

Mobile Baptist Association
Executive Committee Report

July 14, 2009

Brother Thomas Wright, Associational Missionary

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

Conflict Preparation and Response

Recent headline: “Lebanese shepherds outraged by Israeli cow incursions.” The story reads, “Israeli cows ... have been crossing the border in an act southerners are condemning as a violation of the country's sovereignty.”

First, conflict is inevitable and unavoidable. We are in spiritual warfare with forces of darkness that hate what Ministers do for a living.

- A. Churches can grow by losing people. John 6:66-68, “From that moment many of His disciples turned back and no longer accompanied Him. Therefore Jesus said to the Twelve, “You don’t want to go away too, do you?” Simon Peter answered, “Lord, who we will go to? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that You are the Holy One of God!”
- B. Seven Churches of Revelation

Second, every Believer can behave inconsistently with what we say we believe. This does not negate the truth of God’s Word.

- A. Disciples and Paul, The nickname “Sons of Thunder” is pretty descriptive.
- B. Allow the fruit of the Spirit to characterize everything we say and do.
Gal. 5:22-23.
- C. Note how the Peter of 1 and 2 Peter has changed after years of following Jesus.

Third, Satan has planted unbelievers in each congregation whose purpose is to impose human will, on God’s will.

- A. Jesus replied to them, “Didn’t I choose you, the Twelve? Yet one of you is the Devil!” John 6:70

Fourth, part of our role as good shepherds is to protect the flock from wolves that seek to destroy it. John 10:11-13

- A. Our enlistment and membership processes have become so lax that we are allowing non believers to be members, and we are placing unqualified people in positions of leadership.
- B. Deal with conflict while it is small. Most of us hate conflict and we ignore it too long.
- C. Create accountability structures to protect from innocent and intentional mistakes; particularly dealing with money, relationships with the opposite sex, and our pride.
- D. Keep the congregational focus outward instead of inward. This is why four of the five emphases are outward focused: Biblical Prayer, Evangelistic Ministries, Church Planting and Partnership Missions. This is also why we need denominational infrastructures to help us accomplish these items.
- E. Rotate ALL leadership positions, including deacons, finance, clerk and Sunday School, to prevent individuals from becoming possessive of any ministry area.
- F. Church splits are inevitable if we do not birth new congregations.

Fifth, part of our role as administrators is to lead our people to expect conflict and respond correctly.

- A. Conflict needs to be handled legally: Get your Constitution and By Laws in order
- B. Conflict needs to be handled in order: Confirm your Parliamentary Procedure
- C. Conflict needs to be handled biblically:
 - Proverbs 10:19 - When words are many, sin is not absent, but he who holds his tongue is wise. NIV
 - Proverbs 12:16 – “A fool shows his annoyance at once, but a prudent man overlooks an insult.” NIV
 - Proverbs 15:1 – “A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.” NIV
 - Proverbs 16:32 – “Better a patient man than a warrior, a man who controls his temper than one who takes a city.” NIV
 - Proverbs 21:2 - “All a man’s ways seem right to him, but the LORD weighs the heart.” NIV
 - Proverbs 29:11 - “A fool gives full vent to his anger, but a wise man keeps himself under control.” NIV

Reconciliation (Matt. 5:24); Personal Responsibility (Matt. 7:5); and Confrontation (Matt. 18:15)

Celebration Baptist Church Launch on August 23

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.

Evangelism Response Center

Dr. Dave Hudson is leading our associational effort to train Telephone Encouragers that can respond to spiritual help calls from the comfort of their home.

Weekly Minister’s Lunch

Our minister’s 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. Come join us.

Building and Grounds

Please join us praying for the Lord to send us a part time Building and Grounds person to work at the IMC and MBA offices. Please ask them to contact Chuck for details.

Mid-Year Budget

Our Budget and Finance Committee responded to economic news, and the MBA income, by adjusting the 2009 Budget downward by 7.5 percent. This was an excellent decision.

	Budget Requirements to Date	\$281,578.02
	Given Year to Date	\$298,179.70
	Actual Expenses Year to Date	\$276,521.11
	Net Income	\$ 21,658.59
	Variance Year to Date	\$ 16,601.68

Pastoral Changes

Please pray for the churches we have listed as seeking a pastor, and please let us know when their status changes: FBC Axis, FBC Bayou La Batre, Central (BV), Citronelle Memorial, Cypress Shores, FBC Dawes, Dayspring, Emmanuel, FBC Grand Bay, Gulfcrest, Lafitte, Sage Avenue, FBC Semmes, Smithtown, FBC Theodore, and Vietnamese Obedience.