

Mobile Baptist Association
Executive Committee Report

July 20, 2010

Brother Thomas Wright, Associational Missionary

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

The Creator God Is In Control

Believers can have absolute confidence that the God who created, and continues to create, the Universe is in Control. The Creator God continues to be active in His Creation. Even our disobedience will not prevent Him from ultimately fulfilling His will. There are no personal, denominational, environmental or governmental crises that surprise Him. Each crisis requires us to be biblically and spiritually grounded in the rock of ages.

The Creator God Continues To Bring MBA Growth

Cottage Hill is beginning a Filipino congregation. Pastor Lito is a church planter and recognizes the need to be part of an Association and State Convention. Pastor Paul Phangnivong is leading the Laotian Mission to church status. They have completed their Constitution and By-laws and have purchased property in Irvington. Other churches are working on Hispanic, Deaf and West African churches. One of our church planting goals is for every MBA congregation to be involved in reproduction that is essential for the survival of any species or denomination.

The Creator God Teaches Stewardship: Financial Issues Conference September 24-25

Lee Wright, and staff from ALSBOM, is hosting the COMPLETE Financial Issues Conference at Camp Whispering Pines on September 24-25. The cost is \$35 a person which includes accommodations in the hotel (double occupancy, \$55 single occupancy), three meals, and all conferences. Topics will include: impact of the Health Care Bill on Churches; and essential tax, payroll, and IRS information for Pastors, Treasurers and Finance Committees. This conference will help solve and prevent most of the financial issues that are becoming more common in our MBA churches. We cannot over emphasize the importance of training your church Treasurers and Finance Committees in this information. Please register with Beverly at beverly@campwhisperingpines.com, or by calling 251-866-7868.

The Creator God Invented Cooperation

I have created 15 minute and 45 minute PowerPoint Presentations to help your members understand the purpose and function of the Cooperative Program to fund MBA and SBC Missions. Please email me, dom@mobilebaptists.org, for a copy or let me know if it would be helpful for me to present it to your congregation on a Wednesday night or other time.

The Creator God Has Sent Us a Director of International Ministries Candidate

Our Personnel and International Ministries Committees have unanimously recommended to NAMB a candidate for International Ministries. Buddy and Melanie Brents have served with the IMB for the last 16 years. They have three children, Ashley 16, Adam 15, and Avery 9. We hope to have the NAMB process complete to present them to the MBA at our September Executive Committee Meeting. They would begin serving November 1. The Brents have accepted what is possibly a one year call.

The Creator God is Fully Aware of the Impact of GCR

In 2009, MBA churches sacrificially gave \$2.14 million to the Cooperative Program. Prior to the GCR vote, we received back about \$82,000 through the cooperative agreements with our State Convention. We 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. The passage of the GCR report has already begun to change that agreement with a significant impact on our missionaries, and our Association. We received notice that all vacant missionary positions have been placed on hold until January of 2011, leaving missionaries and positions in limbo. Since our IMC Director's position was in process, we were allowed to continue. However, we received notice that the IMC position only has been guaranteed NAMB/ALSBOM funding until December 2011. The ALSBOM/NAMB subsidy for the Church Development and Associational Missionary positions also are in jeopardy. Evidently we are being encouraged to provide locally for what was formerly returned to us through the cooperative agreements. The total possible impact to the MBA budget beginning as early as 2012 is just under \$82,000. The Finance Committee, Moderators and State Board representatives have been involved in the discussion. Gene Kerr, Budget/Finance Committee Chair, will present a summary of our conversations to date. There is a lot of uncertainty but we know the Lord is faithful and you need to be informed. We need to begin to consider options.

The Creator God is Sending Folks to Bangkok, Tokyo, Guatemala, Maine, and Washington D.C.

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 work with IMB field missionaries. Southern Baptists can unapologetically support our missionaries.

Gerald and Brenda will help you participate in a planned trip or customize a trip for you.

The Creator God Is Calling Pastors to Mobile

Welcome pastor Royce Dubose to FBC Grand Bay, Al Brown to FBC Creola, Phil Boyles to Sage Avenue, and Clint Landry at FBC Bayou La Batre. Please pray for the churches seeking a pastor and please let us know when their status changes: Dauphin Way, FBC Dawes, Lafitte, Lambert Grove, San Souci, Smithtown, Sunrise, Spring Hill, The Cornerstone, and Vietnamese Obedience.