

Mobile Baptist Association  
**Executive Committee Report**

April 21, 2009

Brother Thomas Wright, Associational Missionary

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

**“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.” Hosea 4:6 (HCSB)**

The context for this verse is a prophetic word from God to Israel through Hosea. It is as applicable today as it was in 750 B.C. Our county and our country are facing serious issues. Believers must respond through our knowledge of God’s word as it applies to social, cultural, and economic truths. It is interesting to watch the continued movement toward each person doing “what is right in their own eyes,” from baggy pants to noise downtown and “...exchanging the truth of God for a lie” when the President said that sending millions of our tax dollars to support overseas abortions was the “ethical thing to do.” The Sweet Home Alabama Ads are using proven principles first whispered by a serpent in the Garden of Eden. A good resource is at [www.alcap.com](http://www.alcap.com) which provides knowledge to our people and stops gambling from making any headway in Alabama.

**Associational Missions Week, May 17-23**

A lack of knowledge about cooperative missions is seriously impacting the denomination. Church members and staff can benefit from periodic lessons on the importance of cooperative missions. Please participate in Associational Missions Week. Please add the associational staff and ministries to your weekly prayer requests. Visit our web page ([www.mobilebaptists.org](http://www.mobilebaptists.org) then click on News and Bulletin inserts) to find a variety of bulletin inserts to describe our ministry areas to your members. Please print them off in color, or black and white, and include one every month or so to help us communicate cooperative associational missions.

**Evangelism Response Center**

A lack of knowledge about how to lead someone to Jesus is inexcusable for any believer. Dr. Dave Hudson is leading our associational effort to train Telephone Encouragers that can respond to spiritual help calls. For more information contact Brother Dave.

**Weekly Ministers’ Lunch**

A lack of knowledge about the need for fellowship and friendship among ministers can impact our attitude and morale. Our ministers’ meeting is every Monday from 11:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m. at Government Street Baptist Church. The \$4.00 meal is wonderful, the encouragement is important, and the fellowship is fun. We are averaging 20-25 a week and many people cannot come every week. Come join us.

**Building and Grounds**

The lack of knowledge about basic maintenance has turned repairs into replacements. Brother Terry Castleberry is leading an exceptional Building and Grounds Committee. They are helping us focus on immediate and capital needs at the IMC, MBA office, and CWP. The IMC, in particular, has required hundreds of work hours and over \$36,000 in the last three years, in comparison to \$17,000 in the previous five years, to do repairs and upkeep to offset thirty years of neglect. CWP is also working diligently to complete Katrina repairs and upgrade aging

facilities. You received with your materials today, a punch lists that I initiated last year to help us identify and manage maintenance and priority needs at the MBA office, IMC, and CWP. Contact Jarrod, or John, if your adult or student teams can help this summer. Be sure that you have a functioning B&G Committee to prevent minor maintenance issues from becoming major repairs.

**Community Ministries Coordination**

The lack of knowledge about who needs help is limiting our ministry response. Our churches are reporting increased demand on food, utilities, gasoline, and other social ministries. All of us want to help any person that has legitimate need. All of us have been burned by those who do not have a legitimate need. Many of our workers are requesting a way to coordinate database lists of those who receive aid from our churches. Chuck and Traci are working with several of you for computer or Internet options to help us enter information on the people we help. Then we can confirm which church has recently helped them and to what extent. A couple of guidelines that may help: Get a copy of a picture I.D. and contact info; help people in your zip code first; contact us and local churches when you encounter a con artist.

**Associational Offering and Endowment/Foundation**

The lack of knowledge about funding needs impacts churches and cooperative ministries. The Budget and Finance Committee has been discussing ways to underwrite our ministries now and into the future. Brother Dennis will be asking your approval for the committee to develop the guidelines for an Associational Missions Offering each May during Associational Missions Week. They also are requesting approval to develop the logistics to create an Associational Endowment (Foundation) to underwrite new work and Associational Ministries. Both would be presented to you in the September Executive Committee Meeting for approval at the Annual Session.

**Budget Challenges**

The lack of knowledge about socialism and bailouts will impact our economy immediately and for a generation. Our Budget and Finance Committee responded to economic news and MBA income but adjusting the 2009 budget downward by 7.5 percent. We spend based on income, not based on budget, but this helps MBA staff to plan accordingly instead of waiting until last quarter and freezing all spending.

	Budget Requirements to Date	\$140,789.01
	Given Year to Date	\$164,808.95
	Actual Expenses Year to Date	\$139,228.41
	Net Income	\$25,580.54
	Variance Year to Date	\$24,019.94

**Pastoral Changes**

Welcome, Paul Ott as new pastor at Fellowship Baptist Church, and Steve Roberts to Orchard. Please pray for the churches we have listed as seeking a pastor and please let us know when their status changes: FBC Bayou La Batre, Central (BV), Cypress Shores, FBC Dawes, Dayspring, Gulfcrest, Lafitte, Sage Avenue, FBC Semmes, Smithtown, FBC Theodore, and Vietnamese Obedience.