

# **East Mississippi Baptist State Convention, INC.**

Convention President, Pastor Willie Jones

**Theme: Envisioning the Future Exceptionally:**

*Through Our Commitment to Christian Stewardship*

*~Jeremiah 29:11; 1 Corinthians 4:1-2~*

## **East Mississippi Baptist State Laymen's Movement**



**First Annual Address of: President Charles Dodd**

**New Hope Missionary Baptist**

2614 13th Street, Meridian, MS

Rev. Walter Patrick, Host Pastor

October 27, 2015



**First Annual Address**

**OF**

**President Charles Dodd**

**East Mississippi Baptist State Laymen Auxiliary**

**October 27, 2015**

**Giving praise and honor to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ who makes all things possible. To our Convention President, Willie Jones and his staff, to our Congress President A.D. Lewis and his staff, to our Women President Jacque McDougal and her staff. To my staff, Vice President at- Large – Bro. Tracy Shelby, 1<sup>st</sup> – Vice Bro. Tony Sanders, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Vice Bro. Sammie Chambliss, 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice – Bro. Robert Johnson, Treasurer – Bro. Robert Love, Asst. Treasurer – Bro. George Fairly, Secretary – Bro. Thomas Holifield, Asst. Secretary – Bro. Larry Weathers, Education Department – Dean George Hardaway and Bro. Robert Brown, Chaplin\Mission – Rev. Tristan Hardaway, Evangelism Director – Bro. Jarvis Naylor, our Events Directors, every East Mississippi Laymen and to all that helps make this great Convention. I greet you on this great day in the mighty name of Jesus Christ.**

**As I give thanks to my almighty God for this opportunity, I must also thank my lovely wife, children, and family for all your love and support. To my Pastor and First Lady and one of the greatest churches in the Leake County area Saint Mark Missionary Baptist Church, I appreciate all you do as I attempt to move this movement in the way God would have it to go. To my special Support Club (and you know who you are), who makes sure that I'm represented in whatever I ask my laymen to do, your promised monthly donations and you are greatly appreciated. To the Lone Pilgrim District Association and Laymen President Beamon and his staff, I greatly appreciate all you do and to the New Hope Church family and their great leader Pastor Walter Patrick thanks for being such great host. I thank everyone so much for all you do to help make this movement be a success.**

**Point of View:**

**We the East Mississippi Baptist Laymen stand on the same purpose as our National Laymen Movement to mobilize and involve Manpower of all member Churches as a working force to support the programs, ministries and activities recommended by the Pastor and the official Ministries of the Church.**

## **My Stewardship:**

**Since I started this journey as your President:**

- 1) I attended the National Baptist Convention Mid – Winter Board in Jackson, MS. ( January)**
- 2) I attended the East MS Baptist Convention Mid – Winter Board in Meridian, MS. (February)**
- 3) I attended the East MS Baptist Christian Educators Conference in Meridian, MS. (February)**
- 4) I attended the General Missionary Baptist Men’s Super-Conference in Yazoo, MS. (March)**
- 5) I attended the East MS Baptist Laymen Evangelism Workshop in Newton, MS. (May)**
- 6) I attended the East MS Baptist Laymen Bible – Bowl in Meridian, MS. (May)**
- 7) I attended the East MS Baptist Laymen Annual Picnic in Walnut Grove, MS. (June)**
- 8) I attended the East MS Baptist Congress of Christian Education in Morton, MS. (June)**
- 9) I attended the Lone Pilgrim Congress of Christian Education in Walnut Grove, MS. (June)**
- 10) I attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> New Hope District Consolidated Association in Meridian, MS. (July)**
- 11) I attended the East MS Baptist Laymen Sam Cockrell Memorial in Meridian, MS. (July)**
- 12) I attended the East MS Baptist Laymen 100 Men in Black and Women in Red in Hattiesburg, MS. (August)**
- 13) I attended the East MS Baptist Laymen Black Tie Banquet in Morton, MS. (September)**
- 14) I attended the National Baptist Convention, USA, INC. in Memphis, TN. (September)**
- 15) I attended the East MS Baptist Laymen Power Rally in Forest, MS. (September)**

**I’ve visited a few churches doing this year talking to Pastor’s and the men trying to get them to see the need to support this Laymen Movement. We’ve gained a few great supporters so far but we’re claiming in the mighty name of Jesus that many more will get on board. So pastor’s we continue to encourage you and ask of you to encourage your men to take part of this movement. I’ve taken part in many of your local church programs serving as program guide, given words of encouragement, and even sometime just because you had a program going on. It is my goal to continue to show East Mississippi churches that we care and are willing to get to know them. And my prayer is that God continue to allow me to serve my home, my local church, my local district, my state convention, and my national convention in a mighty way.**

## **In Memoriam:**

**Since we started this journey last year, God has called from labor to reward a few faithful soldiers, even our own 1st – Vice President M.H. Keys, in which we continue to ask God to strengthen his wife and family. Let us pause for a moment of silence and remember those who have gone on before us.**

***Isaiah 41:10 Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.***

## **Subject: It's In My Heart**

**Scripture: 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.**

**As I view my presidency this first year I see we deal with the same challenges that all past presidents have dealt with in the past. And one of them is getting people to take part in the movement especially our men and pastors. This problem just don't start hear in the convention it starts in that relationship with almighty God, and then with your pastor and local church. I just believe to do this work you got to have a relationship with God and a true relationship works from the heart. When one is true to his mission he works to do things in the right manner and the way that pleases God. When you fine one that can find no need to participate are do anything in God's work you find one with an empty heart. I don't care how hard you work to make things available if the heart is empty they still want take part, because it takes something on the inside working on the outside to make this journey with our savior.**

**In Ephesians 6:6 points out three ways we give our service but only one will truly work and that's from the heart. The first one it deals with is eye – service, and that's one that seems to be working hard when the master is in the room. He works none stop just because he knows the master has his eyes on him and is in his presence. But as soon as the master leaves he stops working and makes the statement "I thought he wasn't going to ever leave. He's the same one that's at church when the pastor is there but when the pastor leaves town he's at home saying he can't see me now. He's the one that sits long enough in the meeting to get a position, and when he leaves the meeting you don't see him the rest of the year. And he felts to realize that the true Master never slumbers or sleeps.**

**Psalms 124:4 reads, Behold, He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.**

**The second service is given by men-pleasers and these are the ones that spend more time pleasing man or woman than the almighty God. He's the one that can stay on man's job all week and the weekend too and smile about it. But if church service runs pass two hours he's all frowned up and saying they hold to long. He's the one that has that excuse I would have been there but my wife gave me a honey to-do list and just to keep peace I stayed and worked on it. He's that one that believes if the pastor is happy it's okay and never seeks to see what God have to say about it. He will side with family on whatever makes them happy even when it causes him to displease God. He fails to see that its God's ways are no way because he's in charge and it all belongs to him. There are so many things that clamor for our attention and devotion: our jobs, our kids, our spouses, our hobbies—the demands and distractions of life. And we have to be careful not to let them become more important or more of a priority than our relationship with God. But this servant fails to realize that **Exodus 20:3 states: "You shall have no other gods before me".****

**Then as you continue to read through Ephesians 6:6 you come to the small three letter word "but" this word in the eye sight of a sinner is just a conjunction, but in the eye sight of God's people it's a turning point from wrong to right. You see before the word "but" the way they were serving is wrong**

but after the word “but” it talks about serving on this journey in the right way. It talks about serving Jesus with the heart and when you serve Jesus from the heart, you throw all your excuses out and become obedient to his will. How can one serve in this manner, I’m glad you asked:

- 1) First you have to believe in Jesus and that he’s just who God say he is, because if you don’t believe in him you want accept him either. That’s why we see so much slack in the work of the convention because people just don’t believe it serves the church any purpose. That’s why people don’t attend church also they just don’t believe it’s a big deal in life. I had one brother to tell me if we change our meeting places we might get more men to come out, but I believe it don’t matter about the meeting place if they don’t believe in what you’re doing they’re just not going to take part, you have to believe in what’s going on so you can have some interest . They don’t do simply because it’s not in their heart to do and they never will until they start to believe in Jesus. **Romans 10:9 states: That if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved;**
- 2) Secondly you have to let him in your heart because you’re the only one that’s able to let him in and if you do let him in he will abide with you. But if you don’t let Jesus in your heart he’s not going to force or make you let him in, he wants you to know it’s your choice. And that makes it easy to understand why people want work for the Lord and it’s because they don’t know Jesus for themselves. You can’t do the work of the Lord without Jesus in your heart so he’s standing at the door knocking want you hear his voice and let him in. **Revelation20:3 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.**
- 3) Thirdly once you have him in your heart you have to become a slave for Jesus and this simply means he’s in charge. He set the rules and you have to abide by his rules or suffer the consequences. And you see that’s our problem we don’t want no one in charge of our life we think we should be in charge and everything we say should go. You see when Jesus enters your heart he starts to clean up the temple and he throws out some things that we’re trying to hold on to. You see he throws out that extra man or woman, he throws out your alcohol and drugs, he throws out your lies and fake excuses, He throws out your hate and jealousy, he throws out that lazy spirit and replaces it with a spirit that’s willing to do the work of the Lord. In other words Jesus changes you to who he needs you to be and he knows what to leave in and what to take out. **2 Corinthians 5:17 states: Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold new things have come.**

I guess East Mississippi; all I’m trying to say is that we can’t serve on this Christian journey without Christ in our heart. My brethren I must say a whole lot of us have come inside the church building but we hadn’t come into the church of Christ because it’s in the heart. And that’s why it’s so easy to sit down on God’s work because you hadn’t become a part of his church and if the matter be told you don’t know his work because he’s not in your heart. It’s in my heart to serve the Lord and I’ll be serving Lord till I die, simply because it’s in my heart to do so. **Luke 6:45 states: A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.**





**“It’s In My Heart Why I Serve the Lord”**



**East Mississippi Baptist State Convention**

Rev. Willie E. Jones, President

**East Mississippi Baptist State Laymen**

Deacon Charles Dodd, President

Bro. Tracy Shelby, Vice President

Bro. Tony Sanders, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice

Bro. Sammie Chambliss, 2nd Vice

Bro. Robert Johnson, 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice

Bro. Robert Love, Treasurer

Bro. George Fairley, Asst. Treasurer

Bro. Thomas Hollifield, Secretary

Bro. Larry Weathers, Asst. Secretary

Rev. Tristian Hardaway, Chaplin / Mission

Bro. Jarvis Naylor, Evangelism Leader

**Education Department**

Dean George Hardaway / Robert Brown