

Mobile Baptist Association  
**Executive Committee Report**

September 10, 2012

Brother Thomas Wright, Associational Missionary

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

### **Protecting Church Financial Procedures**

John 12:6 informs us that Judas, yes THAT Judas was the treasurer for Jesus' Disciples. It says, "He was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it." (AMP)

Recent figures indicate that 15 percent of churches have been impacted by a trusted leader who misappropriates church funds. Wise stewardship requires each church to establish financial guidelines to protect against the growing number of offering collectors, counters, church staff and treasurers who are stealing money from the church. Here are some ways to protect your staff and members from the temptation to take ministry money for personal use.

1. Insist on a yearly independent audit or review of the church financial records in your congregation.
2. Insist on accountability processes so that no single staff member or individual (or members of the same family) are ever solely responsible for collecting, counting, depositing and spending church funds.
3. Insist on specific documentation for all staff reimbursements, expense accounts and purchases.
4. Insist on at least two counters who are not related and deposit cash immediately.
5. Insist on monthly or quarterly public financial reports that specifically document ALL income and ALL expenditures.
6. Encourage (Insist?) Pastor, Treasurer and Finance Committee members to attend the Financial Issues Conference September 28-29 at Camp Whispering Pines. These trained professionals will answer questions and provide complete information that complies with IRS and accounting requirements. Visit [www.campwhisperingpines.com](http://www.campwhisperingpines.com) for more information.

### **Disaster Relief Response to Isaac**

Our MBA Disaster Relief Command Center was activated as Isaac entered the Gulf. Updates were added to our FB page throughout those days of preparation and response. Chuck, Charles Matthews and I contacted churches and did assessments in the impacted zone. We involved pastors in damage remediation. Praise the Lord the damage was minimal this time.

### **Disaster Relief Training**

Contact the MBA if you wish to attend our next DR Volunteer Certification Training. Visit [www.mobilebaptists.org](http://www.mobilebaptists.org) and fill out the DR Ministry Interest Form. Remember that FEMA limits access to disaster areas to those such as our SBC trained yellow shirts. As soon as we have the minimum enrollment, we will offer the Introduction to SBC Disaster Relief Course and Training for Chain Saw/Mud-out/Clean-up and Administration (processing requests and teams). Let us know!

### **Communication**

Please encourage your people to like us on Facebook and visit [www.mobilebaptists.org](http://www.mobilebaptists.org) to register to receive the weekly News Alerts and quarterly Newsletter. Please include this information periodically in your Sunday bulletin.

### **Impact Mobile Offering**

This offering was created to provide an opportunity for churches to respond to the changes in denominational funding. It also provides an opportunity for members and churches to include the level of Cooperative Giving through the budget what they would like to give.

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 in the month of May each year corresponds with the nationwide Associational Missions emphasis. Undated materials are available at [www.mobilebaptists.org](http://www.mobilebaptists.org) and at the MBA office.

### **Annual Missions Celebration, Thursday October 11, 2012**

As a result from the surveys that were mailed out, Thursdays are preferable to other weekdays or weekends. Please put October 11, 2012 on your calendar. This is a once-a-year opportunity to celebrate what the Lord is doing through your Cooperative Giving to our ministry areas. Every MBA church member is invited. Please encourage every member to attend.

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

Congratulations to John Siglar as Bi-vocational Pastor of FBC South Mobile, Ricky Wallace to Travis Road and Adam Hammond to FBC Chickasaw. Please pray for the churches seeking a pastor and please let us know when their status changes: Airport Boulevard, Berean, Cottage Hill, Faith (Mobile), Fellowship, and Manor.

### **Update on the Impending Financial Hurricane**

Our "Financial Hurricane" has been delayed until 2014. Thankfully, recent information is less indicative of a category 5. However, financial challenges are coming and we need to prepare. The Finance Committee and Moderators understand churches are being encouraged to provide locally for what was formerly returned to us through the Cooperative Agreements.

**IM Position Funded.** The MBA has received notice that the International Ministries position will continue to receive funding through the Cooperative Program gifts of the Alabama State Board of Missions (ALSBOM).

**CDD Position Not Funded.** It is confirmed the ALSBOM/NAMB subsidy for the Church Development Director will be reduced 25 percent each year beginning in 2014. Therefore, the MBA Budget needs to absorb \$5,500 a year until the entire current total of \$22k is being paid by the MBA. The Associational Missionary subsidy was reduced about 10 percent last year and the amounts of any possible additional reductions are unknown at this time.

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

In 2011, 80 MBA churches completed a Uniform Church Letter (UCL). Those 80 churches reported a total income of \$45,881,673. Their total giving to Cooperative Program (CP) was \$4,369,617 (which is 9.52 percent). Those 80 churches gave \$387,410 to the MBA (which is less than 1 percent at 0.844%).

The SBC has long recommended that churches give a missions tithe of 7 percent to CP and 3 percent to the local Association. Recent adaptations include 5% to CP, 3% to Association and 2% to other missions' interests. Dear ones, our local struggles will be over if our churches adopt the SBC recommendation for funding local missions *within what our churches are currently tithing to missions.*