

Mobile Baptist Association
Executive Committee Report

Sept.8, 2014

Brother Thomas Wright, Associational Missionary

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

Being Courageous in Joshua 1:6-9

The record of Joshua's leadership has lessons for MBA pastors and leaders. Joshua was called to lead the people of God. The Creator God told him in vs. 6, "Be strong (confident) and of good courage, for you shall cause the people to inherit the land." (AMP) Leadership is tough. It can be frightening as we see where we need to go. It is our task to lead our people, under God's direction, to inherit the land that God has given us. For us, the land includes the communities and county of Mobile.

Verse 7-8 exhorts Joshua, and us, "be strong and very courageous...do all the Law...Turn not to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper... meditate on it day and night...you shall deal wisely and have good success." Leadership easily changes to maintenance when we grow weary of leading. We become tired of the price we pay to lead and the constant pressure to stay where we are now.

So in Verse 8 the Lord tells Joshua and us, "Be strong, vigorous, and very courageous, the Lord God is with you wherever you go." Beloved of the Lord, lead your people and join us as we inherit the Land of Mobile County and reduce the population of Hell.

Courageously Facing the Next 50 years: Future Focus Committee

It is remarkable the unity evident as our people understand the recommendation of 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, and the unanimous endorsement on April 7. It is significant to have a recommendation from five key leadership committees, representing over 40 people. Collectively our Moderators join the International Ministries, Building and Grounds, Finance and Future Focus Committees. These changes are required to be ready for effective, cooperative evangelistic ministry in the next 50 years.

Prayerful analysis of the data shows it is necessary to sell and combine our aging International Ministries building and MBA office building. Inaction will result in increased maintenance costs, decreased ministry functions, limited access and poor stewardship of missions' dollars. The committee has preliminary designs for streamlined and efficient use of the combined facilities in a new, central location. The design *decreases* facility size and costs by 4,501 sq. ft. The design *increases* meeting space, office space, work space, volunteer housing and Disaster Relief response capability.

Analyzing the facts also show it is impossible without the Lord's intervention. It will require the active involvement of cooperative-minded, missions-oriented people and congregations. The minimum needed facility cost, currently at \$1.4 million dollars, which exceeds the possible \$1.1 million dollars we might receive from the sale of the two facilities.

We will need the donation of at least 3.5 *buildable* acres in a location accessible to our churches and centrally located for effective seafarer ministry. This means quick access to I-65 or I-10. We recognize this is considered prime location requiring fervent prayer and generous donor (s). We will need the donation of materials, furnishings, labor and money. It is definitely a God-sized challenge that has been accepted through careful research and stewardship considerations.

Courageous Involvement in Sub-Sahara Africa

Please be in prayer for a team of Mobile Baptists serving in Sub-Sahara Africa September 21-Oct 4. We will be serving with our workers there and in an International School for local diplomats and other workers.

Courageously Celebrating MBA Ministries, October 9, West Mobile Baptist Church

We recognize that most of our MBA church members, and even many leaders, do not understand the role, ministries and function of Associational Missions. Our Annual Missions Celebration is an excellent place for members and leaders to receive comprehensive orientation in one afternoon and evening. They will hear reports

celebrating what the Lord has done through their cooperative support of the MBA. They will see the ministries they support and conduct important business.

Courageous Church Changes, New Pastors and Churches Seeking Pastors

Please pray for the churches seeking a pastor and please let us know when their status changes: Dauphin Way, Turnerville, Spice Pond, Manor and Navco.

Please welcome Rev. James Langston, Jr. as pastor of Fulton Road Baptist Church, Dr. Billy Harris as Vocational pastor of Kushla-Bethany, Rev. Tom Boone to Smithtown Baptist Church. Central Baptist facility belongs to the Children's home and sits vacant. Extensive damage has already occurred from vandalism. Please pray the Children's home will give this facility to a new SBC African American work proposed to them last April by Forest Hill Baptist Church, ALSBOM and MBA.

Courage to Share Online Information

Updates to events, meetings, missions' opportunities and training are kept on the MBA web page and our Facebook page. Please encourage your people to "Like us" at www.facebook.com/mobilebaptistassociation.

Courageously Meeting Financial Needs

The 2015 Budget has been presented today for vote at annual session. Thank you for the solution approved in July to avert the insurance crisis. The Finance Committee has set a goal of \$20,000 for the Impact Mobile offering. The offering posters, brochure and envelopes can be customized for whatever month in the year that fits best in your church calendar. Please help us reach this goal. Proceeds go into the MBA Budget and will offset the \$17,000 dollar increase in insurance premiums. It also will offset the subsidy decrease from NAMB for the Church Development Director's salary.

Some churches have suggested combining the Annie Armstrong Offering with the Impact Mobile Offering in response to NAMB changes in funding missions in the South. The Great Commission Resurgence information suggested churches in the South support locally what formerly was supported through NAMB cooperative underwriting.

Third quarter financial reports show we have sufficient income to meet year-to-date expenses in each ministry area: MBA office, International Ministries, International Language School, Church Development and Camp Whispering Pines.

Courageous Recommendation for Missions Tithe

Last year, 78 MBA churches (out of 118) completed a Uniform Church Letter (UCL).

Those 78 churches reported a total income of \$42,900,991.

Their total giving to Cooperative Program (CP) was \$2,086,023 (which is 5%).

Those 78 churches gave \$368,030 to the MBA (which is 1.16 percent)

The SBC has long recommended that churches give a Cooperative Missions tithe of 7% to CP and 3% to the local association. Recent adaptations have recognized some churches wish to give 2% to additional missions' options, 5% to CP and 3% to the Association.

Please present this giving formula to the church Finance Committee for consideration. Following this giving formula will allow the MBA to meet staff; facility and new work needs with an income double our current budget.

Please visit www.mobilebaptists.org for a copy of our 2014 Orientation and New Member Guide. It presents an overview of MBA ministries, staff, philosophy and strategy.