

2018 SUNDAY WRAP UP

Messengers arriving early for the 93rd Messenger Assembly of the American Baptist Association gathered Sunday, June 17, 2018 in Regency Ballroom at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Lexington, Kentucky to worship the Lord. The service was hosted by Fairhaven Baptist Church and led by Pastor John East. The estimated crowd of 200 enjoyed a brief time of fellowship prior to the 10:30 a.m. service.

After the service was opened in prayer, Pastor East introduced himself and Fairhaven Baptist Church, sharing some of the church's history. He then invited The Mattingly Family to the stage to lead the congregation in singing Victory in Jesus and Amazing Grace. The Mattingly Family then offered several specials before returning the leadership of the service to Bro. East.

Bro. East brought a message from Exodus 34:5-8. Titling his message, "The Power of the Presence of God," he expounded upon the revealed character of God as revealed Himself to Moses. Extolling the gravity of the presence of God in an individual's life, Bro. East spoke on the necessity of seeking, preparing for, and receiving the presence of God. At the close of the sermon, an invitation was offered.

At the close of services, Bro. Edgar Sutton, Director of Meeting Arrangements, was given the floor and made pertinent announcements. The services dismissed in prayer.

2018 MONDAY WRAP UP

Messengers arrived on Monday, June 18, 2018 at the Hyatt Regency and Hilton Hotels in preparations to attend the 93rd Messenger Meeting of the American Baptist Association. The evening began with a Welcome Reception in the Regency Ballroom sponsored by Missionary Baptist Seminary of Little Rock, Arkansas. Approximately 400 were served the evening hors d'oeuvre of Mini Hot Browns along with coffee and lemonade. The Seminary distributed personalized cups to all who attended.

The Missionary Share Time started in the Patterson Ballroom at 7:00 p.m. With over 600 in attendance, 86 missionaries and ministry leaders shared their burdens. Given two minutes each, every person was able to share the highlights of their particular field of labor along with their needs.

At 7:30 p.m., the ABA Schools meeting convened in the Hyatt Suites. A dozen seminaries sponsored by churches fellowshipping the American Baptist Association were represented. Each school was offered an opportunity to report on their work to a crowd of approximately 60.

Throughout Monday, messengers enjoyed the downtown atmosphere and nearby restaurants. Many took trips to the Ark Encounter, located just 45 minutes north of Lexington, along with exploring other nearby attractions. All enjoyed the renewed fellowship that comes once a year at the messenger assembly.

2018 TUESDAY WRAP UP

The 93rd Annual Messenger Meeting of the churches of the American Baptist Association convened Tuesday evening, June 19, 2018 in the Lexington Convention Center in Lexington, Kentucky. Following an instrumental prelude offered by Bro. Joey Hargis of Langdon St. BC in Somerset, Kentucky, The Trio, also of Langdon St. offered a special titled, "I Love to Tell the Story." President Rand Cloud called Dr. James Floyd of Kentucky to the podium for Scripture reading and prayer. Following the prayer, the estimated 2000 messengers were seated, and the meeting was called to order.

Bro. John East, pastor of Fair Haven Baptist Church of Lexington Kentucky offered a warm welcome on behalf of Fair Haven Baptist Church with Bro. Mike Yoho of Maryland giving the response on behalf of the messenger body. The messengers adopted the proposed agenda, which then called for the International Flag Ceremony. Flags representing the nations with churches fellowshiping with the American Baptist Association were on display before the messengers. Once the American flag was posted, Chaplain Wayne Hunter led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Bro. Don Morrow led the congregation in singing "The Star-Spangled Banner."

Following special music by the assembled choir and congregation, Vice President Terry Parrish called Bro. Larry Clements of Arkansas to introduce Dr. Randy Cloud for the Present's Address. Sis. Sandra Cloud shared a song titled, "Preach the Word." Dr. Cloud delivered his address titled "The Furtherance of the Gospel" from Philippians 1:12-14.

Dr. Cloud invited Bro. Ed Button of Florida to the stage to introduce Bro. Eric Sutton of Alabama to preach the Annual Sermon. Special music of "Jesus, What a Mighty Name" was sung by Bro. Adam Pruitt and Sis. Christy Goodwin. Bro. Sutton brought the Annual Message, "Do Not Quit" from 2 Timothy 2:8-10, calling upon the messengers to remember the person of the Savior, the power of the Scriptures, and the purpose of the soul winner. An invitation was offered by Dr. Cloud while the song "Take My Life and Let It Be" was sung by the audience led by Bro. Bill Crouse of Florida. Numerous servants came forward seeking prayer.

Dr. Cloud shared the appointment of committees and called for constitutional or policy changes. Bro. Michael Reese of Benton, Arkansas brought a change to Section V.1 of the mission policy on behalf of Sharon MBC, and Bro. Ed Byrnes of Missouri City, Texas brought a change to Section V.4 of the mission policy on behalf of Heritage BC. Both items were voted to be laid on the table until a subsequent day of the session.

Dr. Cloud recognized Bro. Edgar Sutton to present the invitations for June 2022: Springfield, Illinois, Daytona Beach, Florida, Orlando, Florida, and Mobile, Alabama. Following announcements, Dr. Cloud called Bro. Jerry Chandler, pastor of Langdon Street Baptist Church of Somerset, Kentucky to the podium to close the assembly in Scripture Reading and prayer.

2018 WEDNESDAY MORNING WRAP UP

The messengers of the churches of the American Baptist Association gathered on Wednesday morning, June 20, 2017 in the Lexington Convention Center to consider the recommendations of missionaries and mission helpers and ministers for the next associational year. Bro. Micah Carter from Arkansas opened the assembly with Scripture reading and prayer. Bro. Dustin Wright of Texas led the congregation in singing "There Is Power in the Blood" followed by a special music from The Mattingly Family.

Vice-Moderator Bro. Lynn Raburn from Arkansas recognized Missionary Committee Chairman Bro. Ed Button of Florida to begin the business of the mission committee. Bro. Bryan Sellers brought an annual report as the Secretary-Treasurer of Missions. Bro. Sellers reported 12,294 professions of faith from the missionaries and greater than \$2.1 million being given through the office for the past year. Following the Missionary Committee report read by Bro. Roger Stewart of Arkansas, 156 missionaries and mission helpers and ministers were approved by the messengers for the upcoming year.

The messengers reelected Bro. Brian Sellers as Secretary-Treasurer of Missions. Two new Committeemen were elected to take the place of those wishing not to serve. Bro. Larry Butte was elected to take the place of Bro. Don Justice. Bro. John Mix was elected to take the place of Bro. Robert Myers. Bro. Rayburn called for Bro. Sellers to come forward and prayer was offered by Bro. Ed Button for Bro. Sellers the missionaries sent by the churches of the American Baptist Association, the newly elected Standing Missionary Committee, Sisters Jill Sellers and Karen Murphy.

After adopting the report of the Mission Committee and electing a new Standing Mission Committee, Bro. Raburn called for any changes to the mission policy to be removed from the table and placed in nomination. The messengers considered two changes, one presented by Sharon MBC of Benton, Arkansas and the other by Heritage BC of Missouri City, Texas. Both motions to implement the changes failed, leaving the policy unaltered.

President Randy Cloud opened the floor for nominations for the office of Business Manager. Bro. Dean Grigsby of Mt. Enterprise, Texas was nominated. Following a congregational hymn of "Jesus Saves," Bro. Ronnie Hardin of Arkansas closed the assembly with Scripture reading and prayer.

2018 WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON WRAP UP

The messengers of the churches of the American Baptist Association reconvened following lunch on Wednesday afternoon, June 20, 2018 in the Lexington Convention Center. Following a special by The Mattingly Family of "A New Day Dawning," Bro. Daniel Conditt of Arkansas opened the assembly with Scripture reading and prayer. President Randy Cloud recognized Vice-President Mark Clements to moderate the afternoon session. Bro. Clements called for the Wednesday afternoon reports.

The report of the Camp Trustees was read and adopted, and Bro. Tony Harp of Arkansas was elected to serve as a Camp Trustee in place of outgoing trustee Bro. Marion Reed. The report of the Chaplaincy Commission was read and approved. Bro. Crouse led the congregation in singing "America the Beautiful" followed by a moment of silence and prayer by Bro. Herb Kitchens. The minutes of the History and Archives Committee were read and approved. A plaque was given to Bro. Donald Britton in recognition of his twenty-five years of service to the committee.

Bro. Bill Crouse then led the congregation of singing "At Calvary" accompanied by Bro. Daniel Clark. Bro. Clements returned to the podium to call Chaplain Wayne Hunter for the report of the Law Enforcement Chaplains Report. Bro. Clements recognized Bro. R.L. Clark to give the Enrollment and Finance Committee Report. Bro. Clark reported that 571 church letters were sent in prior to meeting and 132 letters were turned in at the meeting. The 703 letters reported 601 elected messengers with an estimated number of total attendance to be 2000.

Bro. Clements recognized Bro. Jay Gibson, chairman of the Memorials Committee to give their Report. At the close of the report, an instrumental rendition of "Amazing Grace" was played while the names of brethren called home to heaven was read. A motion was made to dedicate a special memorial page in the yearbook for Bro. Roy Hawthorne. The following reports were also given and adopted: MBSF, Resolution, National Women's Conference, and Choral Music Workshop. Bro. Jerry Riggs of Georgia closed the assembly with scripture and prayer.

2018 WEDNESDAY EVENING WRAP UP

The messengers of the churches of the American Baptist Association met on the evening of Wednesday, June 20, 2017 in the Lexington Convention Center. Sis. Brittney Wright of California brought a special in song, "All You Need When You Need It." President Randy Cloud called Bro. Doney Blackerby of Arkansas to the stage to open the evening in Scripture reading and prayer. Bro. Dustin Wright of California led the congregation in singing, "Nothing But the Blood," accompanied by Bro. Daniel Clark of Arkansas on the piano.

Dr. Cloud called for the Missionary Committee Presentation. Secretary-Treasurer of Missions Bryan Sellers shared with the messengers the great value of an associated work. Going back to the beginning, Bro. Sellers reminded the messengers of the blessings of mission work: local churches sending missionaries as other fellowshiping churches assist. As Bro. Sellers encouraged the messengers of associated work, the choir sang select songs to reinforce the message. At the close of the presentation, all missionaries were called to the front of the auditorium. Bro. Sellers called Brethren Mitcheo Kawahara and Victor Guzman to the stage in honor of their 50 years of service as missionaries. Their pastor, Bro. Mark Harris of Arkansas led in prayer for the missionaries of the American Baptist Association. An offering of \$7,816 was collected.

Bro. Roger Copeland of Arkansas introduced Bro. Bruce Betts to preach the annual sermon. Bro. Betts preached "Getting the Man to Jesus" from Mark 2:1-5. Bro. Betts brought out four things the men did had that was essential in getting the man with the palsy to Jesus: compassion, cooperation, commitment, and confidence. An invitational hymn of "Come Thou Fount" was offered while men came forward for prayer.

Following announcements, Bro. Kerry Beaty of Florida closed the assembly with reading 1 John 4:7-11 and leading the congregation in prayer.

2018 THURSDAY MORNING WRAP UP

The messengers of the churches of the American Baptist Association returned to the Lexington Convention Center on Thursday, June 21, 2017 to begin deliberations at 9:30 a.m. President Randy Cloud invited Bro. Joseph Looney of Kentucky to share with the messengers a brief history of Baptists in Kentucky. Bro. Darvie Fenison of Kentucky opened the assembly with Scripture reading and prayer.

Dr. Cloud called for a vote for the selection of the meeting place for 2022. Bro. Edgar Sutton reminded the messengers of the choices before the messengers. The messengers selected Orlando, Florida. Dr. Cloud called Vice-President Terry Parrish to moderate.

Dr. Parrish called for the report of the Baptist Sunday School Committee recognizing Bro. David Butimore, chairman. Bro. Dennis Richey, clerk, read the minutes of the Baptist Sunday School Committee meeting held on Tuesday, June 19, 2018. A motion and second was made to adopt the report. Bro. Richey presented two line items: (1) Newly elected BSSC conduct a study of the current organizational structure of the BSSC, and (2) A five percent increase in Sunday School and BTC prices to be implemented for the winter quarter. Both line items passed.

Dr. Parrish called for the report of the Business Manager from Bro. Wayne Sewell. Bro. Sewell expressed appreciation to the messengers in allowing him to serve for the past nineteen years. A motion to amend the report was passed which would allow the Business Manager to increase literature prices during the year if material prices rise with the stipulation that the BSSC would be consulted. Bro. Parrish called Bro. Kyle Elkins to read the report of the Editor-in-Chief with the report being approved as read. Bro. Parrish called for the election of the Editor-in-Chief and Bro. Elkins was reelected. Bro. Elkins presented the list of quarterly writers and all were elected by the messengers.

Bro. Parrish called for the election of the Baptist Sunday School Committee. Bro. Caleb Wood of Washington was elected to serve in place of Bro. Neal Clark. With the substitution, the committee was elected as nominated. Bro. Parrish recognized Bro. David Butimore to honor Brethren David Johnson and Richard Merritt for faithfully serving as writers for 25 years with a plaque from the BSSC. Bro. Butimore called Bro. Wayne Sewell to the podium to honor his service as the Business Manager. The messengers rose to show their appreciation.

Dr. Parrish turned the chair back to Dr. Cloud. Dr. Cloud called for the election of the Business Manager. Bro. Dean Grigsby of Texas was elected with no opposition. Bro. Grigsby was recognized to speak to the body requesting prayer as he begins his service. Bro. Butimore was called to pray a special prayer for the newly elected Business Manager and the reelected Editor-in-Chief. Bro. Larry Butte closed the morning assembly with Scripture reading and prayer.

2018 THURSDAY AFTERNOON WRAP UP

The messengers of the churches of the American Baptist Association resumed business on Thursday, June 21, 2018 in the afternoon in the Lexington Convention Center. Bro. Don Morrow led the congregation in singing "Isn't the Love of Jesus Something Wonderful" accompanied by Sis. Sandra Cloud on the piano. Bro. Morrow then sang a special, "I Plead the Blood." President Randy Cloud recognized Bro. Justin Coburn of Texas for Scripture reading and prayer.

The messengers began the afternoon session with the election of speakers for the annual and mission messages for 2019. Bro. Scott Bourland of Indiana was elected to bring the annual message with Bro. Ron Canard of Arkansas to serve as an alternate. Bro. Jason Hebert of Louisiana was elected to preach the mission message with Bro. John Strader of Kenya as alternate.

Dr. Cloud called for the election officers. The messengers elected Dr. Terry Parrish of Arkansas to serve as President with Brethren Mark Clements of Texas, Lynn Raburn of Arkansas, and Eric Sutton of Alabama to serve as Vice-Presidents. Bro. Mike Yoho and Bro. Nathan Luellen were reelected to serve as Recording-Secretaries. Bro. David Butimore of California was elected to serve as Parliamentarian with Bro. James Calhoun of Arkansas to serve as Assistant Parliamentarian. Dr. Cloud called for the election of Music Directors and Bro. Dustin Wright of California, Bro. Don Morrow of Oklahoma, and Bro. Bill Crouse of Florida were selected by the messengers. Bro. Edgar Sutton of Arkansas was reelected as Director of Meeting Arrangements.

Dr. Cloud called for a vote for the salaries. A motion was made for the salaries for Recording Secretaries remain the same at \$3800. A motion was made for salary of the Director of Meeting Arrangements to be raised to \$2500 per month and housing to remain \$750. A final motion relating to salaries was made for salary of the Assistants to the Director of Meeting Arrangements to remain the same at \$2800 plus expenses.

Bro. Roger Stewart read the report of the new Standing Mission Committee and it was adopted as read. Bro. Dennis Richey read the report of the new Baptist Sunday School Committee and it was adopted as read as well.

After a call for miscellaneous business, Bro. Butimore moved that future messenger meetings use of "Robert's Rules of Order in Brief" for all parliamentary procedure. The motion was passed.

Dr. Cloud thanked the messengers for the opportunity to serve them as President as well as the officers who served alongside him during his tenure. Dr. Cloud called Dr. Terry Parrish to the podium to turn him over to him as the newly elected President. Dr. Cloud called for the recognition of new officers and each expressed appreciation for the opportunity to serve.

The 93rd session of the meeting of the messengers was declared closed, with the intent on meeting together again next year in Knoxville, Tennessee. Bro. Nathan Luellen of Louisiana closed the assembly with Scripture reading and prayer. Bro. Don Morrow led the congregation in singing, "Where He Leads I'll Follow" and "Stepping in the Light."