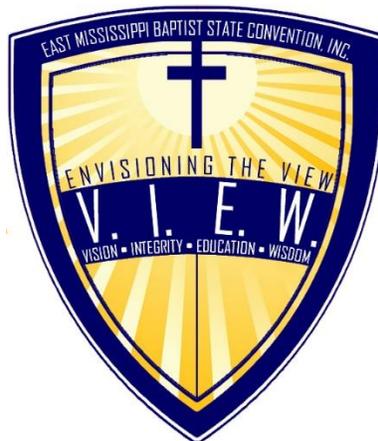


Official Minutes Of
121st Annual Session
Of the
**East Mississippi Baptist State
Convention, Inc.**



Hosted By

Second New Hope District Baptist Association

Rev. James Granger, Host Moderator

New Hope Missionary Baptist Church, Meridian, MS

Rev. Walter Patrick, Host Pastor

October 27-30, 2015

Rev. Willie E. Jones, Convention President

The East Mississippi Baptist State Convention, Inc. was held October 27-30, 2015 at the New Hope Missionary Baptist Church, Meridian, MS where Rev. Walter Patrick is the pastor.

Tuesday, October 27, 2015 at 3:00 P.M.

The Parent body held its Annual Pastor's Conference. The guest facilitator was Rev. Dr. Green Davidson, pastor of the St. James Missionary Baptist Church of Leighton, AL. The focal point of the conference was "Rediscovering the Core Values of the Baptist Association".

Dr. Green Davidson instructed that in these changing times in which we live, if our churches and associations are going to be effective for ministry and outreach, we must have effective leadership that is able to make clear the vision, the ministry objectives, and remain true to our faith and doctrine. If the church is of God, it must be about the mission of the church.

Rev. Dr. Jerry Young, President of the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc. was in attendance and presented greetings. He expressed his gratitude to East Mississippi Baptist State Convention, Inc. for the support and asked for our continued prayers for him and our National Convention. He spoke briefly on his Vision for the National Baptist Convention, Upcoming plans, disaster relief, as well as other entities that related to our national convention.

The Pre-Convention Welcome Program was held at 6:00 P.M. and was presented by the 2nd New Hope District Baptist Association where Rev. James Granger serves as Moderator. Dean Deborah Ewing, Dean of the 2nd New Hope District Congress served as Mistress of Ceremony. Greetings were given by the City of Meridian Mayor, Mayor Percy Bland, as well as other elected officials and 2nd New District Officers.

The East Mississippi Baptist State Convention Laymen's Auxiliary presented the Laymen's Hour Program at 6:30 pm. Bro. Tracy Shelby served as Master of Ceremony. A solo and prayer was rendered by Jeremiah and Isaiah Dodd. Introduction of the Laymen's President was given by Sis. Quiwanda Dodd. The Laymen's Auxiliary President, Bro. Charles Dodd, presented his Annual address entitled, "It's in My Heart", Ephesians 6:6, ***Not by way of eye service, as men pleasers, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart.*** Brother Dodd told us there were 3 ways in which we can effectively serve Christ. 1.) You must believe in Jesus and that he is the Son of God. 2.) You have to let him in your heart because you're the only one that's able to let him in. 3.) You must become a slave for Jesus and realize he's in charge.

The Evening service began at 7:30 pm. The guest evangelist was Rev. Dr. S. V. Adolph, pastor of the First Missionary Baptist Church, Gulfport, MS. Dr. Adolph came with prayer and thanked President Jones and East Mississippi Baptist State Convention for allowing him such a grand opportunity to share with us. Dr. Adolph read from Psalms 34:8, with his sermon subject being "O Taste and See". Dr. Adolph told us that the Psalmist is inviting others to experience God. We must also invite others to experience God's love, God's Power, and God's Grace. He told us if you try the Lord, your life will never be the same.

Directions were given to the Woman's Auxiliary by Sis. Jacque McDougale and President Willie E. Jones to convene at 8:00 am for corporate worship.

Wednesday, October 28, 2015 Registration began at 7:00 A.M.

1st Vice President, Rev. Marvin Chapman, presiding opened with singing, "Oh I Want to See Him". After singing, Rev. Marvin Chapman read Jeremiah 29:11 and 1 Corinthians 4:1-2. Prayer was offered by Rev.

Jimmie Bunch. Rev. Anthony Robinson led in singing “Hold to God’s Unchanging Hand”. Song service was rendered by Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church Gospel Choir of Hattiesburg, Mississippi. The favored us with the songs, “I Need You to Hold My Hand” and “Jesus is My Rock”.

Rev. Carlos Wilson, pastor of the Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church, Hattiesburg, Mississippi was presented for the Annual Convention Sermon. He preached from the Scripture of Mark 8:22-24, The sermon subject was “I Can See Clearly Now”. He asked us to stop and think about the process of seeing. When others look at us, what do they see? Jesus or something else.

Rev. James Granger and Rev. Rodney Young came to receive the offering. The congregation sang “Just a Closer Walk With Thee”. Rev. Marvin Chapman offered prayer for the offering.

9:10 A.M.

President Willie Jones came with greetings and the official opening of the 121st Annual Session. President Jones opened the 121st Annual Session by letting us know We are only here by the grace of God. President Jones let us know It took an Act of God. The world is better off because of people like our forefathers who, while at their best, made up something so truly, that it is still happening that way. Days now antiquated once rendered humanity primitive means in order to manage and survive. But new frontiers were challenged. The ocean is no longer a new frontier, we are cruising along with aquatic creatures of the deep. The sky is no longer a new frontier, we can now have dinner at thirty thousand feet above sea level. Space is no longer a new challenge, we have walked on the moon and we are exploring the environment and terrain of Mars. Medical science now performs surgery without incisions and offers analgesics for pain, and antibiotics for infections. Long distant communication is no longer a challenge. The silent and invisible radio waves, cables, and fiber optics afford us the pleasure of reaching the rest of the world. And silicon chips retain data for instant information, all because of master minds who, while at their best, exhibited brain and brilliance, and did something that’s still happening that way. All of the great benefactions that we enjoy; freedom of speech, freedom of worship, freedom of self-government, the right to civil liberties, the right to education and public service, the emancipation of women, the abolition of slavery, all came through the outstanding ability of people. However, there are matters that confront us, about which no human genius can master and that no one’s wit can work out, and for them to work out for the better, it will take an unquestionable, unarguable, and overwhelming “Act of God”. Who else can affect the insurmountable ills of society and the satanic schemes against the saints but God?

9:35 A.M.

Rev. Dr. Green Davidson presented a lecture on “Rediscovering the Core Values of the Baptist Association”. He let us know that God has not cut all churches or associations from the same bolt of cloth. The church of association is different from all others. This is good because it takes all kinds of ministers to reach all kinds of people. A ministry based on clearly articulated core values drives a fixed stake in the ground that says to all, this is what we stand for; this is what we are all about; this is who we are; this is what we can do for you. Thus values are defining.

10:30 A.M.

The Parent body reconvened with the Woman’s Auxiliary for the Woman’s Auxiliary President, Sis. Jacque McDougle, Annual Address. Sis. McDougle gave an account of her stewardship and spoke from

Ecclesiastes 12:1-8, "Like Sands through the hour glass, so are: "The Days of Our Lives". Sis. McDougle let us know that time is an elusive thing. While children, it seems as if time moves so slow, but as adults, time seems as if it moves too fast. Even Biblically, we know that time is inevitable. Job 14:12 says that man of born of a woman and those days are full of trouble. She let us know that when dealing with time, our lives are filled with choices and changes. What we do with them are up to us.

A love offering was received for Sis. McDougle. After a solo, remarks were given by Sis. McDougle and President Jones.

1:30 P.M.- Rev. Marvin Chapman Presiding.

Rev. Anthony Robinson introduced Rev. William Flowers for the devotional message. Rev. Flowers read Daniel 3:27 and gave the sermon subject of "I Don't Look Like What I Been Through". Rev. Flowers reminded us that even though we pass through the waters and the flood, sometimes storm and rain, that God is still on the throne and we still have a reason to give God some praise. We face challenges, but there is nothing too hard for God.

2:00 P.M.

Rev. Jimmie Bunch came to present the Golden Gospel Hour, a time in which we pay tribute to the forefathers of Gospel Preachers in East Mississippi Baptist State Convention. Rev. Jimmie Bunch stated we can never forget the preaching trailblazers who laid the foundational path of this work that we are on. Special recognition was given to Rev. Willie C. Hood, Rev. Marvin L. Dixon, Rev. Jimmie W. Perrien, Jr, Rev. Nathaniel Robinson, and to the family of Rev. W. I. Clark (deceased). Rev. Nathaniel Robinson, pastor of the New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, Forest, Mississippi delivered the Golden Gospel Hour sermon from Mark 3:5. His sermon subject was "He Stretched it Out". Rev. Robinson asked us the question, "What will you allow God to do in your life?"

Rev. Leander Bridges presented a Workshop entitled Pastoral Training: Qualifications of a Pastor. Rev. Bridges gave in-depth information of what is a pastor as well as the Biblical qualifications of a pastor. The presentation was well received.

In the absence of Home Mission Director, Rev. George Ducksworth, the Home Mission Period was omitted. Rev. Ecclesiastes Goodwin presented a demonstration of our newly launched website and gave a detailed tour of where to find pertinent information and also presented the Power Point Presentation that was presented to Meridian Public School District School Board as a request for the awarding of the Kate Griffin Jr. High School building. President Jones reminded us that the Ministers' Wives and Widows Scholarship Banquet was scheduled to be held at 5:00pm at the Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church and urged all to attend.

7:00 P.M.

The Convention Evening Worship began at 7:00 P. M. Rev. Dr. William C. Brown and the Fifth Street Missionary Baptist Church opened with singing "Shine on Me". Scripture was read by Deacon Naylor, Psalms 34:1-10. Rev. W. C. Brown led in the singing of the hymn, "I Love the Lord, he heard my Cry". Prayer was offered by Deacon Naylor. Deacon Naylor of Fifth Street Missionary Baptist Church led in the song of Glory, Glory, Hallelujah, Since I laid my burdens down. Rev. W. C. Brown greeted the convention and thanked President Jones for allowing the evening worship service to take place. He stated "We must

worship if we are to Envision the Future Exceptionally. He further stated we must be spiritually, morally, and scripturally correct to please God. Worship cleans, heals, and makes us ready to go into the vineyard.

Fifth Street Missionary Baptist Church Choir rendered song service. They blessed the crowd by singing "This Morning When I Rose" and "Spirit Fall Fresh on Me". The offertory prayer was offered by Rev. William C. Brown. The Fifth Street Baptist Church choir led in the song "God has Smiled on Me". President Jones came to present the evangelist, Rev. Dr. S. V. Adolph. The hymn Amazing Grace was led by Fifth Street Baptist Church. Rev. Dr. S. V. Adolph offered prayer and read from Mark 5:3-4. His sermon subject was "You're on the Right Road When? Rev. Adolph reminded us that we have an obligation to walk in the integrity of Christ on the right road. He told us we are the workmanship of Christ and we are representatives of Jesus and we are to let our light shine. Rev. William c. Brown extended the invitation to discipleship and led in singing "I Will Trust in the Lord". Rev. Hollie Benson reminded everyone of the President's Address at 10:30 A. M. on Thursday. Rev. S. V. Adolph dismissed with prayer.

Thursday, October 29, 2015-8:06 A.M.

Vice President at Large, Rev. Hollie Benson presiding, led in singing "I Will Trust in The Lord". Rev. Benson read Scripture, Psalms 133 and offered prayer. Minister Tory Moore was presented for the devotional message. He thanked President Jones for the opportunity and offered prayer. Minister Moore preached from Isaiah 40:28, Sermon subject was "Some Things God Cannot Do". He elaborated on the fact that God is all powerful. God can do all thing and God is able to do all things. He further stated God cannot fail, God cannot lie, and God's will never pass away.

Rev. Dr. Green Davidson was presented for the continuation of the Workshop "Rediscovering the Core Values of the Baptist Association". He reminded us to never forget who we are as Baptist and to always remember that Baptist Doctrine is Bible Doctrine. One of the key components of the Baptist Association is the Great Commission. It is the Great Commission that is recorded in Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15 and Acts 1:8. The answer for our churches and associations lies somewhere within the Great Commission, as these organizations tend to specialize in some ministry niche that fits under the umbrella of the commission. Our churches and associations must specialize in areas such as discipleship, evangelism, counseling, Christian Education, and ministering to the needs of our communities.

9:30 A.M.

Rev. Carlos Wilson came to present the Foreign Mission Report. He informed us that Foreign Mission is more than just sending goods to foreign countries. It is more than just sending money. The idea of foreign mission now is actually doing mission work in foreign countries. Rev. Wilson gave examples of all the challenges clergy, missionaries, and residents of Foreign Countries have to endure. He expressed his plan and desire to have East Mississippi Baptist State Convention well represented on the Foreign Mission Department of our National Convention. He elaborated that correspondents were sent out to churches requesting that all churches would send \$100.00 to help in this effort. He announced that a Foreign Mission trip to Africa was being planned for July 2016. Anyone who desired to attend could contact him for more information. Also, he asked that if your church had not contributed to the Foreign Mission Auxiliary to please consider doing so.

10:00 A.M.

Rev. Jimmie Bunch came forth to present Rev. Clifford Morgan, representative of the (MMBB) Ministers and Missionaries Benefits Board. Rev. Morgan stressed the importance of Pastors and churches preparing for the future. He explained that his company offers retirement for clergy, Investment Accounts, and IRA, and other financial tools.

10:30 A. M.

The Parent Body and all other auxiliaries convened together for the President's Address. Music was provided by Rev. & Sis. Marvin Dixon and Pilgrim Rest Missionary Baptist Church Choir. Rev. Eric Jones, Pastor of the Pleasant Gift Missionary Baptist Church, Morton, MS and son of President Jones came to introduce President Jones. President Jones expressed his gratitude to the Officers and members of the East Mississippi Baptist State Convention for allowing him to be our Servant Leader. He presented his Report and Stewardship and informed us that East Mississippi Baptist State Convention is in good health. To God be the Glory. His address was centered around our National Theme: Envisioning the Future Exceptionally: Through Our Commitment to Christian Stewardship, taken from Jeremiah 29:11; 1 Corinthians 4:1-2, Subject was "Tell Me What Do You See". His address was very inspirational and blessed all who were in attendance. A love offering was received and music provided by the Pilgrim Rest Missionary Baptist Church of Morton, MS. It was motioned and 2nd that the Annual Address from President Jones be accepted and become a part of our official minutes. President Jones thanked everyone for coming and their support. Rev. Jones dismissed for lunch with prayer.

1:15 P. M.

Rev. Darius Thames was presented for the afternoon devotional message. He preached from Job 1:26. His sermon subject was "Hallelujah Anyhow". The message was very inspirational.

1:30 P. M.

Rev. Leander Bridges came to report on the Evangelism Department. He spoke briefly that it is all of our jobs as Pastors, Ministers, Christian Educators, and Believers to evangelize. He stressed the importance of being properly trained when preparing to evangelize. He reported that the National Baptist Convention Evangelism Department has taken a "New Approach" toward evangelism and included a flyer explain the details. He also announced that he was planning to go out into the community near New Hope and perform Evangelistic Ministry and anyone who desired to go to please contact him. A report would be given of their stewardship during the Street Evangelism time.

2:00 P. M.

Rev. Carlos Wilson presented the workshop entitled "Biblical Principles for the Christian Family: Don't Forget What God Said". The workshop focused on the entire family as God designed it. He focused on God's Original Intent for the family, God's Purpose for the Family, and God's Plan for Children.

3:00 P.M.-Reports from Auxiliaries

Reports were received from Rev. A. D. Lewis, Congress of Christian Education President, Mrs. Vernetta Barton, Congress of Christian Education Dean, and Rev. Cecil Ashford, State Director of Christian

Education. It was motioned by Rev. Marvin D. Chapman and 2nd by Rev. Walter Patrick that the reports received be accepted.

3:45

Rev. Kenneth Vaughn, pastor of Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church, Lauderdale, MS was presented for the Afternoon Sermonic Thrust. He preached from Luke 22:54, "Concerned, but not Committed". It was a very powerful and relevant message. President Jones encouraged everyone to return back for the evening worship service and offered prayer.

7:05 P.M.

The Convention reconvened for the Evening Worship service with Rev. Hollie Benson presiding. Rev. Benson read scripture and offered prayer. Rev. Odell Hopkins led in the sing of Guide Me Over Thou Great Jehovah. Prayer was offered by Deacon Joe Conly of West Mt. Moriah Baptist Church. Rev. Hopkins led in singing "I Woke Up This Morning With Mind Stayed on Jesus". The West Mt. Moriah Baptist Church choir rendered two selections, "God Never Fails", and "O Lord, How Majestic is Your Name". President Jones came with words of greeting and thanked everyone for attending the evening worship and stated it was time to hear from Heaven. West Mt. Moriah Baptist Church Choir led in singing the hymn of the hour, "Amazing Grace".

Rev. Dr. S. V. Adolph proclaimed another powerful and soul stirring message, taken from Philippians 2:5, "Having the Mind of Christ". Rev. Adolph shared with us 3 relevant points 1.) You can tell growth by what you can see 2.) There is a difference between making time and being stuck in a rut 3.) The goal of our growth is to be like Jesus.

The congregation sang "Try Jesus". President Jones gave directions from the Friday Morning session and Rev. Adolph dismissed with prayer.

Friday, October 30, 2015

Rev. Marvin Dixon opened with singing "Jesus is on the Main Line". Scripture was ready by Rev. William Flowers, Psalms 14 and Rev. Flowers offered prayer. The devotional message was preached by Rev. George Macon, Pastor of the St. Peter Missionary Baptist Church, Forest. He opened with prayer and preached from Luke 19:10. The sermon subject was "Jesus Mission Statement". The message was very inspirational and reminded us of the mission of the church, to seek and save those that are lost.

8:15

Wrap-Up Sessions. A summary of the workshop and lectures was given by each presenter. Rev Leander Bridges reported that the Evangelistic Team did go out and evangelize to the community near New Hope Baptist Church. He reported 5 Pastors went out to evangelize and share the gospel, 16 people were contacted, and he was proud to report that 5 people were accepted Jesus as their savior and was saved. The names of the individuals were to be given to the pastor of New Hope Baptist Church for follow up. Rev. Carlos Wilson summarized his presentation on the family and asked each of us a thought provoking question, "Where did we go wrong"? He stated our families have to deal with Deception, Disobedience, and Distance. How we deal with these issues are critical. Dr. Green Davidson summarized his lecture by reminding us that Vision is important. The mission of Christ was to share the vision of a world in desperate need. The vision of the Lord Jesus Christ is the greatest challenge known to man. He

reminded Pastors that The harvest is needful work, the harvest is plentiful, and there is an unlimited amount of work to be done, but there are so few to do it. Laborers are desperately needed for every generation.

8:45 A.M.-Business Period

A Partial Financial Report was given of Income was \$39, 878.00 and Expense was \$16, 600.00, which leaves a remaining balance of \$14, 278.00. A full detailed report will be given at the Mid-Winter Board Meeting held in February.

Time and Place

President Jones entertained suggestions for the 2016 February Mid-Winter Board Meeting. Rev. Marvin Chapman expressed that Old Palestine Missionary Baptist Church was available. It was motioned by Rev. Cecil Ashford and 2nd by Rev. Tory Moore that the February Mid-Winter Board Meeting would be held at the Old Palestine Missionary Baptist Church, Taylorsville, MS.

10:49 A.M.

All auxiliaries convened jointly for the closing session. President Jones came with greeting and a few points of information. He announced that the 2016 Mid-Winter Board Meeting would be held at the Old Palestine Missionary Baptist Church, Taylorsville, Mississippi, 1st Sweet Pilgrim District.

President Jones reminded the convention of our website and to take advantage of all its benefits. Also, he asked all ministers, to please complete the Ministerial Bio form so that the convention could have a directory of all ministers so that if a need arose, he would have some information to present to churches if they so desire.

Bro. Dennis Hayes presented a detailed and very informative Historian's Report. He also announced that any persons who has any information of History that can be included to please forward him that information.

Rev. James Granger came to introduce the speaker, Rev. Marcus Lawrence, for the closing sermon. Sis. Gloria Stinner led in the hymn by singing "Precious Lord, Take My Hand".

Rev. Lawrence offered prayer and read Mark 2:1-5; 11. His sermon subject was "Overcoming Obstacles to get a Disabled Man to Jesus". Rev. Lawrence told us it takes all of us working together to get the job done. We must do what it takes to get others to see Jesus. Are you willing to do your part?

President Jones called for Altar Prayer and we were dismissed until the Mid-Winter Board Meeting in February 2016.

Servant of Heaven,

Rev. Ecclesiastes Goodwin, General Secretary