

Glad Tidings

October

FROM THE PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH

2024

“Buy the truth, and sell it not.” (Prov. 23:23)

Philippians 4:13

Strength For Today And Bright Hope For Tomorrow

I Corinthians 15:19

We know in theory that life is a vapor, that appears for just a little time, and then vanishes away (James 4:13-15), but it seems it usually takes unexpected events to remind us of the truth of that reality. On Saturday, Aug. 10, 2024, my family was driving to a wedding and about 30 minutes away when we got the call which eventually led to my Dad's passing. The church my brother, Jonathan, pastors was still hosting their annual meeting that Saturday. Thankfully, Dad was able to attend the Friday night service there the evening before. Therefore, that Saturday was a regular day for all of us, weddings, church meetings, and was a regular day for Dad and Mom too, going to the church meeting at Mt. Pisgah PBC in Duck Hill, MS. That's how life happens, a regular day can change on a dime, and your life can change forever.

In the midst of the constant change of this world, the only stabilizing anchor we can fully rely on is Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today, and forever (Heb. 13:8); the God that cannot and will not change (Mal. 3:6). It's because of the "immutable" (unchanging) nature of God, that we sing in faith, from the hymn Great is Thy Faithfulness, these beautiful lines: "Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father, there is no shadow of turning with Thee, Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not, As Thou has been thou forever wilt be." The rest of the lyrics of that hymn are perfectly appropriate in times of change, but we will refrain from quoting the whole hymn. I hope you will go and sing that song in faith today, trusting in the Lord who does not and will not change.

As an amazing show of support of Bethany Primitive Baptist Church on Sunday after Larry Wise (who served 44 years in pastoral care of Bethany) passed suddenly the day before, 4 sisters church in the area chose to forego meeting at their regular locations, and all come to worship with Bethany Church on that Sunday as a show of support for the church, but also showing respect for the investment Brother Larry had made in all the churches of North Mississippi throughout his ministry. The church house at Bethany was packed. Elder Charles Kitchens, a longtime friend of Bethany Church and Brother Larry, was blessed to deliver a message centered around John 14:1, "Let not your heart be troubled; ye believe in God, believe also in me." In line with that message, we also think about the hymn, Be Still My Soul. We are reminded in that hymn that "In every change, He faithful will remain." Also, in times of change, we know that "Our God doth undertake to guide the future as he has the past."

Therefore, don't let your heart be troubled, let your soul be still, and "thy hope thy confidence let nothing shake." Again, I encourage you to go sing the hymn Be Still My Soul today, take some deep breaths, and rest and trust in the Lord in faith.

There is much change coming in the lives of our family, Bethany church, and the ministry and churches of North Mississippi. There will be a tremendous void in our family. Brother Larry has served Bethany Church for so long, 44 years, that many people have known nothing else in the church other than him as the pastor. The ministry in North Mississippi relied on him for leadership, counsel, and wisdom. There will be a large void for all the churches in our area, not just for Bethany church. However, we rely upon the Lord who "in every change, He faithful will remain." God has provided for His people and His churches and the kingdom of God for 2,000 years, and the kingdom will continue until Christ's second coming. We are thankful for Brother Larry's faithful service in the kingdom, but the kingdom of God is greater than just one man. The kingdom is about the King, not the individual servants of the King! The kingdom of God will carry on until Christ's second coming with God raising up a new generation of faithful men to serve in the kingdom to continue to carry the torch for those that have passed on to glory. Let us pray fervently for the furtherance, expansion, and growth of the kingdom of God. Let us pray for God to raise up faithful disciples to serve in the kingdom of God, faithful pastors, devoted deacons, humble sisters serving in the church, and for all aspects of the kingdom of God to see revival with a new generation of servants being raised up.

I am so thankful that the Lord was so gracious to give us the scriptures and the gospel to where we "sorrow not, even as others which have no hope." (1 Thess. 4:13) Instead, as I was reminded by a dear young brother, we "sorrow IN HOPE". Before we return to that thought, let's first consider the negative portion of that verse. It breaks my heart to see others that have no hope of eternal life when a loved one passes away. If they believe there is nothing after this world, it's understandable the depression that would ensue thinking that there is literally nothing after this world. It's during times of sudden loss that we have a great opportunity and platform to share our "lively hope" with others. We don't just have a hope, we have a "lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." (1 Pet. 1:3) We are commanded to sanctify the Lord in our hearts and be ready always to give a

reason of the “hope that is in you with meekness and fear.” (1 Pet. 3:15) Even in times of sudden or tragic loss, that “lively hope” can radiate and beam out to others to have them ask us – how can you have joy in the midst of a sudden loss of a loved one? We should be excited to answer, “I have a living hope that my Dad is not dead, but more alive than he’s ever been. He’s finally put down the frailty of his natural body and was immediately ushered into the presence of Jesus Christ because to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord for the child of God. Because Jesus Christ was resurrected, according to the scriptures, we believe that this body will be resurrected at Christ’s second coming, and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Thank you for your kind words and condolences, but my Dad is not dead, he’s living with Jesus Christ because of Christ’s resurrection and salvation by his finished work and grace alone. Therefore, I don’t sorrow that I will never see my Dad again, but instead, I anxiously await the day when either I myself will be called home to heaven or Jesus Christ will return the second time, and I will see my Dad again in perfection, and we will worship the Lamb together for all eternity because Jesus Christ saved us by his sovereign grace alone.” I hope we can always be ready to answer and give a testimony of our “lively hope” in Jesus Christ whenever we are asked, especially of those that might have no hope in the gospel.

Therefore, we need to be ready to give an answer to those that have no hope, but once you remove the wording of the double negatives in 1 Thess. 4:13, from the child of God’s perspective we do “sorrow IN HOPE.” Yes, we inevitably have sorrow. We grieve for ourselves that we won’t have the blessing of fellowship with our loved one again this side of heaven. However, we do not sorrow or grieve for our loved ones who lived their lives in such a way to make their calling and election sure. Our natural grief is anchored in the bedrock truths of eternal security, “In hope of eternal life, which God that cannot lie promised before the world began.” (Titus 1:2) God cannot fail, he cannot lie, he cannot change, and thus our hope that they are in heaven is “safe within the veil.”

Going back to the hymn, Great is Thy Faithfulness, a line from that hymn has been the motto of this Glad Tidings newsletter for many years – “Strength for Today, and Bright Hope for Tomorrow.” My brother, Jonathan, and I hope to continue to faithful efforts of Elder E.D. McCutcheon and Elder Larry Wise in producing this monthly newsletter for the benefit of North Mississippi Primitive Baptist churches and other subscribed readers. I’m sure the format and content of this newsletter might change some since my brother and I are in a different season of life than my Dad was. However, we hope to continue to provide edifying articles, church meeting announcements, praise reports, and we will be sure to include a legacy “From the Pastor’s Desk” article in each edition, reprinting the

writings of Brother Larry who was the faithful editor of this Glad Tidings newsletter for 24 years, from 2000 until his death.

In that same hymn, Great is Thy Faithfulness, we rest in our faith in Christ that “All I have needed, Thy hand hath provided.” God will always give us what we need; not always everything we want, but Christ will always give us what we need. There is nothing we need more every day, that “Strength for Today and Bright Hope for Tomorrow.” We know that God will continue to give us the strength we need for today, plenty of grace sufficient to provide for our needs today. I know I am personally sad at the passing of my Dad, and I’m sad to not have the blessing of his fellowship, his preaching, or his writing any more this side of heaven. However, I believe we should have “Bright Hope for Tomorrow!” I believe through the strong foundation laid by faithful servants such as Brother Larry, we have excited hope for the future of the kingdom of God! The future of the kingdom is bright! not dim or bleak. We pray it will be true that the kingdom will not diminish but grow and thrive in the years to come. Kindred, while we “sorrow in hope”, I hope we all have an excited and bright hope for the tomorrow’s to come, and trust the Lord will grow His kingdom, for His glory, and that we can be faithful servants to help others have strength for today, and bright hope for tomorrow!

(Elder David Wise, August 15, 2024)

This edition of Glad Tidings will serve as an In Memory of Elder Larry Wise edition, before returning to a more regular format in the months to come.

EDITORIAL OFFICE

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Elder Jonathan Wise & Elder David Wise, Co-Editors

STANDING IN THE GAP

By Elder Jonathan Wise

“Therefore he said that he would destroy them, had not Moses his chosen stood before him in the breach, to turn away his wrath, lest he should destroy them.”
Psalms 106:23 (KJV)

The psalmist is referencing a well-known event from Exodus 32. While Moses was on Mount Sinai receiving the 10 Commandments from the Lord, the children of Israel quickly corrupted themselves. They melted down golden earrings to fashion a molten calf, which they proclaimed to be their “gods” that delivered them out of Egyptian bondage.

This blasphemy greatly angered the Lord, who expressed a desire to utterly consume them in divine judgment. However, Moses became a mediator between God and the rebellious Israelites, asking God to have mercy on them and turn away his wrath upon the basis of his covenant promises made to the patriarchs, and the Lord spared the people. In this, Moses “stood before him in the breach,” and he is a powerful type or shadow of the Lord Jesus Christ.

All men are deserving of the wrath of Almighty God due to sin and our fallen condition in Adam. This was the “breach” that our mediator Jesus of Nazareth came to this world to rectify. It took Jesus keeping the law of God perfectly for us to be spared God’s wrath. By laying down his life, Jesus redeemed those who were chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world by reconciling the breach that sin had created between man and a Holy God (Eph. 1:3-7, 2 Cor. 5:18-19).

Our only hope lies in the fact that God shows mercy to undeserving sinners upon the basis Jesus’ shed blood, the sacrifice made as an offering to God the Father to satisfy his wrath for the sins of God’s elect according to the covenant of grace (Heb. 13:20). As Paul told the church at Corinth, “For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.” (2 Cor. 5:21).

We find similar language in Ezekiel 22:30: “And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none.”

In those wicked times, the Lord sought a servant to stand in the gap created by the sinful rebellions of Judah, someone on whose behalf he might show mercy and stay the judgment that was coming upon the nation. In this situation, there was no Moses to be found. In the next verse, the Lord says, “Therefore have I poured out mine indignation upon them; I have consumed them with the fire of my wrath: their own way have I recompensed upon their heads, saith the Lord God.”

Today our prayer should be that there are enough disciples who are obedient to God’s word remaining to “stand in the gap” before God, so that He might be merciful to us in not bringing the full scope of the

judgment our nation deserves and to some extent seems to be under even now.

There is a need for children of God to stand in the gap created by the death or decline in health of stalwart servants of God. My dad Elder Larry Wise’s passing is an example. My part in continuing the work of this publication is an effort to try to stand in the gap left by his departure from this vain world to his eternal home. This is a necessity not just here but wherever dedicated preachers of the gospel leave big voids that have to be filled. There is a need for men to step up and pastor churches, mentor men called to the ministry, be peacemakers when tension and strife arise, and continue to defend the truth of God’s word when Satan’s attacks come. Picking up the mantle of a bigger responsibility is difficult, but these things must be done for the work of the kingdom of God to continue apace. Feelings of not being adequate to the task are understandable and are an indication of the humbleness one should possess (1 Pet. 5:6-7), but the Lord who calls men into the vineyard gives grace sufficient to meet the task.

A major problem right now is a generational gap within some churches, where many younger people have been led astray by the deceitfulness of this world and forsaken the Lord’s house. When this occurs, there are limited people to stand in the gaps that inevitably will be left. In the most extreme cases there is essentially nobody. We urgently need people to commit themselves to the Lord.

This is not simply a message for the young people in school or college. There are adults of all ages who need to mature in their spiritual walk in order to become the deacons the church will need in the future, aged women who can mentor younger ones (Titus 2:3-5), or those who bless the church through utilizing various and needful spiritual gifts.

The context of each of those verses is speaking of standing before God. However, these “gaps” we have been discussing are directly related. In Ezekiel’s day God was looking for a faithful man to stand before him in the gap so he would not destroy the land. If people don’t step into these gaps or voids it will be damaging to the body of Christ, and collectively we will not be the light we are commanded to be (Matt. 5:14-16). We will be turning aside from the ways of God and looking like the world such as the nation of Judah was. If so, what basis have we to expect that God will not send judgment upon our churches by withholding the Holy Ghost as he sometimes did the rain from heaven in the Old Testament?

Sometimes standing in the gap involves doing so because the gap has been left by the unfaithfulness of others. Individuals who act out of deeply held convictions and principles, even in Christianity, is fast becoming a small minority in our current day where men will not endure sound doctrine (2 Tim. 4:3). Also, sometimes the Lord goes beyond simply sparing and

abundantly blesses a wider group of people for the sake of others. Some churches have gotten down to just a couple of members before the Lord sent revival. I fully believe that a big part of why that happened was because faithful men and women stood in the gap and refused to give up. Let that encourage those saints who are laboring in small congregations to continue pressing on!

Jesus stood in the breach, the gulf created by sin, so that we could spend eternity in heaven. Therefore, let us summon strength and courage to stand in the gap today and pray the Lord will be merciful to us.

ANYTHING TO DO?

By Elder Larry Wise (2011)

There is an old accusation hurled at Primitive Baptists that they believe in sitting on the stool of “do nothing.” While it is true that we can “do nothing” to cause the Lord to save us for heaven’s pure world since we are dead in trespasses and sins, it doesn’t follow that we are to “do nothing” after being delivered from our death state in sin. The dead cannot do anything; it is only the living that can do something, whether it is natural or spiritual. Isaiah said, “For the grave cannot praise thee, death can not celebrate thee: they that go down into the pit cannot hope for thy truth. The living, the living, he shall praise thee, as I do this day.” (Isa. 38:18-19). We cannot do anything to extract ourselves from the grave (the earthly grave or grave of death in sin); only the life-giving voice of the Son of God can accomplish this resurrection.

Once life has been instilled, activity can ensue, whether it is natural or spiritual. The Sovereign Grace of God doesn’t lead us to sit on the stool of “do nothing.” It leads us into active obedience and work in the vineyard of the Lord while we sojourn here below. Once we have stood still and witnessed the salvation of the Lord, it is time to move forward; not to “do nothing.” Primitive Baptists have never taught this, but they may have given that impression by giving emphasis (and rightly so) that we can “do nothing” to save ourselves for heaven. This is God’s work and His alone! Some Primitive Baptists may have sat on the stool of “do nothing”, but it is not because it is taught or preached by their ministers.

Jesus spoke a parable to those that thought the kingdom of God should immediately appear. He spoke of a nobleman who went into a far country to receive a kingdom and return. “And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come.” (Luke 19:13) The ten servants were told to “occupy” until the nobleman returned. The word “occupy” means to trade or remain busy. We do not know when our Lord will come the second time to take His ransomed bride home; however, we are to

busy ourselves (occupy) until He does. The Lord could come at any time. Peter tells of a day when the heavens shall pass away with a great noise and the elements shall melt with fervent heat. Peter talks about looking and hasting unto this coming day of God. (II Pet. 3:12)

What should be our response to this unknown coming day of God? Peter tells us, “Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,” (II Pet. 3:11). If we are going to be this kind of person in holy conversation (behavior) and godliness, we can’t remain on the stool of “do nothing.” Peter goes on to finish out this third chapter by exhorting the saints to not be led away with the error of the wicked and fall from their steadfastness, “But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.” (II Pet. 3:18).

Those pounds that were given to the ten servants were to be used; likewise, we are to use what God has given us to honor Him in our daily walk. Solomon went by the field of the slothful and considered it well as the vines and nettles had it covered. What was his conclusion? “Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth; and thy want as an armed man.” (Prov. 24:33-34). When we fold our hands and just hope the Lord will come soon and take us home, we fail to “occupy” as instructed and are in danger of our adversary, the devil, robbing us of the joy of our salvation. Many of the saints are busy enough and occupying, but they are busy occupying the wrong place. Their hands are active in the world but idle in the Lord’s vineyard. What a tragedy! Some people haven’t got anything better to do than to participate in the recent “Occupy Wall Street” movement. There is a better place to “occupy” than the streets and city hall; it is in the Lord’s vineyard where blessings abound.

Solomon said a little sleep and a little slumber would cause poverty in our house. How does this sleep come about? “Slothfulness casteth into a deep sleep; and an idle soul shall suffer hunger.” (Prov. 19:15). The Bible doesn’t have anything attractive to say about slothfulness. The slothful doesn’t want to work, and Paul informs us, “For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.” (II Thess. 3:10). Paul worked with his hands as a tentmaker and worked continuously, occupying his place in the kingdom of God. Paul talked about the coming of the Lord when He would deliver UP the kingdom to God. While he waited for that time unknown to him, he was forgetting things behind and reaching forth as he said, “I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.” (Phil. 3:14). May we all “occupy” and remain busy in the kingdom till the Lord’s second coming.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK
By Elder Larry Wise (1944-2024)



This article was already written by Brother Larry Wise in preparation for the October 2024 Glad Tidings edition before his passing on Aug. 10, 2024.

Any significant structure that is built must have a solid foundation or else the structure will not stand the assaults to which it is subjected. Many people are being deceived today doctrinally, politically, socially, and morally. Paul writes of many that had their faith overthrown their belief in the resurrection, but something was still intact. "Nevertheless, the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his..." (II Tim. 2:19) In spite of this deception, the foundation of the Lord's knowledge of His people still stood. He has known them from the ancients of eternity.

Peter acknowledges that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of the living God because it had been revealed unto him by the Father in heaven. Then Jesus told Peter, "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." (Matt. 16:18) The Rock of Jesus Christ is the foundation of the church. "For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ." (I Cor. 3:11) "...Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste." (Isa. 28:16) Zion is a mountain in Jerusalem which is a figure of the church and Jesus is the chief cornerstone of that church.

We see by the above scriptures that the Lord has a sure foundation undergirding His people and the church. This can never be destroyed. The people of God should build their lives on the foundation of Jesus Christ as the Rock of Ages by hearing the word of God and putting it into practice. The Bible says that when the winds, floods and rain beat on this house it withstood the assault because it was founded upon a rock. Conversely, if the foundation is on sinking sand, the house will fall when assaulted by the same winds, floods, and rain. (Matt. 7:24-27) Have a builder's mind and build on a sure foundation.

Satan cannot destroy the Lord's people so they lose their home in heaven. He cannot destroy or prevail against the Lord's church because it is built on Jesus

Christ as the rock. However, He makes every attempt to destroy the lives of God's people as a roaring lion after its prey. (I Pet. 5:8) There are certain things that the people of God can do to thwart these efforts of Satan. The scriptures are a perfect thorough furnisher with all the information needed to meet this foe.

Our freedom is being increasingly infringed upon in this nation and foundations upon which this nation has been great is attempting to be destroyed. The traditional and Bible family is under attack with same sex marriage, homosexual adoption and parents losing the right to educate their children in a morally and biblically accepted manner. The Psalmist poses this question that seems most relevant today. "If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?" (Psalm 18:3) Notice that it is only the righteous that can do anything as the unrighteous are just interested in continuing this gross perversion.

Part of the answer to the question of what the righteous can do when the foundations are about to be destroyed is intimated in the following verse: "The LORD is in his holy temple, the LORD'S throne is in heaven: his eyes behold, his eyelids try, the children of men." (Psalm 11:4) The Lord is still in His holy temple. He still hears the cry of the righteous. When we seem to be overwhelmed by the issues facing today's people of God, we have a biblical way of responding. "Hear my cry, O God; attend unto my prayer. From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee, when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock that is higher than I." (Psalm 61:1-2) That same rock on which the foundation of the church rests.

Jesus as the foundation is the way, the truth and the life. Truth is important to freedom. Jesus said, "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." (John 8:32) We read of a time in the Bible where truth was at a premium as Isaiah writes, "And judgment is turned away backward, and justice standeth afar off: for truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter." (Is. 59:14) Truth had fallen in the streets and there was no justice or judgment. The prevailing attitude among the elite today is that there is no truth; it is only relevant as each individual perceives it.

Today, we don't know what to believe. The real truth is being suppressed to fit the perverted attitudes of the unbelieving. Every avenue that disseminates any information has their version of the truth. The Bible has the real truth so stand on the solid rock and adhere to it. Remember the Lord knoweth them that are His and the foundation of the church will never be destroyed. The last weapon to withstand the assaults of Satan is to pray with all supplication in the Spirit. (Eph. 6:18) Also, one of those weapons is loins girded about with truth. The Spirit is willing but the flesh is weak. Help us to be strong in the Lord!

OBITUARY
Larry Junior Wise
1944-2024



Larry Junior Wise passed from this world into eternal rest with Jesus Christ his Savior after a worship service at Mount Pisgah Primitive Baptist Church in Duck Hill, Mississippi on August 10, 2024. He was born December 14, 1944, to Avery and Rosalee Wise in Pontotoc, MS. Since his marriage to his beloved wife, Sandra, in 1985, he resided in Randolph, MS.

Larry was raised in a house right beside Bethany Primitive Baptist Church in the Shady Grove community. After attending Bethany Church for his whole life, he was baptized into Bethany Church in 1968. Larry was ordained as a Primitive Baptist minister at Bethany Church in 1976 and labored faithfully in the Lord's vineyard for 48 years until his death. Elder Wise served several churches in North Mississippi, with 44 years of pastoral care serving his childhood church, Bethany. He first became co-pastor in 1980 and later served as full-time pastor from 1991 until his death. Larry was known for his sharp scriptural mind, as well as being gifted in writing edifying articles. Using this gift, he also served as the editor of Glad Tidings, a monthly Primitive Baptist periodical, from 2000 until his death. He served as a father in the ministry to many other servants of God during his nearly half-century of gospel ministry.

Larry was afflicted with an illness as an early teenager, which severely limited his physical capabilities all throughout his life. Despite these physical limitations, his mind was always very sharp and precise in both his profession and the scriptures. He attended Hurricane High School, but due to his illness, later completed a GED diploma, and then graduated from the University of Mississippi with a degree in Accounting in 1976. He worked in various finance roles throughout his career, most notably as the Business Office Manager for the NMMS Pontotoc Hospital for 15 years. He was admired for his kind and gentle spirit by all who knew him.

He is survived by his wife of 39 years, Sandra Wise; 3 sons: Jonathan Wise (Paige) of New Albany, MS,

David Wise (Bethany) of Starkville, MS, and Joseph Wise of Randolph, MS; 3 grandsons: Isaac, Eli, and Zachary Wise; and 2 sisters: Bobbie Hale of Hurricane, MS and Bernice Moody of Ingomar, MS. He was preceded in death by his parents, Avery and Rosalee Wise, and brother-in-laws Eudean Hale and Joe Moody.

Pallbearers will be: Terry Wise, Jerry Wise, Phillip Wise, Stanley Wise, Jr., Gene York, Ronnie Hale, Lewis Clayton, Ronald Quarles, and Jacob Quarles. Honorary pallbearers will be Isaac and Eli Wise.

Visitation will be Tuesday, August 13, 2024, from 5 to 8 PM at Bethany Primitive Baptist Church, located at 4905 Hwy. 346 in Pontotoc, MS. There will be an additional time of visitation beginning at 10 AM on Wednesday, August 14, 2024, with funeral services beginning at 11 AM at Bethany Church. Elder Jerry Wise, Elder Jonathan Wise and Elder David Wise will officiate. Burial will follow in the Shady Grove Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Bethany Primitive Baptist Church. Browning Funeral Home in Pontotoc is honored to assist the family with the arrangements.



Bro. Larry with his wife of 39 years, Sandra



Bro. Larry with his immediate family in 2021

CHURCH NEWS

New Prospect Primitive Baptist Church, New Albany, MS. Oct 11-12, 2024. New Prospect Primitive Baptist Church, Fairground Rd. New Albany, MS will have a meeting the 2nd weekend in October 2024 (Oct. 11-12) Services Friday night, Oct. 11 at 7:00pm. Saturday, Oct. 12, at 10:00am and followed by lunch and afternoon services at 1:30pm. Elder Ronald Lawrence, Nashville, TN is the invited minister. Elder Rusty Wise is Pastor of New Prospect. All are invited and pray the Holy Spirit will come and bless efforts and send revival among God's people so come and dine.

James Creek Primitive Baptist Church, Tremont, MS. Oct 18-20, 2024. Everyone is invited to the annual meeting at James Creek Primitive Baptist Church, Stalene Rd, Tremont, MS the 3rd weekend in October 2024 (Oct. 18-20). Services Friday night, Oct. 18, at 7:00pm with Elders Steve Weaver and Jerry Wise preaching. Saturday, Oct. 19 at 10:00am with Bro. Morgan Sims, and Elders Charles Kitchens and Joe Nettles preaching. Lunch served at noon followed by afternoon services with Elder Jonathan Wise preaching. Sunday services, Oct. 20, at 10:30am with Elder Victor Quick and Bro. Braden Rogers preaching, followed by lunch.

Macedonia Primitive Baptist Church, Ackerman, MS. Nov 13-14, 2024. Everyone is invited to the annual meeting of Macedonia Primitive Baptist Church near Ackerman, MS the 2nd weekend in November 2024 (Nov. 13-14). Services Saturday (Nov 13) at 10:00am followed by lunch and afternoon services. Sunday services (Nov. 14) at 10:00am with Communion and then lunch. Elder Ben Cordes, Lexington, KY, and Elder John Morgan Owens, Gordo, AL are invited ministers. Elder David Wise is Pastor of Macedonia.

New Prospect Primitive Baptist Church, New Albany, MS. Nov 24, 2024. New Prospect Primitive Baptist Church, New Albany, MS will have a Thanksgiving service on Sunday night, November 24, 2024 beginning at 5:30pm with Elder Jeremy Wise bringing the message, followed by sandwich supper. Elder Rusty Wise is Pastor of New Prospect.

OUT OF THE MOUTH OF BABES

We had our two grandsons, Eli and Isaac, with us in church awhile back. I think I made an impression on him the night before we went to church as I had to try and correct some bad behavior. I told them the next day before we went to church that we would likely go to Wendy's for dinner if my sister wasn't there and she

invited us over. My sister was there and she did invite us and we went. Isaac was very disappointed as he really wanted to go to Wendy's. Eli spoke up in middle of discussion and said, "We'll go wherever Papa says for us to go." Now, if he would just do what I tell him all the time, that would be something. They are both really good kids but, like me as a child, they don't always really listen.

– Elder Larry Wise (he had already written this section in preparation for the October 2024 Glad Tidings at his death)

WHAT ABOUT TIME

By Elder Larry Wise (2012)

We are all on the clock of time, and we do not know when the midnight hour will strike and we enter a new day in heaven and immortal glory by the grace of God. Time is made up of years, weeks, days, hours, and seconds; but no matter the measure, it swiftly passes by, and we wonder what happened to the time. James says, "Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away." (James 4:14) One third of this year will have expired at the end of this day on April 30, and we may wonder what happened to the time? It has always been the same time, but our perspective of time may have been changed. Guess what? It changed over time. How ironic that is! We would be wise to serve God each day with the utmost zeal because there may be no tomorrow in this life. Solomon said, "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest." (Eccl. 9:10). God started time as far as man is concerned in Gen. 1:1 when the scripture declares, "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." The same God shall also declare that time is no longer (Rev. 10:6). I hope we haven't drifted off to sleep as concerning serving the Lord. If we have, may we heed the apostle Paul as he writes to the Roman church, "And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed." (Rom. 13:11) The clock is ticking so let us take advantage of the precious time we have to love the Lord with all our heart, soul, strength, and mind. Jesus isn't here to love in person, but His people are; so let us love them and minister to them, and it will manifest how much we love the Lord. It will be time well spent. May we all remember that once it is spent or gone, it cannot be recaptured.

Biography from 2001 Primitive Baptist Minister's Book, Vol. 2, compiled by David Montgomery

Written by Elder Larry Wise in Jan. 2000

I was afflicted with a childhood illness that left me an invalid for a number of years during which time I was not particularly drawn to the church or the gospel. The Lord blessed my body to respond to therapy and recover to the degree I could do things for myself, but I could not see how anyone still so unable to provide for himself could ever be baptized. I began to think about joining the church but wondered how or if I could be baptized considering my physical condition. All these fears seemed to disappear during a special meeting as I was drawn to ask for a home in Bethany Church during the handshake at the conclusion of services. The church received me and I was baptized in June 1968 by Elder Gassaway of Saltillo, MS. I was baptized in my Uncle's small pond, and all my prior concerns abated as no problem arose during the baptism as previously feared.

I grew up under Elder J.D. Holder's preaching, and then under Elder E.D. McCutcheon, whom I consider my father in the ministry. Elder James Allen Rushing was assisting Elder Holder in his duties as pastor of Bethany because of his physical disability. It was Elder Rushing that asked me to introduce services, and I suppose it was the Lord's will that led me to make the attempt. I remember speaking from the tenth chapter of John in my first effort. I continued to introduce services and fill appointments from time to time after Elder E.D. McCutcheon became pastor of Bethany and in time the church called for my ordination. I submitted to the Lord's call first and then to the church's call to the ministry and was ordained to the full work of the ministry on Sept. 11, 1976 with thirteen Elders and twelve deacons sitting in the presbytery with Elder McCutcheon as Moderator who preached my charge. This was just months after I had graduated from the University of Mississippi with a degree in accounting.

Antioch Church in Oxford, MS asked me to become their pastor soon after my ordination. I accepted their call and served that church for 10 years until 1977. Antioch was not meeting every Sunday during part of the time I was pastor, and this allowed me to accept the call to pastor Shiloh Church at Coffeenville, MS where Elder W.C. Moak had been the pastor. I served Shiloh for two years before resigning to preach one Sunday a month at my home church at Bethany. When I left Antioch Church in Oxford, MS, I served Hopewell Church near Randolph, MS for four years.

In the meantime, the Lord had blessed me with a wonderful wife named Sandra Quarles whom the Lord

allowed to love a sinner like me. We were united in marriage on May 25, 1985 with Elder Bob Ward officiating. The Lord has blessed us with two fine boys, and, as this is being written in January 2000, a third one is on the way. It is a great blessing that my wife is also a Primitive Baptist and has been able to accompany me on most of my preaching appointments. She truly is a helpmeet.

Bethany Church near Ecu, MS called me to be their full time pastor in Oct. 1991, and I resigned at Hopewell and began to serve my home church preaching there every Sunday. I continue to pastor at Bethany as this is being written in January 2000. I have been made acquainted with many ministers during the intervening years but am especially thankful to Elder E.D. McCutcheon for his influence and encouragement throughout the years. Elder Max Ewing and Elder Bob Ward also occupy a great place in my heart, but none can supersede the Lord.



Bro. Larry with his father in the ministry, Elder E.D. McCutcheon



Bro. Larry baptizing his son, Joseph, in 2014.

These are three poems written by Elder Larry Wise upon the passing of his church members and family members. We take comfort from his own words that are perfectly appropriate for those who mourn his passing to eternal rest. We eagerly anticipate seeing you again in your new home.

PASSING ON

By Larry Wise

(In memory of Brother Stanley Wise (his uncle) at his death on Jan. 17, 2007)

The Spirit left for the world on high,
He that is in Christ shall never die.
Yes, the body succumbs to ravage of sin,
The Spirit goes where once it has been.

He is securely safe within the veil,
Because His Jesus can never fail.
Jesus is there at God's right hand,
He now sees things ever so grand.

His family mourns at his decease,
But he longed for the Spirit's release.
It finally came as he drew his last breath,
No one can escape the enemy of death.

His passing was easy and ever so sweet,
He was ready to go- the Savior to meet.
He asked the family to pray for release,
To go to a place of perfect joy and peace.

All is not lost for the family he left below,
The Savior he sees still loves you SO.
Thoughts of seeing him again creates a smile,
Knowing you'll see him in a little while.

MY NEW HOME

By Larry Wise

(In memory of Sister Tammy Wise the night she died on March 15, 2017)

I've gone to my brand new home,
Weep not for me for I have gone.
To my home of great joy and peace,
Best of all; it never shall cease.

Home where is no sorrow or pain,
Paul knew tis true that to die is gain.
Said goodbye to my body for a while,
In my new home, always a smile.

Friends lift up heart; try not to be sad,
In time to come; know you'll be glad.
In my new home my soul is quite well,
To get there I had to say farewell.

Farewell for awhile; I'll see you again,
In my new home I never had been.
Weep not for me as I now rejoice,
Praising my Savior with perfect voice.

My body lies in the ground so cold,
My spirit and soul is safe in the fold.
One day those two and my body as well,
Reunited in my new home, ever to dwell.

So weep not for me; I've finished my race,
Jesus has wiped my tears from my face.
I'm never alone in my brand new home,
It's a wonderful place where I have gone.

THE SMILE

By Larry Wise

(Written Feb. 11, 2005, the day after preaching the funeral of Sister Mamie Dyson, member of Bethany Primitive Baptist Church, Ecru, MS)

The smile on her face was proof that she,
Could see something now that I couldn't see.
She took her journey with God's free grace,
To see her blessed Lord and His smiling face.

Our smiles come and go but hers was forever,
Because from God's love—none can sever.
Entrenched in His love while down here below,
For her love for Him—she certainly did show.

She had a smile just before she left this life,
To a beautiful place where dwelleth no strife.
There was strife at times while here on earth,
No more strife now—due to her second birth.

This dear sister wasn't different—like all the rest,
Altogether vanity when we are at our best.
The Savior atoned for that sin down below awhile,
Is it any wonder God gave her that sweet smile!

How are you doing—the church would inquire?
What greater height could one possibly aspire!
"I'm doing my best I can with what I got."
The smile told it all—she had quite a lot

SO GOD MADE A PREACHER!

By Elder Jerry Wise

(Written on Aug. 14, 2024, in loving memory of my beloved brother in Christ, Elder Larry Wise)

God said: I want someone who can take affliction on any given day, but be not crushed, perplexed or despairing, remembering he's not cast down or destroyed: so God made a preacher!

God said: I want a man that's honest, compassionate, caring and kind: so God made a preacher!

God said: I want a man who will study my word, to show himself approved of me, and labor in my vineyard, with fervent enthusiasm: so God made a preacher!

God said: I want a man to tend to my sheep, to be a shepherd over ten, or twenty, maybe fifty and to go after those, that go astray: so God made a preacher!

Go said: I want a man of patience, understanding, loyalty, and not afraid of criticism: so God made a preacher!

God said: I want a man who will visit and pray with my children, who will go when called, in the day or night, who will stay and comfort the feeble, little children or the elderly: so God made a preacher!

God said: I want a man that gives more than he's ever gotten in return, to help more than he's helped, to make sacrifices though others may not do so for him: so God made a preacher!

God said: I want a man to plow in my book and never look back, to take line upon line, precept upon precept, here a little there a little, tilling every word, making it his life's garden: so God made a preacher!

God said: I want a man to go where I call, to not fear, be instant, in season and out of season, to preach with passion and assurance: so God made a preacher!

God said: I want a man who will get back up when he's down, who might get discouraged but prays for strength, a man that could feel alone but remembers my Son, a man that at times gets it wrong but understands I correct those I love: so God made a preacher!

God said: this man, I will bless for his good and my names sake, he'll know his labor isn't in vain, his heart will rejoice in the finished work of his Lord Christ, he'll never be forsaken nor never forgotten: so God made a preacher!

"Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also. Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier." 2 Timothy 2:1-4 KJV

From the Master's table!

O Victory in Christ!!!!!!

"And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!" (Rom. 10:15)

"12) And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; 13) And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves." (1 Thess. 5:12-13)

"17) Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine. 18) For the scripture saith, thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, The labourer is worthy of his reward." (1 Tim. 5:17-18)

KEEP YOUR CHIN UP

Elder Larry Wise (2011)

We've all probably heard the expression "keep your chin up" which is usually given when someone is going through a difficult time. Keeping your chin up expresses the desire to remain joyful and thankful in the midst of trials. When we keep our chin up, we WILL be looking up, looking unto the hills from whence cometh our help, looking unto Jesus as the author and finisher of our faith. May we all keep our chin up! "My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O LORD; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee and will look up." (Psalms 5:3)

WHAT IS YOUR LIFE?

Elder Larry Wise (2011)

“What is your life” was the subject of the message preached by Elder Herman Clark to comfort the family at a funeral I recently attended of a dear Sister in Christ. He used the scripture in James 4:14 which says, “Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.” This Sister was 96 years of age but that longevity just seemed like the vapour that James describes. James says it IS a vapour. It appears and then soon vanishes away as we write our love letters each day of our lives. We write letters sometimes, but they aren’t read until received by the party involved. We are writing our letter each day to be read by every individual we meet. Will this letter be one that is desirous to read or will it be one that would need to be discarded? I trust that all our letters would be worth reading as we try to serve the Lord.

What is your life is something we need to ask ourselves from time to time? Have we done all we could to serve the Lord. I’m sure we would all have to confess that we haven’t. Nevertheless, we are to do the best we can and make the most of each day we live in a positive manner because our vapourous life will soon be gone. Our lives are NOW and not tomorrow because tomorrow may never come. Paul emphasizes the now of our lives as he writes to the church at Corinth, “(For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)” (II Cor. 6:2)

Time is something you cannot put in a bank and recapture later. Once time has elapsed, it is gone forever. How many times have we thought about going to see someone who might be sick or afflicted and never did follow through with this good intention? After awhile, it was too late as that individual was no longer with us, having passed to a better life. We missed a blessing for ourselves and most likely a blessing for the other individual, Our lives should be exemplary until the end as we walk uprightly in the sight of God. Paul said, “See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.” (Eph. 5:15-16)

BLESSED DAY

By Elder Larry Wise (2012)

Did you have a blessed day today? If you made it through the day, then you most assuredly have had a blessed day. However, have you made it a point to thank the Lord for the grace that produced such a

blessed day? I hope we all can say, “Yes, Yes, We have taken the time to pray and thank the Lord.” The Psalmist said, “This is the day which the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.” (Psalm 118:24). Jesus tells us that without Him we can do nothing; that is do nothing this is good and right. Then Paul tell us that we can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth us is Phil. 4:13. We need Jesus and His grace each and every day of our lives, and He has promised to supply all our needs but not our wants. Paul said, “But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.” (Phil. 4:19). The first day of the week is a glorious day to go into the house of God to worship and praise His holy name. Were you able to attend? Thank the Lord that you were able because that is also by His grace. Think of how many of God’s children would love to have such a blessed day to go into the house of God but were not able and are confined to home and Nursing Homes. This should make us all more thankful for the blessings of the worship day of the first day of the week. I try to make it a daily ritual to thank the Lord at the close of the day for the grace to make it through another day. The day might have not gone exactly like I would have preferred, but I made it through by His grace. Paul was a great preacher, but He always gave the credit to God ‘s grace. He tells us in I Cor. 15:10, “But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.” Have a blessed day and don’t forget to thank the Lord. Amen!

“And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.” (Rev. 14:13)

“1) A good name is better than precious ointment; and the day of death than the day of one’s birth. 2) It is better to go to the house of mourning, than to go to the house of feasting: for that is the end of all men; and the living will lay it to his heart. 3) Sorrow is better than laughter: for by the sadness of the countenance the heart is made better. 4) The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning; but the heart of fools is in the house of mirth.” (Eccl. 7:1-4)

God be with you until, by God’s grace, we meet again in the next Glad Tidings or in heaven.