

Mobile Baptist Association
Executive Committee Report

January 9, 2006

Brother Thomas Wright, Associational Missionary

Weariness and Perseverance

In 2 Thessalonians 3:13, Paul reminds us, “Brothers, do not grow weary in doing good.” (HCSB) Then he said it again in Hebrews 12:3-4, “For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, so that you won’t grow weary and lose heart.” As we enter the year 2007, rejoice in your call to ministry. Abide in Christ to let him encourage you and draw you closer to him than ever before.

A New Year of Possibilities for Growth

How do we lead churches to grow? What is your plan for 2007 to reach out to lost people and help members grow in Christ? Our Executive Committee has acknowledged that our Five Emphases are worthy of our focused effort and planning. Churches are growing that are creatively practicing Biblical Prayer, Evangelistic Ministry, Church Development, Church Planting, and Partnership Missions. As you know, the Evangelistic Ministries Committee needs to contact everyone in the community at least five times each year. Answer their questions as if they know nothing about your church and invite them to come. Effective growth requires planning in order to move toward your 1:10 baptism goal.

Communicating Cooperative Missions

Please include in your yearly planning the Week of Prayer for Associational Mission, May 20-25. In presentations to our churches, I often ask how many of them were aware that their church is a member of a local association of churches. In one recent Wednesday night, only 3 said yes. We are working on another poster and bulletin inserts. Please include information in your bulletins about our training options, ministry areas, and mission trips.

Budget

The good news is we ended the year in the black financially. The bad news is we ended 2006 under income from the churches by \$37,237. Your staff budgeted carefully and we spent based on income. Like you, we had another significant increase in building insurance and medical insurance. That increased expense and the under-funding required us to request \$10,000 from the Reserve Fund to pay year end expenses. If you have not sent in your Budget Commitment Cards for 2007, please do so now that your 2007 budgets are in place. Or you may call us with the information. We are seeking to be excellent budget managers and we need to be able to anticipate income to adapt the 2007 Budget. Thank you for your faithfulness to support the MBA and please continue to interpret for your folks the importance of local cooperative missions.

Mardi Gras Evangelism

Several of our churches are once again sponsoring two days of evangelistic outreach during Mardi Gras. This year we will have a motor home available for restroom, snack and rest breaks. Please contact Charles Gibbs for more information, 639-9952.

Partnership Missions Trips

MAINE: Mike Bedford, 675-7037, is coordinating teams and individuals to respond to missions needs in the state of Maine. Ministry needs include sports clinics and construction.

UKRAINE: Rick Cagle, 649-7204, is our Partnership Coordinator for this country. There are three areas for your involvement: Training teams to help pastors, youth leaders, music leaders and Sunday school teachers; Evangelism teams to help with the 5 current new work locations; Evangelism and other support teams for a new church in an area of 40,000 people.

GUATEMALA: Terry Stephan, 533-1142, is coordinating teams to help Canaan Baptist Church in construction, Back Yard Bible Clubs, and outreach events.

Camp Whispering Pines Day Feb 4

It is surprising how many of our members are not aware of the ministry options and changes occurring at our MBA Camp. Our Camp Committee has begun discussion about creating a separate non-profit status for the Camp. Please continue to promote the need for construction teams and memorial gifts.

Need Computer Upgrades at IMC

Do you know of a company or church that has upgraded their computers recently? The International Ministry Center could use at least three of their old ones.

Seeking Volunteer Coordinators

Please announce in you church newsletter that we are looking for these volunteer or MSC leadership positions: to help plan MBA disaster relief preparation and response; to lead the planned MBA School of Theology; to consult with African American Churches; and to lead in our Church Planting emphases.

Pastor Changes

Highpoint Baptist Church has called Charlie E York from Murfreesboro, Tennessee as Pastor. Pine Springs has called David Hudson as Interim Pastor.

Lambert Grove has called Jim Warren as their Bi-vocational Pastor.

Churches Seeking Pastors

Continue to pray for the nine churches we have listed as seeking a pastor. Please let us know when their status changes: Airport, Central (BV), Citronelle FBC, Crawford, Myers Memorial (BV), Navco (BV), Pine Springs (BV), and Trinity (BV).

Still Looking for Dave Baker's Replacement

The Church Development Assistant and Receptionist position is available. We are looking for a person wanting to minister through their job. Responsibilities include the web page, newsletter, new alerts, and greeting guests.