disciples behind closed doors. John 20:19-22 Here the disciples received the comfort of the Lord's words. When we come together it should be to receive comfort from the word of the Lord. Psalm 85:8 God speaks peace. The disciples received peace as Jesus said, "Peace be unto you."

In closing let's go back to where I began. Psalm 122 Let us always rejoice for being able to go into the house of the Lord.

Bro. Carver expressed his appreciation for the message and then asked for a song while the congregation comes around to offer their Christian handshake to Bro. Raines in appreciation for the message. Bro. Morris Watson came and led the congregation in singing "Victory In Jesus" accompanied on the piano by Sis. Teresa Kemp.

### **PERMANENT ORGANIZATION**

Brother Carver called for the Roll of Messengers. Clerk, Brother Danny Raines read the list and the following messengers were enrolled:

**Bethlehem:** Brian Johnson, Mike House

**Concord:** Morris Watson, Sammy Sloan

**Gladdice:** John Wayne Draper, Jesse Miller, Jimmy Christian

**Longview:** Danny Raines, Steve Anderson

**McFerrin:** Gale Andrews, Mike Cothron, Dean Harrison, Jeremy Sisk

**Murfreesboro:** Tom Elkins, Trey Yates, Stuart Spicer, Ricky Hackett

**New Zion:** Larry Gregory

**Three Springs:** Neal Forshee

**West End:** Represented by letter only.

Having a quorum of messenger's present, Brother Carver instructed the meeting to continue.

Brother Raines then read the associational rules of decorum.

### **PETITIONARY LETTERS**

Brother Carver called for Letters of Petition, and none responded.

### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2022**

The messengers elected by acclamation to serve the association for the 2022 session are as follows:

- **Moderator** : Elder Kenneth Massey
- **Assistant Moderator** : Elder Johnny Carver
- **Clerk** : Elder Danny Raines
- **Assistant Clerk** : Brother Sam Vance
- **Treasurer**: Elder Brian Johnson
- **Assistant Treasurer**: Elder Jessie Miller

### **RECOGNITION OF VISITORS**

In the absence of Bro. Massey Bro. Carver called for visitors to be recognized. He welcomed the following visitors on behalf of the Association:

Dover – Bro. Charlie Patterson

Hillsdale – Bro. Danny Chandler (Siloam Association)  
Parkway - Bro. Mike Elkins (Mulberry Gap Association)  
South Carthage – Bro. Beau Beechboard  
Taylor’s Chapel – Bro. Ben Stickle

The messengers agreed to omit the Fellowship sermon.

Bro. Carver called for the report on “The State Of Religion.” Brother Larry Gregory read the report.

### **State of Religion**

Noah Webster’s 1828 **American Dictionary of the English Language** says this about religion: Religion in its most comprehensive sense, includes a belief in the being and perfections of God, in the revelation of his will to man, in man’s obligations to obey his commands, in a state of reward and punishment, and in man’s accountableness to God; and also true godliness or piety of life, with the practice of all moral duties. It therefore comprehends theology, as a system of doctrines or principles, as well as practical piety; for the practice of moral duties without a belief in a divine lawgiver, and without reference to His will or commands, is not religion.

Webster proclaims that there are true religions and false religions. We will focus this report on what we believe to be true religion. In short, we believe the true church teaches that salvation comes from the experience of being born again. We believe this experience comes from the sinner hearing the gospel, of his confession to God of his sin of unbelief, of his repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. We believe true repentance and true saving faith are inseparable graces, the faith being a gift from God upon full repentance as measured by God alone. (<sup>8</sup>For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: Ephesians 2:8) and (<sup>6</sup>But without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. Hebrews 11:6)

“The State of Religion” has been a recurring topic since the first meeting of the Wiseman Association in 1892. There seems to have been a perennial assessment that that state has been on the decline over the period since our inception. **“There is no doubt, the state of religion is declining”** began the report in 1969 and seems to be the recurring theme over our history.

In examining the minutes of the Wiseman Baptist Association from the years 2017 through 2021, we find a common core of eight churches representing every year across the five year period. (Mount Juliet did not represent

after 2017 and West End did not represent before 2021.) This leaves the total membership of that common core increasing from 1,891 in 2017 to 1,931 in 2021, for a gain of 40 souls. We realize that we are discussing souls, not cattle. We also realize, however, that the Holy Spirit moved the penman of the book of Acts to record for our edification the number of those added to the church on the day of Pentecost.

Further examination of the minutes for that same time frame reveals that in two of those five years, the number of members lost to death was greater than the number baptized. Surely, every member of every one of our churches should be concerned about the picture this state reveals.

Lest we allow these statistics to confine us to a dour outlook, however, let us be reminded that every current member of every one of our churches has been saved in the period since 1892.

Rather than list a wide array of solutions to our situation, we will confine our recommendation to the one answer we believe to be prerequisite to all others. God's people must return to a passionate prayer life. Let us consider the following questions as individuals and as church members. How often are you moved to tears in your personal prayer life. How often does your church lift up a prayer with a measure of desperation to match the desperate plight of the lost people around us? Would the sight of the despair of God's people on behalf of sinners move the lost to seek Him?

May each of us as messengers share this recommendation with our respective churches and teach them by our own examples.

Respectfully submitted,

Bro. Larry S. Gregory

Bro. Bill Givens

Bro. Mike House

Bro. James Mathis



The report subject was spoken on by Bro. Larry Gregory, Bro. Brian Johnson, Bro. Johnny Carver, Bro. Ricky Hackett, Bro. Neal Forshee, Bro. Stuart Spicer

Motion and second was made to adopt the report. Motion carried.

Motion and second was made to adjourn one hour for lunch.

After a wonderful lunch Bro. Morris Watson lead the congregation in singing “Amazing Grace” while accompanied on the piano by Sis. Teresa Kemp.

Bro. Carver came to the podium and read scripture from I Peter 4:10,11 then called on Bro. Canny Chandler to lead in prayer.

Bro. Carver then called for the report on Christian Education. The report was read by Bro. Anthony Ferguson.

### **Christian Education**

I will open with a quote from the Wiseman Association Annual Session in 1958. Brother W.T. Russell served as the chairman for Christian and Ministerial Education. He stated this in his opening paragraph; “Today we are confronted with the greatest responsibility as churches, Sunday School Teachers, and Preachers that we have ever known. First, we ask, what is education? Webster says, “It is the process of training and developing the knowledge, skills, mind, character, etc.” Now, when we restrict this to Christian and Ministerial Education, then we find it is a process of Christian training and Christian Ministerial training and development.”

Let us ask a similar question today. What are the parameters that we use to measure educational success in our churches?

When Websters defined education, he stated that it is a process. Education is a process. As leaders in our churches, we must not get frustrated or discouraged at this process. Whoever is patient, has great understanding, but one who is quick-tempered displays folly.

Let us think of the “hot stovetop” example for a moment. Some children can look at the stovetop, know it is hot, and know not to touch it. Some children are unaware that the stovetop is hot, and once told, that child won’t touch it. But they had to be told that it was hot. Then we come to the children that even after being warned, still get

burned. Education is a process. A process that is very different from child to child. As well as church member to church member.

All three children in the hot stovetop example have different processes of learning. Let's exam each of them on a very simplistic level.

The first child used his knowledge and deductive reasoning to conclude that the stovetop was hot and that they should not touch it. Inspire that child to continue to use that thought process.

The second child was unaware of the hot stovetop. Maybe they didn't know it was hot. Maybe they didn't know it could burn them. Maybe they didn't know how to read the warning light on the stove top. Regardless, they needed to be educated. And once educated, they knew better than to touch the stovetop.

The last child was going to be burnt regardless of warning. No matter the advice. The begging and pleading. The burn scars you can show to prove how hot the stovetop is. Nothing mattered. They were going to end up burnt. This group of children do not need to have a "told you so" type lecture or a lack of empathy shown to them after the burn. Grace is needed in the moment. But the parent and child must come to terms with self-destructive behavior patterns shown by the child. Then work on a process to eradicate that behavior so that they do not continue to burn themselves.

This same thought pattern can apply to our church members education process.

The first group of church members will do the right thing. They will be easy. They probably won't end up burnt. We need to encourage them in their strength. You know who these church members are. Thank them for who they are and what they do.

The second group is the large majority in my humble belief. They won't end up burnt, but they must be warned. We cannot stop giving them warnings. We cannot budge on teaching what is right and what is wrong. We cannot lessen our values. But we cannot believe that this group will have a level of Christian education beyond what we give them. If we do believe that, they will end up burnt. Not because they were reckless, but because they were ignorant. For this group of church members, we must understand that they do not know what they do not know. Work with this group to make sure that they are getting the correct level of practical biblical education. And if or when someone in this group ends up burnt, take time to pause and ask if **WE** failed to warn them of the hot stovetop.

We must show grace to the last group. The actuality of life is that, at some point, we have all been burnt ourselves. Even after knowing the stovetop was hot. We still touched it. We still sinned. And we still broke our relationship with God. We remember the shame. The embarrassment. The guilt. The pain. We also remember that in that moment, we didn't want or need to hear, "I told you so". Telling our church members, "I told you so" while engaged in a war with sin, is not helpful. Instead, we need to have real conversation with that individual about what will *really* help them.

Education is an ever-changing and always developing process. We must realize that if this process is bringing forth development of skill, mind, and character, then our members are being educated. Identify who needs to be encouraged, who needs to be educated, who needs grace.

When we restrict this, that is the definition of education, to Christian Education, then we find it is truly a process of Christian training and development.

Respectfully submitted,

Bro. Anthony Ferguson

Bro. Tom Elkins

Bro. Jeff Knowlton

Bro. Nicky Wilson

The report subject was spoken on by Bro. Anthony Ferguson, Bro. Tom Elkins, Bro. John Wayne Draper, Bro. Ricky Hackett.

Motion and second was made to adopt the report. Carried

Bro. Carver called for the Obituary Report. The report was read by Bro. John Wayne Draper.

### **2022 Association Obituary Report**

I have given thought on numerous days of how to introduce this report. I do believe that those who have left us for a far better land have no regrets when arriving at that destination. I have difficulties wrapping my head around the physical descriptions of that land but I have no reservations concerning the emotional joys awaiting us

there. I really don't think we want to go just to admire the property and settings. I focus on meeting our Father God, His Son, Our Savior and our Guide and Comforter, the Holy Spirit. I want to be near them and see them and hear them. I believe I could live in a hut and be satisfied with being near them. What could be better. I would venture to say these Brothers and Sisters will tell me the same when I see them shortly.

IN MEMORY OF OUR DEPARTED LOVED ONES.

Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church

Bro B.J. Honeycutt	February 16, 2021
Brother Kenneth Zink	January 31, 2022
Sister Edith Williams	August 4, 2022

Concord Missionary Baptist Church

None

Gladdice Missionary Baptist Church

Sister Marjorie Forkum	February 14, 2022
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Longview Missionary Baptist Church

Sister Helen Perrigo	May 9, 2022	Widow of Eldr. Calvin Perrigo
Brother Jack Williams	May 15, 2022	Radio broadcaster in Gallatin
Brother Sabin Momeu	September 24, 2022	Living in Romania

McFerrin Missionary Baptist Church

Sister Dianne Anderson	December 7, 2021
Brother Lawton Derossett	December 28, 2021
Brother Billy Lovell	January 17, 2022
Sister Cheryl Alexander	February 1, 2022
Brother Billy Dickinson	February 22, 2022
Brother John Dossey	February 28, 2022
Brother William "Woody" Woodall	March 22, 2022
Sister Joyce Dias	April 3, 2022
Brother Vondell Powell	April 29, 2022
Brother Willie Dee Barnes	June 19, 2022
Brother Delane Shores	June 30, 2022
Brother Neil Williams	September 14, 2022

Murfreesboro Missionary Baptist Church

Sister Anne Wilburn	March 30, 2022
Sister Judy A. Massey	September 25, 2022

New Zion Missionary Baptist Church

None

Three Springs Missionary Baptist Church

Bobby Page	October 25, 2021
Bobbie Lindsey	December 4, 2021
Jackie Garmon	December 12, 2021
Wanda White	March 19, 2022

West End Missionary Baptist Church

Brother Larry Garrett	January 16, 2022
Brother Darrell Stewart, Sr.	February 10, 2022
Sister Betty White	July 1, 2022

Humbly Submitted by,

Bro. John Wayne Draper

The report subject was spoken on by Bro. Draper.

Motion and second was made to adopt the report. Motion carried.

Motion and second was made to adjourn until 10 a.m. tomorrow (Saturday) morning. Motion carried.

## **Saturday Morning Session**

This morning's service began with Bro. Morris Watson leading the congregation in singing "Because He Lives" and "What A Day That Will Be" while accompanied on the piano by Sis. Teresa Kemp. After the singing there was shouts of joy for God's goodness.

Bro. Carver came to the podium and welcomed all in attendance and asked prayers for Bro. Kenneth Massey. Bro. Carver then read scripture from Isaiah 12:1-6. Elder Jeremy Sisk was asked to take us to the lord in prayer.

Roll Call Of Messengers

**Bethlehem:** Brian Johnson, Mike House

**Concord:** Morris Watson, Sammy Sloan

**Gladdice:** John Wayne Draper, Jesse Miller, Jimmy Christian

**Longview:** Danny Raines, Steve Anderson

**McFerrin:** Mike Cothron, Dean Harrison, Jeremy Sisk, Anthony Ferguson

**Murfreesboro:** Tom Elkins, Stuart Spicer

**New Zion:** Larry Gregory

**Three Springs:** Neal Forshee

**West End:** Represented by letter only

The following visitors were recognized: Mike Elkins, Charlie Patterson, Ben Stickle, Beau Beechboard

Bro. Sam Vance came and blessed the congregation with singing I Am Barabbas while playing his guitar.

Bro. Carver called for the report on Financing The Lord's Work. The report was read by Bro. Jesse Miller.

### **FINANCING THE LORD'S WORK**

The topic of finances within the church has been discussed many times throughout our history and has been the theme for several reports delivered at the Wiseman Baptist Association over the years. Still, financing the Lord's work is an area where we may struggle to engage our congregations and where we may not know how to address the problems we see in our churches today. In this report, we will first attempt to define the activities that make up the Lord's work, and then we will expand upon the subjects of both giving funds to finance this work and the stewardship of funds that are or will be available.

First, it is important to mention the activities that fall within the bounds of the Lord's work and that require some type of funding to be effectively carried out. When examining different areas where our finances can be used, we may find that our churches do well in supporting some works while falling short in others. There is a very practical need for finances to support the upkeep of our church facilities, and when the Lord blesses our congregations with new members, there are times when expansion of our facilities is helpful to meet the needs of the growing body. Beyond a church's operating expenses, the Bible gives clear direction that a pastor or someone spreading the gospel "is worthy of his meat" (Matt 10:10) and "should live of the gospel" (1 Cor 9:14). Mission work is also a vital activity to extend the reach of the gospel past the walls of our church buildings and is endorsed through both direct commands and numerous examples in the Holy Scriptures.

In addition to the spiritual needs of proclaiming the gospel and edifying the church body, we also see clear direction that God's work includes meeting physical needs as well. In James 2:14-15, the author describes how unprofitable it is to approach a brother or sister that lacks necessities of life with hollow encouragement and not providing "those things which are needful to the body". The early church gives us a beautiful example in Acts 4:34-35 where members sold their possessions and gave the proceeds to the apostles so that "distribution was made unto every man according as he had need." The church was not able to sustain a communal society without some needs eventually being neglected, but the heart of the matter still applies today for our churches to address



the physical needs of its members. Outside of the church body, the Bible also directs followers of Christ to share in His compassion for the needs within our communities and the world. In particular, we are to help the poor as well as widows and orphans, representing the most vulnerable groups within that time.

Next, we will address the topic of giving financially to support this great work. We should bear in mind that giving can take place through tithes and offerings to the church as well as through personal contributions to missions, members in need, community events, and philanthropic organizations. One member may never know the full extent of another member's giving, especially if we follow the teaching of Jesus to give in secret and "let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth" (Matt 6:3). Even so, many within our churches are concerned that financial support for the Lord's work is severely lacking in the current era, demonstrating spiritual immaturity amongst God's people. We have a responsibility to teach and preach Biblical truths related to finances. Financial giving is clearly commanded, and God promises to reward our liberality with His own.

"Honour the Lord with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine." – Proverbs 3:9-10

"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." – Malachi 3:10

"Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him" – 1 Cor 16:2

Along with these commands, we recognize that the most crucial aspect of giving is about the heart of an individual toward God. Jesus tells us in his teaching that people's hearts will be found where they have laid up their treasures (Matt 6:21). The apostle Paul asked the people within the Corinthian church to give from a desire in the heart instead of grudgingly or based on a feeling of necessity, "for God loveth a cheerful giver" (2 Cor 9:7). Our goal is not to guilt and shame members into giving more or to convince them that they will gain excessive material wealth by offering more money to the church. Instead, we should desire that all followers of Christ experience the freedom and peace that comes from trusting God with our finances and glorifying Him in freely and joyfully giving to His work.

Finally, we need to consider the topic of stewardship with the funds provided for the Lord's work. God's Word consistently commends good stewards who wisely use the resources provided by their master. We should beware of large sums of money accumulating within our church accounts. As God works within hearts to produce the right attitude toward giving, we all as church members then have an obligation to ensure the church's money is effectively utilized for the Lord's work. There is certainly no shortage of worthy causes within our church bodies, communities, and mission fields. Considering the importance and the urgency of the work at hand, we would do well to identify specific causes where church funds can be applied as quickly as possible.

Beyond the usage of resources that have already been offered to our churches, we also have an opportunity to set a vision for our congregations of the work that could be financed as funds are available to support. We may sometimes be guilty of setting our expectations low and still being disappointed when evaluating the willingness of church members to give money. By giving a clear understanding of how funds would be used, communicating with conviction, and leading by example, we will hopefully see the Holy Spirit stirring the hearts of people to rise to the occasion and meet the need.

In First Chronicles 29:1-18, King David addressed the congregation of Israel to prepare for the temple that would be built by his son Solomon. Early in his speech, David set the vision that the work before the people was great, and the temple would be for God rather than man. He then led by example in explaining his own contributions for the temple and asking who among the people would be willing to join him. The people responded by offering willingly, and both David and the people rejoiced because "with perfect heart they offered willingly to the Lord" (1 Chr 29:9). David praised God for his greatness and proclaimed to God that "all things come of thee, and of thine own have we given thee" (1 Chr 29:14). David acknowledged that God tests the heart and has pleasure in uprightness. The outward offering of the people was a demonstration of their inward devotion. Finally, he asked that God would prepare the hearts of the people and his son Solomon so that they would both build the temple and keep His commandments. Our prayer is that this pattern will be repeated many times over again within our churches as we finance and carry out the Lord's work today.

Respectfully submitted:

Brother Jesse Miller

Brother Sam Vance

Brother Wayne Howard

Brother Steve Anderson

The report was spoken on by Bro. Jesse Miller, Bro. Sam Vance, Bro. Steve Anderson.

Motion and second was made to adopt the report. Motion carried.

Bro. Carver called for the Missions Report. Due to Bro. Bill Green unable to attend the report was read by Bro. Morris Watson.

## **Missions**

### The Great Commandment and the Great Commission

**The Great Commandment**\_Matthew 22: 36-39: Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."

**The Great Commission**\_Matthew 28:19-20: Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: . Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

All of us know the commission Jesus left with the church. We have at least an intellectual understanding of what this means. We need to go, spread the gospel, baptize the saved and then teach them to be grow spiritually and become sound in the faith. I remind us that the great commandment in the book of Matthew was given before the great commission.

My question for all of us is what is our heart for mission work? How much are we incorporating mission efforts into all the teaching and activities of our churches? Are our mission efforts motivated only by the commission (something we must do) or is there also motivation by the commandment? I believe we need to examine our heart, our burden, our interest in missions? I am referring to the mission field all the way from the front doors of our churches to the uttermost parts of the world. Are we truly concerned about the souls of lost men and women, boys and girls? Are we teaching our church members, especially our younger ones, the importance of mission work?

Last year in our report, I encouraged each of our churches to evaluate our financial support for missions; especially considering the inflation that we are all experiencing. If your church did that, you are to be commended. Thank you! If you have not, I would encourage you to still do so. But if we are honest, this may be one of the easier ways to help spread the gospel. When we take up a special offering or send a monthly check, we may feel good about what we are doing. When we send our offerings, are we praying that God will bless them and use them for the advancement of His cause? Are we able to get a vision of the people to whom we are sending these offerings? Are we compassionate when we hear the physical needs? Most of all are we concerned about the spiritual needs? Or is it just something we do because we are Missionary Baptists? Where is our love? Our missionaries, home and foreign need our support. Often our support is motivated by the love and respect we have for the missionary. We should love and respect them. They are doing a work that many would not do. The greatest way you can support them is to share a love for the people in their respective field. If we share that love, our offerings, visits, and any other support will most likely follow.

In this global world in which we live, we may be closer to people in another town, state or country than we are to our next-door neighbor. Our neighbor is whoever. Remember the parable of the Good Samaritan? Jesus died for whosoever. Remember John 3:16. Are we concerned about the souls of people in our families, at our employment, or on our street? When did we last invite someone to church? Do you think of this as mission work also? I think so.

Paul said in 1 Corinthians 13:3- And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profited me nothing. Without the love for God and for a lost world (here and there), our mission efforts will be in vain.

Respectfully submitted,

Elder Bill Green

The report was spoken on by Bro. Morris Watson.

Motion and second was made to adopt the report. Motion carried.

Bro. Carver called for the Ambassador's Report. Due to Bro. Don Hines unable to attend, the report submitted to Bro. Hines by Bro. Ray Spears and Bro. Dean Andrews was read by Bro. Danny Raines.

### **Ambassador's Report**

Once again God has richly blessed Dean and I by allowing us to attend many revivals this year. I can honestly say that I was blessed at every revival.

Wonderful preaching of God's word was heard and enjoyed. The sounds of heavenly songs of praise filled the air with the saints of God rejoicing at these revivals. Oh, what a sight to see and hear! Praise His holy name! My heart rejoices even as I write this. Many wonderful and powerful testimonies were heard.

Many humble and sweet prayers by the saints of God were prayed and heard. We witness lost souls seeking the Lord not only on the alter but throughout the church house. Some were saved there and others stated that they were saved elsewhere.

We witness both large and small crowds in attendance. Every church that we attended made us feel very welcome and thanked us for supporting their services. Little did they know that we were the ones being blessed by them allowing us to worship with them.

Several of the smaller churches attended were mostly made up of the senior age group. I'm very concerned that when these saints are gone on to be with the Lord who will be left to keep the churches going. Please pray for these sister churches. There seemed to be less churches without pastors than there was last year. It appeared to me that there were larger crowds in attendance at the revivals this year than last year.

This year, the Lord allowed us to attend 93 different revivals. These revivals included 82 different churches and 4 tent revivals. We had the pleasure of hearing 69 different preachers in three different states (Florida, Tennessee

and Kentucky) while driving over 8200 miles. The Lord has been so good to us by allowing us the opportunity to attend and visit with our many brothers and sisters in these revivals. Please pray that we will have the opportunity to attend even more revivals in 2023.

May God bless our brothers and sisters in His churches.

Dean and Ray

Motion and second was made to adopt the report. Motion carried.

Bro. Carver called for the treasure's report. The report was read by Bro. Brian Johnson.

**Treasurer's Report**

Balance: October 22, 2021	\$7,077.57
Donation to Printing Fund	\$2,600.00
Balance: October 26, 2021	\$9,677.57
<b><u>Expenses:</u></b>	
Minutes Printing Fee: Put It In Print (Reimbursed Bro. Raines)	\$950.00
Clerk's Fee	\$500.00
DreamHost Website (3yr-renewal)	\$215.64
DreamHost Website (Domain name renewal)	\$53.97
Postage	\$0.00
Balance October 21, 2022	\$7,957.96
Donations for 2022 Minutes	\$2,700

Respectfully Submitted,

Brian Johnson, Treasurer  
Jesse Miller, Assistant Treasurer

Motion and second was made to adopt the report. Motion carried.

Motion and second was made to include any correspondence received from other associations in the minutes. Motion carried.

### **New Business**

Discussion was made on the mission effort in Belize. Several had heard of this effort and some had not. After discussion motion and second was made to give \$1,000 to the Belize Mission effort. During discussion the motion was amended to make the amount \$2,000. Motion with amendment passed. The clerk was asked to request information on the Belize effort as far as the financial needs and what the most needed area of help is. After receiving this information, the clerk will forward it to each church of the association. Motion and second was made to have each church messenger go to their respective churches and bring back next year one mission effort for discussion to assist with financial help. Motion passed.

Discussion was made on the association sponsoring an event for young people. Motion and second was made to place Bro. Brian Johnson and Bro. Anthony Ferguson on a committee to organize this effort. Motion was amended to allow a cost of \$2,000 be spent on the event. Motion with amendment passed.

The Order of Business for 2023 was read by Brother Johnny Carver. The assignments are as follows:

- **HOST CHURCH:** New Zion
- **INTRODUCTORY SERMON:** Jessie Miller
- **ALTERNATE:** Neal Forshee

- **WHAT CAN WE DO TO ENCOURAGE EVANGELISM AMONG OUR MEMBERS:**  
(Chair) Ricky Hackett, Brian Johnson, Morris Watson,
- **HOW CAN WE ENCOURAGE BIBLE STUDY AND BIBLE LIVING IN THE FAMILIES OF OUR CHURCHES:** (Chair) Jeremy Sisk, Larry Gregory, Jessie Miller
- **DOCTRINAL SERMON:** Jeremy Sisk
- **ALTERNATE:** Ricky Hackett
- **OBITUARY REPORT:** John Draper (Chair), Mike Cothorn
- **WHAT CAN WE DO TO ENCOURAGE BIBLICAL GIVING IN OUR CHURCHES:**  
(Chair) Neal Forshee, Kenneth Massey, Danny Raines
- **MISSION REPORT:** (Chair) Dean Harrison, Morris Watson
- **AMBASSADOR'S REPORT:** (Chair) Don Hines
- **TREASURER'S REPORT:** Brian Johnson

The messengers voted to adopt the order of business. Motion passed without discussion.

Bro. Carver asked for a song before the Doctrinal Sermon. Bro. Morris Watson came and led the congregation in singing Child Of The King assisted on the piano by Sis. Teresa Kemp.

Bro. Carver introduced Bro. Brian Johnson to preach the doctrinal sermon.

### **Doctrinal Sermon**

Bro. Johnson began by thanking the members of the association for the privilege and confidence placed in him to deliver the doctrinal sermon and stated this was his second attempt at a doctrinal sermon before the association. Every sermon a preacher preaches should be based on sound doctrine.



The question was asked, What has been the darkest hour of your life? Bro. Johnson shared some of the darkest hours of his personal life then stated he wanted to share these moments today, because he hoped to connect with those present, in this message that you are never alone no matter what you are going through.

Bro. Johnson then proceeded with his message reading scripture from Hebrews 12:1,2 and took for a subject, "Faith In The Darkest Hour." We all have experienced some dark hours in our life. Today, I want us to walk with Jesus during one of the darkest hours of his life. Jesus is the author and finisher of our faith. He lived a perfect life of faith and obedience to His Father from his entrance into the world and to His Ascension. Over the last couple of years, I have been meditating on the 4<sup>th</sup> cry of the Jesus Christ from the cross. We are going to take a deep dive into his cry of dereliction. He stated at the ninth hour with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" (Matt 27:46). Jesus endured the cross, despising the shame, and is now set down at the right hand of God the Father. However, we need to understand what He meant in His cry.

Article 4 of the 1833 New Hampshire Confession was read. In this message we will discuss the glorious reality of Christ's faithfulness in his darkness hour, we will consider the following **1) The Lord Jesus Christ is the Author and Finisher of our Faith 2) Experiences the Darkness of Human Depravity 3) Experiences the Darkness of God's Judgment 4)Response**

### **The Lord Jesus Christ is the Author and Perfector of our Faith (Hebrews 12:1-2)**

We are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses.

We are surrounded by a large crowd of martyrs (faithful saints till death)- Those OT saints who were faithful until death. Some even gave of their lives. We have a lot of godly examples who have lived a life of faith during their time on earth.

Let us (Saved by faith, by grace, in Christ, to God's glory, as shown in God's Word alone) lay aside every weight- a hindrance, impediment, encumbrance.

Let us lay aside the sin which do so easily beset us. We all have weaknesses. Let us run with patience the race that is set before us. We have a responsibility to run\_well and finish well\_ We have a perfect example to follow. He ran a perfect race of faith.

Looking unto Jesus the author and perfector of our faith. Looking to Jesus - fixing your eyes upon,

The author of our faith- (Ac 3:15; Heb 2:10; 12:2)

The finisher of our faith

Who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross.

Jesus was motivated by the joy of having completed, accomplished, or finished the Father's will and experiencing the resurrection, ascension, and exaltation to the right hand of God the Father.

Jesus endured the cross\_ persevere, patiently endure suffering unto death (Phil 2:8)

Jesus despised the shame\_ despise, look down on, scorn, show contempt<sup>1</sup> He experienced being outcast from the holy fellowship with His Father which was the darkest night of his soul.

Jesus is set down at the right hand of the throne of God (Heb 12:2)- The God-man is enthroned on high and is our example of the life of faith.

### **The Lord Jesus Christ Experiences the Darkness of Human Depravity**

Life is easy when you are up on a mountain...

The Lord of Glory is mocked by the battalion of soldiers in the governor's headquarters (Matt 27:27)

How many people do you know who have said, "Someone made fun of me, so I am done?" I can't go any further.

People's words hurt and can cut like a knife, but God's Word can heal.

The Lord of Glory was led to Golgotha, that is to say, a place of a skull (Matt 27:33).

The Lord of Glory was offered a drink (vinegar mixed with gall, myrrhed wine) (Matt 27:34)

When he tasted it, he would not drink it\_ He would not numb the pain of the cross. He needed to maintain a sound mind and practice self-control as he walk through the darkness.

How many people have become sidetracked by numbing the pain of their lives with sedatives? Now, I want to make sure you know I am thankful for medical doctors, but I am also aware of the misuse of medication both legal and illegal drugs.

The Lord of Glory's garments were distributed by the soldiers by rolling dice (Matt 27:35)

They crucified him.\_ Jesus submitted to the Father's will- John 10:18

The Lord of Glory was crucified between two thieves (Matt 27:38).

The Lord of Glory was mocked by travelers (pilgrims) passing by the scene (Matt 27:39).

The Lord of Glory was mocked by the religious authorities passing by the scene (Matt 27:41).

The Lord of Glory was mocked by the thieves who were hanging to the right and left of him (Matt 27:44)

From 9am to noon, Jesus experienced the darkness of human depravity\_ He faced the injustice of the Jews and the Romans. He was mocked by the Roman battalion and hit over the head with a pretend sceptre made out of a reed.

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How many people would have already given up in the race? I've had enough. Look at the darkness of this moment. He was ushered the place of the skull (a human skeleton) which symbolized death. He is the author of life, yet he enters a place of death. The soldiers gamble for his garments. He is crucified among two thieves. He is made fun of by the pilgrims passing by. He is rejected by the religious authorities. The Holy One of God is insulted and ridiculed by two thieves who have been condemned by the State.

### **The LORD Jesus Experiences the Darkness of God's Judgment (Matt 27:45-46)**

The darkest moment of the night is right before the dawn.

The Lord of Glory experienced darkness over the all the land unto the ninth hour (12-3pm)

This was a time of great sorrow and mourning. God's wrath on sin and judgment for slaying the Son Amos 8:9 And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the Lord GOD, that I will cause the sun to go down at noon, and I will darken the earth in the clear day:

Jesus became a curse for us. He entered into the judgment sinners deserve- Gal 3:13 Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangs on a tree:

The Lord of Glory cried out to God in His darkest hour (Matt 27:46)

#1 Jesus experienced extreme darkness.

#2 Jesus cried with a loud voice.

#3- Jesus, the Living Word turned to written Word for comfort and expression (Ps 22:1)

#4 Jesus said, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?

What was happening for Jesus to make such a cry?

Sacrificial love was being displayed by the Trinity- The three persons of the Godhead were giving, loving, and uniquely experiencing the price of redemption. He did not save himself, so that he could save you

Jesus Christ was the proper substitute as the God-man: A proper substitute for sinners would have to be able to represent both God and man, and Jesus Christ is the only person who has been able to meet these requirements (1 Tim 2:5).

Jesus Christ tasted death for everyman

Jesus endured the full weight of the Father's divine wrath-

Jesus Christ quenched the flames of divine justice

Jesus Christ, alone, gets the glory for my great salvation

#5- Jesus Christ endured the cross. His heart poured out like water, melted like wax in the midst of his bowels- Ps 22:14

#6 Jesus Christ cried, "It is finished." Tetelestai- complete, finished, accomplished. He nailed it not in part but the whole

#7 Jesus Christ cried with a loud voice, "Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit" Luke 23:46, 27:

How Should We Respond?

We have laid the doctrinal foundation of Christ's perfect life of faith.

1. We must keep our eyes on Jesus in the Christian race.
  - a. If you are unsaved, you need to enter the Christian race. Jesus Christ is the only means of salvation in the world.
2. We can trust that God is working all things for our good even when things are not good. God was working the greatest good known to man in the darkest hour in the history of man. Isaiah 50:10
3. We must know that nothing can ever separate us from God's love.
4. We do not have to be afraid of the dark

Faithfulness in the darkest hour reveals our Christian character and brings great pleasure and glory to God. God the Father rejoiced in the completion of His Son's race, and He is pleased in the faithfulness of his saints.

Bro. Johnson closed with saying we need to have no fear because God will be near. Have faith in darkness.

Bro. Carver endorsed the message and ask for a song. Bro. Morris Watson came and led the congregation in singing I Must Tell Jesus assisted on the piano by Sis. Teresa Kemp. While singing, the congregation came around and offered their Christian handshake to Bro. Johnson in endorsement of the good message.

Bro. Carver expressed his appreciation for all that came and represented their church. He thanked the visitors that attended this association and said he looked forward to next years session of this association. Bro. Carver expressed thanks to Gladdice Church for the great hospitality the past two days.

Motion and second was made to adjourn to meet with New Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Bloomington Springs Tn on Friday after the third Sunday in October in the year of our Lord 2023, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Motion carried.

Bro. Carver called on Bro. Ben Stickle to dismiss with prayer.

## Correspondence

Bethel Missionary Baptist Association  
c/o Clerk Chris Harper  
2030 Gosling Ct  
Franklin, IN 46131

To the Wiseman Baptist Association:

Greetings from the churches in the Bethel Missionary Baptist Association. We pray that the Lord is continuing to bless your labors with the saving of many lost souls and the equipping of the saints for the glorious work of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

The 64<sup>th</sup> Annual meeting of the Bethel Missionary Baptist Association was hosted by Faith Missionary Baptist Church in Franklin, IN. Fifteen churches were represented, reporting 20 baptized in the past year with a total membership of 1,297. We were blessed with spiritual services and it was truly a wonderful time of fellowship.

We're always thankful to receive visitors, and cordially invite all to attend our 2023 meeting to be held at Faith Missionary Baptist Church at 34901 Townhall St, Harrison Township, MI. The 65<sup>th</sup> annual session will take place September 15 and 16, 2023, beginning each day at 10:00 am. Elder Jeremy Jenkins from Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church will preach the Introductory sermon. Elder Melvin Jones from Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church will preach the Memorial sermon. Elder Andrew Horton from Southside Missionary Baptist Church will preach the Doctrinal sermon on Saturday.

May God richly bless your Association meeting and strengthen all churches represented.

The Churches of the Bethel Missionary Baptist Association  
Moderator Elder Jeff Moran  
Clerk Brother Chris Harper

## **CHURCH DIRECTORY**

### **BETHLEHEM MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH**

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### **LONGVIEW MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH**

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### **West End**

None

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### **BETHLEHEM**

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Draper Graham 1291 Salt Lick Creek Pleasant Shade, TN 37145

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Mack Sircy 280 Saddle Lane Hartsville, TN 37074

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## **LONGVIEW**

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## **NEW ZION**

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## **THREE SPRINGS**

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Jerry Thomas 3010 Hunting Creek Drive Bowling Green, KY 42104

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Terry Thornton 3164 Compass Bowling Green, KY 42101

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**HISTORICAL TABLE**

<b><u>Year</u></b>	<b><u>Location</u></b>	<b><u>Moderator</u></b>	<b><u>Clerk</u></b>	<b><u>Treasurer</u></b>	<b><u>Introductory</u></b>
1891	Cedar Bluff	W.M.S. Wilks	B.R. Hawkins	B.R. Hawkins	
1892	Meadorville	W.M.S. Wilks	B.R. Hawkins	J.S. Pardue	W.M.S Wilks
1893	Dixon Creek	W.M.S. Wilks	B.R. Hawkins	J.S. Pardue	J.S. Pardue
1894	Lafayette	W.M.S. Wilks	J.S. Pardue	J.S. Pardue	W.M.S Wilks
1895	Hartsville	W.M.S. Wilks	D.S. Reed	D.S. Reed	J.S. Pardue
	Cedar Bluff	W.M.S. Wilks	D.S. Reed	D.S. Reed	J.A. Stone
1897	Independence	M.C. Fitzpatrick	D.S. Reed	D.S. Reed	J.F. Lambert
1898	Dixon Creek	W.M.S. Wilks	D.S. Reed	D.S. Reed	W.M.S. Wilks

1899	Friendship	W.M.S. Wilks	D.S. Reed	J.S. Pardue	J.L. Hawkins	
1900	Siloam	J.F. Lambert	D.S. Reed	W.M. Gammon	J.W. McQueen	
1901	Rocky Mound	M.C. Fitzpatrick	D.S. Reed	W.M. Gammon	J.J. Dyer	
1902	Shady Grove	M.C. Fitzpatrick	D.S. Reed	W.M. Gammon	J.H. Grime	
1903	New Harmony	W.M.S. Wilks	D.S. Reed	W.M. Gammon	W.M.S Wilks	
1904	New Hopewell	W.M.S. Wilks	D.S. Reed	J.M. Wilks	J.W. McQueen	
1905	Rock Bridge	W.M.S. Wilks	D.S. Reed	J.M. Wilks	J.W. McQueen	
1906	Corum Hill	W.M.S. Wilks	C.D. High	J.M. Wilks	J.F. Lambert	<b><u>Doctrinal</u></b>
1907	Long Creek	C.M. Simmons	D.S. Reed	Gus Fuqua	W.M.S. Wilks	W.M.S Wilks
1908	Hillsdale	W.M.S. Wilks	D.S. Reed	T.A. Bass	C.B. Massey	A.D. Robinson
1909	Hartsville	C.N. Simmons	D.S. Reed	Paul Johnson	E.E. Folk	J.H. Grime
1910	Cedar Bluff	J.T. Oakley	D.S. Reed	J.W. Lewis	J.T. Oakley	J.T. Oakley
1911	Meadorville	J.T. Oakley	D.S. Reed	J.W. Lewis	C.B. Massey	C.B. Massey
1912	Friendship	A.J. Sloan	D.S. Reed	J.W. Lewis	J.W. Gillon	J.H. Grime
1913	Bledsoe Creek	J.T. Oakley	D.S. Reed	J.W. Lewis	A.J. Sloan	A.J. Sloan
1914	Siloam	P.F. Burnley	D.S. Reed	J.W. Lewis	J.T. Oakley	J.T. Oakley

1915	Pleasant Hill	W.K. Johnson	D.S. Reed	J.W. Lewis	W.J. Sumnar	A.J. Sloan
1916	Spring Creek	A.J. Sloan	T.C. Harrison	J.D. Cook	C.B. Massey	J.Y. Freeman
1917	Dixon Creek	A.J. Sloan	T.C. Harrison	J.D. Cook	T.F. Moore	T.F. Moore
1918	New Harmony	A.J. Sloan	T.C. Harrison	J.D. Cook	T.F. Moore	C.B. Massey
1919	Fairview	A.J. Sloan	T.C. Harrison	J.D. Cook	P.S. Dyer	A.J. Sloan
1920	Pleasant Grove	A.J. Sloan	T.C. Harrison	J.D. Cook	W.F. Jenkins	A.J. Sloan
1921	New Zion	A.J. Sloan	T.C. Harrison	J.D. Cook	P.S. Dyer	A.J. Sloan
1922	Rock Bridge	A.J. Sloan	T.C. Harrison	J.D. Cook	R.O. Sanders	A.J. Sloan
1923	Cedar Bluff	R.Y. Hawkins	A.J. Sloan	J.D. Cook	N.C. Fuqua	James Carter
1924	Long Creek	R.O. Sanders	A.J. Sloan	J.D. Cook	I.N. Sloan	Calvin Gregory
1925	Mt. Zion	L.A. Stewart	A.J. Sloan	J.D. Cook	R.O. Sanders	C.B. Massey
1926	Old Hopewell	L.A. Stewart	A.J. Sloan	J.D. Cook	L.A. Stewart	Calvin Gregory
1927	Union	L.A. Stewart	A.J. Sloan	J.D. Cook	A.W. Keen	Calvin Gregory
1928	Brattontown	L.A. Stewart	A.J. Sloan	T.C. Harrison	R.O. Sanders	Calvin Gregory
1929	Meadorville	L.A. Stewart	A.J. Sloan	T.C. Harrison	W.T. Taylor	N.C. Fuqua
1930	Haysville	L.A. Stewart	A.J. Sloan	T.C. Harrison	F.W. Lambert	A.J. Sloan

1931	Capitol Hill	L.A. Stewart	A.J. Sloan	T.C. Harrison	A.J. Sloan	C.B. Massey
1932	Siloam	N.C. Fuqua	A.J. Sloan	T.C. Harrison	R. Thompson	A.J. Sloan
1933	Rocky Mound	N.C. Fuqua	A.J. Sloan	T.C. Harrison	C.B. Massey	A.J. Sloan
1934	Pleasant Hill	N.C. Fuqua	A.J. Sloan	T.C. Harrison	R.O. Sanders	A.J. Sloan
1935	Goodwill	N.C. Fuqua	A.J. Sloan	T.C. Harrison	F.W. Lambert	A.J. Sloan
1936	Spring Creek	N.C. Fuqua	A.J. Sloan	T.C. Harrison	W.T. Taylor	A.J. Sloan
1937	New Harmony	N.C. Fuqua	A.J. Sloan	T.C. Harrison	R.O. Sanders	A.J. Sloan
1938	New Bethel	N.C. Fuqua	A.J. Sloan	T.C. Harrison	F.W. Lambert	A.J. Sloan
1939	Union	N.C. Fuqua	A.J. Sloan	T.C. Harrison	R.O. Sanders	A.J. Sloan
1940	Red Hill	N.C. Fuqua	A.J. Sloan	T.C. Harrison	F.W. Lambert	A.J. Sloan
1941	Lafayette	N.C. Fuqua	A.J. Sloan	T.C. Harrison	R.O. Sanders	A.J. Sloan
1942	Siloam	N.C. Fuqua	A.J. Sloan	T.C. Harrison	F.W. Lambert	A.J. Sloan
1943	Athens	N.C. Fuqua	A.J. Sloan	T.C. Harrison	R.O. Sanders	A.J. Sloan
1944	Union Hill	N.C. Fuqua	A.J. Sloan	T.C. Harrison	F.W. Lambert	A.J. Sloan
1945	Brattontown	N.C. Fuqua	F.W. Lambert	T.C. Harrison	J.H. Smith	A.J. Sloan
1946	Drakes Creek	N.C. Fuqua	F.W. Lambert	T.C. Harrison	F.W. Lambert	A.J. Sloan

1947	Long Creek	N.C. Fuqua	F.W. Lambert	T.C. Harrison	F.L. Ray	A.J. Sloan
1948	Old Union	N.C. Fuqua	F.W. Lambert	T.C. Harrison	F.L. Ray	A.J. Sloan
1949	Macedonia	F.L. Ray	F.W. Lambert	H.H. Harrison	F.L. Ray	W.T Russell
1950	Old Hopewell	F.L. Ray	F.W. Lambert	H.H. Harrison	F.L. Ray	W.T Russell
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	
1967	Fairview	F.L. Ray	W.T. Russell	A.G. Gregory	H.D. Linville	W.T. Russell	
1968	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	
1976	Lafayette	F.L. Ray	H.C. Vanderpool	A.G. Gregory	H.D. Linville	H.G. Taylor	<b><u>Memorial</u></b>
1977	Buffalo Springs	F.L. Ray	H.C. Vanderpool	A.G. Gregory	J.W. Briley	James Porter	F.L. Ray

1978	McFerrin	F.L. Ray	H.C. Vanderpool	A.G. Gregory	Kenneth Woodall	H.G. Taylor	C.L. Russell
1979	Harmony	H.G. Taylor	H.C. Vanderpool	A.G. Gregory	Hilman Duncan	J.W. Briley	D.W. Story
1980	New Bethel	H.G. Taylor	H.C. Vanderpool	A.G. Gregory	Everett Scruggs	James Porter	Bobby Gann
1981	Faith (TN)	H.G. Taylor	H.C. Vanderpool	A.G. Gregory	Guthrie Thompson	J.W. Briley	Edgar Copeland
1982	Longview	H.G. Taylor	H.C. Vanderpool	A.G. Gregory	Bobby Pitt	H.D. Linville	C.L. Russell
1983	Salem	H.G. Taylor	H.C. Vanderpool	A.G. Gregory	Charles Patterson	H.C. Vanderpool	W.E. Massey
1984	Cedar Grove	H.G. Taylor	H.C. Vanderpool	A.G. Gregory	Ray Sutton	A.G. Gregory	James Porter
1985	Old Hopewell	H.G. Taylor	H.C. Vanderpool	A.G. Gregory	Gary Duncan	H.D. Linville	James Shoulders
1986	Gateway	H.G. Taylor	H.C. Vanderpool	A.G. Gregory	Ottis Jones	C.L. Russell	W.E. Massey
1987	West End	H.G. Taylor	H.C. Vanderpool	A.G. Gregory	Terry Lyles	James Porter	Henry Smith
1988	Goodwill	H.G. Taylor	H.C. Vanderpool	A.G. Gregory	Jeff Brown	Hilman Duncan	Gary Duncan
1989	New Bethel	H.D. Linville	H.C. Vanderpool	A.G. Gregory	Lonnie Meador	J.W. Briley	Johnny Meador
1990	McFerrin	H.D. Linville	Ottis Jones	A.G. Gregory	Charles Patterson	W.T. Russell	Ottis Jones
1991	New Bethel	Jerry Shrum	Kenneth Massey	Bobby Sutton	Kenneth Massey	Tom Armstrong	Bobby Sutton
1992	Lafayette	Jerry Shrum	Don Curtis	Bobby Sutton	Jimmy Roberts	James Shoulders	Johnny Carver
1993	Parkwood	Jerry Shrum	Don Curtis	Bobby Sutton	Larry Gregory	Kenneth Massey	Eugene Brown

1994	New Bethel	Jerry Shrum	Don Curtis	Bobby Sutton	Paul Patterson	Don Curtis	William Overton
1995	Longview	Jerry Shrum	Kenneth Massey	Bobby Sutton	Deric McClard	Jimmy Roberts	Johnny Carver
1996	McFerrin	Larry Gregory	Tom Armstrong	Bobby Sutton	Benny Snoddy	Johnny Carver	Kenneth Massey
1997	Harvest	Kenneth Massey	Tom Armstrong	Bobby Sutton	Paul Patterson	William Overton	
1998	Three Springs	Kenneth Massey	Tom Armstrong	Bobby Sutton	Johnny Carver	Eugene Brown	
1999	New Zion	Kenneth Massey	Tom Armstrong	Bobby Sutton	Deric McClard	William Overton	
2000	Longview	Kenneth Massey	Larry Gregory	Bobby Sutton	Paul Patterson	Johnny Carver	<b><u>Fellowship</u></b>
2001	McFerrin	Kenneth Massey	Larry Gregory	Bobby Sutton	Kevin Perdue	Deric McClard	Darren Bonee'
2002	Bethlehem	Kenneth Massey	Deric McClard	Bobby Sutton	Jeremy Wilson	Bobby Sutton	Lynn Stapleton
2003	Mt. Juliet	Kenneth Massey	Deric McClard	Bobby Sutton	Trey Crews	Henry Smith	Scott Carter
2004	New Life	Kenneth Massey	Deric McClard	James Hill	Johnny Carver	Kenneth Massey	Lynn Stapleton
2005	Murfreesboro	Kenneth Massey	Deric McClard	James Hill	Jeremy Wilson	Deric McClard	Charles Patterson
2006	Gladdice	Kenneth Massey	Deric McClard	James Hill	Brian Johnson	Paul Patterson	Jackie Wilburn
2007	Three Springs	Kenneth Massey	Deric McClard	James Hill	Monty Shoulders	Charles Reece	Randy Thompson
2008	New Zion	Kenneth Massey	Brian Johnson	Robby Cornwell	Jeremy Wilson	Ricky Oliver	Tim Binion
2009	McFerrin	Kenneth Massey	David Woodard	Robby Cornwell	Larry Gregory	Mark Carver	Jerry Boze



2010	Longview	Kenneth Massey	David Woodard	Robby Cornwell	David Woodard	Charles Patterson	Wesley Woods
2011	Murfreesboro	Kenneth Massey	David Woodard	Robby Cornwell	Phillip Church	Johnny Carver	C.A. Gentry
2012	Mt. Juliet	Kenneth Massey	Jeremy Wilson	Robby Cornwell	Jeremy Wilson	Kenneth Massey	Danny Raines
2013	Gladdice	Kenneth Massey	Jeremy Wilson	Robby Cornwell	Johnny Carver	Larry Gregory	Lynn Stapleton
2014	Three Springs	Kenneth Massey	Jeremy Wilson	Robby Cornwell	Danny Raines	Morris Watson	Danny Chandler
2015	New Zion	Kenneth Massey	Jeremy Wilson	Robby Cornwell	Brian Johnson	David Woodard	Dennis Lunsford
2016	McFerrin	Kenneth Massey	Charles Patterson	Robby Cornwell	Charles Patterson	Kenneth Massey	Mike Elkins
2017	Concord	Kenneth Massey	Charles Patterson	Robby Cornwell	Anthony Ferguson	Morris Watson	Billy Moran
2018	Bethlehem	Kenneth Massey	Charles Patterson	Danny Raines	Aaron Binion	Danny Raines	Lynn Stapleton
2019	Three Springs	Kenneth Massey	Charles Patterson	Brian Johnson	Jesse Miller	Brian Johnson	Nathan Chandler
2020	Anderson Building	Kenneth Massey	Danny Raines	Brian Johnson	Johnny Carver	Kenneth Massey	Omitted
2021	Murfreesboro	Kenneth Massey	Danny Raines	Brian Johnson	Larry Gregory	Morris Watson	Omitted
2022	Gladdice	Kenneth Massey	Danny Raines	Brian Johnson	Danny Raines	Brian Johnson	Omitted

**STATISTICAL TABLES**

	Year Organized	Received Baptism	Received Letter	Restored	Received Statement	Dismissed Letter	Dismissed Exclusion	Death	Rescinded	Total Members
Bethlehem	1962	2	0	0	0	7	0	3	0	54
Concord	1874	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	110
Gladdice	1894	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	58
Longview	1960	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	191
McFerrin	1948	9	12	0	2	2	3	12	0	800
Murfreesboro	1984	1	4	0	0	0	0	2	0	228
New Zion	1981	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	55
Three Springs	1995	4	2	0	0	2	0	4	0	422
West End	1945	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	0	223
<b>Totals</b>		<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2141</b>

## SUNDAY SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

	Year Organized	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Number of Teachers
Bethlehem	1962	15	10	21	22	20	28	28	28	40	40	30	8
Concord	1874	n/a	51	50	50	46	46	46	56	56	20	46	6
Gladdice	1894	19	22	22	16	14	16	22	20	20	18	18	3
Longview	1960	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	35	35	4
McFerrin	1948	296	312	323	323	323	164	364	364	364	364	364	14
Murfreesboro	1984	50	50	50	65	70	62	133	100	148	75	75	15
New Zion	1981	22	24	24	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	30	3
Three Springs	1995	140	135	140	103	64	52	48	50	42	25	25	3
West End											30	35	12
<b>Totals</b>		<b>648</b>	<b>689</b>	<b>722</b>	<b>705</b>	<b>653</b>	<b>678</b>	<b>726</b>	<b>726</b>	<b>755</b>	<b>632</b>	<b>658</b>	<b>68</b>

## NOTES