

Mobile Baptist Association
Executive Committee Report

April 09, 2012

Brother Thomas Wright, Associational Missionary

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

Changing Lives

Consider your favorite O.T. story. The Heroes of the faith were used by God to lead people and work with people that resulted in changed lives and changed cultures. Every hero faced opposition from inside and outside their group. Every hero had to remain faithful to the Creator God. Every hero saw remarkable things happen. The challenge is on us today. We lead and we work with (cooperate) to see lives, and the whole culture, changed for eternity.

Changed Lives through Intern and MSC Opportunities at CWP and IMC

Please help us enlist exceptional young men and women to serve as Interns this summer at CWP and the IMC. There is more information on the web pages. There are also many needs for MSC (Mission Service Corp) Missionaries. Visit www.alsbom.org/msc for more information.

Changing Lives through the Impact Mobile Offering

This offering was created to provide an opportunity for churches to respond to the changes in denominational funding. Thank you to those churches who continue to promote the Impact Mobile Associational Offering. We can print the poster and brochure with any date that best fits your church calendar. The promoted date for the month of May 2012 corresponds with the nationwide Associational Missions emphasis. Undated materials are available to you today.

Celebrating Changed Lives in Our Annual Missions Celebration, Thursday, October 11, 2012

We heard from the survey that Thursdays are preferable to other weekday or the weekend. Please put this date on your calendar. Please share your suggestions with our Moderators and committee chair, Don Bond. Please continue to explore ways to involve more lay people and bi-vocational ministers.

Participating in Changing Lives through our New Executive Committee Time and Date

Our Moderators continue to work on ways to improve the Executive Committee interest and involvement. We have had requests to combine it with our successful Monday minister's lunch. Let us know if the morning or afternoon better suits your schedule. Involvement continues to grow as changes occur in the denomination and the role of Associations is seen more clearly.

Every MBA pastor is a member of the Executive Committee. Every church can elect another representative to participate in the quarterly meetings as well. Any Mobile Baptist is welcome to attend as a visitor. All of our ministry, financial and staff decisions are made through this essential group of partners. Church members and leaders continue to exclaim in surprise when they discover the variety of resources available to them through the MBA.

Changing Lives of Church Members and the Nations through Missions Opportunities

We continue to explore and offer multiple opportunities for you and your church members to be involved with IMB Missionaries. Teams can be from four and up. A wide variety of skills are needed. Cliff Case in Santiago Chile is looking for Sports Evangelism Teams to help him with events to plow and sow new church areas. Karen Wright, in the coastal city of Valparaiso Chile, is looking for student and adult teams for scripture distribution and Backyard Bible Cubs. Visit her site and videos at www.connectchile.com. Jim Neal in Lima Peru needs Prayer Walking and children's event teams. Please let me help you design an international experience for your church that works with your calendar and available skills.

New Pastors and Churches Seeking Pastors

Please pray for the churches seeking a pastor and please let us know when their status changes: Berean, FBC Chickasaw, Cottage Hill, Faith (Mobile), Fellowship, Travis Road, and FBC South Mobile.

The Upcoming Financial Hurricane

Thank you for the sacrificial giving to support Cooperative Missions in Mobile County and beyond. The changes in the Cooperative Agreements begin in 2014. So, it is time to determine if your congregation is going to reallocate a portion of your missions tithe to meet local needs.

For 2012, the DOM's \$12k supplement has been reduced by about 10 percent. The unofficial word is that the Church Development \$22k subsidy will begin to phase out in 2014. We have unofficial good news that the salary and insurance for the Director of International Ministries and Church Planting will continue to be funded through our partnership with ALSBOM.

We need to know what kind of income to expect in 2014 to determine if these needs are going to be met by our churches. Contingency plans have been discussed and you can easily see that our budget does not have any excess funds. So, if our churches do not respond we will be reducing ministry areas.

MBA Gifts to Cooperative Program and MBA

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.

The Budget and Finance Committee recognizes that the SBC vote means that churches are being asked to support locally what formally was returned to us from our CP giving.

Preparing for the Upcoming Financial Hurricane

The MBA Budget and Finance Committee monitors all income and expenses. They are a great group of men and women who are committed to Associational Missions and understand the complexity of budgeting for our ministry areas.

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's tithe to the MBA.

Thank you to those churches who already have begun responding to these changes. Please continue to provide this information to your Finance Committee as they prepare your 2013 Budget. We need to know how our churches will respond this year so we can begin adapting staff and programming in 2014.

Please continue to pray that our strategy and activities are so in line with the Lord's will that He will provide all of the financial and staffing resources needed.