

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF MISSIONS 2020
(Associational Missionary)
mobilebaptists.org

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

Long Term Lessons

Many people seem to be praying for the pandemic to end. The more appropriate prayer request may be to learn spiritual lessons and cry out for our nation to turn to Jesus. It is declared in Isaiah 26:3 “You will keep in perfect and constant peace the one whose mind is steadfast [that is, committed and focused on You in both inclination and character], Because he trusts and takes refuge in You [with hope and confident expectation].” (AMP) The Amplified translation brings helpful understanding of that verse. The Creator God is the only source of peace and eternal safety. The requirement for His peace is a mind committed and focused on Him through His Son Jesus. He alone is the trustworthy refuge. There is so much in our cultures that distract us from being focused on Jesus. There are many rickety places to seek refuge. Now is an excellent time to focus and take refuge in unprecedented commitment to Jesus.

Our pastors gave very encouraging testimonies during the July Executive Committee Meeting. Some smaller churches never stopped meeting and their precautions prevented a virus hotspot. Others have seen increased online and drive in attendance. Creating online giving options has helped maintain financial support to the churches. The use of online registering, online meetings and online training options are here to stay.

The MBA weekly news alerts and mobilebaptists.org continue to provide resources to help churches respond. We are grateful the restrictions are loosening but the virus will continue to influence attendance and activities for months to come. Each of us can remain faithful. We can stay sanitized and sanctified.

EMERGENCY CWP Relief Needed to Offset Crippling Pandemic Losses

Unfortunately, CWP lost over \$102,000 due to Covid-19 related cancellations. Plus, another \$150,000 loss from campers who chose not to register or attend. The majority of our CWP income comes in the summer and helps us remain solvent the rest of the year. The shortfall is dire and the need to help is urgent. The Camp and Finance Committees approved a Camp Relief focus for the rest of 2020 to communicate to churches the emergency need for intervention to keep CWP open. CWP already would have closed without a PPP loan and MBA underwriting from savings. Those accounts are depleted.

We have had to reduce CWP staff to two people to keep the facilities open. This change means we desperately need volunteers and teams to do yard work, daily maintenance and repair.

Camp Whispering Pines is open for retreats, class meetings and worship options. New Director, Jimmy Tucker, and the staff have done a heroic job including new sanitizing precautions.

Thank you to churches and individuals who responded generously to the initial relief Sunday offering. Please continue to help to recover the lost income to ensure the camp survives this unprecedented challenge.

MBA Response to Hurricanes Sally and Laura

Thank you for the churches and individuals who responded with gift cards, donations and participated in a disaster relief (DR) team. Thank you to Dauphin Way Baptist Church for providing their facilities as the Command Center for our Hurricane Sally Response. Thank you to First Baptist Tillman's Corner for offering their facilities to house volunteers.

MBA DR will continue to coordinate response in Mobile and Baldwin Counties. There will be chainsaw, clean up and food distribution needs for weeks to come. We are grateful the Leesville, LA DR command Center has been able to stand down. Disaster Relief Coordination and infrastructure show one of the benefits of cooperative missions. The DR Chainsaw, tarp and feeding units that responded to Mobile were paid for by individual Associations, state conventions and churches. Every SBC DR worker is a volunteer. They take time off work, leave families and responsibilities to help at their own expense.

The lessons from these two hurricanes remind us to be prepared in Mobile. Be prepared for three days before emergency services are set up and maybe for at least a week without electricity. It would be wise in your hurricane supplies to include a roll of synthetic roof underlayment (covers 1000 feet) and a box of plastic cap nails. It is cheaper and easier to use than tarp.

Many local people have seen the recommendation to call United Way 211 for help. Immediately after Hurricane Sally, they called the Mobile DR Command Center to say they have no fulfillment system to help with chainsaw, mass feeding and tarp requests. The MBA/SBC Command Center processed all of the chainsaw and tarp requests they sent and we were able to offer a message of Hope as found in Jesus.

Future Focus Committee (FFC) September Update

Please pray for the FFC and the location to combine our two current facilities.

1. We have a full price offer on the IMC facility. The local Councilman chose to deny our rezoning in April which prevented us to reapply until October. Please pray for the Lord to intervene in the rezoning this time or we find a new buyer that does not require rezoning.
2. As you recall, the FFC has a unanimously approved assignment from the October 2014 Annual Session to sell and combine the IMC and MBA office buildings. Expenses will stay within the amount received from the sale.
3. The efficiency at the Port of Mobile now allows some ships to unload and load in as little as eight hours. Some ships are in port for as long as three days.

missions tithes to the MBA. We average .91 percent of church missions' gifts coming to the MBA. Please discuss with the Finance Committee increasing the MBA percentage of your church's missions' tithes.

Intercession for the MBA Staff on Your Prayer Lists

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.

Constitution and Bylaws (C&BL) Updates

These days of uncertainty are a good time to update church facilities and systems. Most require a change to allow online business meetings with voting from members in good standing.

Please do not wait until there is a problem to discover the church C&BL is outdated and weak. The updated document should include clear guidelines for membership, business meetings and for the facilities to relate to SBC/MBA. Smaller membership congregations are being targeted by unethical independent and other denominations to lose their facilities. The C&BL is the legal document for the church. It should include a statement defining members in good standing. When conflict occurs, it is too late to think about updating. Visit alsbom.org/safe for helpful resources and sample statements.

Impact Mobile Associational Offering

Our Executive Committee affirmed a goal of \$20,000. This offering allows 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 October, but you can use 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.

Why Do We Have an Association of Churches?

There are many MBA church members, and even some pastors, that do not understand why we have an association. Obviously, if they do not know why we exist, and what we do, they question why their church should support us. However, it is not appropriate to dismiss the relevance and effectiveness of the association, without at least trying to be informed and involved.

Please help us to communicate with church leaders and members about cooperative local missions through an association. Encourage them to attend Executive Committee meetings, or at least read the reports. Please include news and information in your Newsletters and Church Bulletins. Please encourage your people to "Like" us on Facebook and sign up for the weekly emailed News Alerts and online Newsletters on the web page.

4. We are awaiting the Lord to provide a donation of the 3.5 to 5 developed acres, or an existing 8-10,000 sf facility. The income from the sale of both buildings is not adequate to build on undeveloped property.
5. Myers Memorial is generously allowing us to store furniture from the IMC until the new building is ready.
6. Chaplains continue to go to the ships with social precautions. Evangelistic ministry continues and we need more volunteer chaplains.
7. We will wait to sell the MBA office until a new location is completed using proceeds from the IMC. MBA Finance and Executive Committees have approved a possible bridge loan from the MBA until the MBA office is sold.
8. Committee members continue to approach, individuals, MBA and other congregations to help find an existing 8-12,000 sf building. Options so far have not been viable due to location or refurbishing needed.

Please continue praying, looking and talking to find the person who will be the answer to the prayers for a new location.

Saturate Mobile Extended to October 2021

We are extending the deadline another year to October 2021. Churches continue to participate and new churches are registering even with the delays due to the pandemic. The Evangelistic Ministries Committee is challenging MBA churches to saturate Mobile County with prayer and gospel witness. Registration provides a map of your zip code and enough free materials to saturate that zip code. Churches in the same zip code will work together to pray for and share literature with every home in each zip code. Free materials include a door hanger bag, Jesus Movie CD and a tract. Churches also should include information about their church and perhaps a New Testament. Visit saturate.mobilebaptists.org for more information.

2020 Budget Year Challenges

The MBA Finance Committee approved the MBA and CWP applications for Payroll Protection Funds. The two applications were approved and those funds are helping us with expenses. We also were approved to access \$40,000 from savings. We still need your help to communicate to your church the importance of cooperation and the results from the investment they make financially by supporting MBA.

We need your help please to communicate with Finance Committees the need to continue the tithe to missions during the Covid 19 response and limitations. We have reduced the MBA Budget \$229,969 since 2008. As you recall, we lost \$54,000 in subsidies from NAMB for IM and CDD positions. Health insurance costs have increased significantly. We have reduced insurance costs by having a part time Director of International Ministries. We have not been able to provide raises for the last ten 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

I am confident that people who take the time to investigate will be amazed and supportive of the careful stewardship, relevant training and effective ministries provided by the MBA.

Protecting Church Financial Procedures

One learns in John 12:6 that Judas, yes that Judas was the treasurer for Jesus' Disciples. It reads, "he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he helped himself to what was put into it."

Recent figures indicate that 15% of churches have been impacted by a trusted leader who embezzles money from the church. These are just the ones who were caught. Wise stewardship requires each church to establish financial guidelines to protect against the growing number of offering collectors, counters, church staff and treasurers who are stealing money from the church. Here are some ways to protect your staff and members from the temptation to take ministry money for personal use.

1. Insist on a yearly independent audit or review of the church financial records in your congregation.
2. Insist on accountability processes so that no single staff member or individual (or members of the same family) are ever solely responsible for collecting, counting, depositing and spending church funds.
3. Insist on specific documentation for all staff reimbursements, expense accounts and purchases.
4. Insist on at least two counters who are not related and deposit cash immediately.
5. Insist on monthly or quarterly public financial reports that specifically document ALL income and ALL expenditures.

Churches seeking pastors and New Pastors

Churches seeking a pastor: Faith (Mobile), Fulton Road, FBC Satsuma, International, Manor, Shiloh, Spring Hill, Turnerville, Woodridge and Vietnamese Obedience.

Mobile Baptist Association
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT 2020

The Executive Committee met regularly during the year to hear reports and conduct business that surfaced between Annual Sessions.

January 2020

Roy Stebbins, Future Focus Committee Chair, gave a report from that committee. Roy said the committee did not have a lot to report. He said the next step is to approve the rezoning of the International Ministries Center. The Mobile City Council rezoning is set for February 4 at 10:30 a.m. He asked for prayer.

Al Brown, Chair of the Evangelistic Missions Ministries Committee gave a report on the *Saturate Mobile* outreach. He said they were trying to reach every household in Mobile County by hanging door hangers with gospel tracts and info about the churches in the package. He said eight churches have signed up. He said there were 52-53 zip codes in the county. He said the information on how to sign up was on the MBA website.

April 2020

The meeting was held online via a Zoom Meeting because of the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Rocky Pugh, Membership Committee Chair, made a motion to accept Spice Pond Baptist Church under Watchcare for membership until full membership can be acquired at the Annual Session in October. The vote was taken. The motion was approved.

Dino Danzey, Budget/Finance Committee Chair, brought the March Budget Report. He said the Budget/Finance Committee approved applying for the C.A.R.E. Act loan (Payroll Protection Program) with the understanding it will become a grant. He said the amount applied for was \$125,250. Dino said the Camp had lost \$26,000 in cancellations in March and more in April. The Budget/Finance Committee is bringing a motion to transfer \$40,000 from the MBA Capital Needs Trust into a designated MBA account to help with the financial needs until/if the loan comes through. He said if the grant is received the amount of the loan, plus the interest fees, would be held back in a designated account to be paid when due. After several questions, the vote was taken and approved.

Roy Stebbins, Future Focus Committee Chair, said the restrictions we are living under currently have kept the Future Focus Committee from meeting, but it has not stopped the work. The leaders, the committee members, and Associational staff have been in regular communication. Committee members remained in prayer. Last Tuesday the Mobile City Council took up the matter as was scheduled from two months ago. Although the number allowed to attend was limited, out of the six observers who showed up, three were from the MBA. The application for rezoning possibly could have been withdrawn and not been voted on, but the proposed buyer wished to get a definitive answer and move on. He said the council followed their long established pattern and let the District 2 Councilman, which is the area of the Texas Street property, determined the outcome. The rezoning was denied by the City Council. The

proposed sale is cancelled due to the contract contingency that the rezoning was successful. This means we cannot bring the rezoning on that property for six months. There was interest in the property immediately. One interest was to use the building as a venue site. That would not pass rezoning because of the same objection from community residents to the idea of serving alcohol. A church is also interested and that would not require rezoning. There has not been any formal discussion. Roy said he wants to hear from the committee members. There are alternative approaches that may need to be studied. He said some extra time for praying and evaluating may be valuable. He asked for anyone that had thoughts to contribute to contact him.

Jimmy Tucker, the new Camp Whispering Pines Director, was introduced to those attending the meeting. Jimmy said he was glad to be in Citronelle. He thanked those present for bringing him here. He said from the beginning he felt the presence of the Lord and he knows the Lord led him here. He said he knows God will bring them through the loss of the \$26,000 in revenue because of the Coronavirus (Covid). He said the summer is looking good. There have been groups that canceled in April that have rescheduled. He told those present the Camp was their facility. He asked them to stay involved. He asked teams to help with damage from the storm last night. They had roof damage and the chapel air conditioner had a tree to go through it. It will need to be replaced. He said they needed grass cut, bushes and trees trimmed and chainsaw work done if anyone can help.

July 2020

The meeting was held online via a Zoom Meeting because of the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Jimmy Tucker, Camp Whispering Pines Director, gave a report about the camp. He said the Children's Momentum camp this week there were 100 people, which included the staff. He gave an update on the finances. He said the camps would cover the June and July costs. The SBA and PPP Loans helped them get through during the Covid-19 period. He said we would have to see what the rest of the year holds to see if we can get through that period. He thanked those present for the opportunity to serve at CWP.

Dino Danzey, Budget/Finance Chair, said everything looks great for the association's finances. The churches have given faithfully. He said they are hoping the PPP Loan will convert into a grant. He thanked those present for their prayers and continued giving.

Roy Stebbins, Future Focus Committee Chair, said there has been light activity with the committee. There is nothing to report. There is someone interested in the IM building. They have not made a firm bid. They are still trying to find the resources. Their aim is to buy us out by the end of the year. However, there has not been a firm offer.

Kevin Castleberry, Church Development Task Force Chair, said the task force committee has met by Zoom since February or March. He said they sent out a ministry survey to the churches for advice. They wanted effective resources in helping them develop a job description for the position over the next 20 years. He said the next step would be to give the job description to the Personnel Committee. It is planned for there to be a joint job description presented and voted on at the September 14, Executive Committee Meeting.

September 2020

Phi Vo Moderator brought a motion to be able to vote remotely at the MBA Executive Committee Meetings and at the MBA Annual Missions Celebration. A vote was taken to allow remote voting and the vote carried.

The Executive Committee Minutes from the July 13, 2020 meeting were approved by vote of the committee members.

Kevin Castleberry, Church Development Task Force Chair, made a motion to accept the new job description for a new Church Development Director. The recommendation is coming from the Church Development Task Force and the Personnel Committees. He said the following Task Force members accomplished the purpose to work through the job description.

- i. Kevin Castleberry, Woodridge, Chair
- ii. Jerrod Brown, Metro Mobile Baptist Campus Ministries
- iii. David Gill, Theodore, 1st
- iv. Reid Guy, Chickasaw, 1st
- v. Keith Myrick, Tillman's Corner 1st
- vi. Jeremy Smalley, Bayou La Batre 1st
- vii. Donna Wright, West Mobile
- viii. Doug Wilson, University of Mobile

They consulted with ALSBOM and their other networks that would help them through the job description that would be effective through the next 20 years. The focus areas the team has identified were as follows:

- I. Church Revitalization
- II. Facilitating the use of Technology in Ministry
- III. Leadership Development among the churches
- iv. Coordinating Associational Mission Opportunities

The vote was taken and carried.

Dino Danzey, Budget/Finance Chair, presented the Budget/Finance Report by video. He said the year to date receipts were \$7,000 under budget by church giving. The MBA received \$49,700 from the Payroll Protection Program. They are hoping this will convert into a grant. He made the recommendation to access the Capital Needs Trust and the New Work Funds. He made a motion that either or both would not be replenished. After discussion, the Motion Died because of legal issues that need to be re-examined and confirm what can be done. He said the MBA has subsidized \$107,000 to Camp Whispering Pines since February. They have gone down to two staff members. He reminded everyone of the Camp Whispering Pines Sunday on September 13, 2020. The Budget Finance and Camp Whispering Pines Committees made a goal of \$112,000. This would get them through the rest of 2020 and the first quarter of 2021. After much discussion, Scott Griffith prayed for the Camp. Dino brought attention to the 2021 Proposed Budgets for the MBA, BCM, IM, ILS, CWP and WFB. He said the budgets would be voted on at the Annual Session Celebration on October 4, 2020 at 3Circle Church Midtown.

James Mercer, Enlistment Committee member, gave attention to the printed and online copy of the Enlistment Committee members for the 2021-2023 years. He said every blank was filled. The committee members would be voted on at the Annual Session.

Roy Stebbins, Future Focus Chair, gave a report from the Future Focus Committee. He complimented Sharon Wright with White-Spinner Realty for their efforts in trying to sell the International Ministries Center. He said they had another buyer, which deals in golf equipment for the asking price of \$650,000. This would require re-zoning. The buyer is in the process of speaking with people regarding the rezoning, and the request will be brought before the Mobile City Counsel in October. There are no votes that need to be taken at this time and there were no questions.

Respectfully submitted,

**Carol Henderson
MBA Clerk**