



New Era Missionary Baptist District Association

116th Annual Session - July 22 -26, 2024

Music Auxiliary President

Deacon Fred Patton

1st Annual Address

Reverend Gregory P. Nichols – Moderator

Reverend Alfred White – Host Pastor

Mt. Sinai Missionary Baptist Church

3634 Brooklyn Street, Kansas City, MO 64109

First giving Reverence to the Great and Awesome God we serve. Our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ and the precious Holy Spirit.

To our Presider Sister Linda LaMette

To host Pastor Alfred White

To Moderator Nichols and his administration.

To all our New Era District Auxiliary Leaders and their administration.

To all the Pastors and Ministers

To my Brother Deacons and Laymen

To the officers of the New Era District Choir.

Director: Sister Hattie Lewis

MO State Director and Musician: Brother Darryl Lewis

1st Vice President: Sister Erna Faye Boggess

2nd Vice President: Sister Donna Woods

Recording Secretary: Sister Natalie Ford

Enrollment Secretary: Sister JaRita Johnson

Financial Secretary: Sister Linda Watkins

Librarian: Sister: Sandra Jones

My Brothers and Sisters of New Era District

You know you better be careful what you ask of the Lord because you just might get it. I asked for a virtuous woman in my life and not only did he send me one, but HE wrapped it in a beautiful package. Thank you honey for that wonderful introduction.

A huge thank you to Progressive Baptist Church for opening your doors to us for our monthly rehearsals.

Thank you to my Pastor and friend Monscenior Cunningham, Minister McDaniel and my Haven Of Rest Baptist Church family for your continued support.

And last but not certainly not least thank you to my family and friends who are my village. I appreciate your love and support.

My Stewardship report:

November 28, 2023: The New Era District choir enthusiastically participated in the Berean District Fall Music Festival in St. Louis, MO. This event provided a platform for showing unity with our sister district.

February 3, 5-6 2024: New Era District choir rendered songs at the 2nd Quarterly Board Meeting during Moderator Nichols address.

July 7, 2024: Additionally, the choir was represented at the Congress State Musical, in Columbia, MO, where we again able to come together with our sister district choirs and supporting our State president and State Director for an amazing musical night of worship.

The choir continues to uphold its commitment through regular monthly rehearsals. These sessions are crucial for refining our skills and preparing for future engagements.

Conclusion: Overall, the choir has had a productive period, participating in significant events and maintaining a regular rehearsal schedule. We look forward to further opportunities to be in the service of our Lord.

My Address:

It is with a mixture of reflection and hope that I address you today at our New Era District Choir's first annual address. I stand before you humbled beyond measure. During my tenure as president over these past few years, we've faced significant challenges that tested our resolve. However, amidst these trials, our choir family has shown remarkable resilience and unity. I want to begin by expressing my deepest gratitude to our esteemed Director, Sister Hattie Lewis, whose unwavering dedication, leadership and passion for music have been a guiding

force for us all. Sister Hattie, your leadership has been a beacon of strength as we navigated the uncertainties brought by the pandemic. Your unwavering commitment to our choir's mission has kept us focused and motivated through it all.

I also want to extend my heartfelt appreciation to Brother Darryl Lewis, our talented musician and our State of Missouri Choir Director. Brother Darryl, your creativity and passion for music have enriched our performances and lifted our spirits during challenging times. Your guidance has been instrumental in sustaining our musical journey, and we are truly grateful for your invaluable contributions.

In addition, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to our choir officers and members for their support. Your encouragement and kind words have made a significant difference to all of us and without you there is no choir.

Now, the pandemic presented us with unforeseen obstacles, altering our routines and preventing us from gathering as we once did. Despite these challenges, our choir has remained steadfast in our dedication to biblical based music and to the district. Though we may be fewer in number now, our commitment to honoring our shared passion has never wavered.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.

I'm reminded of Nehemiah who was unmoved by opposition. Oh, you know the story, right? Nehemiah chapter 6 verses 1 - 3. reads **1)** Now it came to pass, when Sanballat, and Tobiah, and Geshem the Arabian, and the rest of our enemies, heard that I had builded the wall, and that there was no breach left therein: (though at that time I had not set up the doors upon the gates;) **2)** That Sanballat and Gehem sent unto me saying, Come, let us meet together in some one of the villages in the plain of Ono. But they thought to do me mischief. **3)** And I sent messengers unto them, saying I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down: why should the work cease, whilst I leave it, and come down to you?

Nehemiah's story is quite remarkable! He was a cupbearer (wine taster) to King Artaxerxes (Arterzerks) of Persia and was tasked with rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem, which had been destroyed. Sanballat and Tobiah were figures who opposed Nehemiah's efforts to rebuild Jerusalem's walls, causing challenges and obstacles along the way. Similarly, during the pandemic, many people and circumstances acted as barriers or adversaries to progress, whether through logistical challenges, misinformation, or personal hardships. Overcoming these adversities required resilience, collaboration, and determination. You see Nehemiah faced various challenges and opposition, but rallied the people to work together with dedication and perseverance. His leadership and faith are truly inspirational.

Absolutely, the process of rebuilding anything significant, whether physical like a wall or in our case like a choir, often requires patience, perseverance, and careful planning. Nehemiah's rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem was a testament to his determination and strategic leadership. Similarly, rebuilding a choir involves nurturing talent, fostering teamwork, rehearsals, and refining skills over time. Both endeavors remind us that great achievements are not instantaneous but result from dedicated effort and steadfast commitment to the vision. The folks you see in the choir stands behind me are New Era District dedicated choir members who have decided **not to come down from the wall**. They show up month after month, performance after performance lending their time, voices and talents to the Lord our God. Choir family Galatians 6:9 reminds us And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

As we move forward, I invite our district churches to join us in rebuilding our choir. Your support and involvement are crucial as we seek to restore and expand our musical family. Imagine the impact if we had just one representative from each church contributing to our efforts—what a difference we could make together. To God be the glory, and wouldn't you love to see Sister Lewis's face if we had 10 sopranos, 10 altos, 10 tenors and 10 bass singers all on one accord and ready to give their all to the Lord. I pray we see this day. Pastors, I issue a challenge. I'm asking that you please share this information with your congregations. The

success of the New Era District Choir depends on the people of New Era. We need your help!

Looking ahead, we eagerly anticipate the revival of our Vesper hour, a cherished tradition that brings us together in worship and celebration through music. It is a time-honored opportunity for us to share our gifts, uplift our district and give God total praise.

Earlier, we remembered those who have left us during this challenging time, their absence reminds us of the preciousness of every voice and the importance of our shared journey. Together, we honor their memory and continue their legacy through our music and fellowship.

In closing, I want to express my profound gratitude to each of you for your dedication, resilience, and again your unwavering support. Your presence enriches our choir in ways words cannot fully capture.

As we look forward to the future, let us hold onto the wisdom found in Psalm 98:4-9, which speaks of singing praises to the Lord with joyful hearts. Let us also remember the words of Matthew 6:33, encouraging us to seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, trusting that all things will be added unto us.

Thank you

Humbly Submitted,

Deacon Fred Patton, New Era District Choir President

Sister Hattie Lewis, New Era District Choir Director

Reverend Gregory P. Nichols, Moderator