

121st Annual Session

East Mississippi Baptist State Convention Inc.

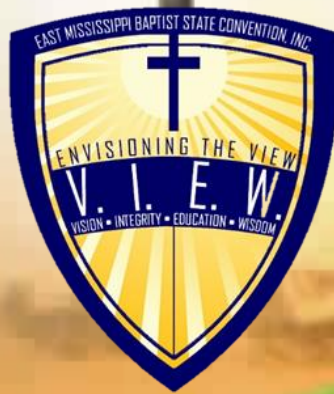
Reverend Willie E. Jones, President

Envisioning the V.I.E.W.

Vision. Integrity. Education. Wisdom

President Willie E. Jones

First Annual Address



Theme:

Envisioning the Future Exceptionally:

Through Our Commitment to Christian Stewardship

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

**New Hope Missionary Baptist Church
Meridian, Mississippi**

Rev. Walter Patrick, Host Pastor

*First Annual Address
Of
President Willie E. Jones
East Mississippi Baptist State Convention Inc.*

October 29, 2015

First, giving honor to God our Heavenly Father, His Son, Jesus Christ and His precious Holy Spirit. To Vice President At-Large Rev. Hollie Benson, First Vice President Rev. Marvin Chapman, Second Vice President Rev. Marvin Dixon and to the entire official staff of East Mississippi Baptist State Convention. To our Congress President Rev. A. D. Lewis, and his official staff. To the President of our Woman's Auxiliary, Sister Jacqueline McDougle and her official staff. To our Youth Director Sister Vivian Naylor and her staff. To our Laymen Director Brother Charles Dodd and his staff. To all of our Moderators, Pastors, Preachers, Members and friends of East Mississippi Baptist State Convention. I greet you in the name of Him who is able to do exceeding, abundantly, above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us!

I would like to take a moment to thank some special people in my life. First of all, I want to thank my wife, my help meet, who have been by my side for 44 years and my family for loving and caring so much for me. I would like to thank the Pilgrim Rest M. B. Church, one of God's greatest churches on this side of glory. Thank you for 30 years of God keeping us together and allowing me to be your spiritual leader. Thank you for supporting me in all that God has planned for us in His Kingdom work. Thanks to this choir for taking a day off from work to come and be with us at this hour.

*Envisioning The V.I.E.W.
Vision. Integrity. Education. Wisdom*

My Report:

I am pleased to report that East Mississippi Baptist State Convention is in good health, thanks to our loyal leadership.

- Our Web-Site is up and running, so please visit your State Web-Site for information and calendar of events*
- We are looking forward to starting Seminary Classes through Southern Baptist College of Laurel, Mississippi in the very near future.*
- We have in place an official request and we are in communication with Meridian Public School for the "Kate Griffin Middle School Building" as a "Home" for East Mississippi Baptist State Convention.*
- We registered the convention in the National Convention Mid-Winter Board Meeting in January 2015 with the requested amount of \$2000.00. Also, we registered the convention in the National Convention Annual Session in September 2015 with the requirement of \$2000.00. I am also pleased to report that the National Baptist Convention is moving forward under the leadership of Dr. Jerry Young; Envisioning the Future Exceptionally "Through Our Commitment to Stewardship."*

My Stewardship:

Since our last annual session October 2014 held in Hattiesburg, Mississippi at Ebenezer M. B. Church I have attended the following:

- S.S.P.B. Christian Education Conference December 2014 Nashville, Tenn.*
- National Baptist Convention Mid-Winter Board Meeting Jackson, MS. January 2015*

- *EMBSC. Mid-Winter Board Meeting Meridian, MS. February 2015*
- *EMBSC Christian Educators Conference Meridian, MS. February 2015*
- *EMBSC Congress of Christian Education Morton/Scott County June 2015*
- *National Baptist Congress of Christian Education Detroit, MI. June 2015*
- *Friendship District Congress of Christian Education Collinsville, MS July 2015*
- *1st New Hope Association Meridian, MS July 2015*
- *2nd New Hope Association Meridian MS July 2015*
- *Scott County Congress of Christian Education July 2015*
- *National Baptist Convention USA Inc. Memphis, TN*

In Memorial:

I Corinthians 15:19 – If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.

II Corinthians 5:1 – For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

Let us pause for a moment of silence to remember those who have pass from labor to reward.

National theme:

Envisioning the Future Exceptionally
“Through Our Commitment to Christian Stewardship”
~Jeremiah 29:11 & I Corinthians 4: 1-2~

11th “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”(NIV)

(KJV) For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.

Subject or Thought
“Tell Me What Do You See”

I. Introduction: Envisioning

The word “Vision” is to see, to look, something seen in a dream, a manifestation to the sense of something immaterial, the act or power of imagination, but this word is not just “Vision” but “Envision”.

Vision, with a prefix (En) is to picture to oneself, to look into, to see the inside, to experience supernatural insight, to see the invisible.

When I see the word “Vision” and/or “Envision” I think of a Prophet. A prophet is a seer, one who for-tell, to see and tell of something before it happen. He see it before you see, he speak things that not as though they were.

(Ing) is on the word, which make the word a running verb, a continuation, to continue to look, to continue to see into the future exceptionally.

This again is another crazy word (Exceptionally), meaning better than average, superior, its more than what meet the eye, its more in it than what one can imagine. The prefix of this word “Exceptionally” is except which suggest to me if you don’t possess a certain thing you can’t do certain things without it.

In (St. John 3:5-9) Jesus says unto Nicodemus, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of the water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

6th That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

7th Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.

8th The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth; so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

9th Nicodemus answered and said unto Him, how can these things be? (I can't see it, I do not understand, how can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?)

14th And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up:

15th That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

II The Stewardship of Life-Vision

Stewardship isn't just about money but then again it is. Stewardship touches every part of life, and it demands the wise management of all that we have and all that we are.

- Stewardship is about Vision – our dreams that motivate us.*
- It's about Commitment – our faithfulness to the promises we make.*
- It's about Time – how we use it and waste it.*
- It's about Opportunity – the chances and opportunities we are given.*
- It's about Resources – the material assets entrusted to our care.*
- It's about You – because God has given you the responsibility managing your life, of stewarding all that is given you.*

Life is a gift, a gift from God and we are all stewards of everything God has given us, vision, influence, commitment, time, opportunity, resources and so much more. All of these are things we given at birth. The question is what do we do with them, how are we using them, are managing them for God's purpose?

II. Exposition Jeremiah 29:11 (Tell Me What Do You See)

We often approach this scriptural verse as a security blanket; God has a plan for me that is good, so clearly this suffering I'm going through will end soon and then my flourishing will begin! But this is not all what God was promising to the Israelites, and it's not all what He's promising us, either. The heart of this verse is "not that we would escape out lot, but that we would learn to thrive" in the midst of it.

Here's the context: The Israelites were in exile, a punishment from God as a result of their disobedience. The prophet Jeremiah confronts the false prophet, Hananiah, who had boldly proclaimed that God was going to free Israel from Babylon in two years (spoiler alert: God does not do it). "We need be reminded that there is no quick fix solution to the many problems in which we have; many of us are in situations because we have failed to do what the Lord have said or doing what He has said not to do".

Jeremiah calls out Hananiah's lie, and then states the promise we are in Jeremiah 29:11. God does indeed have a good plan for the Israelites and for East Mississippi, it is a plan that will give hope and a prospering future. Sound good, does it not. The thing is, before he shares this promise, he gives them this directive from God: "Seek peace and the prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile, pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper." (29:7) This is not at all what the Israelites wanted to hear! They wanted to be told that they were going to go home. They wanted to be told that their suffering was going to end. Instead, God's plan was for them to stay right where they were, and to help prosper the nation that enslaved them! And came the biggest blow of all. In verse 10, God says that he would fulfill this "after seventy years are completed

in Babylon.” This meant that none in the current generation of Israelites would ever return to their home. What a crushing thing to be told.

Of course God knows the plans he has for us. And ultimately he will give us a glorious future. But as we walk through our lives in this crazy mixed up world, let us remember that the best growth comes through persevering through trials and tribulations, not escaping them entirely. And when we learn perseverance, we find surprisingly the joy of the Lord.

What hard thing are you currently going through? In the midst of your suffering, cling to Jeremiah 29:11, but cling to it for the right reason: not in false hope that God will take away all our suffering and sorrow, but in true gospel confidence that he will give you hope in the midst of it.

(Jeremiah 29:11)

Yes, we quote it, share it with grieving friends, and cross-stitch it onto our pillows. But to truly understand its meaning, we have to hang out a few minutes in the preceding chapter, understanding the history of Israel, the nature of their exile, and the promise of the future.

The Jewish people disobeyed God in every possible way. They traded him for evil and other gods, worshipped demons rather than bowing to the king of kings. As a result of their disobedience, God sent them into Babylonian exile. In chapter 28 Hananiah the seer prophesied all will be well. But all would not be well. Even in our day and time we see hundreds and (thousands) of Hananiah’s prophesying the same thing, all will be well, prosperity is coming, name it and claim it. We want people to believe the Christian life is all about happiness, we want joy, but we don’t want the exile that creates joy, we want gain without pain, and we want to be strong in the Lord, but we don’t want to walk the Calvary road He walked.

Close:

Jeremiah rebukes Hananiah, and reminds the Israelites that their exile was to continue. Relief would eventually come, but swiftly. He encouraged them to marry and buy, to plant vineyard, to seek the prosperity of their current place.

O’ East Mississippi, our work has just begun; there may be some storm and rain before the sunshine: but I can see the sun peeking through the cloud, the storm is almost gone.

I Kings 18:37 – 44, Elijah on Mt. Carmel:

37th Hear me, O Lord, hear me, that this people may know that thou art the Lord God, and that thou hast turned their heart back again.

38th Then the fire of the Lord fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench.

39th And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces: they said, The Lord, he is the God; the Lord, he is the God.

40th And Elijah said unto them, Take the prophets of Baal; let not one of them escape. And they took them: and Elijah brought them down to the brook Kishon, and slew them there.

41st And Elijah said unto A’hab, Get thee up, eat and drink; for there is a sound of abundance of rain.

42nd So A’hab went up to eat and to drink. And Elijah went up to the top of (Mt.) Carmel; and he cast himself down upon the earth and put his face between his knees,

43rd And said to his servant, Go up now, look toward the sea. And he went up, and looked, and said, There is nothing, And he said, Go again seven times.

44th And it came to pass as the seventh time, that he said, Behold, there ariseth a little cloud out of the sea, like a man’s hand. And he said, Go up, say unto A’hab, Prepare thy chariot and get thee down that the rain stop thee not.

(EMBSC) I just want to tell you there is a promise land.

From the late Dr. Martin Luther King said:

I've been to the mountain top, my eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord.

One Friday, out on a hill called Calvary, Jesus, Mary's baby, God's only Son, gave His life that I may have Eternal life. Amen and Amen!