

# **Executive Committee Report**

January 8, 2018

Brother Thomas Wright, Associational Missionary

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

## **#prayerwalkmobile Continues in 2018**

Church conflict, lost people and personal discipleship should drive us to prayer. Prayer can avail much (James 5:16) and it can unite believers (Matthew 18:19). Our challenge to prayer walk every street in Mobile County continues in 2018. 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](http://prayerwalk.mobilebaptists.org).

## **Intercession for the MBA Staff on Your Prayer List**

Jesus gave the example of praying for other believers in John 17. Your associational staff faces challenges every day as we consult with church leaders and members. We need wisdom and direction as we consult in church conflict, staff changes, growth options, building needs, disaster relief and every other component of church life. Please add us to your Wednesday night prayer list. Please pray that financial needs will be met.

## **Tax Conferences**

Please note in the News Alerts for the two upcoming tax conferences. The January 25<sup>th</sup> Church Tax Conference at the MBA should have someone from each Finance Committee present. We still have many churches who are not compliant to the IRS rules. The February 27<sup>th</sup> Minister's Tax Conference is from 9:00 a.m. to noon at the MBA. Ministers will benefit from this free conference information.

## **Future Focus Committee (FFC) Update**

As we enter into 2018 please pray for the FFC, the needed gift of property and the timely sale of the two current facilities. Our latest summary:

1. The FFC has an unanimously-approved assignment from the October 2014 Annual Session to sell and combine the two buildings. 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 8-12,000sf 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 building sales 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 an existing 8-12,000sf 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.

## **Constitution and By-laws Updates**

Several issues in 2017 emphasize the importance of an updated Constitution and By-laws.

## **Orientation Guide for Church Staff and Churches Exploring MBA Membership**

Please visit [mobilebaptists.org](http://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 member churches.

## **2018 Budget Update**

We were able to underspend enough to end 2017 with a balanced budget. Church gifts from some major partners have declined. We need your help to communicate with Finance Committees the need for a church tithe to missions.

We have reduced MBA budgets \$159,256 since 2008. As you recall we lost \$54,000 in subsidies from NAMB for International Ministries and Church Development Director positions. Health insurance costs have increased \$26,000. We already have reduced the level of care we formerly provided to a plan with higher deductibles and out of pocket expenses to the employees. We have reduced insurance costs by having a part-time Director of International Ministries and a retired Interim Director of Camp Whispering Pines. We have not been able to provide raises for the last eight years. We have reduced office days to four. We are praying and working to sell both facilities and combine them into a more efficient facility with lower overhead expenses.

We would be severely challenged if so many churches had not faithfully increased their missions giving to the MBA. We need additional churches to consider redistributing their missions tithe to the MBA. We average .91% of church missions' gifts coming to the MBA. Please discuss with the Finance Committee increasing the MBA percentage of your church's mission's tithe.

## **Impact Mobile Associational Offering**

Our Executive Committee affirmed a goal of \$20,000 for this MBA offering. This is one way for churches to teach about Associational Missions and help church members know why we give and work cooperatively. The emphasis dates are during Associational Missions Week each May, but we can adapt the materials to reflect ANY date that works better with your church calendar. Please use this opportunity to teach the importance of Cooperative Missions and the impact we are having in Mobile County and across the planet. For more information and resources visit [mobilebaptists.org/mba-impact-offering-materials](http://mobilebaptists.org/mba-impact-offering-materials).

## **Growth and Revitalization**

Current research indicates 75% of SBC churches are plateaued or declining. Those national figures are consistent with Mobile County churches. Your Executive Committee has identified five biblical emphases that are normal for healthy churches. Much of the MBA training, consulting and events assist in one of these primary areas. These need to become normal activities and events in the life of each church and each believer: **BIBLICAL PRAYER, EVANGELISTIC MINISTRIES, CHURCH DEVELOPMENT, CHURCH PLANTING, and PARTNERSHIP MISSIONS.**

## **Thank You**

Cooperative Missions is hard work. Every hour you spend in a committee meeting helps us to make an eternal difference in Mobile County. Thank you to those of you who sacrifice to make Cooperative Missions possible.