

Mobile Baptist Association
Executive Committee Report

July 15, 2013

Brother Thomas Wright, Associational Missionary

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

MBA Continues to Grow

It is encouraging to see churches that recognize we are stronger together than by ourselves. Cooperation is hard. Cooperation can be cumbersome. The challenges of cooperation are far outweighed by the advantages, effectiveness and resources available when we work together. Welcome, welcome, welcome to Pastor Demorio Sheffield of Zoe Ministries, meeting at FBC Theodore; and Pastor and Church Planter John Blackwell with Hope Baptist Church in Citronelle. Thank you to pastor David Gill and FBC Theodore for the creative and essential sharing of facilities.

Layman's School of Theology Begins Next Year

The Lord has led Gerald and Brenda Burch to accept leadership of the MBA Layman's School of Theology. They return from Japan in November and will serve as Director and Registrar. We hope to begin classes in the Fall of 2014. Our curriculum will provide a theological curriculum to help Sunday School teachers, Deacons, Elders and ministers. The accreditation will be through Golden Gate Continuing Leadership Development Center and we will be working with other partners.

Church Planting and Church Revitalization

We had 49 people attend the Basic Training Journey at Forest Hills. Thank you to pastor James Jones for hosting the event. We will offer it again this fall. Please let me know if you are interested.

Future Focus Committee Underway

Moderator Roy Stebbins has been elected the Chair of the Future Focus Committee. We vote today on committee members. Please pray for these folks as they study the next fifty years of ministry in Mobile and make recommendations to respond most effectively.

Annual Missions Celebration, October 10, Fulton Road Baptist Church

Please put on your church calendar the upcoming Missions Celebration. We often comment how little our people know about the work of the local association. Church staff, leaders and members can become thoroughly acquainted with the vision, ministries, future and stewardship by investing time in these afternoon and evening sessions.

Disaster Relief Preparation.

We are being told this will be an active hurricane season for the Gulf Coast. Disaster areas are tightly controlled and untrained individuals are given very limited access. SBC DR provides physical response and the essential spiritual response. Our next training is October 3-5 at Camp Whispering Pines. Please visit www.alsbom.org and click on the Disaster Relief link to register.

Please visit www.mobilebaptists.org to download your Pastor Church response manual. It describes the DR process we use in the MBA for assessments, help requests and resources/repair team allocation. Please download your request form so it is available if power is out. Please complete or update the church ministries form so we know the availability of your church facilities.

Online Information

Updates to events, meetings, missions' opportunities and training are kept on the web page and the Facebook page. Please encourage your people to like us on Facebook.

Please visit www.mobilebaptists.org to register to receive the weekly News Alerts and quarterly Newsletter. Please include this information periodically in your Sunday bulletin and newsletters.

Churches Seeking Pastors

Please pray for the churches seeking a pastor and please let us know when their status changes: Airport, Cornerstone, Fellowship, Fulton Road, Kushla-Bethany, Manor, Moffett Road, Smithtown and Spice Pond.

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 and at the MBA office.

Financial Report

Thank you for your ongoing, and in many instances sacrificial, financial support. Insurance costs increases and decreased church giving have combined to make our income unable to support our current level of staff and ministries. The 2014 budget will be presented in the September meeting. At this time we anticipate reducing insurance coverage for the staff.

CDD Position Not Funded. The subsidy for the Church Development Director will be reduced 25 percent each year beginning in 2014. Therefore the MBA Budget needs to begin absorbing \$5,500 a year until we absorb the total \$22k we currently receive.

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 of to the local association. Recent adaptations include 5% to CP, 3% to Association and 2% to other mission's interests.

This is obviously a goal for some churches to adopt. It is not a recommendation for churches to decrease current giving to these levels. 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.*

We are seeing the Lord move and work throughout Mobile. Please continue to pray for an awakening.