

Mobile Baptist Association  
**Executive Committee Report**

September 13, 2011

Brother Thomas Wright, Associational Missionary

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

**Productive Lives**

Paul got to meddling again in Titus 3:14. He now contends that being busy is not as good as being productive. In the NIV “Our people must learn to devote themselves to doing what is good, in order that they may provide for daily necessities and not live unproductive lives.” The Amplified always provides insight too, “And let our own [people really] learn to apply themselves to good deeds (to honest labor and honorable employment), so that they may be able to meet necessary demands whenever the occasion may require and not be living idle and uncultivated and unfruitful lives.”

Part of our task as leaders is to train other members to help the 20 percent who carry the volunteer and financial load in our churches. Even you and I have to work hard to prevent busyness from interfering with being productive. As believers, we should never go to bed without doing something eternal.

**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. 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 September 26, so we will have enough food and materials.

**New Web Site at [www.mobilebaptists.org](http://www.mobilebaptists.org)**

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

**Annual Missions Celebration and Children’s Missions Celebration on Saturday October 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 will be 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 with our meeting. Please begin to enlist your GA, RA and Awana leaders to attend. Visit [www.mobilebaptists.org](http://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 the Tuscaloosa area and in Birmingham, our partner association. Gerald Burch is pleading for teams to come help him with the continuing aftermath of the Japanese disasters. Buddy is leading a team to work in Japan November 2-11, and I am leading a team next

September 17-25. 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.

### **Missionary Housing and RV Spot Availability**

We are still looking for a place to park an RV long term for our MSC Missionaries.

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

Welcome pastor Ricky Watts to Haven Woods, Please pray for the churches seeking a pastor and please let us know when their status changes: Berean, FBC Chickasaw, Kushla-Bethany, Orchard, Saraland, Smithtown, FBC South Mobile, and Vietnamese Obedience.

### **Financial Hurricane Update**

Thank you for your sacrificial giving to support Cooperative Missions in Mobile County and beyond. We are in better financial shape than we were this time last year. We still face financial challenges and will likely be accessing our savings again this year. As you recall, the Executive Committee said for us to access those funds as needed through these uncertain economic times.

For 2012, the DOM \$12k supplement has been reduced about 10 percent. The unofficial word is that the Church Development Ministries \$22k subsidy will begin the phase out in 2013. Church financial support to the association continues to reflect the economy. The first draft of the 2012 Proposed Budget reduces the program budget another \$10.6k, in addition to last year's \$41k reduction.

The Finance, Personnel, CWP, and IMC Committees are each looking at significant ways to decrease costs and improve ministries. We are going to have to continue to be creative in responding to increasing property and health insurance costs.

### **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.