

**Mobile Baptist Association
Executive Committee Report
January 14, 2013**

Brother Thomas Wright, Associational Missionary

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

Fruit of the Spirit

2013 begins with 30 years of marriage to my sweetheart. It is remarkable that even complete love can grow. It seems the culture expects, and celebrates, when love grows cold. This is consistent since the culture (and media) usually celebrate the fruit of the flesh (Gal. 5:19-21) instead of the Fruit of the Spirit (which includes love, Gal. 5:22-23). It is a challenge and a goal for the Fruit of the Spirit to characterize everything that is said and done. Guard your heart and guard your family. Loving our people is a Fruit of the Spirit.

Eight Years and Counting

January 1 also begins the ninth year as Associational Missionary. I was able to visit 73 out of our 116 churches and missions. I also visited several congregations multiple times for training, speaking or missions' orientation, and try to visit West Mobile with my sweetheart fairly often too. It is rewarding to assist church members and pastors with every facet of church management and growth. We also are sponsoring new work in Mobile County and providing many training and outreach opportunities consistent with our five emphases.

Disaster Relief Response

We activated our MBA Disaster Relief (DR) Command Center three times this year. We had one near-hurricane (Isaac) and two tornado swarms. Thankfully damage was minor and we were able to stand down within a day or two. I serve as Incident Commander when we activate. Chuck, Charles and I begin with assessments to determine the need for chain saw, mud-out, feeding units or other response. Then we process assistance/repair requests and assign responding teams to the prioritized need. It is becoming more important for those who wish to respond to emergencies to receive training. Disaster areas are tightly controlled and untrained individuals are given very limited access. The SBC DR provides physical response and the essential spiritual response.

Disaster Relief Training

Contact the MBA if you wish to attend our next DR Volunteer Certification Training. Visit www.mobilebaptists.org and fill out the DR Ministry Interest Form. 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!

Online Information

Updates to events, meetings, mission opportunities, and trainings are kept on the web page and the Face Book 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, Kushla-Bethany, Moffett Road, Smittown and Manor.

Seminary Credit for Interns

We have completed an agreement with SEBTS to provide 3 to 9 of hours of seminary credit for Interns serving at the IMC or CWP. Check with Buddy or Gil for information.

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 for 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 Week emphasis. Undated materials are available at www.mobilebaptists.org and at the MBA office.

Financial Report

We have ended the year with a balanced budget in all ministry areas. We did NOT have to access savings in 2012. Thank you for your ongoing, and in many instances sacrificial, financial support. Church receipts are down at the IMC and MBA. Insurance costs increases and decreased church giving combined make our income unable to support our current level of staff and ministries. We are examining ways to reduce insurance and utility costs by possibly combining facilities.

The Finance Committee and Moderators understand churches are being encouraged to provide locally for what was formerly returned to us through the Cooperative Agreements. This means that churches need to adjust their missions tithes.

CDD Position Not Funded. It is confirmed that 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 begin absorbing \$5,500 a year until we absorb the total \$22k we currently receive. 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 of 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.*

We are looking forward to the challenges and opportunities the Lord has in mind for 2013. Great is His faithfulness and it is wonderful He will use us in spite of our idiosyncrasies and inabilities.