

Executive Committee Report

April 16, 2018

Brother Thomas Wright, Associational Missionary

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

Moses and Ministry

Recent conversations with young men interested in ministry have included encouragement to read the ministry of Moses in the book of Exodus. God used Moses mightily in spite of his reluctance to serve “Who am I, that I should go...? (Exodus 3:11ff, NIV) and in spite of his anger issues (Exodus 32:19-20). Even after the refugees had seen the power of God they continued to grumble about the food (Exodus 16:2-3), they ignored his clear instructions (Exodus 16:27) and eventually led a coup against him (Numbers 11-17). Moses asked the Lord the pastors’ plea, “What am I to do with these people? They are almost ready to stone me.” (Numbers 17:4, NIV)

But Moses repeatedly saw God’s faithfulness despite (and even because of) tremendous challenges. Deuteronomy 34:10-12 describes the ministry of Moses, “Since then, no prophet has risen in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face, who did all those signs and wonders the Lord sent him to do in Egypt.... For no one has ever shown the mighty power or performed the awesome deeds that Moses did in the sight of all Israel.” (NIV)

We can find encouragement and effectiveness through the biblical lessons of Moses’ life and ministry.

CWP Plan for Self-Sufficiency

The Executive Committee has expressed several times the wisdom in moving CWP to financial self-sufficiency. We have made significant progress in that direction in the last 12 years. Now, CWP leaders, Camp Committee and Finance Committee are ready with a plan for self-sufficiency by 2023. Today’s vote will indicate support and involvement to complete the plan.

Annual Missions Celebration - Sunday Evening October 7, 2018 - Redemption Church (North Campus)

Our moderators and leaders continue to explore ways to make celebrating associational missions as convenient as possible. This year we again are meeting on Sunday evening, October 7, probably from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. at Redemption Church (North Campus). Dinner and missions fair probably from 4:45 p.m. until 5:45 p.m. Please relocate your evening service to join us.

The two-hour program will provide an overview of missions work across the county. It can help church leaders understand why cooperative missions is important. It provides clear testimony for churches to continue to financially support the work of the MBA.

Improving Social Media Communication

We are grateful for Jerry Bousard joining the MBA as volunteer Social Media Marketing Consultant. As you know, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter have become important sources of information for church leaders and members. We are trying to find solutions to the often repeated, “I didn’t know about.... and would have liked to be involved.” Please help us by signing up for our news alerts and newsletter at mobilebaptists.org and/or by following us on the above mentioned social media platforms.

GOOD News

The March 22, 2018 edition of the Alabama Baptist shows the churches of the MBA as leading the state in the number of baptisms. Our Evangelistic Ministries emphasis has helped move us from near the bottom of that list 12 years ago. We also see progress in the Church Planting emphasis with three new works meeting on Easter Sunday. The Biblical Prayer emphasis has seen progress as #prayerwalkmobile continues to cover the county.

Revitalization Seminar April 18

You still have time to register for Wednesday's church revitalization seminar at the MBA from 9:30 a.m.- Noon with the author of *Reaching the Summit*. A book and lunch are included. Please check our facebook page, mobilebaptists.org or alsbom.org/event/reaching-the-summit-conference-mobile for more information and registration.

Constitution and By-laws (C&BL) Updates

Please do not wait until there is a problem to discover the C&BL is outdated and weak. The updated document should include clear guidelines for membership, business meetings and for the facility to relate to SBC/MBA. Smaller membership congregations are being targeted by unethical independent and other denominations to lose their facilities.

#Prayerwalkmobile Continues in 2018

Prayer unites believers. Matthew 18:19 shows that cooperative prayer ("if two of you agree...") brings devastating defeat to the enemy. We have 31 churches who have completed about 55 pages of the 94 pages in the Map Book. Training details, registering and reporting are at prayerwalk.mobilebaptists.org and the hashtag #prayerwalkmobile.

Future Focus Committee (FFC) Update

Please pray for the FFC, the needed gift of property and the timely sale of the two current facilities. The latest summary:

1. The FFC has an unanimously-approved assignment from the October 2014 Annual Session to sell and combine the IMC and MBA office building. Expenses must stay within the amount received from the sale.
2. We are delaying the sale of our two buildings until the Lord provides a donation of the 3.5 to 5 developed acres, or an existing 8-12,000 sf facility.
3. The current anticipated income from the sale of both buildings is not adequate to build on undeveloped property.
4. When we know the new location, we can finalize building size, time frame for temporary location(s) and better negotiate the price of both MBA buildings.
5. It is unnecessary to hinder ministry effectiveness with long term or multiple temporary locations.
6. We cannot divert the limited proceeds from the buildings sale to rent temporary facilities for an indefinite amount of time.
7. Multiple MBA congregations have been contacted about temporary housing. Churches with adequate space wisely will require rent and cannot commit for more than a year. Availability depends on when we start/end.
8. Committee members have approached, and need to continue to approach, individuals, MBA and other congregations to donate 3.5 to 5 acres or existing 8-12,000 sf building. Options so far have not been viable due to location or refurbishing needed.
9. EACH OF US needs to please continue praying, looking and talking to find the person who will be the answer to the prayers for a new location.

Churches Seeking Pastors and New Pastors

Welcome Bobby Morton as Bi-vocational pastor at Smithtown, Sanghwan A. Lee at International. Churches seeking pastors: Higher Ground, Kushla-Bethany (Tim Morgan, Interim), Riverside (Billy Burt, Interim), Vietnamese Obedience (Tien Van Tran, Interim).