

Mobile Baptist Association
Executive Committee Report

January 11, 2016

Brother Thomas Wright, Associational Missionary

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

“First of all...Pray”

1 Timothy 2:1-5 is an important reminder of New Year commitments to a primary responsibility for believers. It is a particularly important responsibility for ministers. The culture around us is changing rapidly. Ministry continues to be harder as people become entrenched in secularism and biblical illiteracy. Abraham Lincoln, president in a time of crises is quoted as saying, “I have been driven many times upon my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere else to go. My own wisdom and that of all about me seemed insufficient for that day.”

It is incumbent upon us to renew our commitment, to prayers, intercessions and thanksgivings on behalf of all people.

Annual Missions Celebration

Thank you to the 220 people representing 30 churches that joined us to Celebrate Associational Missions. The reports are available on our webpage. Airport Boulevard was a wonderful host.

We introduced a new condensed format, Elected Dr. Charlie York as Moderator, Wayne Gautney as First Vice-Moderator and Jeff Gardner as Second Vice-Moderator. We welcomed Hope of Nations Church as a full member of the MBA, and two churches under Watchcare, New Vision and Relevant.

Bro. Charles Gibbs was appointed to chair a committee to examine the format and content of future Annual Missions Celebrations. Please share with him your suggestions and observations.

Children’s Missions Fair Wednesday February 17, 2016

Plans are underway for the Children’s Missions Fair. Please save the date, Wednesday, Feb 17, 2016 from 5:45-7:00 p.m. Please bring your AWANA, GA’s and RA’s to Woodridge Baptist Church. Preregistrations have indicated the attendance will be too large to host it at the BCM. We will enjoy a fun introduction to associational missions.

Future Focus Committee Update

Continue to pray for Dr. Roy Stebbins and the committee as they implement the vote of the Annual session.

Please continue to help your people see the need and the process to sell and combine our aging International Ministries and MBA office buildings. 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. Obviously it is impossible without the Lord’s intervention. It will require the active involvement of cooperative-minded, missions-oriented people. The minimum needed facility cost, currently at \$1.4 million dollars, 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.

Sabbatical

Thank you for including a sabbatical in the personnel policies of the MBA. This benefit was added years before I arrived and the MBA did not pay any of the sabbatical expenses. Donna and I completed part one serving with IMB workers in several cities in India. We completed part two in Israel at the (IMB) Baptist Village near Tel Aviv. Part three included training among Zulu and South African churches in Durban, South Africa. Each adventure was filled with spiritual and physical lessons for reaching the nations.

Personnel Committee Report

Dr. Bobby Morton was elected in the September Executive Committee Meeting as our new part-time Director of International Ministries.

The loss of the \$29,000 NAMB/ALSBOM supplement is a significant challenge. As you recall, we lost the NAMB subsidy for Buddy at the same time we lost the subsidy for Chuck. Our ALSBOM partners agreed to cover the

subsidy for Buddy as long as he stayed in this position. His departure ended this agreement. We continue to face challenges absorbing Chuck's \$26,000 supplement into our Budget. At the moment, it is not possible to absorb an additional \$29,000.

We are looking for three Mission Service Corp/Volunteer couples/individuals to serve with Bro. Bobby in International Ministries.

Teams to Holy Land

There are many options for teams of 2 to 20 to serve with IMB workers in the Holy Land. Team length can vary from 10 days to three months (or longer). Every conceivable skill is needed from construction, yard work, painting, VBS, ESL, host/guide at sites and campus evangelistic ministry. Housing varies from the floor in a church, dorms, shared apartments and four star hotels. All 10 day teams include 3-4 touring days to gain incredible insight into the events and personalities in the Old and New Testaments. Per person costs will be about \$2800.

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: Azalea, Cedar Creek, Citronelle FBC, Cloverdale, Dauphin Way, Faith of Mobile, Gulfcrest, Manor, Seven Hills and Trinity. We welcome new Pastor Billy Kendrick to Lafitte.

Recommendation for Missions Tithe

In 2014, 80 MBA churches (out of 109 churches and 7 "cells") completed Annual Church Profile (ACP). Those 80 churches reported a total income of \$43,621,130.

Their total giving to Cooperative Program (CP) was \$ 1,522,369 (which is 3.49 percent).

Those 80 churches gave to the MBA \$395,046, up from \$368,030 in 2013 (which is .91%)

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.

If MBA churches were to give 3 percent of total income, the MBA would double our budget.

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.

Denominational Changes

The denomination as a whole is facing decline in baptisms, attendance and missions support. The philosophical change from cooperation to radical autonomy/societal missions is biblically inconsistent and dangerous to cooperative missions. The North American Mission Board, International Mission Board, State Conventions and Associations are feeling the fallout from this philosophical change.

As concerns grow about the work of NAMB, keep in mind that the missions tithe is still biblical and the MBA continues to be relevant and effective in making an eternal difference in Mobile.

Orientation Guide for Church Staff and Churches Exploring MBA Membership

Please visit www.mobilebaptists.org for a copy of our Orientation and New Member Guide. It presents an overview of MBA ministries, staff, philosophy and strategy. It also includes a membership application for churches wishing to explore membership with the MBA. Please download a copy for your staff and share a copy with potential members.

Multi-housing Ministries Missionary

We are already seeing tremendous results from our partnership with ALSBOM to provide a part time missionary for Multi-housing evangelistic ministries. Nearly every MBA church is within a 5 mile radius of an apartment complex, trailer park, dormitory, retirement home or condominium. From 'down and out' to 'up and out' these complexes provide opportunity for evangelistic ministry and new units that reach people. You probably have church members in, or have family members in, Multi-housing complexes. Contact Janice Austin jaustin@mobilebaptists.org for how your church can effectively reach Multi-housing complexes.