

Voice of Baptists

"The Voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God." *Isaiah 40:3*

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NO. 6



IN MEMORIAM

(Elder C. B. Massey)

Elder Captain Buie Massey, the Dean of the Missionary Baptist ministers in this section of the country, was born June 16, 1867, on little Puncheon Creek, Macon County, Tennessee, two miles east of Haysville. His parents were Lon W. and Millie Jent Massey.

In 1872, his father died, and the son was left to know the sorrows, heartaches, poverty and hardship of an orphan. But in spite of all these handicaps he managed to live and develop into a large strong man. He had but little formal schooling but was of a studious nature and became a wonderfully informed minister in every respect.

Perhaps Bro. Massey's experiences of being a poor fatherless boy and thus knowing the hardships brought on him, his mother and other members of the family intensified his zeal in behalf of widows, orphans, sick ones, etc. He was very active with his means and influence in helping many people in distress. He was truly a "Good Samaritan."

The following is an account of his Christian experience in his own words as copied from another paper. "I was a very high tempered rowdy boy, full of fun and pranks. Drank some, went to parties, dances, fussed and scrapped. January 9, 1888, I went to a revival at Rocky Mound Church. Did not go for the good of the meeting but to swap pistols, play cards and be with the young folks.

"Elder Joe S. Meador was pastor and holding the meeting I went in that night and went up a little closer than common. Bro. Meador preached and I got interested and stayed in, though I didn't do that often I found myself weeping and trembling and when they called mourners, I did not go but was under deep conviction.

"Old uncle Fate Howard, whose nose and eyes were red from drinking whiskey, and I had drank with him, engaged with him in many evils, but six months before this he had been saved. He lived in about 100 yards of me and I knew he had lived a noble life during that six months.

He crossed his hands on his back when he saw me weeping that night and started toward me. Every step he made seemed to break me down more. Tears were streaming from his eyes. He laid his hand on my head and said, 'Cap, don't you want religion?' I at once started for the altar. He helped me there. I was a real mourner and wept all the time. I hauled logs the next day. The crew was awfully bad to swear but not one oath was sworn in my presence. The ring leader was under conviction and I wept all day, was a mourner that night, wept all the next day, no swearing, that night was a mourner again. About nine o'clock, I was sitting there, not praying as I had been, but just thinking how

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HERESIES

Part II

by Jerry A. Reynolds
Davisville, WV

"Have a good running knowledge of the whole Bible; Don't go to seed on anything." These were words of advice from the loving heart of an old preacher full of the wisdom that comes from years of experience. I was a young preacher struggling to follow the Lord and he saw that I needed some guidelines. He gave me good advice.

A word of caution is in order regarding those who are motivated by pride or vainglory and arise to supposedly "defend the faith", whose doings work confusion instead of the peace that comes from God. These usually distinguish themselves by "going to seed" on some matters of little importance which their minds have elevated onto the level of the fundamental doctrines of Christ. Perhaps they hold sacred a mere tradition of men over which they have stretched some particular verses of sacred text in an effort to gain scriptural warrant. A crusade for the acceptance of such pet doctrines often becomes the main theme of such men. These are as wrong in the opposite extreme as are those who love ease too much to cause a ripple in the church. Unfortunately, both of these types often appear simultaneously in a church, causing what can be disastrous results. A heresy is being advanced and those who know it is dangerous and wrong ignore the danger while hoping it will go away. While they tarry at ease a little leaven leavens the whole lump.

Since controversy cannot altogether be avoided it is best to prepare ourselves for it. Since there will be errors among Christians it is comforting that God has agreed to manifest in due time which "sect" is the true doctrine. In my early ministry I was very much troubled by conflicting opinions. I decided that I did not wish to contribute to any

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NOTICE!

The Hauser Missionary Baptist Church will be without a pastor, as our pastor has resigned. If any God called minister should feel led this way, please contact - Hauser Missionary Baptist Church, c/o Reva Potts (Ch. Clerk), 117 Huckleberry Lane, N. Bend, Ore. 97459, Phone 756-4583.

VOICE OF BAPTISTS

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A GREAT WOMAN



Sister Laura Gregory

Dear Bro. Massey:

Enjoy the Voice of Baptists every month. Sure enjoyed the piece of "I Voted to Close My Church". It was really good. I'm sending a photo of Mother Laura Gregory, who is in Medco Center in Franklin, Ky. A lot of your readers will know her. She looks forward to mail, would appreciate each one to drop her a card or note. It sure is a nice place to be if you can't be at home. She is 94 years old and doesn't see very good, but her mind is still good for her age. Wouldn't have put her in a home for anything, but my husband, Gilbert Cline, has Leukemia for 4 years, has taken 12 gal. and 1 qt. of blood. We will be going to Greenview Hospital in Bowling Green, Ky. in September. Always ask and remember us in your prayers. Mother's address is: Laura Gregory, 414 Robey St., Medco Center, Franklin, Ky. 42134

Yours truly,

Ruby Lee (Gregory) Cline (Her daughter)
P.S. Enclosed is a check to help with the paper.

HERESIES

(Continued from Page 1)

divisions. I recognized that there are some things I KNOW. There are other CONVICTIONS of which I am soundly convinced. There are OPINIONS which I THINK are right. I am careful to distinguish between the three when I preach or teach. The people need to know how sure I am of what I say. There are many preachers whose every opinion is a conviction and whose convictions are by them declared infallible truth. These exert a peculiar power over people who put their faith in human personalities rather than revealed truth. Such people tend to gather disciples unto themselves rather than unto Christ. Seldom, if ever, do such men say, "I could be wrong", and even more rarely do they admit, "I was wrong". Pride is plainly seen in the person who never admits that he has offended, for James says, "in many things we all offend." (James 3:2) Such men who may have once been humble, as was King Saul, and have since become proud, are the causes of many heresies which they sow among their disciples. Their end will be as was Saul's if they do not repent, but while the judgement of God tarries many good men will be hurt because of their wickedness.

It is good to always remember that the fundamental doctrines of Christianity are few in number, and the necessary things which must be known and preserved are clearly declared in the Bible. Certainly it takes a Spiritually living person to know these things properly, but any saint of God who is Spiritually minded can determine the minimum essentials of the faith of God from the Bible with the help of the Holy Spirit unto whom he prays for guidance and wisdom. Any child of God who allows a preacher or teacher to lead him astray because he was too much at ease in his living can expect to answer to God for his own errors. He need not have made them. However, the heretical teacher will answer to God and receive a "greater condemnation" (James 3:1)

Whenever a perpetual controversy among Baptists comes to the surface, one that is not clearly defined in the Bible, one must ask, "If this matter is so important to God, why did he not make it clear?" HE DID! From this comfort we can determine the relative importance of religious issues. As another old and wise preacher used to advise, "read the whole Bible and take the weightier side of the matter." There are issues that have been controversial for a thousand years or longer among the best Spiritual men under the banner of true Christianity. If these men could not come to agreement and all tolerated the others and held one another in loving fellowship, should we not do the same? In any issue that causes conflict of opinion in the churches we should ask our-

selves, "should this issue be made a test of fellowship? "That is, should we sever ourselves from those who hold opinions contrary to our own and account them to be no churches of Christ? Before we answer "yes" to this question let us check our consistency. Will we treat all who hold this opinion alike, even some revered spiritual guides of the past? Oftentimes those who would break fellowship over many minor issues unchurch themselves according to their own history. Sometimes their own churches have in the past practiced the very things they are now willing to call heresy.

Among our practices there are things that God will not do without. There are practices that can be brought in that God will not permit with favor. There are other things which tend to testify of and to glorify God that can possibly be done without. There are other things that can be practiced that tend to becloud the witness of truth, yet they are not intolerable. There are also things that men hold important to which God is altogether indifferent. We must determine to the best of our ability which things we MUST keep and which things we MUST eliminate. There is good reason to believe that God will help the humble and sincere church member to determine these things accurately. No peace is worth violating that which God holds sacred. We had better stand alone than to be so wavering. Beyond these necessary things we must endeavor to keep peace among us while striving together patiently and lovingly to persuade one another away from our dangerous inclinations. Things which in one degree are not condemnable, in the next degree often become so. Human beings seem to be natural extremists, and what church members may lack in harmful extremism Satan stands ready to supply. He can easily carry an "at ease" generation to one extreme and then to the other. He cannot do such things with watchful and prayerful saints. Many easy going Christians are like the driver of a car who fearing so much the oncoming cars and hating the tension of driving runs his car into the ditch. Perhaps his wreck was not the one he sought to avoid, but he is still wrecked. The intelligent thing to have done would have been to stay alert and continually avoid either extreme. So it is in following the Lord. His way is not a broad road to the right or a broad road to the left, but a narrow road that winds up the middle, and it takes His guidance to remain on it.

If the answer to the question, "should this practice be made a test of fellowship?", is "no", and we are unwilling to openly and formally declare that those who hold it are unworthy of the Baptist or Christian name, then let us be careful that we do not actually make it the cause of bad feeling by continually vexing the spirit of our brother who holds

it or degrading his character in the view of others.

There must be heresies among us because we are erring human beings, but let us not be the instigator of them or the reason why they succeed.

EMBROIDERY

by Kenneth Stapleton
Detroit, MI

How rough and unsightly this embroidery
That with these eyes I fail to see,
The cunning of this artist and his work.
With patience this cloth he does not shirk.
To make one precious little flower.

As I turn and strain I cannot find
The beauty of this thread so entwined.
Tied, and twisted; so unfurled
And what the meaning in all the world?
No rhyme; no reason; no integrity:
How crude, and plain this embroidery.

But still he threads his golden needle,
With loving hands he works unfeebled.
The choicest thread, the finest cloth,
Into this work he has wrought.
Every stitch and line his talent be
So caring he tends his embroidery.

Like life itself he threads each day
The pattern's set and on its way.
Each trial o're come we cannot find
Or reckon heartaches; every kind.
Today is sunshine, tomorrow is rain
Every jot and tittle he has ordained.

On and on he continues to weave.
Alas! Poor soul, I do conceive
No beauty is from here espied
Search I may, and though I've tried.
Till unto me his treasure turned
Rejoice! Rejoice! I have so learned.

Each silver thread and golden cord
In every stitch he does afford.
And from this place we cannot see
The grandeur of this embroidery.
From earth this place that we abide
By grace we view the other side.

And then his wisdom we do find
His mercy, his grace and all to bind
Each thread of life and all which is,
The glory and harmony of all his stitches.
The picture's not clear from behind you see.
But Oh! What beauty. His embroidery!

GOOD NEWS

I look forward to receiving and reading Voice of Baptists. The message of truth from each writer is an inspiration and food for the soul. Our revival at Lafayette Missionary Baptist Church began Sunday, Aug. 5th and closed Wednesday night, Aug. 15th with 15 being saved. There were 14 joined by experience and Baptism and 4 by letter, an addition of 18 to the church. The Lord was with us in His great and mighty power for which we are thankful. Wonderful preaching by our pastor, Bro. Kenneth David and helper, Bro. Kent Parson from California. To my Nephew, Bro. Gilliam Johnson. I am thankful for your good revival and isn't it wonderful that God is everywhere. Enclosed is a donation to help carry Voice of Baptists far and near.

Your sister in Christ,
Alda B. Johnson
Lafayette, Tn. 37083

NICE NOTE

Enclosed is a donation to the Voice of Baptists. We appreciate it very much. Our prayers are with each and everyone involved with it in anyway.

I would like to say I really enjoyed the piece in last month's Voice of Baptists copied from a sermon from Eld. John T. Oakley. I don't know him, but it does my heart good to read about how God saves and then Blesses us for our little efforts put forth.

God Bless you in your efforts. Pray for us.

A Converted Missionary Baptist
Ruth Emberton
Indianapolis, Ind.

SMITH COUNTY
BAPTIST
MINISTERS
SCHOOL
Nov. 7-10

The schedule is as follows:

Wednesday, November 7

7:00-Devotional by Bro. James Kent
7:15-Teaching Ministry of the Church-
Bro. Charles Allen Gentry
8:00-Recess
8:15-The power of the Gospel-
Bro. R. D. Brooks

Thursday, November 8

7:00-Devotional by Bro. Jim Hulse
7:15-John's Baptism: Is it of God or of Man-
Bro. Jack Green
8:00-Recess
8:15-What Constitutes a Scriptural Church-
Bro. Walter Deweese

Friday, November 9

7:00-Devotional by Bro. Steve Law
7:15-The Distinction between the Family of
God, the Kingdom of God, and the
Church of God-Bro. William Overton
8:00-Recess
8:15-The Responsibilities of Pastors and
Deacons-Bro. Kenneth Massey

Saturday, November 10

7:00-Fellowship service with sermon
preached by Bro. James Gibbs



New Building of Colorado Baptist Church

IN MEMORIAM

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justly God could send me to hell, and while in this meditation, all at once I sprang to my feet. I was up before I knew it and started a song, 'I have a father over yonder.' I shook hands with the brethren and sisters and rejoiced, believing in God with all my heart. And what I got that night, January 11, 1888 is all the hope I have of Heaven and it will carry me there."

Bro. Massey did not unite with the church for a while. After reading the Bible and church history, he was sure that the Baptist Church was the true church. He found at Rocky Mound a church of that kind that had a succession back to the church that Jesus built. He united with the church and was baptized by Elder Joe S. Meador on the fourth Sunday in November 1896.

He felt his calling to preach and was liberated by Rocky Mound Church to preach in 1897 and ordained to the full work of the ministry on June 10, 1899 by the same church.

From that time few men did more preaching than him until the time of his death, October 18, 1957. Brother Massey pastored the following Churches: Spring Creek, Rocky Mound, Siloam, Fairview, Day's Cross Roads, Cedar Bluff, New Harmony, Antioch, Liberty, Union, Ebenezer, Long Creek, Sycamore Valley, Dixon's Creek, Mt. Tabor, Defeated Creek, Gladdice, Willette, Macedonia, Pleasant Valley, Bethany, New Macedonia, New Salem, New Zion (which he organized), all in North Middle Tennessee, Macedonia, Mt. Gilead, Gulley Creek, Mt. Zion, Old Union, Fifth Street and Faith, all in south central Kentucky, and perhaps other churches.

In his obituary, (which he wrote himself) he says: "I have been pastor of 33 different churches with as high as seven at one time. My longest pastorate was 31 years and my shortest six months. I have preached for 59 years. I have never had a vacation in my life and never had a salary for preaching. I think I have baptized 2,000 people, thousands have been saved in the meetings I have held."

Brother Massey served as moderator of Enon Baptist Association for more than forty years and preached many times before the body. He held 33 debates with representative men of various religious groups and 47 two hour debates. He was the author of several books and tracts among these were: "110 Reasons Why I Am not A Campbellite", "Life of Aunt Bide Russell," "Leavens Of Conventionism" and others. He was an active writer for several religious papers over the years. He was middle Tennessee Editor of the "Baptist Flag," and editor of "The Baptist Banner," and associate editor of the "Amer-

ican Baptist," and associate editor of the "Baptist and Commoner," he also wrote for the "Baptist Worker," "Western Recorder," the "Searchlight" and others.

He organized Fifth Street Baptist Church in Bowling Green, Ky. with four members and while he was pastor it grew to a membership of over 500. He served them from 1924 to 1955. This church came into being as a result of a big revival held in a tobacco warehouse.

In 1955 Brother Massey organized another church in Bowling Green the Faith Baptist Church, which he pastored until his death. Now there are two strong churches in Bowling Green as monuments to his faithful labors in that city.

He was a great friend of Dixon Creek Baptist Church in their historic lawsuit of the early 1920's. He made a strong fight for old time religion and Bible giving in his ministry. He said, "I have had many friends and a lot of enemies. I have made mistakes but confessed to my Lord and pressed on. I have never stopped to trace up a lie told on me, but just went on. I have taken comfort in the scripture, "If a man's ways please the Lord, He will make even his enemies to be at peace with him."

Brother Massey was married to Miss Effie Hanes, Oct. 1890. They had six children. This wife died in 1904. He was married to Miss Fannie Graves in 1905 and she lived until 1930. They had two sons. He then married Miss Maggie Barham who died in 1944 and his last wife was Mrs. Thulie Oldham who passed away in 1952. He lived by himself from that time until his death, October 18, 1957. He has 5 children dead and 3 living. Those living are, Mrs. Belle McDonald, Buie J. Massey, and Johnnie Massey.

Brother Massey was past 90 years of age at the time of his death. He was still able to preach and was active in the Lord's service up to the end. His funeral was conducted at Mt. Tabor Baptist Church, near Pleasant Shade, Tennessee. Elders T. C. Jones, Calvin Gregory and F. W. Lambert conducted the funeral. He was a member of Sycamore Valley Baptist Church at the time of his death. He was a mason. He is buried in Dixon Springs Cemetery.

We have no way to estimate the result of Brother Massey's influence on the Baptists of this section. He was a great preacher and a wonderful man. He was a father in the ministry to some of the best of the preachers younger than himself.



**"God put the church in the world—
Satan puts the world in the church."**



Do You Go To Sunday School?

"Please, Daddy, Let's Go"

A little girl with shining eyes, her upturned face aglow,
Said, "Daddy, it's almost time for Sunday School, you know;
Let's go and hear of Jesus' Love, of how he died for all,
To take them to His home above, who on His name will call."
"Oh, No" said Daddy, "not today; I've worked hard all the week,
And I must have one day of rest, I'm going to the creek;
For there I can relax and rest, and fishing's fine they say,
So run along, don't bother me—we'll go another day."
Months and years have passed away, but Daddy hears that plea no more
"Let's go to Sunday School..." Those childish days are o'er.
And now that Daddy's growing old, and life is almost through,
He finds some time to go to church, but what does daughter do?
She says, "Oh, Daddy, not today—was out almost all night:
I've got to get a little sleep—besides, I look a fright."
Then Daddy lifts a trembling hand, to brush away the tears;
Again he hears that pleading voice, distinctly through the years.
He sees a small girl's upturned face, upturned with eyes aglow,
Saying, "It's time for Sunday School, Please Daddy, won't you go?"



HOME COMING AT BETHEL

Bethel Baptist of 222 E. Epler Ave., Indianapolis, Indiana will celebrate their 40th anniversary, November 11, 1984. Special singing by The Temple Trio. Dinner on the ground. Mark your calendar now so you don't miss it.