



# OHIO BAPTIST GENERAL CONVENTION AND AUXILIARIES, INC

*"Strengthening the Ministry of the New Testament Church"*

Grace be to you, and peace from God, our Father, and from the Lord, Jesus Christ. Blessed be God who has blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places; to the praise of His glorious grace.

I write to you today in the shadow of the latest senseless murder of an unarmed Black man in Minnesota. As we all should be, I am troubled by the fact that in 2020 - 157 years after the Emancipation Proclamation freed slaves in the confederate states, we are not slaves, but we are far from free. 66 years after Brown vs. Board of Education, we are still separate but not yet equal in the eyes of many. 56 years after the Civil Rights Act of 1964, we as Black people in this country are still finding it necessary to fight for the liberties that we are owed as children of the Most High made in His image. This is the cultural context in which I sit to pen this letter today.

As the president of the largest historically black Baptist Organization in the State of Ohio, I am writing to condemn the murderous actions of four ex-police officers: Derek Chauvin, J. Alexander Kueng, Thomas Lane, and Tou Thau. Their blatant abuse of police authority in the murder of George Floyd was inhumane, unnecessary, and unacceptable. We, as the Ohio Baptist General Convention are disgusted by this symptomatic display of racial injustice, and call for the end of such practices in "...the land of the free, and the home of the brave."

The demonic genocidal spirit behind this murder and so many others, at the hand of police officers, is not new. The same spirit was at work in Exodus chapter 1, when Pharaoh ordered the Hebrew boys to be killed. It's the same spirit that was at work in Herod in Matthew 2, when he ordered all the boys in Bethlehem and vicinity to be killed. We have this spirit at work in the murders of John Crawford, III and Tamir Rice, right here in our own beloved state. But just as those wicked leaders could not stop the plan of God for His children, neither will systemic American racism and injustice prevail against the plan of God for us. Psalm 37 reminds that the Lord "...will not forsake His faithful ones." (Psalm 37:28)

Saints of God, we have work to do. We must make our voices heard. As Kingdom ambassadors, we must hold elected officials accountable for just laws and equitable implementation of those statutes. We cannot get tired until "justice runs down like water, and righteousness like a mighty stream." We must join hands with all of those who fight for righteousness, and walk together for the common cause of humanity. To this end, we are working on a list of actions that we are demanding of elected officials to help ensure that our children and grandchildren won't have to fight this same, tired fight.

Your servant in this struggle,

S. N. Winston, Jr.  
President

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