



Metro Mobile Baptist Campus Ministries **Report to the Mobile Baptist Association for 2017-2018**

“Gathering, Growing and Sending Collegians in Mobile County”

Baptist Campus Ministries has been providing evangelistic ministries, discipleship programs, and mission’s mobilization opportunities since 1965 on Mobile County college campuses. This year has been a fruitful time of reaching, growing and sending collegians. With ministries to collegians from the University of South Alabama, Bishop State Community College, Spring Hill College and other campuses, we are seeing many opportunities to expand His kingdom. Baptist Campus Ministries is living out the command to go and make disciples among collegians in Mobile County.

Baptist Campus Ministries exists as a partnership between the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions and the Mobile Baptist Association. Baptist Campus Ministries serves as the ministry extension of the Mobile Baptist Association’s Churches to the college campuses in Mobile County. We see the college students in Mobile County as our mission field. We exist to reach, develop and deploy collegians on these campuses, to help our Churches reach collegians from our Campuses, and to intimately connect collegians with church life within our Associational Churches. We hope to see each Mobile Baptist Association Church involved in Collegiate Ministry to the students in their congregation and in their community. EACH Mobile Baptist Association Church can be involved in College ministry!

What does partnership missions through BCM look like?

The Mobile Baptist Association provides ministry funding and strategic leadership to reach collegians in Mobile. Each Church can reach the collegians within their sphere of influence in partnership with BCM.

The Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions provides two Baptist Campus Ministers, a Baptist Student Center, and its upkeep to reach collegians in Mobile. State Baptists partner to reach collegians all over Alabama including Mobile County.

The two **State Missionaries** assigned to the Mobile Association are Jerrod Brown and Beth Gardner. Jerrod has responsibilities at USA and Bishop State Community College and Beth has responsibilities with students from USA and Spring Hill College. Both serve as State

Missionaries through the State Board of Missions. Thanks be to God for His continued guidance and calling on the lives of those called out to reach and minister to collegians. The Mobile Baptist Association and each of Its Churches are “going with the Gospel” to collegians in Mobile County. We are your ministry to collegians and we will remain on the go with the Gospel in Mobile County.

Preparing Students to Go: Making Disciples Who Make Disciples

One particular way that we have been able to “go with the gospel” is through our training of collegians as disciples who make disciples. Our discipleship strategy is very simple. Our goal is to begin with the freshmen we meet at orientation before they even begin college. We invite them into our college-level, disciple-training program. We want them to see college as the time where they can take the next step in their life as a disciple. BCM exists to train them as rigorously spiritually as the University is academically. From the first moments of our discipleship relationships, we are beginning to point to the gospel and the gospel mission of the disciple.

We want each student involved in our program to connect to us in a discipleship relationship. Out of these discipleship relationships grow our evangelism strategy and our leadership strategy. Our discipleship program is intentionally focused on developing disciples who make disciples. As we grow students as disciples, we consistently focus on the evangelistic task. The disciple-making mission is a focus from the beginning moments of a discipleship relationship. As we train students as disciple makers, they are trained to understand the gospel, share the gospel through various methods, discover connection points to the gospel in conversations, share through gospel appointments, identify their spheres of influence and practice everyday evangelism. Evangelism is not simply a skill to learn, but a fruit to be borne. We invest in growing students in the fruit-bearing life of a disciple as we train them in the skills needed to share the gospel in a collegiate setting.

We are seeing the fruit of this strategy as students in discipleship relationships with us are beginning to share their faith boldly and to invest in younger believers. Disciples make disciples- the Mobile Baptist Association is a big partner in this important ministry.

Students Going with the Gospel

This past year among collegians in Mobile has been one of “going with the gospel”. Our strategy for evangelism and discipleship is simple. We want to reach collegians with the Gospel of Jesus Christ, see them believe and grow them into disciples who reach other collegians. Collegians reach collegians. We want to develop disciples that focus on developing gospel-sharing relationships, boldly proclaim Jesus and invite others to faith in Him.

Our collegiate evangelism strategy has two emphases- an emphasis on personal, relational sharing (relational evangelism, sphere of influence, gospel conversations) and an emphasis on intentional, project-based sharing (outreach tables, spiritual climate surveys, 30-second surveys). We have experienced the importance of both emphases. Students should be able to share the gospel, both in a 3-minute conversation, or in a 3-hour conversation. We have found that students who find an entry to evangelism through intentional, project-based evangelism are more confident and well equipped for personal, relational evangelism.

This past year we were able to see 14 students make a profession of faith in Jesus Christ. To God be the glory for this incredible year of evangelistic fruit! Perhaps the evangelistic approach of BCM is understood best through several stories:

Aaron is a young man from Huntsville who grew up around the church. Almost two years ago, we met Aaron on campus through an engagement project and shared the gospel with him. At the time, he indicated that he was a believer and we connected him to a local church and he began to plug in to our ministry on campus. This past year he began to struggle with the authenticity of his salvation. He was hearing the gospel repeatedly proclaimed through BCM, through his church, and in his BCM small group. Through the conviction of the Spirit, he discovered that his faith was not authentic and he received Christ by faith during the fall semester. Aaron now walks with an assurance of his faith in Christ and seeks to share the gospel consistently on campus.

Noah is a junior at USA who has a heart for sharing the gospel. As a teenager, Noah was encouraged by a Christian friend to see if he had truly placed his faith in Christ. Noah discovered that he had not responded to the gospel of Jesus Christ in faith. He soon placed his faith in Christ! Noah plugged into our disciple making strategy once he arrived at USA. Noah has a heart for missions and evangelism and God is using him. He is daily seeking to have gospel conversations and he is a part of our weekly intentional evangelism project in which he boldly voices the gospel of Christ. Noah is on the go with the gospel of Jesus and he is actively inviting and leading others along with him

Ayla is a senior at USA who is generally very quiet. This year God has given her a boldness to voice the gospel on the college campus. Ayla is consistently a part of our weekly outreaches and is never shy about sharing and inviting! This boldness developed as she connected with Beth in a discipleship relationship, as she had the gospel repeatedly invested into her life and through her participation in weekly outreaches to the campus. In this case, practice led her to increased boldness.

As can be seen, our discipleship sequence is connected essentially and necessarily to our evangelism strategy. Evangelism is to be a part of the life of every disciple. We were made for mission. The disciple life without evangelism is incomplete.

Students Going to the Nations

One final way we have been able to “go with the gospel” is through mobilizing collegians to take the gospel to the ends of the earth. This past year, we saw collegians serve all over the world in missions as they served internationally and in North America. Students also served as a part of Short-Term teams in Queens, NY, New Orleans, LA and Southeast Asia. Many of these students are exploring further missions’ involvement and possible careers in missions.

Cass McIntyre, a senior from Coffeerville, served in Phoenix this past summer with the North American Mission Board’s GenSend Program. He reports that he and his team were provided with opportunities to learn more about church plants, to see them in action, and to work with them. The team also compiled information they gathered on two specific communities in Phoenix to provide to future church planters in those areas. As the team gathered information, they sought to grow in living missional, forming relationships and having spiritual and gospel conversations with people.

One aspect of our ministry that we have begun to emphasize this past year is helping collegians see how they can plant themselves in unreached or under reached areas after graduation. The State Board of Missions has developed a program called CareerPlant that helps students discover how God can use them after graduation, how they can plant their career for kingdom impact and how they can leverage their career for the Gospel of Christ. This past year, we had a couple of graduates plant their careers in the metro New York City area among an unreached community and come alongside a church plant.

This is what mobilizing college students for mission is all about. We seek to expose students to opportunities to take the Gospel into communities and to the nations. We also help them see how this missional mindset can become part of their daily lives during and after college. This past year we mobilized approximately 36 collegians for summer and short-term missions. Many of these students are now considering future service during college and after graduation. This is partnership missions in action- college students going with the gospel.

Going Together

Thank you Churches of the Mobile Baptist Association for your continued support of Baptist Campus Ministries and our cooperative ministry to the collegiate mission field here in Mobile County. We are busy about the work that God has called us to on the college campuses in Mobile County. We will continue to share the Gospel, make disciples and develop disciple makers.

- We pray that God will open new doors for ministry among collegians.
- We pray that God would raise up a generation of disciple makers.
- We pray that God would use us to reach the nations right here in Mobile.
- We pray that God would give us boldness as we have opportunities to proclaim Christ.

Will you pray for us?

Will you pray with us?

Will you pray- asking God to do great things among collegians in Mobile County?

Thank you, Mobile Baptist Association! Thank you for your continued support of our ministries to collegians here in Mobile County. Your cooperation and partnership are greatly appreciated.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Jerrod Brown
Senior Campus Minister

Beth Gardner
Campus Minister