

Mobile Baptist Association
Executive Committee Report

January 13, 2014

Brother Thomas Wright, Associational Missionary

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

Trajectory in John 5:17

“But Jesus answered them, ‘My Father has worked [even] until now, [He has never ceased working; He is still working] and I, too, must be at [divine] work.’ (AMP)” Trajectory is defined as “the path followed by . . . an object moving under the action of given forces.”

The trajectory of Jesus was and is, to be at the divine (eternal) work of His Father.

The trajectory of each believer should be the same.

Forces impacting the Trajectory. Growing secularization is driving people to ignore the truth of God’s word. This results in unbiblical stands on homosexuality and abortion that will continually be imposed on Christians and the church. Thom Rainer recently identified trends including “Increased challenges for congregations to build and acquire land due to restrictive governmental policies.” We have seen this in regard to our Celebration Church plant. An excellent strategy and philosophy was bankrupted by increasing requirements to get on their property. An occupancy permit was granted and then pulled by a more senior bureaucrat. That property and building are for sale and Celebration members currently are meeting with Sunrise Baptist. Growing isolationism is decreasing effectiveness by forsaking cooperative missions in favor of societal missions. It is true that those who do not learn from the past are doomed to repeat it.

10 year Trajectory of the MBA: As we enter 2014 you can be assured the trajectory of the MBA is solidly forward and doing the eternal work of Jesus. In 2004 there were 98 churches and missions. We now have 112 churches and 6 language missions. We had one autonomous language church, now we have three. We had two African American Churches affiliating; now there are 10. Campus ministries cover the Metro area and assist each church to reach collegiate. Church Development training involves more than 80 percent of our churches. CWP has increased attendance by over 1000 people. International Ministries is conducting unprecedented outreach and evangelistic ministry to seafarers and dozens of language groups in the county. MBA churches collectively lead the state in the yearly number of baptisms.

Trajectory discussion in the Future Focus Committee

Dr. Roy Stebbins is providing exceptional leadership as chair of the committee. The data is driving the decisions and conclusions presented in today’s report. Needed changes are coming to enhance and extend our trajectory in order to do the eternal work of the Father for the next 50 years.

Trajectory for International Involvement in Turkey and Seven Churches

Join us May 19-29, 2014 for our third Team/trip to Turkey. We will tour the 7 churches of Revelation 2-3 while impacting the culture. This year we are adding Nicea and Troy. Local cost of \$1,300 includes tourist visa, all local housing, transportation and food. Airfare from Mobile to Istanbul is currently \$1,250. So total expenses are \$2,550. A \$1,250 deposit is due by the end of this month (when we purchase tickets). Final payment of \$1,300 is due by April 1, 2014. It is incredible to walk the actual streets in Ephesus where Paul and John worked and Luke practiced medicine.

Trajectory for a Continuing Education Center to begin this year

The Lord has led Gerald and Brenda Burch to accept leadership of the MBA School of Theology. 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. We also are investigating a partnership relationship with an International Seminary to allow pastors opportunity to share their skill to developing countries.

Trajectory toward Church Planting and Church Revitalization, July 24-26

We have had over 70 people participate in two ALSBOM/MBA sponsored Basic Training Journey seminars. We are offering it again July 24-26 at Sage Avenue. Register online at ALSBOM.org under "Training Events" then "Basic Training Journey." The \$100 fee is waived for MBA/SBC churches. Others are welcome to attend. In the last 50 years the MBA has had a net gain of 28 churches and population increase of 98,691! We have decreased by 40 churches, 23 disbanded, 10 merged, 7 withdrew, 2 were disaffiliated and 1 under watchcare chose not to join. Increases trajectory requires new churches!

Churches seeking pastors

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

Online information

Updates to events, meetings, missions' opportunities and training 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.

Impact Mobile Offering

This offering provides an opportunity for churches to respond to the changes in denominational funding. As NAMB has changed its priorities and funding some churches have begun to allocate a portion of their Annie Armstrong to provide for local needs. We can print the poster and brochure with any date that best fits your church calendar. 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. By reducing insurance coverage for the staff we can present a balance 2014 budget that includes the \$5,500 reduction in the CDD supplement. Without additional income I do not know how we will cover the additional \$5,500 a year until we absorb the total \$22k we currently receive.

The SBC has long recommended that churches give a missions tithe of 7 percent to CP and 3 percent of to the local association. Following this giving formula will allow us to meet staff, facility and new work needs.

Please help your members to learn about the trajectory of the MBA. Those who are aware of what we do gladly support the work. When your finance committee is considering support for a parachurch organization, please allow the MBA equal time to present our strategy, ministries and effective use of missions' dollars.

The enemy of unity and redemption is hard at work. We are stronger, safer and more effective together than we are by ourselves.