

Mobile Baptist Association
Executive Committee Report

January 10, 2008

Brother Thomas Wright, Associational Missionary

Welcome to 2008!

Church Growth Specialists encourage us to ask the question "What year is it in your church?" One struggling church agreed to send members to visit churches that were effectively reaching their community. A senior citizen returned to the church and told her members, "Reaching people has changed and no one came here to tell us!" She discovered the date at their church for children's and student's ministry was 1978. No wonder they were struggling to survive in the 21st Century. What do you need to do to reach people with an unchanging gospel in a rapidly changing culture? The MBA's five emphases are biblically proven components of a growing church.

There are 200,000 lost prospects in Mobile County. What are you doing to help reach them?

Welcome Bobby Copeland

We are blessed to have the Lord lead us to Brother Bobby Copeland. He comes to us with the unanimous recommendation of the Personnel and Camp Whispering Pines Committee as Camp Director.

Busy AND Productive

It is very easy to be busy without being productive. A good resolution for 2008 is to be sure we do something eternal every day. Our MBA emphases are helping churches with no Baptisms to reach their community. Our busyness too often pushes away our essential personal and corporate prayer times. Biblical prayer is the essential first step to personal and congregational growth.

Camp Whispering Pines Repairs

The hotel at CWP is nearing completion. We need one and two day construction teams to finish the tape and mud work, install light fixtures and bathroom fans, lay tile, install interior doors and frames, and paint. Please check www.campwhisperingpines.com for an updated list of projects and donations needed. Contact matt@campwhisperingpines.com to schedule your men's group or "world changer-type" skilled older youth group.

Budget

The MBA ended 2007 in excellent financial condition. Giving to the MBA from the churches was under budget by about \$23,000 but the staff compensated to be sure spending did not exceed actual income. Complete reports will be available when the December bank statements arrive. Please continue to interpret to your people the biblical nature of cooperative missions.

The Finance Committee transferred \$50,000 to the Camp from our MBA Reserve Fund to assist CWP to end the year in the black. Their expenses did not exceed budget but several last minute group cancellations and repairs caused expenses to exceed income. The CWP

committee is working on additional reservation and payment guidelines to help prevent that from recurring. The Camp will repay those funds to the MBA Reserve Fund.

Audit Report

Our audit indicated no issues this year. This is the first report since last years Audit uncovered the massive diversion of Seaman's ministry funds into a similarly named personal account. Our Auditors helped the Finance Committee through that response and this report provides additional suggestions that will prevent any staff member from being able to do that again. The final report from the Finance Committee was included in the Annual Session Book of Reports. Please help your people to see that our financial processes discovered the diverted funds, and the Moderators, Finance and Personnel Committees dealt with it biblically and redemptively. We continue to see some fallout in our churches as misinformation is presented.

2008 Church Budgets "Think 3 Percent of Undesignated Giving"

Thank you to our churches that have increased their giving to the MBA. Members learn by example. Churches that "tithes" support to cooperative missions teach members to support cooperative missions. It can be documented that churches that do not support cooperative missions have less per capita giving than churches that "tithes" to missions. Please continue to pray about adjusting your mission's line items to increase the amount you give locally to the MBA. The LOSTNESS of our county requires emphasis in our Judea as well as our Jerusalem, Samaria, and the Outermost parts.

Church Security

Denominational leaders are suggesting that churches discuss in your Staff and Deacon's Meetings about providing armed security in the building and in the parking lot. Armed attacks on churches are becoming more common from disturbed individuals and churches are considered "soft targets" for terrorists.

Partnership Missions Trips

We continue to provide opportunities for each church to involve at least one person, or one more than ever before, into local, state, national, and international missions. Trips in 2008 include Guatemala in March, Uruguay in July, and Japan in October. The trip to Uruguay will include a vision trip to see needs and options for church involvement. Pastors who have never been on an IMB trip can receive financial help for that trip. Many of our churches are planning trips that have room for one or more of your members. Contact me; or Terry Stephan at 533-1142, for information about taking one or more members.

Pastoral Changes

Welcome Dr John Nixon as pastor of Airport Boulevard, Terry Castleberry to Pine Springs, Jack Smith to Fellowship, and Yogi Taylor to Saraland. Please continue to pray for the churches we have listed as seeking a pastor. Please let us know when their status changes: Central (BV), Crawford, Heron Bay, St Elmo, Shiloh, and Trinity (BV).