

Mobile Baptist Association  
**Executive Committee Report**

April 12, 2011

Brother Thomas Wright, Associational Missionary

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

**Stay With the Herd**

Hebrews 10:25 is often correctly used to encourage our church members to remain faithful to corporate worship. Any nature TV program clearly shows which wild beast gets devoured first; the weak, the young, *and those who are separated from the herd*. 1 Peter 5:8 reminds us to be diligent because the enemy is like a roaring lion. He is looking for any of us who are worn out or separated from the fellowship and we need protection by sticking together.

Hebrews 10:25 also reminds pastors, staff, *and churches*, that we are susceptible to increased attacks and limited effectiveness when we choose to tackle ministry through radical autonomy. Most of us detest being herded. But, we need each other. Please recommit yourself to opportunities for friendship and fellowship through our ministers' conference, Associational meetings, and State opportunities.

**Praying For and Sharing Jesus with Every Person in Mobile County**

Please be encouraged that the recent Alabama Baptist report indicated the churches of the MBA led all Alabama Associations in Baptisms last year. Your diligence is making a difference.

Please continue to Prayer Walk your communities as a "plowing" activity. GPS this year is emphasizing evangelism events like we have been doing through the Evangelistic Party Trailers. In May, we will be refurbishing the trailers. Please check with me or Dr. Hudson to update your training session in order to use the trailers this year.

Please continue to provide multiple evangelism options for your people and community. As you know, VBS continues to be the source of 25% of SBC baptisms. Bible distribution and door to door contacts still are effective "sowing" methods and the only reason revivals don't work is when we don't do them! The Evangelism Response Center (ERC) is still available for your folks too. Please contact Dr Dave Hudson or me for help with any of these areas.

**More to Life Evangelism Seminar**

LifeWay and the MBA are sponsoring a "More to Life" evangelism training at Moffett Road Baptist on Thursday October 6, 2011 from 9 a.m. to noon. Author Dennis Pethers will be with us and lunch will be provided by the MBA. Visit [www.lifeway.com/moretolife](http://www.lifeway.com/moretolife) for a free download of the manual, video clips, and an overview of the training. The \$49 registration fee is being waived for our seminar so we will not register online. Please let us know you are coming by Monday, May 2, so we have enough food and materials.

**Associational Missions Week and Impact Mobile Offering**

May 15-21 provides opportunity to join Southern Baptists across the nation in celebrating local Associations. You have received in the mail an introductory packet for the Impact Mobile Associational Offering. Thanks to your vote, this offering provides an opportunity for those who have not been able to support the association through their budget, who are accustomed to special offerings, or would like to catch up with their intended cooperative giving. We have suggested those dates, but we can print posters and brochures with any date that works with your church calendar.

### **All Nations Church**

An exciting direction is underway with our Filipino congregation sponsored by Cottage Hill. Buddy is helping pastor Lito to reach *three* Filipino language groups through house church-type congregations. We can see these churches developing for many of our 42 language culture groups in the County. Please contact Buddy if you would consider sponsoring one of these new units. We are working closely with ALSBOM and NAMB partners as we create a model for other metropolitan areas with large numbers of ethnic groups in small populations.

### **Annual Session Celebration on Saturday October 15**

Dr. Frank Page, President of the SBC Executive Committee, will be our guest for the 2011 MBA Annual Session Celebration. We have moved it to Saturday to allow additional lay involvement. Our hosts this year will be Highpoint Baptist Church. Dr. Page will speak to our ministers' lunch and give the keynote presentation.

### **New Pastors and Churches Seeking Pastors**

Welcome Pastor Robert Kurisco to Heron Bay, I.T. Snow to Lambert Grove and David Graumbach to Lafitte. Please pray for the churches seeking a pastor and please let us know when their status changes: FBC Chickasaw, FBC Dawes, Kushla-Bethany, FBC Saraland, Smithtown, Sonrise, Spring Hill Ave and Vietnamese Obedience.

### **Financial Hurricane update**

The Budget and Finance Committee continues to monitor our budget and the impending impact of NAMB changes in Cooperative Agreements. The current news is good. Church gifts to the association are reflecting some improvement in church receipts. As you recall we accessed \$34,300 in 2010 from our savings accounts to remain in the black. If MBA income remains consistent with the first quarter we will need much less from savings this year.

### **Cooperative Agreements**

The probable changes in NAMB/ALSBOM Cooperative Agreements and the resulting \$82,630 impact on the MBA Budget has been delayed to 2013. We also have learned that state executives have agreed to use shared ministries budgeting to cover locally what formally was covered by Cooperative Agreements. We continue to pray that the changes will not impact us at all.

### **MBA Gifts to Cooperative Program and MBA**

Just as a reminder to the issue. In 2010, MBA churches sacrificially reported giving a missions tithe of \$1,768, 511.75 to the Cooperative Program (a reduction of \$372,636.13 from 2009) and \$391, 851.93 to the MBA (a reduction of \$67,235.64 from 2009). Prior to the 2010 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 is due to the recognition that half of the population of Mobile is lost.

### **Preparing for the Hurricane**

Your vote to begin the Impact Mobile Associational Offering will provide part of a long term solution to changes in cooperative Agreements. We also need to consider beginning an MBA foundation that can one day help underwrite ministry expenses. We are being encouraged by the GCR statement to provide locally for what was formerly returned to us through the cooperative agreements. The best solution is for our members to faithfully tithe to their churches and our churches to faithfully tithe to Associational missions and the Cooperative Program. Please consider designating at least 3 percent of your missions tithe to the MBA.