

Mobile Baptist Association
Executive Committee Report

January 17, 2012

Brother Thomas Wright, Associational Missionary

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

When We Tell God “NO”

The rich young ruler was given an incredible opportunity in Mark 10:21-22. He was asked to follow Jesus. But he said no. Think about the impact of that decision. The incredible blessings he missed. The miracles he did not witness. He chose a life of misery because he believed the lie that wealth brings happiness. Now look at Peter’s vision of unclean foods in Acts 10. He kept telling God “no” in a confused attempt to be obedient to God! Look at the blessings and impact on the Kingdom when Peter finally said YES! Many prayer requests are unanswered because people keep telling God no. Many physical and financial needs are not met because our people tell God no. Our challenge for 2012 is radical obedience to say YES, LORD!

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 those web pages.

Mission Service Corps Missionaries are another category of self-funded individuals or couples who fill vital roles across our nation. Visit www.answerthecall.net/msc for more information. We have openings in the MBA for positions serving at the MBA office, in International Ministries and at CWP.

Impact Mobile Offering

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.

2012 Annual Missions Celebration and Children’s Missions Celebration

We are currently working on the 2012 date. We moved the meeting to Saturday to allow additional lay and Bi-vocational staff involvement. This also allowed us to shorten the entire program to 2-6 p.m. Our hosts in 2012 will be Sage Avenue Baptist Church. Saturday also allows us to provide a Children’s Missions Celebration from 2-4 simultaneously to our meeting. I believe it is essential for our members to learn about the relevance and effectiveness of their missions tithe to the MBA.

Personnel Recommendation of Gil Johnson for CWP Director

The Personal Committee has processed more than 80 resumes and interviewed six candidates. Today Chairman Tom Boone is able to unanimously present Rev. Gil Johnson Jr. as the new Director of CWP. Resumes are available. Gil brings experience in marketing, programming for children and student camps, and home remodeling and repair.

New Pastors and Churches Seeking Pastors

Welcome pastor Doan to the Vietnamese Obedience and George Riek to Orchard . Please pray for the churches seeking a pastor and please let us know when their status changes: Berean, FBC Chickasaw, Faith (Mobile), Fellowship, Kushla-Bethany, Smithtown, Travis Road, 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.

Finance Chair, Gene Kerr's report from the finance committee has several important points. We ended 2012 in the black without supplementing income from savings. This primarily is due to not having the expense of the CWP director salary and insurance. We have identified significant capital needs at CWP and the IMC facility that need our attention over the next 5 years.

For 2012 the DOM \$12k supplement has been reduced about 10 percent. The unofficial word is that the Church Development \$22k subsidy will begin to phase out in 2014. We also know the funding is in jeopardy for the International Ministries Director position. It is fully funded by NAMB and 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 to this change we will be deleting ministry areas.

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.

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. Thank you to chair Gene Kerr, Becky Hale, Charles Harvey, Charles White, Imogene Beard, Alben Gaston, Scott Griffith, Elaine Salter, Terry Cutrer, Don Setser, and Johnny Weaver. Please contact any of us with questions about the impending changes.

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

Thank you to those churches that already have begun responding to these changes. Please continue to provide this information to your Finance Committee as they prepare your 2012 Budget. We need to know how our churches will respond this year so we can begin adapting staff and programming in 2014.

The Psalmist uses the word hope 37 times. Psalm 42:5 brings consolation in uncertain times, "Why are you cast down, O my inner self? And why should you moan over me and be disquieted within me? **Hope** in God and wait expectantly for Him, for I shall yet praise Him, my Help and my God." (Amplified)