

IN THE TENNESSEE COURT OF THE JUDICIARY

IN RE: THE HONORABLE JOHN A. BELL
JUDGE, GENERAL SESSIONS COURT
COCKE COUNTY, TENNESSEE

DOCKET NO. M2008-00932-CJ-CJ-CJ

Complainant: Dan A. Metcalf
File No. 06-2741

AFFIDAVIT OF STEVEN J. DOWNARD

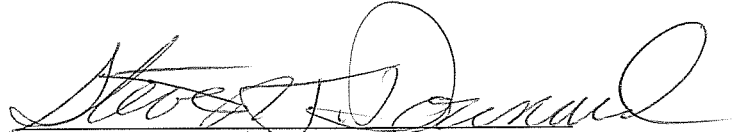
STATE OF TENNESSEE)
) ss
COUNTY OF COCKE)

I, Steven J. Downard, under oath, do hereby depose and state as follows:


1. I am over the age of eighteen and make this affidavit of my own personal knowledge.
2. I am a resident of Cocke County, Tennessee.
3. I currently serve as Pastor of Grace Missionary Baptist Church in Newport, Tennessee and have been Pastor there since April 10, 2007.
4. Prior to serving as Pastor, I was Associate Pastor of Grace Missionary Baptist Church.
5. I received my post-secondary education at Crown College in Knoxville, from where I graduated in May 2004.
6. I have reviewed the ledger and/or records of Grace Missionary Baptist Church and those records reveal that in March 2004, Judge John Bell spoke at Grace Missionary Baptist Church and was presented a \$100 "love gift" for speaking. The church ledger provides the following itemization for that gift: "Speaker John Bell -- \$100.00."
7. Such gifts were at that time and are currently presented by the church to any speaker.

8. In February 2008, the Court of Judiciary's investigator showed up one day at the church and requested information about the \$100 gift to Judge Bell in March 2004. I explained to the investigator that the \$100 check was a "love gift" to Judge Bell. Although the investigator asked me for additional information and stated that he would "call back," I have not heard from him since.

FURTHER AFFIANT SAITH NOT.


Steven J. Downard

Sworn to and subscribed to before
me this 13th day of August, 2008.


NOTARY PUBLIC
Commission Expires: 12/28/2010

