

Mobile Baptist Association
Executive Committee Report

January 12, 2010

Brother Thomas Wright, Associational Missionary

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

Opportunities to Respond to the Urgent and to Lead Forward

The New Year brings many opportunities. Jesus faced the same challenges common to all leaders. Each day of ministry provides opportunities to respond to those impacting our day with legitimate (and illegitimate) needs. Busy days in ministry and sermon preparation can sap our strength and vitality for leadership. But, we must lead. It is often easier to maintain than to grow. Growth requires that we pay a price, since some believe they must fight any attempts to change. Growth happens best when we plan for growth and lead our people to look outward more than inward. A church growth specialist recently commented that growing churches talk more about the days ahead than the days behind.

Opportunities These Past Five Years

Every day as your missionary continues to be rewarding and challenging. We have made progress in many important areas because we are choosing to work together to make an eternal difference in Mobile. A few of the things that seem to be helping include: Our Five Emphases are helping pastors and church leaders to stay focused on the main things. We have improved the severe budget shortfall we were in five years ago; all of the ministry facilities have been repaired, and upgraded (with much more needing to be done). We have added volunteer and missionary staff to respond to church needs and we have increased the amount of training we are offering. Our Partnership Missions and Evangelism Emphases are seeing encouraging responses. We have much more to do, and we continue to need your financial support, involvement, recommendations and feedback.

Opportunities to support our Missionaries through Offering and Prayer

It is the time of year to begin promoting our Annie Armstrong Offering for North American 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 the majority of your North American Missions giving through Southern Baptist Missions and Missionaries in your Association and NAMB. You can be certain that every dime that we give is going directly to effective evangelistic ministry and not into some societal missions' leader pocket 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 ALSBOM, NAMB and the MBA. Even if you have a yearly missions offering, do not forget to emphasize this season of prayer for our missionaries and help teach your people the advantages to cooperative missions over societal missions.

Opportunities for New Work, Cowboy Church, Language Works

Cody Drews is arriving February 1st to start a "Cowboy" Church in Mobile County. Prayerfully consider joining Haven Woods to sponsor this new work.

Doug will talk more about our February 11-13 people search as we look for leaders and "people of peace" to start new work among five of the 40-60 groups we have identified in Mobile.

Opportunities to Respond to MBA Budget Challenges

We ended 2009 with a balance budget thanks to careful planning. We received in December an unexpected \$10k increase in insurance. This resulted in our transferring \$5,328 from our overage account and taking an additional \$6,000 utility reimbursement from the IMC Supplemental Budget.

Budget and Finance Chair, Gene Kerr, will lead us in a discussion about measures taken to stay in the black, and how we should interpret the \$43,897 shortfall in Church Receipts.

Opportunities in Partnerships to Ireland, Tokyo, Maine, Washington D.C., OMC at Riverside

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. With the International trips, we sponsor and endorse work with IMB Field Missionaries. 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.

Gerald and Brenda have opportunities in Japan, Uruguay and Ireland with possibilities in Indonesia and Somalia. Mark your calendar now about our March 26th, On Missions Conference at Riverside.

Opportunities for Training Fireside Interfaith Retreat, Generational Issues Conference

John and Chuck will provide information on two particularly important opportunities. January 26 provides two opportunities to study with Jim Swedenburg the importance of reaching multiple generations. We also have acquired NAMB scholarships for pastors to join us at the Interfaith Retreat January 29. You can choose two conferences between Mormonism or Jehovah's Witnesses on Friday night, and Islam or Catholicism on Saturday morning.

Opportunities for your people to serve on Associational Committees

Thank you again to those who serve on our associational committees. Thank you to those of you that recommended members to our Enlistment Committee. We still have some positions available in very important committees.

Opportunities for Evangelism through GPS, ERC, Party Trailers, Mardi Gras

Dr. Dave Hudson is leading our associational involvement in the SBC Emphases, God's Plan for Sharing (GPS). We continue to train Telephone Encouragers through the ERC that can respond to spiritual help calls from the comfort of their home. This year, we are beginning the recertification of those who wish to use the Evangelistic Party Trailers, and instituting a refundable deposit. This will provide increased effectiveness and accountability for their use. We consistently have around 300 decisions during Mardi Gras evangelism each year. Come join us.

Pastoral Changes

Welcome to pastor Jason Hall to Gulfcrest. 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 FBC Creola, Dauphin Way, FBC Dawes, Emmanuel, FBC Grand Bay, Lafitte, Manor, , Sage Avenue, San Souci, FBC Semmes, Smithtown, Spring Hill, FBC Theodore, The Cornerstone, and Vietnamese Obedience.