

## 2024 ORDER OF SERVICE

### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2024

- 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 2024 OFFICERS
- RECOGNITION OF VISITORS
- SELECTION OF 2024 FELLOWSHIP SERMON
- REPORT: STATE OF RELIGION
- BREAK FOR LUNCH
- SPECIAL SINGING
- FELLOWSHIP SERMON
- REPORT: CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
- OBITUARY REPORT

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2024

ROLL CALL OF MESSENGERS

- RECOGNITION OF VISITORS
- SPECIAL SINGING
- REPORT: FINANCING THE LORD'S WORK
- 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 Thirty Second Annual Session**  
**October 20-21, 2023**  
**New Zion Missionary Baptist Church**  
**5645 Martin Creek Rd Bloomington Springs Tn 38545**

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The next session will convene with Longview Missionary Baptist Church.  
798 Spencer Avenue Gallatin, Tn 37066  
October 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>st</sup> of 2024, 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 20th day of October of 2023, we met at 10:00 AM for the One Hundred Thirty Second Annual session of the Wiseman Baptist Association at New Zion Missionary Baptist Church Bloomington Springs, Tn. Services began with Brother Don Hines leading the congregation in singing "I Want To Be Ready To Meet Him" accompanied by Sister Teresa Kemp on the piano. New Zion Pastor, Bro. Bo Beechboard came to the podium and welcomed all in attendance and read scripture from Philipians 2:6-8.

Moderator Elder Kenneth Massey came to the podium and welcomed all messengers and visitors and read Psalm 89:28. After the scripture reading Bro Massey mentioned Bro. WT Russell preaching one of the greatest message he had heard from this scripture. Bro. Massey then called on Bro. Gary Duncan to take us to the Lord in prayer.

After prayer Bro. Don Hines lead the congregation in singing Blessed Assurance accompanied by Sis. Teresa Kemp on the piano.

Bro. Massey introduced Elder Jesse Miller whom the Association had chosen to preach the introductory sermon.

### **Introductory Sermon**

Bro. Miller thanked the Association for trusting him with the responsibility of preaching before the association. Bro. Miller said he did not feel worthy. He stated he had been the Pastor Gladdice for five years and this would be the second time he had preached before the Association. Bro. Miller asked people to pray for him and then introduced his message subject as Draw Near To God.

## **Introduction**

*James 4:8 - Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.*

What is God like, and what happens when we draw near?

*Ezekiel 1:27-28 - And I saw as the colour of amber, as the appearance of fire round about within it, from the appearance of his loins even upward, and from the appearance of his loins even downward, I saw as it were the appearance of fire, and it had brightness round about. 28 As the appearance of the bow that is in the cloud in the day of rain, so was the appearance of the brightness round about. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD. And when I saw it, I fell upon my face, and I heard a voice of one that spake.*

Vision of God: Brightness (Hebrew shining) signifies light; fire

## **Light**

*John 8:12 - Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.*

*Revelation 21:23 - And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.*

*1 John 1:5 - This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.*

1) Light exposes sin; when we draw near to God, our roots of rebellion, pride, and lust will become more apparent

*John 3:19-21 - And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. 20 For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd. 21 But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.*

2) Light illuminates truth; when we draw near to God, we will be enlightened with greater truth to see things as they really are

*2 Corinthians 4:6 - For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.*

3) Light can leave a lasting impression; When we draw near to God, we will look different: different from what we were before, and different from others in the world

Exodus 34:29-35 - *And it came to pass, when Moses came down from mount Sinai with the two tables of testimony in Moses' hand, when he came down from the mount, that Moses wist not that the skin of his face shone while he talked with him. 30 And when Aaron and all the children of Israel saw Moses, behold, the skin of his face shone; and they were afraid to come nigh him. 31 And Moses called unto them; and Aaron and all the rulers of the congregation returned unto him: and Moses talked with them. 32 And afterward all the children of Israel came nigh: and he gave them in commandment all that the LORD had spoken with him in mount Sinai. 33 And till Moses had done speaking with them, he put a vail on his face. 34 But when Moses went in before the LORD to speak with him, he took the vail off, until he came out. And he came out, and spake unto the children of Israel that which he was commanded. 35 And the children of Israel saw the face of Moses, that the skin of Moses' face shone: and Moses put the vail upon his face again, until he went in to speak with him.*

## **Fire**

Leviticus 9:23-24 - *And Moses and Aaron went into the tabernacle of the congregation, and came out, and blessed the people: and the glory of the LORD appeared unto all the people. 24 And there came a fire out from before the LORD, and consumed upon the altar the burnt offering and the fat: which when all the people saw, they shouted, and fell on their faces.*

Moses & Aaron; also Elijah, Daniel & Solomon saw fire from God

Burning bush, pillar of fire, cloven tongues like as of fire

1) Fire consumes; when we draw near to God, we will have Godly fear of His holiness and righteous judgment

Hebrews 12:29 - *For our God is a consuming fire.*

2) Fire reveals the inner substance; when we draw near to God, our work for the kingdom will remain while other parts of our lives will be lost

1 Corinthians 3:11-15 - *For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12 Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; 13 Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. 14 If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a*

*reward. 15 If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.*

- 3) Fire purifies; when we draw near to God, our sinful nature will be burned away  
*Malachi 3:1-3 - Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts. 2 But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap: 3 And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness.*

### **Conclusion**

We are called on to draw near to God, and we are promised that He will in turn draw near to us. Make no mistake though. If we draw near, we will be changed. We will not have a choice. One cannot approach the one true God, Creator of the universe, holy and righteous and glorious, and leave the encounter the same as before. Are we ready to draw near?

Bro. Massey expressed his appreciation for the message and then asked for a song while the congregation comes around to offer their Christian handshake to Bro. Miller in appreciation for the message. Bro. Don Hines came and led the congregation in singing “Send The Light” accompanied on the piano by Sis. Teresa Kemp.

The Rules of Decorum was read by Bro. Massey.

### **PERMANENT ORGANIZATION**

Brother Massey 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, Lynn Draper

**Longview:** Danny Raines, Steve Anderson, Randy Norman

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

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

**New Zion:** Larry Gregory

**Three Springs:** Neal Forshee, Wayne Howard

**West End:** Don Hines, Rocky Jones

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

### **PETITIONARY LETTERS**

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

### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2023**

The messengers elected by acclamation to serve the association for the 2023 session are as follows:

- **Moderator :** Elder Kenneth Massey
- **Assistant Moderator :** Elder Johnny Carver
- **Clerk :** Elder Danny Raines
- **Assistant Clerk :** Brother Tom Elkins

- **Treasurer:** Elder Brian Johnson
- **Assistant Treasurer:** Elder Jesse Miller

## **RECOGNITION OF VISITORS**

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

Parkway - Bro. Mike Elkins (Mulberry Gap Association)  
South Carthage – Bro. Beau Beechboard  
Grace – Bro. Gary Duncan

The messengers agreed to omit the Fellowship sermon.

Bro. Massey called for the report on “What Can We Do To Encourage Evangelism Among Our Members?”  
Brother Ricky Hackett read the report.

### **What Can We Do To Encourage Evangelism Among Our Members**

This is a subject that I think that we, as pastors, often try to do in our churches. However, it seems that we have had little success. The spreading of the gospel is so important to the world, but it seems that most of our church members seem to think that it is up to the preacher & not to them.

We must examine the problem before we can fix it. So, let us look at some of the excuses.

We live in a day when time is a large deterrent for everything. Everyone says, “I don't have time.” A lot of people want to be out of church as early as possible.



A lot of people look at church as being like a prison sentence. They must go and spend their time there for whatever purpose. But once that time is up then they can do whatever they want. So, they seem to think if they go in, sit down, be quiet we will get out sooner and we will have done our part.

Time seems to be a major problem in our lives today. We all say, "I just don't have time." But the early church had the same 24/7, just like we do. It is a matter of how we spend our time. Today we have work, friends, children's activities, sports, hobbies & loved ones that take up our time. Leaving little time for God & His work. The devil has fooled us into thinking that what we want is more important than the Souls of Men or what God wants.

Another problem is that most people feel they do not want to be seen in their church. Many people talk about not wanting to pray or sing in public. Others say I am too shy so I cannot be seen or heard. Why do we desire to be invisible in the work for God?

Most people feel that they are inadequate. Some talk about not wanting to stand for God. Many will say I'm just afraid to speak in public. Some will even think I'm too young, or maybe too old. Most think someone else should but not me and that preacher will be enough for people to be saved. But will those people have a chance to hear the truth? Many of our people are not inviting others to church these days. I know that 99% of the people that we asked to come to church these days lie when they say, "I will come sometime" With no intention of attending. But what about that one that will do what he says? We will never know if we do not ask.

I often think of people as looking for that one great opportunity. They say if I had just known about it at the right time, I could have made millions. The greatest opportunity is leading people to the Lord. Our people should be reminded of the great rewards of serving God. **But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven...** Mt 6:20

I think we also have a problem of people thinking they will get saved anyway regardless of what anyone does. This past year I attended a funeral for a 90-year-old man. He went to a Missionary Baptist Church most of his life. Yet when I would ask him about a time of salvation He would say "not that I know of." His wife told me at his coffin, "I don't know if he was saved or not. He would never tell me anything."

Maybe the **best way to fix the problem would be to promote love among the church members.** The Lord asked Peter "Do you love me? If the Lord asked us and our churches this question today, how would we answer? Would we want to answer with a hearty "Yes Lord"? Or would we want to hide our face. I think we all agree it takes love to preach. It takes love to witness and ask people about their souls. It takes love to praise God. It takes love to do anything in church the right way!

Let us look at our question of the day. What can we do to encourage evangelism among our members.

TO ENCOURAGE, to give courage to; to give or increase confidence of success; to inspire with courage, spirit, or strength of mind. Deut. 3:28 [But charge Joshua and encourage him...](#) The best way that we can encourage people is to show them that they can have success also.

When I was young, men and women talked about God in church and in public places. This was an example to us to show that we could do the same things. We saw and heard of those people having enough concern about people to ask them about their souls both in church and in public. I remember hearing a friend of mine talk about his grandfather wanting to stop to talk to a man about his soul and how it made a great impression upon him. I think our generation may have dropped the ball in setting an example for Our young people.

I know we see what seems to be very little success these days. So maybe we need to show them how they can have some success just to encourage them. Many times, people get one yes, and that is enough for them for that day. If we can get our church members to set a goal of inviting people to church one coming become a success in their minds. If we can get our people to make a game in their minds as they look for someone to come. Remember if we ask 99 and 1 comes & is saved that is the real success that we could all enjoy. We should always remember that One Little Lost Lamb that Jesus spoke about.

EVANGELISM, (Oxford)The spreading of Christian gospel by public preaching or personal witness.

The Gospel is the good news. The message concerning Christ, the Kingdom of God, and Salvation. Php. 1:27 [Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: ...](#)

I spoke earlier about people feeling inadequate. This should make us want to rely on the Lord more. However, many people use it as an excuse. Many think I don't know how to tell somebody about Jesus. Just tell them what you do know. You are saved, aren't you? Many will say, "I can't put that into words." Ask God for help. Many will say, "I don't know the Bible." So, study. Sometimes the best thing to do is just say "Come." I understand the idea of wanting someone else to do it but if not you, then Who? It is a natural thing to want our neighbor to do it instead of us, but God has a reason for Us doing the work.

It is my fear that the greatest thing missing is Love. We seemingly do not care that people will die and go to hell. We don't love someone enough to say, "God loves You and will save You." We don't seem to care if people try the wrong way to get to heaven instead of what we know is right. Some People don't see the importance of our churches and think that one way is as good as the other.

We should remind them that they will die & go to Hell. We should remind them that telling people that God loves can & will show them the right way. Let's remind them that there is just one way to Heaven and our church is the only true Church that will tell them and their children the right way. All of this should be done with great love.

There should be a fear factor in us also. Most people think I'm saved, why should I worry about others? We need to remind people that God will hold them accountable also. There is a judgment to come.

In our last revival, I saw as Brother James Keen preached about Jesus and how it began to work in our people. When the invitation was given for the sinners to come & pray and there was no movement, I saw the love of some that went and asked the sinners a simple question. I saw when the sinners did move the love as the people were willing to fall in the floor & pray around those that were seeking. I saw some of those that had just gotten saved kneel beside their friends as they were still praying. I saw the love of the people as they rejoiced at newborn souls. I saw 6 souls saved and 7 joining the church. That is true love. That is true evangelism that we need to see in our churches today.

One last question for those that will hear & read this report. Where does your love rate with God? I'm going to put it on a scale of 1 to 10. Where is your love?

The subject was spoken on by Bro. Hackett, Bro. Brian Johnson, Bro. Morris Watson, Bro. Mike Elkins, Bro. Kenneth Massey, Bro. Dean Andrews. Motion and second was made to adopt the report. Motion Passed.

Motion and second was made to adjourn until 12:30 for lunch. Motion passed. Bro. Massey called on Bro. Neal Forshee to pray the benediction and offer thanks for the food.

After a bountiful lunch Bro. Don Hines lead the congregation in singing "Bringing In The Sheaves" while accompanied on the piano by Sis. Teresa Kemp. A special song was sang by Bro. Don Hines, "When We March Through."

Bro. Massey came to the podium and read scripture from John 14:1-6. Appreciation was expressed for the wonderful meal and then Bro. Massey called on Bro. Mike Elkins to offer prayer for this service.

Bro. Massey then called for the report on "How Can We Encourage Bible Study and Bible Living In The Families Of Our Churches." The report was read by Bro. Jeremy Sisk.

## How Can We Encourage Bible Study And Bible Living In The Families Of Our Churches?

Bible study and Bible living is certainly a challenge for many families in our churches today. There is no question that the influences of sin and Satan have had negative effects on many, if not all, churches. The recent pandemic has further exacerbated the challenges of churches to navigate the sinful environment of our current world as we have seen many fall away and not return to their home churches *II Th 2:3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;*

To solve any problem, we must first attempt to evaluate and identify the issues facing God's people today. This committee submits the following challenges for families that are members of the Lord's church:

- **Internet Access** – the internet can be an amazing and useful tool to spread the gospel, find scriptural resources, and stream our services to the ends of the earth; we also know that this access provides many opportunities for young or weak Christians to be negatively influenced with false doctrine, unlimited pornography, false answers to many of life's questions, and general debauchery. If we fail to be able to answer difficult questions, future generations will turn to the most readily available source for answers, the World Wide Web. Most children today, certainly not all, spend far more time playing games or surfing the web than studying the Bible.
- **Social Media** – social media is another tool that enables families to stay connected and share information, affords churches a medium to stream and share their services, and Christians a platform to share their beliefs with many that they may not otherwise be able to impact. However, we find that the sinister intent of many Social Media platforms is to allow users, often aimed at children, unbridled access to filth, false information, memes, and videos that will potentially permanently damage the spiritual and psychological development of the hearts and minds of our children and young adults. Some of these platforms have ways for the user to hide the applications from any unauthorized users.
- **Social decline and moral decay** – we do not have to look far or very diligently to see the decline of morals and ethics in our world. There seems to be a disdain for Godliness, goodness, and kindness that heretofore we have never witnessed in our lives. Additionally, we are witnessing an assault on the spiritual, moral, and psychological development of our children. We see books in public libraries that detail and illustrate explicit sexual acts. These books celebrate and promote sexual relationships that the Bible specifically prohibits and warns against. We find that the lack of opposition of Christians to these books and other media, has been a silent support, albeit unintentional and unintended (*Pro 28:4 They that forsake the law praise the wicked: but such as keep the law contend with them.*). Homosexuality and every form of sexual perversion is being promoted and encouraged on every front. It seems that the agenda of Satan is to destroy the normal sexual

relationships that God intended, thereby, breaking down the family unit that God designed (*Lev 18:22 Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination*).

- **Liberal Christianity** – if God’s people fail to stand upon God’s truths, we can only expect to see the removal of God’s blessings in our lives and churches. Ministers of the Gospel of Jesus Christ must stand firmly upon the Word of God. We must not waver. We cannot fear the loss or offence of church members more than we fear offending our Heavenly Father. We must teach our church members the truths of the Word and not give into the perversion of the word that we see so commonly in our society. We must call sin what it is - sin; and teach our sheep the truth and reprove the works of sin (*Eph 5:11-12 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret*).
- **Busy Lives and families** – many families now have two working parents in the home. We see that often our children and grandchildren are given to daycare facilities as both parents struggle to make ends meet. Some are blessed not to have this need, but many are not. Our children are involved in sporting programs and activities that further pull them away from the house of God. Just a few years ago there were no practices or games on Wednesday nights or Sunday mornings, but now these days that were traditionally reserved for worship have become as any other day of the week. Parents frequently take their children to their sporting events rather than the Church, many on a regular or weekly basis. This teaches the child the priorities of the parents and the children will likely follow suit. These busy lives detract from our commitment to God. Many families rush all week to make sure the children attend school and sporting events and then claim to be “too tired” and want to “sleep in” on Sunday morning. One member of McFerrin stated, “The busier you get, God gets moved to the back burner”. We believe this to be true for all of us.

The list of problems and difficulties facing our families in this modern world is far too lengthy to fully discuss in a single setting and the above list is far from exhaustive, but these are some of the difficulties discussed by this committee.

God’s people do not have to live away from Him. God continues to desire a growing, thriving, and loving relationship with his children. God wants us to rely upon Him and not our own resources, strengths, or abilities. *Mat 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.* We can find modern solutions to the issues facing the Church today. During our recent committee discussion, we shared possible solutions that our churches have enacted to encourage family participation during our services as follows:

- Preparing meals on Wednesday nights to allow families to attend and have a meal before Bible study without the parents having to rush to get the family fed.
- Allowing members to suggest topics of study for services.

- Bible trivia nights
- Men's and women's prayer breakfasts
- Allowing younger members to lead devotionals and encourage a dialogue with others.
- Suggesting accountability partners among members.

Some of these programs and ideas tend to be more successful than others, but all are attempts to encourage families to worship and study together in God's house and at home.

Ultimately, the Church provides only a few hours of Bible study in the week. If a church is fortunate to have three services per week one might expect to have three to five hours of Bible study per week. This is not enough study to instill the principles of Bible living needed to conform our lives to God's ways. The church simply does not meet frequently enough to provide the time needed to grow in spirit.

Much of the responsibility of Bible study and Bible living falls to the parents in the home. Parents must live a life that is the proper example for their children. As has already been established, the typical family is exposed to far more of the world than the Bible. Parents must consider that the condition of the children's soul far outweighs their success on the field or court. Sports, schoolwork, and extra-curricular activities are very important for the development of the body and mind which are at best temporary, but the soul is eternal. The salvation of our children must take precedence over all other aspects of life, but we also recognize that there must be a balance as well.

This committee submits the following suggestions for the family to draw closer to God:

- **Make God the Center of our lives, homes, and families** – the parents' example should always show that Christ comes first. Christ must have the preeminence in our Church and our family as stated in *Col 1:18 And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.* Parents must be rooted in Christ. *Col 2:7 Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.* We must live by the word of God. *Deu 8:3 And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live.*
- **Encourage and emphasize the importance of the church and Bible study** - as found in *2Ti 3:15 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus* and *2Ti 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*
- **Teach our children that we are the Church, not just “a church”** - *Mat 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.* Jesus did not establish many churches, but one. While many in our world say there is no way one church

can meet everyone's need for religion, Jesus most certainly does meet and fulfill the needs of all who call upon Him. Many in our churches no longer understand the difference between the churches of the world. Many have fallen away to other denominations that teach false doctrines and plans of salvation contrary to scripture. We must instill this important principle early in their lives and reinforce this truth as they grow.

- **Equipping parents for the fight** – We as Church leaders should not leave our parents unequipped for the battle that will be fought for possession of their families' lives and spiritual growth. Charles Spurgeon said, "Consider how precious a soul must be when both God and the devil are after it." We know our families are engaged in battle, even if they don't see it themselves. Satan desires to crush all opportunity parents will have to teach their children about God; a serious consideration when we evaluate the use of our time and how much is given to the world and how much is given to God.
  - **Missionary Baptist Resources** – this committee discussed the problem that there are not enough Missionary Baptist study resources available to families. While many resources are available, most have at least some information that we feel obligated to redact due to conflict with our doctrine. While it may seem a lofty goal, it would be wonderful to have resources available for our families for Bible study that we are confident share our core beliefs about the Word of God. We certainly believe that our churches contain people who possess far more talent than needed to accomplish this task. While any endeavor to produce family study material would take effort, dedication, financial support, and much prayer, we know this could be accomplished.

Now more than at any point in our lives, families need to be studying the Word of God. Parents need to prepare their children for salvation from an early age and then prepare them for a perverse world that is geared for fleshly pleasure. Now is not the time to sugarcoat or water down the gospel, doctrines, of practices of our churches; now is the time to stand fast *II Thes. 2:15 Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle.*

Respectfully submitted,

Bro. Larry Gregory

Bro. Jesse Miller

Bro. Jeremy Sisk

Bro. Rob Winkleman

The subject was spoken on by Bro. Sisk, Bro. Larry Gregory, Bro. Jesse Miller, Bro. Johnny Carver, Bro. Neal Forshee, Bro. Kenneth Massey, Bro. Dean Harrison, Bro. Mike Elkins.

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

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

### **2023 Association Obituary Report**

We all grieve our loved ones who have gone on before us, but I remember someone telling me to recall the times we had and what we learned from them. We were told to be thankful that we had time to be among them and those like them and appreciate them. Great men and women have great influences on us. They made a difference in our lives which we should strive to accomplish in the lives of others.

IN MEMORY OF OUR DEPARTED LOVED ONES

#### Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church

Brother Jesse Allen (Deacon) 2/22/23

#### Concord Missionary Baptist Church

Dean Hunter 11/16/22

Ivy Barnes 12/9/22

#### Gladdice Missionary Baptist Church

None

#### Longview Missionary Baptist Church

None

#### McFerrin Missionary Baptist Church

Brother Billy Gammons (Deacon) 1/6/2023

Marie Massey 2/14/2023



Peggy Schroeder 7/4/2023

Murfreesboro Missionary Baptist Church

Timothy Stormes 2/3/2023

Jeffery R. Sanford 6/30/2023

New Zion Missionary Baptist Church

None

Three Springs Missionary Baptist Church

Jo Jean Morrison 12/18/2022

Deloyce Dee Gillian 12/31/2022

Carol Baker 1/15/2023

Sandra T. Gentry 3/9/2023

James Ackzien 3/16/2023

Linda Ackzien 4/1/2023

Judy Garmon 5/28/2023

Lonnie Cockriel 10/01/2023

West End Missionary Baptist Church

None

Respectfully submitted:

Brother John Draper, Chair

Brother Mike Cothron

The subject was spoken on by Bro. Draper.

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

Bro. Massey called for the report on What Can We Do To Encourage Biblical Giving In Our Churches. Report was read by Bro. Neal Forshee.

### **What Can We Do To Encourage Biblical Giving In Our Churches?**

For clarity, we need to define biblical giving. For our purposes giving according to the statues and ordinances given by God constitutes biblical giving. *Leviticus 27:30-32* records God giving his law concerning tithes and offerings to the Israelite's after the Tabernacle had been erected. The purpose was to provide for the Levites who did not receive a land inheritance as the other tribes, but they were chosen to be wholly given to the service of God, maintaining the Tabernacle, serving the work of the priest and teachers of the people. The Levites who received the tithes of the people were also required to pay the tithes of all they received to the priest for their portion. Thus the whole nation paid tithes from the bounty of God's blessings.

Just before Israel entered into the land of Canaan they were reminded again concerning their tithes and offerings with these closing words from God, *Deuteronomy 12:12* *And ye shall rejoice before your God.* Biblical giving is a form of worship, and should be viewed as such. Tithes and offerings was and is God's plan of biblical giving for his people.

*Malachi 3:8-12* records God's rebuke of Israel for withholding of their tithes and offerings with these words, *Will a man rob God?* As a result they were cursed with a curse. Even so God promised a blessing so great there would not be room to receive it if they brought the tithes into his storehouse. Obedience toward God always brings a blessing.

The question before us is, what can we do to encourage biblical giving in our churches?

When Jesus gave the Apostles the Great Commission for his church, the last part of it as stated in *Matthew 28:20* *Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you.* Undoubtedly all things includes teaching biblical giving. Unfortunately this kind of giving is often viewed by God's people as robbing them as opposed to not giving as robbing God.

The Apostle Paul wrote to the church at Corinth to prepare an offering for the poor saints at Jerusalem with these words:

**I Corinthians 16:1** *Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do you.*

**I Corinthians 16:2** *Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.*

In the second epistle of the Corinthian Church, Paul encourages them even more:

**II Corinthians 9:6** *But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.*

**II Corinthians 9:7** *Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity; for God loveth a cheerful giver.*

**II Corinthians 9:8** *And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work.*

Paul encourages them to give cheerfully and bountifully. Paul stated in **II Corinthians 5:11** *We persuade men.* We must become better persuaders.

Our churches must diligently teach God's principles of biblical giving. Pastors and Deacons holding ordained offices in the church must practice biblical giving themselves so as not to be compromised. Pastors must preach this subject unashamedly, not being greed of filthy lucre, but constrained by the love of Christ and his church. If you do not do it, we can not preach it or teach it.

Biblical giving does not deplete God's people, but enriches them both in carnal things and in spiritual things.

Therefore, as biblical giving is the means that builds and supports our houses of worship, the ministry of those that preach the gospel, missions that carry the word of God to a lost and dying world, and relief for the needy among us, it should be as stressed in our churches as it was by God to Israel.

Our failure to observe the scriptural teachings of biblical giving shall bring us to the same end of those written about in **Haggai 1:9** *Ye looked for much, and, lo it came to little; and when ye brought it home, I did blow upon it. Why? Saith the Lord of host. Because of mine house that is waste, and ye run every man unto his own house.*

May we all encourage our churches by practice of biblical giving ourselves and by the light of God's word.

Respectfully submitted:  
Brother Neal Forshee  
Brother Kenneth Massey  
Brother Danny Raines

The subject was spoken on by Bro. Forshee, Bro. Kenneth Massey, Bro. Dean Andrews, Bro. Danny Raines. Motion and second was made to adopt the report. Motion passed.

Motion and second was made to adjourn and meet back at 10 A.M. Saturday morning. Motion passed.

Bro. Massey called on Bro. Rocky Jones to pray the dismissal prayer.

### **Saturday Morning Session**

This morning's service began with Bro. Don Hines leading the congregation in singing "Tell The World Jesus Saves" and "He Touched Me" while accompanied on the piano by Sis. Hilda Hines.

In the absence of Bro. Massey (due to a funeral service) Assistant Moderator Bro. Johnny Carver welcomed all in attendance and read from Psalm 133-1-3. Bro. Carver then called on Bro. Trey Yates to pray.

Roll Call Of Messengers

**Bethlehem:** None

**Concord:** Morris Watson, Sammy Sloan, Ken Hodge

**Gladdice:** John Wayne Draper, Jesse Miller, Judy Still, Lynn Draper

**Longview:** Danny Raines, Randy Norman

**McFerrin:** Dean Harrison, Jeremy Sisk, Dean Andrews

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

**New Zion:** Larry Gregory

**Three Springs:** None

**West End:** Don Hines, Hilda Hines

The following visitors were recognized: Mike Elkins, Beau Beechboard

Bro. Carver called for the report on Missions. The report was read by Bro. Morris Watson.

### **Missions**

In 1834, at the Concord Baptist Association, there was a discussion about whether or not to support mission work. This discussion went on for two more years. Finally, the anti-mission group left and formed Stone River Association which was made up of Primitive Baptist Churches. In order to separate us from the Primitives or other Baptist Churches that may not believe in supporting mission work, we took the name Missionary Baptist.

If it had not been for our missionaries listening to God's calling, these churches would not be organized and formed today. We know that Jonah was sent to Ninevah by God, but he rebelled and went in the opposite direction. After three days and nights in the belly of a whale he became very willing to do the work of a missionary.

From the beginning, our whole world has been a mission. In Isaiah 6:8 it says, "I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then, said Isaiah, "Here am I, send me." Another example was the Apostle Paul who was called to preach the gospel to the Gentiles and helped organize as many as 14 churches

Jesus was on a mission to come to this Earth showing that He was the Son of God, to establish His church, and to die for lost humanity. In parting, He tells us to preach the gospel to all the world. Let us always be willing to support our brothers and their families with our prayers and finances.

The report was spoken on by Bro. Watson, Bro. Ricky Hackett, Bro. Dean Harrison, Bro. Ken Hodge  
Motion and second was made to adopt the report. Motion carried.

Bro. Carver called for the Ambassador's Report. The report was read by Bro. Don Hines.

### **Ambassador's Report**

As the 2023 revival season comes to an end, I want to take a few minutes to reflect back over the many revivals that God has allowed us to attend this year. What a blessing!

We have heard the truth proclaimed at every service we attended. Wonderful and beautiful songs were sung. Lost souls seeking the Lord for the salvation of their souls. The humble prayers of the saints offered up to our all mighty and loving God. Many beautiful testimonies and rejoicing by the saints were heard. Tears of joy and grief were seen in many of the services we attended.

As was the case last year, we witness both large and small crowds in attendance. But the presents of God were felt in every service we attended. Every church made us feel welcomed and thanks us for attending. It seems that the churches with smaller attendance were made up mostly of senior age group. The churches with the larger attendance were made up with all age groups and there were several churches with several young children in attendance. If I'm not mistaken, there were nine churches that we attended without pastors. Some of these may have elected a pastor since we last attended the church.

While speaking to a brother this year about the revivals we have attended, he asks a question. What have you learned from attending all of these revivals that could be of help to our churches? That is a question that I've given much thought to. Two things that has kept coming back to me. One is the need to pray more for my pastor. Not just my pastor but for all of the pastors. The second thing is the need for unity in our church. Not just unity within the church but unity between our churches. I'm thankful for my pastor and my church but also thankful for all of His churches and the men that pastors those churches.

This year the Lord allowed us to attend one hundred and nine revivals. Of those one hundred and nine revivals, one was a mission, three were tent revivals and ninety-seven different churches. We were blessed to hear seventy-seven different preachers. Within our Missionary Baptist ranks, we are blessed with spiritually filled men able to proclaim God's truths. How blessed we are to live in an area where we can hear God's word preached and delivered in such a manner as we have this season.

Now, I've saved the best for last. God has allowed us to personally witness ten souls being saved this year. What a great blessing and privilege it is to see such a miracle. May God bless our brothers and sisters in all of His churches.

The subject was spoken on by Bro. Hines and Bro. Dean Andrews.

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. Jesse Miller.

### **2023 Treasurer's Report**

Balance: October 22, 2022	\$7,957.96
Donation to Printing Fund	\$2,700.00
Balance: November 26, 2022	\$10,657.96
<b><u>Expenses:</u></b>	
Minutes Printing Fee: Put It In Print (Reimbursed Bro. Raines)	\$945.00
Clerk's Fee	\$500.00
Belize Mission Fund	\$2000.00
Balance October 21, 2023	\$7,212.96
Donations for 2023 Minutes	\$2,150

Respectfully Submitted,

Bro. Brian Johnson, Treasurer

Bro. Jesse Miller, Assistant Treasurer

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

Correspondence was read from the Southwestern District Missionary Baptist Association.

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

### **New Business**

Discussion was made on scheduling a Youth Gathering in the coming year. There was discussion on creating an online Bible devotion for families. There were feelings that this was a needed effort for church families. Motion and second was made to create a committee consisting of Bro. Jesse Miller and Bro. Trey Yates to head an effort to create a Bible Devotion for families on the Association's website. Motion passed. Motion and second was made to set aside \$1,000 to cover any expenses associated with an online domain. Motion passed.

The Order of Business for 2024 was read by Brother Johnny Carver. The assignments are as follows:

- **HOST CHURCH:** Longview
- **INTRODUCTORY SERMON:** Neal Forshee
- **ALTERNATE:** Johnny Carver
- **STATE OF RELIGION:** (Chair) Jeremy Sisk, Tom Elkins, Trey Yates
- **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:** (Chair) Brian Johnson, Mike House, Wayne Howard
- **DOCTRINAL SERMON:** Ricky Hackett
- **ALTERNATE:** Kenneth Massey
- **OBITUARY REPORT:** (Chair) Danny Raines, John Draper
- **FINANCING THE LORD'S WORK:** (Chair) Larry Gregory, Jesse Miller, Steve Anderson
- **MISSION REPORT:** (Chair) Morris Watson, Ken Hodge, Dean Harrison



- **AMBASSADOR’S REPORT:** (Chair) Don Hines, Dean Andrews, Ray Spears
- **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. Don Hines came and led the congregation in singing Shall We Gather At The River assisted on the piano by Sis. Hilda Hines.

Bro. Carver introduced Bro. Jeremy Sisk to preach the doctrinal sermon.

### **Doctrinal Sermon**

Bro. Sisk came and ask for prayers while preaching this morning. He requested prayer for two people he had recently had conversations with concerning their life circumstances.

Bro. Sisk introduced his subject as “Remember Where You Came From” and read from Titus 3:1-7. Bro. Sisk talked about God’s love appearing. He told of not being saved and going to a youth retreat and not liking other people there. He said God’s love and mercy changed that and it changes us. I Corinthians 6:9-11 was read. Bro. Sisk stated that we might sometime say we are not the same group as those in this scripture, but our sins are responsible for the death of Jesus. God is the only reason we are where we are. We are only sinners and no better than others, but we are washed in the blood of Jesus. Bro. Sisk mentioned Isaiah 6:5 as it says, “Woe is me!” Isaiah said God is Holy, Holy, Holy but we are not but because of God we will live eternally. God said, “I will let my son die for you.” Ephesians 5:1-8 was read. Bro Sisk said love little children in the church. Ephesians 2:8-14 was read. Saved people need to be about good works. The world needs to see our good works. At one time we were strangers and not counted among the children of God. Things tried like signing cards, repeating someone else’s prayer, shaking hands does not get it. After being saved everything looks different and better. Salvation is

great and it is all because of Jesus and nothing of us. James 4:67 was read. Jesus is the greatest example of grace in scripture. One cannot back away from repentance and grace. We need truth and hard truth hurts. In closing, the truth is Jesus died for us.

Bro. Carver endorsed the message and ask for a song. Bro. Don Hines came and led the congregation in singing Amazing Grace as the congregation came around and offered their Christian handshake to Bro. Sisk in endorsement of the good message.

Bro. Carver expressed his appreciation for the good fellowship during this association meeting. He also stated it has been a joy to be at New Zion Church.

Motion and second was made to adjourn to meet with Longview Missionary Baptist Church in Gallatin Tn on Friday after the third Sunday in October in the year of our Lord 2024, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Motion carried. The congregation was dismissed with prayer.

# *Southwestern District Missionary Baptist Association*

October 16, 2023

Wiseman 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 seventy fifth annual session October 06-07, 2023, 20 churches reported 15 baptisms with a total membership of 1,766.

At the past session, the messengers of our association elected Eld. Andrew Stokes as our moderator. Bro. Ray Smith was elected as the Assistant Moderator, his 70<sup>th</sup> time being elected as an officer of our association. Bro. Trey Crews 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 2023 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](http://www.swdmba.org).

We would like to invite all to join us for the 2024 session to be held with Huntingdon Missionary Baptist Church in Huntingdon, Tennessee. The sessions will be held October 11-12, 2024, starting at 10:00 am. Eld. Randy Thompson will be preaching the Introductory Sermon on Friday, and Eld. James Keen 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.

Under His Wings,



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E-mail: [clerk@swdmba.org](mailto:clerk@swdmba.org)

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### **West End**

None

## **DEACONS DIRECTORY**

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None

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## **MURFREESBORO**

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## **NEW ZION**

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### HISTORICAL TABLE

<u>Year</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Moderator</u>	<u>Clerk</u>	<u>Treasurer</u>	<u>Introductory</u>
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
2023	New Zion	Kenneth Massey	Danny Raines	Brian Johnson	Jesse Miller	Jeremy Sisk	Omitted

**STATISTICAL TABLES**

	Year Organized	Received Baptism	Received Letter	Restored	Received Statement	Dismissed Letter	Dismissed Exclusion	Death	Rescinded	Total Members
Bethlehem	1962	0	0	0	1	4	0	1	0	41
Concord	1874	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	109
Gladdice	1894	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	58
Longview	1960	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	191
McFerrin	1948	13	8	0	2	7	2	3	0	810
Murfreesboro	1984	8	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	233
New Zion	1981	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	58
Three Springs	1995	4	0	0	0	2	0	8	0	421
West End	1945	0	5	0	0	1	0	0	0	227
<b>Totals</b>		<b>30</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2148</b>



### SUNDAY SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

	Year Organized	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Number of Teachers
Bethlehem	1962	15	10	21	22	20	28	28	28	40	40	30	16	6
Concord	1874	n/a	51	50	50	46	46	46	56	56	20	46	46	6
Gladdice	1894	19	22	22	16	14	16	22	20	20	18	18	18	3
Longview	1960	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	35	35	35	4
McFerrin	1948	296	312	323	323	323	164	364	364	364	364	364	364	15
Murfreesboro	1984	50	50	50	65	70	62	133	100	148	75	75	75	15
New Zion	1981	22	24	24	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	30	30	3
Three Springs	1995	140	135	140	103	64	52	48	50	42	25	25	26	3
West End											30	35	40	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>703</b>	<b>755</b>	<b>632</b>	<b>658</b>	<b>650</b>	<b>67</b>

## NOTES