

Mobile Baptist Association
Executive Committee Report

July 12, 2011

Brother Thomas Wright, Associational Missionary

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

Old Wineskins

Most of us have studied and taught the parable of the wineskins in Matthew 9:17; Mark 2:22; and Luke 5:37-39. The characteristic of new wine makes it incompatible with old wineskins. Jesus was making a point that traditional Judaism was not compatible with the new converts coming into relationship with Jesus. Beloved, we are trying to put “new wine” converts into “old wineskin” churches. We need to continue to make adaptations that respond to the needs of the “new wine” converts. We are not talking about changing the content of the gospel. We must present the uncompromised gospel with new forms and styles and attract and keep a very different culture. We absolutely must honor those who prefer a traditional worship. But we also must recognize that culture has changed radically in the last ten years. In fact, the culture of 2011 is decidedly more secular than 2008! One option is to begin a second service with a different music and worship style. One of the most common music styles in our area is country-western. We do not offer a Saturday night Sunday School and Worship alternative anywhere in the county either.

Time for a Vision Committee

One way to respond to the changing culture and changing communities is to convene a Vision Committee. Proverbs 29:18a says, “Where there is no vision the people perish” (KJV). If your church has not had a Vision Committee in the last several years it may be time to convene one. Strategic planning requires looking to the future. Each of our churches need to study the changes that are occurring in your communities, the resources you have and what needs to be done to make an eternal difference. A Vision Committees will find new opportunities, new ministries, new locations, and new work. Please let the MBA staff know if we can help you plan for the future.

More to Life Evangelism Seminar

This seminar addresses presenting Jesus in a secular culture. 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. until noon. Author Dennis Pethers will be with us. Lunch will be provided by the MBA. Visit 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, September 26, so we have enough food and materials.

Associational Missions Week and Impact Mobile Offering

Thank you to those churches that celebrated Associational Missions Week and promoted the Impact Mobile Associational Offering. This offering can be promoted at any time in your church that best fits your calendar. We can print the poster and brochure with any date you need.

New Web Site at www.mobilebaptists.org

New features include maps to all of our churches and missions; online registration for News Alerts and Newsletters; On-line copies of News Alerts, Newsletters and *The Alabama Baptist Pages*; comprehensive calendaring on the MBA, IMC, and CWP pages; training information and details. Please include the MBA web address in your newsletter and bulletins. We have a lot of requests from people who want to know what is offered through our ministry areas.

Annual Missions Celebration and Children's Missions Celebration on Saturday Oct. 15

Dr. Frank Page, President of the SBC Executive Committee, will be our guest for the 2011 MBA annual Missions Celebration. We have moved it to Saturday to allow additional lay involvement. Our hosts this year is Highpoint Baptist Church. Dr. Page will speak at our Minister's Lunch and give the keynote presentation that afternoon. Saturday also allows us to provide a Children's Missions Celebration from 2-4, simultaneously to our meeting. Please begin to enlist your GA's, RA's and Awana's and their leaders to attend. Visit www.mobilebaptists.org for more information.

Involving One More Than Ever Before In Mission Trips

It is great to see the number of teams that continue to respond to the tornados in Alabama. Chuck has additional information about needs in Birmingham, our partner association. Gerald Burch is pleading for teams to come help him with the continuing aftermath of the Japanese disasters. I am leading a team to the 7 churches in Turkey in May 2012. Please let me know if we can promote any openings in the teams you are sending worldwide.

New Pastors and Churches Seeking Pastors

Welcome pastor Chad Massey to FBC Dawes, Kenny Norris to Sonrise and to Lee Havens to Spring Hill Avenue. Please pray for the churches seeking a pastor and please let us know when their status changes: Berean, FBC Chickasaw, Haven Woods, Kushla-Bethany, FBC Saraland, Smithtown, and Vietnamese Obedience.

Financial Hurricane Update

Thank you for the sacrificial giving to support Cooperative Missions in Mobile County and beyond. We are entering mid-year in the black and in better financial shape than we were this time last year. The Budget and Finance Committee is working on the 2012 Budgets with an eye on the impending impact of NAMB changes in Cooperative Agreements and the economy. For 2012, the DOM's \$12k Supplement has been reduced about 10 percent. The unofficial word is that the Church Development's \$22k Subsidy will begin to phase out in 2013. Church financial support to the Association continues to reflect the economy. The first draft of the 2012 Budget reduces another \$10.6k to last year's \$41k reduction.

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

The Impact Mobile Associational Offering is part of a long term solution to changes in Cooperative Agreements. 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 church's mission tithe to the MBA.