

Mobile Baptist Association
Executive Committee Report

September 10, 2009

Brother Thomas Wright, Associational Missionary

Emphasizing Biblical Prayer, Evangelistic Ministries, Church Development, Church Planting, Partnership Missions

A Philosophical Debate between Cooperative and Societal Missions

We are seeing in our culture that many people do not understand the difference in democracy and socialism. (Democracy is MUCH better). We are seeing in our denomination a growing number of people who do not understand the difference in cooperative missions and societal missions. (Cooperative is MUCH better). Current denominational events are underscoring the importance of teaching our people about the advantages of cooperative missions over societal missions' agencies. Societal missions groups often do not have the theological, strategic and accountability guidelines provided by our denominational agencies and entities. There are many excellent Great Commission partners, but it is always the best choice to support SBC missions and missionaries.

Supporting Our Missionary Offering

It is already time to begin promoting our Lottie Moon Offering for International Missions. Missionaries in Residence, Gerald and Brenda Burch and Katie S (last name withheld for safety abroad) are available to help you promote the offering. Contact them about speaking or about the printed and audiovisual resources they have available. Please dedicate your International Missions giving through the Southern Baptist International Mission Board. You can be certain that every dime that we give is going directly to effective evangelistic ministry, and not into some societal missions' leader's pocket, his family, or airplane. As dollars grow tighter, we need to be more selective where our missions' dollars are invested. You can have absolute confidence in investing missions' dollars with the IMB (and the MBA).

Supporting Our Missionaries on the Field

We continue to see marvelous progress toward the goal of each church sending one more than ever before in local, state, national and international missions. The International trips we sponsor and endorse, we work with IMB field missionaries. This gives us a trained missiologist on the field that ensures preparation for an excellent trip. The missionary also provides the cultural orientation needed for maximum effectiveness, and they can follow up with every contact and conversion. Southern Baptists can unapologetically support our missionaries. Let all the independent groups support the growing number of societal ministries asking for your missions dollars and missions volunteers.

Supporting Your Associational Missionaries at the Annual Session

The local face of cooperative missions is your association of churches. Your local missionaries serve every day to help our churches grow and collectively impact our communities. We provide ways for churches to look outward instead of inward. Our next annual session is October 15 at Woodridge Baptist Church. Please encourage your members to attend. We will be inspired and informed about what their cooperative faithfulness allows to happen. Our people need to know that their gifts and involvement in their association is important and making a difference.

Cowboy Church

Todd Mitchell is coming September 21 to speak at our Minister's Conference about the growing number of western-themed churches. He has agreed to stay afterward for an hour to talk to us more in depth about how to start a "Cowboy" church in Mobile County. Hopefully, many of you can join us.

Associational Committees

Thank you again to those who serve on our associational committees. Thank you to those that recommended your members to our Enlistment Committee. The investment of your time through those committees helps us to confirm direction, tactics and processes that are most effective for all of our ministry areas and emphases. I am so grateful for the wisdom and suggestions that come out of these important meetings.

Celebration Baptist Church Launched on August 23

Nine months of planning and outreach resulted in a first Sunday attendance of 166 worshippers present! Attendance continues to hold at just over 100 people! New babies take a lot more work than teenagers or adult children. Kevin Castleberry needs additional local missions' teams to help with block parties, and door to door canvassing in the Semmes area. We also need additional churches to join Shalom and Higher Ground as prayer partners and additional financial partners too.

Evangelism Response Center and GPS

Dr. Dave Hudson is leading our associational involvement in the SBC Emphases, God's Plan for Sharing (GPS). We continue to train Telephone Encouragers that can respond to spiritual help telephone calls from the comfort of their home. We have over 100 people trained and would like to bring the training to your church. See him for more information, and to get a bumper sticker.

Weekly Minister's Lunch

Our Minister's Meeting is every Monday from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at GSBC. The \$4.00 meal is wonderful, the encouragement is important, the discussion is often informative and the fellowship is fun. All ministers in the MBA are welcome to join us.

MBA Budget

Last January, our Budget and Finance Committee responded to economic news and MBA income by adjusting the 2009 budget downward by 7.5 percent. This was an excellent decision. All of our ministry areas are "in the black" going into the last quarter. The economy continues to impact church and associational income and we will continue to adjust spending as needed. We appreciate your faithful support of associational missions. Together, we are making progress in our emphases areas and making an eternal difference in Mobile County.

Pastoral Changes

Welcome to pastor Scott Griffith at Cypress Shores and Brett Burleson as pastor at Dayspring. Please pray for the churches we have listed as seeking a pastor and please let us know when their status changes: FBC Axis, Big Creek, FBC Bayou La Batre, Central (BV), Citronelle Memorial, Cornerstone, FBC Creola, FBC Dawes, Emmanuel, FBC Grand Bay, Gulfcrest, Lafitte, Sage Avenue, San Souci, FBC Semmes, Smithtown, FBC Theodore and Vietnamese Obedience.