

# Church Development, POST COVID

Report for July 12, 2021 Executive Committee

A special thanks to Kelly Jones and Carol Henderson who kept the Church Development program going during the COVID-19 pandemic. As I started the Church Development Director Interim position June 10, 2021, I discovered less COVID restrictions allow the Association and local churches to relaunch programs. Thank you for the opportunity to serve in this role.

**Associational Bible Drills** were canceled for 2020 and 2021. However, Chandler Gill of First Baptist Church Theodore represented Mobile Baptist Association by submitting his speech, "Where is God in a Crisis" via video, and placed 2<sup>nd</sup> at the State Speakers Tournament. Congratulations Chandler Gill!

Secretaries and ministry assistants met May 13 for their quarterly luncheon. Josh Zirlott from Gunport Academy presented gun safety and Alabama laws regarding firearms. The secretaries will meet again on August 3.

Our Missions Mosaic:



The Mobile Baptist **Woman's Missionary Union/Women's Ministry** held their Annual Celebration April 29, 2021. The event was both in person and streamed online. The Celebration can be viewed by visiting the new page [facebook.com/MBAWomen](https://www.facebook.com/MBAWomen).

The WMU's annual Girls Mission Camp was held June 21-25, 2021. There were 21 girls and leaders. The theme was "God's Princesses."

The MBA WMU hosted **One Day of Missions Adventure Camp** on July 8, 2021 with over 50 children. The camp was presented by the Alabama WMU WorldSong Camp staff. The MBA WMU Leadership Team meets the second Tuesday of each month. The next team meeting is July 13.



On April 7, Tillman's Corner FBC presented "May All Who Come Behind Us Find Us Faithful" a musical event for adults and churches presented by their *Amazing Greys*. The Association partnered with the church providing advertisement for the event. Cottage Hill Baptist Church will host "Singin' at the Steeple" August 12, 2021. Watch the Associational Weekly News Email Alerts and website for more information. Encourage your Senior Adult friends to attend.

A **Financial Issues Conference** (Church and Tax Laws) is scheduled for July 13, 2021. Register through the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions. The cost is \$15 including lunch. For more information visit [alsbom.org/event/financial-issues-conference-2](https://alsbom.org/event/financial-issues-conference-2).

The **2021 Church Clerks/Secretaries Training** is July 27, 2021, 10:00 a.m. at the MBA Office. The training is designed for Church Clerks and/or Church Secretaries/Ministry Assistants. This is the **ONLY** training on how to complete the 2020-2021 Annual Church Profile/Report (ACP) on the **Electronic Baptist Convention** website (or on paper). **This profile of your church is an important task for your church statistics and leadership to be properly documented for the Association, Alabama Baptist State Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention.** For questions and/or to pre-register, contact the MBA at 661-7111, or [chenderson@mobilebaptists.org](mailto:chenderson@mobilebaptists.org).



**Vacation Bible School 2021** quickly emerged in a variety of ways post COVID. At least 22 churches scheduled VBS for this summer. I visited eleven of those held in June and plan to visit those scheduled for July and August. Curriculums include: Wildwood Forest, Concrete and Cranes, Adventure Week, Rocky Railway, Wilderness Escape, Destination Dig, Summer Jam, Armor Up, Mystery Island, The Great Race, Anchored, and Treasured. With twelve different curriculums in use, we should re-think our VBS training to be more general and not limit training to Lifeway Curriculum resources only.

Lessons learned in making visits: Successful VBS begins with Leadership. Pastors were present at all locations and most were involved in the work. Excitement among the leaders generated enthusiasm in the children. T-shirts for all the children communicated a sense of belonging to a group. Missions giving were higher and more exciting when some level of competition was presented. Also, every location identified a different designated missions project for the offering. While visiting with the VBS directors and Pastors, information of online training opportunities through [alsbom.org](http://alsbom.org) was introduced. Regardless of the size of VBS, volunteers offering themselves as “living sacrifices,” a “spiritual act of worship,” communicated a loving presence of the Holy Spirit. I encourage all of you to report on the success of your VBS. **This report is not just for churches using Lifeway curriculum – it’s for all churches, whatever material.** The report can be found at [vbs.lifeway.com](http://vbs.lifeway.com).

One last report. I had the privilege of supply preaching for Jeff Gardner at Saint Elmo First Baptist Church when he was away at the Southern Baptist Convention. I also made a church visit with Pastor Montalvo at Snow Road First Baptist Church. I plan to visit churches on Sunday evenings and will be available to speak if needed.

**David Gill**

Interim Church Development Director

---

## **DISASTER RELIEF REPORT**

The first quarter of 2021 was relatively quiet. Although we have not had any disasters to respond to, preparations continue. The Disaster Relief Trailer needed new tires and we thank Billy Ray Robinson for taking the trailer to get new tires. We also had some repairs done to the building back-up generator that allows us to continue serving as the Incident Command Center during power outages. Please keep these items in mind as you give this year.



Our volunteers continue to stand ready as the need arises, even as we pray that our local association will be spared this year! The hurricane forecast is very similar to last year’s, and we’ve already seen early development of storms. Please pray and continue to support us as we face whatever God allows to come our way! We want to be the feet of Jesus!

“Let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.” 1 John 3:18

Serving you for Him,

**Carolyn Battle**

Volunteer Disaster Relief Coordinator

251-643-3053