

Mobile Baptist Association
Executive Committee Report

September 14, 2010

Brother Thomas Wright, Associational Missionary

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

The Resources are in the Harvest

The recession continues to impact our churches, the MBA and the State Convention. We were reminded often at IMB missionary trainings that resources are in the harvest. He will supply the resources we need as we are obedient. God could have miraculously created His Temple as described in I Kings 5-6. But, He chose to use people to build it and we have a record of the marvelous detail and craftsmanship. He also could have miraculously saved the Temple from destruction when the people became apostate. The resources to sustain us and prosper us will come from our faithful obedience.

ESSENTIAL CONFERENCE: Financial Issues Conference September 24-25

Did you know that 15% of churches have been impacted by embezzlement? Did you know that the IRS is targeting churches for non-compliance to financial, tax and payroll regulations? Did you know your church can face high fines and even jail time for non-compliance? Lee Wright from ALSBOM and CPA Don Setser, are hosting a Financial Issues Conference at Camp Whispering Pines on September 24-25. I cannot over emphasize the importance of training your church Treasurers and Finance Committees in this information.

Cooperative Program Orientation

Our Finance Committee is eager to help our churches understand the tremendous advantages of the Cooperative Program. I have created a 15-minute and a 45-minute PowerPoint Presentation to help your members understand the purpose and function of the Cooperative Program to fund MBA and SBC Missions. Please e-mail me for a copy or invite a Finance Committee member to present it to your congregation.

Director of International Ministries at NAMB Candidate Conference

Our candidate is at the NAMB candidate conference September 13-15. J.T. is presenting the unanimous recommendation of the Personnel and International Ministries Committees to elect Buddy Brents. He and Melanie have served with the IMB in Japan for the last 16 years. Buddy and Melanie have three children, Ashley 16, Adam 15, and Avery 9. We hope to hear of their approval this week, and we will call an Executive Committee Meeting soon to meet, question, and present Buddy. We anticipate him to begin serving October 20. Please continue to pray that his missionary position will receive NAMB funding after 2011.

New Pastors and Churches Seeking Pastors

Welcome Pastor Dave Hudson as pastor of The Cornerstone, Adam Dooley to Dauphin Way, Nick Williams to Cedar Creek, and Jeff Gardner to FBC St. Elmo. Please pray for the churches seeking a pastor, and please let us know when their status changes: FBC Chickasaw, FBC Dawes, Heron Bay, Lafitte, Lambert Grove, San Souci, Smithtown, Sunrise, Spring Hill, and Vietnamese Obedience.

A Financial Hurricane is Coming

Dear ones, as you will hear from the Finance Committee Chair, we have a financial Hurricane on the horizon. We do not know if it will be a category one or a five, but it is coming and we need to prepare. I know credibility wanes if we announce a category five and it comes in as a one. But, it sure is better to be ready for the cat 5 than to be surprised. Although, we pray it fizzles out completely.

Cooperative Agreements

The probable changes in NAMB/ALSBOM cooperative agreement will impact the MBA budget by as much as \$82,630, as early as January 2012. This is in addition to an anticipated budget shortfall of \$60,000 this year. We have to prepare now so we can make good decisions on staff, program budgets, and future budgets. Good stewardship prohibits our waiting until October 2011 to determine the 2012 MBA Budget.

MBA Gifts to Cooperative Program and MBA

In 2009, MBA churches sacrificially reported giving a mission's tithe of \$2,141,147.88 to the Cooperative Program and \$459,087.57 to the MBA. Prior to this year's SBC vote, the MBA received back \$82,630.12 through the cooperative agreements with the North American Mission Board and our State Convention. Leaders cooperatively agreed that CP funds would be used in Mobile to help underwrite the cost of an International Ministries Director, the Church Development Director, and the Associational Missionary. This in part is due to the recognition that half of the population of Mobile is lost.

Preparing for the Hurricane

The MBA has received notice that the IMB position only has NAMB/ALSBOM guaranteed funding until December 2011. The ALSBOM/NAMB subsidy for the Church Development and Associational Missionary positions also are in jeopardy. My state partners indicate that we hope to have additional information early in 2011 that will help direct budget discussions for 2012. But, we understand this is late in order to impact the normal budget processes in the churches and the MBA. So, we need to begin making budget decision for the next budget year.

GCR Recommendation

The Finance Committee and Moderators have concluded we are being encouraged by the GCR statement to provide locally for what was formerly returned to us through the cooperative agreements. The Finance and Personnel Committees also have endorsed that all three MBA positions are essential to the work of the MBA. So, we prefer not to delete positions in 2012.

Processing CP and MBA gifts

Your church determines how much it gives to the Cooperative Program and MBA. Those funds go from your church to Montgomery/State Convention then on to Nashville/CP. So, each of our churches need to decide how they will respond to the impending change in how we tithe to missions. Economic challenges in our country have some leaders suggesting the logical response is to allocate a larger portion of our missions tithe to local causes to cover the shortfall. This allows us to still sacrificially give over two million dollars to CP and cover all of our local obligations. Some are choosing to reduce their gifts to parachurch ministries in favor of SBC ministries.

How to Adjust Your Church Missions Tithe

es in Cooperative Agreements. We are being enamount you send to the MBA, all you have to do is designate the change in your monthly missions deposit to the State Board of Missions. The total amount you tithe to missions will remain the same. The bottom line of your church budget will remain the same. The allocation of your missions tithe is all that will change.