

4th Annual Address

of the

Ministers Wives and Widows

Fellowship President

Sister Patricia Ann Anderson Jones

113th Annual Session

New Era Missionary Baptist District Association

Virtual via Zoom - July 19-22, 2019

Rev. Gregory P. Nichols – Moderator

Greetings and Acknowledgement

First, giving honor to God. I want to thank our Presider this evening, Sister Valarie Phillips, who serves as Vice President of the NED Ministers Wives and Widows.

To Moderator Gregory Nichols, his staff and officers.

To the Missionary Baptist State Convention of Missouri Ministers Wives and Widows President Mary Roberson, to all National and State Officers, to the President and Officers of Western Baptist Bible College.

To the Ministers Wives and Widows of NED whom I truly love and am devoted to. I thank you for your kindness and love. I thank you for your prayers and for being Sisters in Christ.

To my Pastor and First Lady, Jesse and Shirley Frazier and my Ebenezer family, thank you all for loving me and my family. And thank you for being here tonight.

To my children, Jamie, Patrick, Lisa, my grandchildren, Jax, Lola, and Vera, I'm so blessed to have you as my family. You all make me so very proud of you. I hope to get caught up on all the hugs when God says the same.

Now, to my husband of 43 years, Rev. James Jones. It has been challenging this past year, yet you didn't let me down. Through 2 surgeries, months of physical therapy, and many sleepless nights, you have been right there. I thank God for you and I thank you for being a man.

And to all my brothers and sisters in Christ, good evening.

It is indeed good to be here. God blessed us to see another beautiful day that was not promised to any of us. And we should all be so grateful. So thankful.

In Memorial

Let us take a moment to remember the Ministers Wives and Widows who are now spending ceaseless ages with the Lord.

Sister Josephine Nelson - Haven of Rest Baptist Church - March 2020

Sister Maggie Williams - Mount Carmel Baptist Church - April 2020

Sister Armenda Nichols - Mount Horeb Baptist Ministries - April 2020

Sister Angelae Jones - Saint James Baptist Church - May 2021

"We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord. 2 Corinthians 5:8, KJV

Father God in heaven, we thank you for allowing us to walk piece a way with these great ladies who devoted these lives to You. We know their legacy lives on in the lives of their families and friends, their churches, and the Ministers Wives and Widows. Help us to walk worthy knowing that one day You will also call us home. In the matchless name of Jesus the Christ, we pray. Amen

The Work

We have devoted this past year to prayers and supplications for our family, friends, loved ones, our community, and this world.

We chose intentionally to stress the importance of prayer as a catalyst for greater things to come as we ministered to those who are ill, those grieving the loss of loved ones, and those standing in the need of prayer.

Our works includes serving as helpmeets to our spouses and the churches they Pastor/Minister to and their members as well as the community. We are their greatest encouragers and their friends.

As we pray and ask God to lead, guide, and direct, we know even greater work is yet to be done.

My Address

Moderator Nichols saw the necessity to focus on unity. The theme he chose for the district seems simple yet we know true unity requires action and love.

That theme is 'One District on One Accord' with Acts 2:1-3 as the supporting scriptures. I will not read them tonight but please do as you ponder unity in your quiet time.

We are often tossed and driv'n on the restless sea of time, somber skies and howling tempest oft succeed a bright sunshine; in that land of perfect day, when the mists have rolled away, we will understand it better by and by.

The words of this great gospel hymn were written by the great preacher and song writer Charles Albert Tindley.

Rev. Tindley was born a slave and recalls being hired out by his dad in order to provide for the family. They were united in love to do whatever it took to feed, clothe, and provide security for their family.

The Tindley family did not know why they were living through what they were living through yet they did know, to survive it, they had to stick together.

Father Tindley worked, mother Tindley worked and we know through history that even the children were required to work. Remember, they were slaves. They experienced difficult circumstances, yet they were determined to survive. If not, they could have just given up.

The Tindley's were not the only family living through those hard times. There were many on the same plantation, same city, same state, same country experiencing the same hardships. They were all being tossed and driven on a restless sea of time.

I'm certain there were times when they said, 'come Lord Jesus, come'. Looking for a way out; begging for it to be over. Yet still, they stayed together. United on one accord to defeat the adversary.

Few things are more important for Christian maturity than learning how to walk in unity with others. Unity for this district, and within each auxiliary is a goal we must pursue. Jesus prayed for unity in John 17:11 that we - the church - be as one. And Jesus died for unity as explained in Ephesians 2:19-22.

He is our chief cornerstone.

So consider this, unity is a gift from God. Ephesians 4:7 tells us, 'But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.' As gifted, we have an obligation to be unified as one.

Unity is maintained, not created by man. We are to be "eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." Paul doesn't say, "find," or "create," or "produce" unity, but maintain the unity that God has created and given.

Unity grows over time. Or, at least, unity in the church should grow over time. Ephesians 4:13b says, ". . . until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ." So we can't make unity. It has to grow and be nurtured in the body of believers.

Unity is most opposed by pride and self-interest. To put it positively, unity is maintained by humility, gentleness, patience and enduring love as stated in Ephesians 4:2.

Unity is a uniquely Christian adornment. We are unique because our unity is not maintained by political affiliations, gym membership or other worldly things.

But what makes the church unique is how our unity is based on the invisible realities of God. Christian unity is based upon the Triune God, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. And the work of salvation He has done for us.

Unity requires a doctrinal center – the gospel. The good news of our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ. In Ephesians 4:4–6, the word *one* is listed seven times. In these same verses, each member of the Godhead is mentioned. Thus unity of God is a core element of the gospel.

Unity does not mean uniformity. We all have sin and disobedience as our common denominator, no one is righteous, not one! And then by uniting us to Christ by his death and resurrection and destroying the wall of hostility that stands between us, God took all our protruding spikes and rough edges and fitly joined us together. This is not by accident, but on purpose.

In saving all kinds of people, God gets greater glory; and by joining us together in the same faith, He teaches us how to walk in unity, as we grow in humility, gentleness, patience, and love.

Now, unity also depends on grace and gifts. The goal of unity is to grow us up together in Christ. We can't unite as one unless everyone uses their gifts, be fitted in the body, and become one. So unity leads us to maturity, and maturity allows for greater unity. And to facilitate this, God has given gifts to the church. Gifts are to be cherished and used for His glory.

Unity grows when it is stretched, pressured, and even threatened. Unity is not a peace that falls on the church; it is the product of the church growing up in love. Listen to these words of Ephesians 4:15–16, 'Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

Unity glorifies God and attracts unbelievers. When it is all said and done, gospel-centered, humble-hearted unity glorifies God. Because unity can only come through the cross of Christ. And it glorifies God, because it demands that we die to self and live a life empowered by the Spirit.

In this way, Christ gets the glory for what He did once and for all on the cross. And the Spirit of Christ gets the glory as He completes the work of Christ in the life of His church (it's not your church) and this district.

When we are unified in truth and humble love, it will display to unbelievers *what the gospel does*. The gospel is a message of grace, news that is heard not seen.

But when that message is believed by all of us, and we promise to love one another, it makes what is heard visible—and the power, wisdom, and goodness of God is seen.

So fellow saints, we have experienced many difficulties recently. Our loved ones died whether - illness or tragedy - without our visits and last farewells.

We've had jobs that provided for our family one day and the next those jobs were gone. We've experienced illness and pain like we've never experienced before and maybe some of you did say, like our enslaved ancestors, 'come now Lord Jesus come'.

Yet we're still here.

Tonight I want to encourage you to fight on. Not just the Ministers Wives and Widows. I want to encourage each of you to fight on. Unite on. Love on.

Take back what these past few years of agony and pain has stolen from us.

As part of the united body of Christ, there isn't anything we can't do if we just work together.

If you need a job, somebody has a job. If you need food, we got food. If you need a shoulder to cry on, the Ministers Wives and Widows, we got that too. Whatever you need can be found in the body of Christ - the church, this group of district churches.

As a united body in Christ we need everyone working for the kingdom of Christ.

Some lost their way when we had to shelter in place during the pandemic, go visit them, call them.

Some were disenfranchised because they suffered a great loss, comfort them.

Some were in need in ways we don't know or understand, pray for them.

We must recommit, reestablish, refresh, and renew our love, commitment, our fellowship, and grow closer together as we serve on the battlefield each day.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 says, 'Two *are* better than one, Because they have a good reward for their labor. For if they fall, one will lift up his companion.'

But woe to him *who is* alone when he falls, For *he has* no one to help him up. Again, if two lie down together, they will keep warm; But how can one be warm *alone*? Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him. And a threefold cord is not quickly broken.'

By and by, when the morning comes, when the saints of God are gathered home, we'll tell the story, how we've overcome, for we'll understand it better by and by.

Humbly submitted,

Patricia Ann Anderson Jones

President - New Era Missionary Baptist District Wives and Widows

DO NOT COPY

My Stewardship

Made face masks for distribution to anyone in need.

Made masks for WMU Foreign Mission Project.

October 2020 to June 2021 - Scheduled and conducted three fellowship meetings.

Taught Adult Sunday School at Ebenezer.

Attended weekly Bible Study.

Kept in contact with members via email, phones calls, and drive-by visits to some.

Attended WMU Trunk or Treat.

Attended Laymen's monthly Friday evening Early Morning Service.

DO NOT COPY