



616 Azalea Road
Mobile, AL 36609-1587

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Emphasizing:

- Biblical Prayer
- Evangelistic Ministries
- Church Development
- Church Planting
- Partnership Missions

Mobile Baptist Association
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Mobile, AL 36609-1587
251/661-7111
www.mobilebaptists.org

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Residence
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The Mobile Baptist

Associational Missions Week and Impact Mobile Associational Offering May 15-21

Dear Mobile Baptists:

Your Executive Committee unanimously approved on January 18, 2011, a recommendation from the Budget and Finance Committee to initiate a *voluntary* yearly offering for associational missions. The "Impact Mobile Associational Missions Offering" will begin this May, in conjunction with the National observance of Associational Missions Week.

This offering provides an opportunity for churches that may not have financially supported cooperative missions in their Jerusalem as much as they would like to have done. It will also assist those churches who use regular special offerings as their primary means to raise missions support. We are grateful for the churches that provide a portion of their missions tithe through the budget, and understand those churches may choose not to promote this offering. This is an "above the tithe" missions offering to assist the ministries and emphases of the MBA to make an eternal difference in Mobile. Last year, your sacrificial missions' tithes allowed us to: have over 600 documented decisions through our ministry areas, involved more than 80 percent of MBA churches in MBA-sponsored training, and provided consultation to dozens of pastors, staff and members about every aspect of growing, maintaining and managing a church.

Please consider participating in the "Impact Mobile Associational Missions Offering" throughout the month of May, or another month that better fits your church calendar. Associational Missions Week begins on Sunday, May 15, 2011. You may find it helpful to set a church goal to encourage participation.

Visit www.mobilebaptists.org for more information and to order promotional materials.

Your fellow servants,

Chris Schansberg, Roy Stebbins and Derrall Marshall, Moderators
Gene Kerr, Chair, Imogene Beard, Ronnie Connell, Scott Griffith, Alben Gaston, Becky Hale, Charles Harvey, Don Lee, Kerry Skinner, and Charles White, Budget/Finance Committee

C. Thomas Wright, Executive Director/Associational Missionary

Seeking Full-Time Camp Director

Camp Whispering Pines, a 225 bed ministry of Mobile Baptist Association in Citronelle, Alabama, is accepting resumes for Camp Director. Seeking a gifted administrator who is committed to evangelistic ministry preferably with SBC seminary degree and minimum five years camp management experience. Visit www.campwhisperingpines.com for job description, candidate requirements and additional information. E-mail resumes before June 15 to dom@mobilebaptists.org.

Change in Distribution of "The Mobile Baptist" Newsletter

Beginning 2012, the quarterly "The Mobile Baptist" newsletter will primarily be online to help us be the best stewards of our postage and printing budget. Members who do not have online access can request to remain on the printed copy mailing list. Only those who contact the MBA office and request a printed copy will receive it beginning 2012.

As we continue to respond to economic and denominational changes please consider giving at least three percent of your missions tithe to

Associational WMU
Director
Lisa Hall
houston828@live.com

Volunteer
Biblical
Prayer
Coordinator
Dr. Bryce Evans
revbryce@gmail.com

Volunteer Community
Ministries Network
Consultant
Traci Blackmon
blackmontraci@yahoo.com

Mission Service Corp & Volunteer
Positions Available:
• DR Deputy Coordinator
• MBA Newsletter Editor & Web Master
• Church Planting Consultant

www.mobilebaptists.org

MBA OFFICE CLOSINGS

April 22 - Good Friday
May 30 - Memorial Day



BIBLICAL PRAYER

**“Encouraging Believers to Pray
Unceasingly for Believers,
Unbelievers, and Personal
Needs”**

Our goal is for every MBA church to have an active Biblical Prayer Ministry. Please check the online list of known prayer ministries to see if we have your church listed.

Biblical Prayer Committee Training

The training is designed to help your church create, organize, and grow a Biblical Prayer Committee. Contact Dr. Bryce Evans, 662-0589, to schedule a training time.

Associational Biblical Prayer Committee Meeting

March 17, 2011 * 6:00 p.m.
Activities Center -
Spring Hill Baptist Church

April 21, 2011 * 6:00 p.m.
Activities Center
Spring Hill Baptist Church

May 19, 2011 * 6:00 p.m.
Activities Center -
Spring Hill Baptist Church

2 Chronicles 7:14 Prayer Meeting

July 14
USA Mitchell Center

2 Chronicles 7:14 is an interdenominational prayer meeting. Visit www.714project.com for more information.

New Pastors and Churches Seeking pastors

Welcome Pastor Ricky White to Myers Memorial, Paul Sands to Spring Hill, Robert Kurisko to FBC Heron Bay, David Grumbach to Lafitte, I. S. Snow to Lambert Grove and Robby Howard to San Souci. Please pray for the churches seeking a pastor and please let us know when their status changes: FBC Chickasaw, FBC Dawes, Smithtown, Sonrise and Vietnamese Obedience.

EVANGELISTIC MINISTRIES

**“Encouraging MBA Churches to
Pray for and to Share Jesus with Every
Person in Mobile County by 2012”**

ERC – EVANGELISM RESPONSE CENTER

The ERC is going strong and we are excited about this unique ministry. People are finding a way to witness from the comfort of their own homes. For more information on how your church can be involved in this tremendous ministry, contact Dave Hudson at ramhud@netzero.net, or 661-7111.

EPT – EVANGELISTIC PARTY TRAILERS

We continue to see great results from churches using our EPTs. We have seen over 2,000 decisions directly attributed to these creative evangelistic outreach events. The EPTs are available to all MBA churches for \$250. The rental value of items in the trailer is over \$1,200. The fee allows us to replace normal wear and tear on the contents.

Churches wanting to use the EPTs must be recertified through training. The MBA provides trainings for groups of at least 10 to learn how to use, unpack, and repack the EPTs. Contact Thomas Wright to schedule training for a group of at least 10 people. It has become necessary to charge a refundable \$100 deposit to ensure the trailer is returned clean, dry, and with all of its contents. The deposit will be used to reimburse individuals that have to clean, restock, and repair the trailers that are returned in an unsatisfactory condition.

Mobile Baptist Association WMU Addine Maynard Associational Missions Emphasis and Offering May 15-21

Each year the MBA Woman’s Missionary Union (WMU) collects an offering to support WMU ministries in the MBA.

Where Does Your Addine Maynard Missions Offering Go?

- *Addine Maynard Scholarship Fund*
- *Willie Mae Lyons Scholarship Fund*
- *GA Camp at Camp Whispering Pines*
- *Alabama Baptist Children’s Home and Family Ministries*
- *Downtown Outreach*
- *WMU Day of Prayer*
- *Special Missions Needs*
- *Baptist Campus Ministries at USA*
- *Baptist Campus Ministries at The University of Mobile*

Send offerings to the Mobile Baptist Association **WMU** at 616 Azalea Road, Mobile, Alabama, 36609.



CAMP WHISPERING PINES

**Pastors/Staff & Spouses Retreat
“Survive & Thrive Retreat”**

May 20-21, 2011

Featured speakers include: Dr. Hal Threadcraft, Marriage and Family Counselor and Dr. Fred Wolfe, pastor of Luke 4:18 Fellowship and founder of Barnabas Ministries

Cost & Details

Weekend begins with evening meal at 5:00 p.m. on Friday and concludes with noon meal on Saturday.

Retreat fee Includes 3 meals, room, and materials

One individual per room - \$81

Two individuals per room - \$61 (per individual)

Married Couple - \$122

Make checks payable to:

“The Shepherd’s Connection”

780 Truxton ST

Fairhope, AL 36532

251-404-5414

\$20 non-refundable deposit at time of registration.

Balance due at check in.

Receive \$10 off the cost if you register by April 1

Mark Your Calendar - 2011 Summer Camps:

Refuel I - June 13-17

Refuel II - June 20-24

NEW - AWANA Camp - June 27 - July 1

Girls Mission Camp - July 5-9

Momentum Kids Camp - July 10-14

International Kids Camp - July 15-17

For more information, visit www.campwhisperingpines.com, e-mail info@campwhisperingpines.com, or call 866-7868.

NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES

SHARE YOUR NEWS HERE

Contact the MBA Office, 661-7111 or rec@mobilebaptists.org, to have your church news included in the next MBA Newsletter.

Sage Avenue Celebrating 60th Anniversary

Sage Avenue Baptist Church will celebrate its 60th Anniversary on Sunday, March 20 during the morning worship service. Dr. Sid Nichols, former pastor and current Director of Missions for Calhoun Association, will preach. All former members and attendees are invited to join us on this special day. A fellowship lunch will follow the service. For more information, and to reserve your place for lunch, visit www.sageavenuebc.org. Phil Boyles is pastor.

First Baptist Church Dawes Seeking Youth Minister
FBC Dawes has an opening for a bi-vocational youth minister. Inquire at 251-633-7331.

METRO MOBILE BAPTIST CAMPUS MINISTRIES

Church Connections—

Approximately 70% of young adults are losing connection with the church between the ages of 18—23. MMBCM wants to see that change. This spring, Campus Ministers will be intentionally **connecting students with local congregations** through church visits. Pastors, if you would like to host a few students at a worship service, ministry event or share with students at a Wednesday Lunch, please let us know.

Hope for the City—

MMBCM has developed the community ministry arm of their ministry into “Hope for the City.” This emphasis seeks to engage collegians and High School Students in **missions and ministry right here at home**. If you have a local mission need, or have a volunteer need within your church, but do not have the people power to pull it off, let us know! We want to partner with you in “doing missions” here at home.

Campus Evangelism—

MMBCM is active in reaching out to collegians with the Good News of Jesus Christ. All Metro Mobile College Students are invited to expand their impact through **weekly evangelism immersions** on the USA campus and in the community each Tuesday at 5:05 p.m. During these immersions they will share Jesus in a campus setting or in the community, while sharpening their God-given gifts. If you have students who are interested, contact us. *“...I’ll let down the nets.” — Luke 5:05*

Church Development—

MMBCM would like to **assist you in ministering to your College Students**. Whether your church has 1 or 100 college students, you can still have a ministry to them. We would love to offer to MBA churches assistance in the way of consultations, training seminars, ministry audits and special events. Give us a call and we will work with you to help your congregation reach its ministry vision concerning collegians.

*If you, your missions group, or your congregation would be interested in learning more about Baptist Campus Ministries or would like to schedule a Collegiate Ministry training in your congregation, please contact us:
251-344-5904 * jbrown@alsbom.org or
shughes@alsbom.org.*

Secretaries/Ministry Assistants Luncheon May 12 * 11:45 a.m. MBA Office

The cost for the luncheon is \$8. Contact the MBA Office to make reservations no later than Tuesday, May 10.

MBA CALENDAR

Calendar Events for March		
1	7:00 PM	MMBCM MERGE - BCM
3	6:30 PM	Developing Spiritual Leadership - AO
4	6:30 PM	Bi-vocational Ministers and Wives Fellowship
6-9		AABS - Shocco Springs
6-13		North American Missions Emphasis, Week of Prayer, Mission Study, and Annie Armstrong Easter Offering
7-8		Mardi Gras Evangelism
8		Mardi Gras Day
10	2:00 PM	Senior Adult Committee - AO
11-12		AL WMU Complete
12-20		MMBCM Global PLUNGE
13		Daylight Saving Time Begins
14	10:00 AM 11:30 AM 6:30 PM	Equipping the Interim Pastor for Ministry Ministers Conference - Gov't ST Equipping the Interim Pastor for Ministry - AO
15	5:30 PM	WMU Leadership Team - AO
17	1:00 PM 6:00 PM	Learning Microsoft Office - AO Biblical Prayer Committee - Spring Hill Baptist Church Activities Center
18-19	6:30 PM	Internet and E-mail Safety - AO
20		RA Congress - Camp Grandview, Prattville
20		Substance Abuse Prevention Sunday
21	11:30 AM 11:30 AM	MMBCM Monday Mid Day at Bishop ST Ministers Conference - Gov't ST
22	6:30 PM	VBS Preview Clinic
22	7:00 PM	MMBCM MERGE - BCM
27	2:00 PM	WMU Kitchen Shower for Alabama Baptist Children's Home and Family Ministries - ABCH&FM
28	11:30 AM 11:30 AM	MMBCM Monday Mid Day at Bishop ST Ministers Conference - Gov't ST
29	7:00 PM	MMBCM MERGE - BCM
31	6:30 PM	Deacons Helping the Church Manage Conflict - AO

Calendar Events for April		
1	6:30 PM	Bi-vocational Ministers and Wives Fellowship
1-2		State DR Training - Shocco Springs
4	11:30 AM 11:30 AM	MMBCM Monday Mid Day at Bishop ST Ministers Conference - Gov't ST
5	5:00 PM 7:00 PM	Associational Bible Drills - Cottage Hill MMBCM MERGE - BCM
7	6:30 PM	Revitalizing the Plateaued Church - AO
10		Cooperative Program Sunday
11	11:30 AM 11:30 AM	MMBCM Monday Mid Day at Bishop ST Ministers Conference - Gov't ST
12	9:30 AM 10:00 AM 5:30 PM 7:00 PM	Call to Prayer - AO Executive Committee Meeting - AO WMU Leadership Team - AO MMBCM MERGE - BCM

Calendar Events for April continued		
14	2:00 PM	Senior Adult Committee Meeting - AO
		District 7 Bible Drills
17		PALM SUNDAY
17-22		MMBCM Easter Week Outreach
18	11:30 AM	MMBCM Monday Mid Day at Bishop ST
18-22		Spring Break for Mobile County Public School System
19		District 7 Bible Drills - College Park
	7:00 PM	MMBCM MERGE - BCM
21	6:00 PM	Biblical Prayer Committee - Spring Hill BC
		Activities Center
22		GOOD FRIDAY
		AO Closed
24		EASTER
25	11:30 AM 11:30 AM	MMBCM Monday Mid Day at Bishop ST Ministers Conference - Gov't ST
25-27		Human Relations Conference - Shocco Springs
26	7:00 PM	MMBCM MERGE - BCM
29	6:30 PM	WMU Annual Meeting - Dauphin Way BC
30		State Bible Drills Taylor Road BC, Montgomery

Calendar Events for May		
1		Senior Adult Day
2	11:30 AM 11:30 AM	MMBCM Monday Mid Day at Bishop ST Ministers Conference - Gov't ST
3	6:30 PM	VBS Clinic - Cottage Hill
5	7:00 PM	MMBCM MERGE - BCM
5-6		National Day of Prayer
5-6		Associational Key Leaders Conference - Shocco Springs
6	6:30 PM	Bi-vocational Ministers and Wives Fellowship
8		MOTHERS DAY Baptist Children's Home and Family Ministries Sunday
9	11:30 AM	Ministers Conference - Gov't ST
10	5:30 PM	WMU Leadership Team - AO
12	11:45 AM	Secretaries/Ministry Assistants Luncheon - AO
	2:00 PM	Senior Adult Committee Meeting - AO
15-21		Associational Missions Week Impact Mobile Missions Offering Addine Maynard Associational Missions Emphasis and Offering
15-22		MMBCM Global PLUNGE
19	6:00 PM	Biblical Prayer Committee - Spring Hill BC
		Activates Center
20-21		Pastors/Staff & Spouses Retreat - CWP
23	11:30 AM	Ministers Conference - Gov't ST
24		Calendar Planning Last Day of Classes for Mobile County Public School System
30		MEMORIAL DAY - AO Closed

WMU/Women's Ministry Annual Celebration

April 29 * 6:30 p.m.
Dauphin Way Baptist Church
Guest Speaker: Jolene Ivey

Look for more details to come soon!

CHURCH DEVELOPMENT "Equipping the Saints For Ministry"



Take advantage of these many specialized trainings and conferences that can help you better serve the Lord through ministry in the local church. Please publicize these events through your newsletters and bulletins. We often hear from people who say, "I wish I had known you were doing that."

Equipping the Interim Pastor for Ministry

March 14

Two Opportunities to Attend

10:00 a.m.
Government Street Baptist Church

OR

6:30 p.m. * MBA Office

This conference deals with the basic principles of being an effective interim in the traditional role and exposes the participants to the concept of Intentional Interim. State Missionary, **Dr. Dale Huff**, will lead this conference. **Pre-register for this FREE training opportunity by contacting the MBA office no later than Thursday, March 10.**

Learning Microsoft Office 2010

March 17 * 1:00 p.m.

MBA Office

This training will cover the latest version of Microsoft Office and para-office programs. The training is an overview emphasizing an introduction to each program in the office suite. State missionary, **Mickey Crawford**, will lead the training. **Pre-register for this FREE training opportunity by contacting the MBA office no later than Tuesday, March 15.**

Internet and E-mail Safety

March 17 * 6:30 p.m.

MBA Office

Overviews of the major ways every church should protect its staff and members from Internet filth, SPAM, Spyware, etc. Emphasis on the best Anti-Virus, Anti-Spyware, Anti-SPAM and Web Filtering Options available on the market today. State missionary, **Mickey Crawford**, will lead the training. **Pre-register for this FREE training opportunity by contacting the MBA office no later than Tuesday, March 15.**

Vacation Bible School Preview Clinic

(For Pastors and VBS Directors)

March 22 * 6:30 p.m.

MBA Office

The Preview Clinic is for Pastors and VBS Directors ONLY. LifeWay will have a display and you will have an opportunity to preview the 2011 Big Apple Adventure VBS material. Handouts will be available to assist you in enlisting VBS workers. You will receive updated information on this year's clinic. An overview of the various age groups taught at the clinic will be presented. **PRE-REGISTER** by contacting the MBA office no later than **noon Friday, March 18.**

Deacons Helping the Church Manage Conflict

March 31 * 6:30 p.m.

MBA Office

This seminar will examine the role of deacons particularly as spiritual leaders. It will also examine the concept and principles of spiritual leadership within the context of the church and deacon ministry. State Missionary **Mike Jackson** will lead this seminar. **Pre-register for this FREE conference by contacting the MBA office no later than Tuesday, March 29.**

Bible Drills

April 5 * 5:00 p.m.

Cottage Hill Baptist Church



Contact the MBA Office, 661-7111, or rec@mobilebaptists.org, **by noon on Friday, April 1**, to pre-register and be assigned a flight time. **No group registrations please.**

Revitalizing the Plateaued Church

April 7 * 6:30 p.m.

MBA Office

This conference deals with the methods for moving a church whose ministry and life has become routine to an upwardly productive and effective ministry. State Missionary, **Chip Smith** will lead this conference. **Pre-register for this free training opportunity by contacting the MBA office no later than Tuesday, April 5.**



VBS Clinic

May 2 * 6:30 p.m.

Cottage Hill

Grab a cab and get ready for fun around every corner in LifeWay's Big Apple Adventure, Where Faith and Life Connect. **Pre-register for this FREE clinic by contacting the MBA office no later than Thursday, April 28.**

PARTNERSHIP MISSIONS

“Encouraging Involvement in Local, State, National and International Projects”

Update from Missionary-in-Residence Gerald Burch

The Churches of the Mobile Baptist Association continue to gain momentum in reaching the goal of having one more member/one more church than before to be involved in some type of practical missions' outreach.

Brenda and I recently returned from a five and a half month volunteer opportunity at the Calvary Baptist Church in Bangkok, Thailand. We saw several come to saving faith in Jesus and follow Him in biblical baptism. We were able to minister while the pastor returned to the States for furlough. Calvary also has congregations and ministries in the Burmese, Karen, Nepalese, and Thai languages. We even had opportunities to minister in Japanese to the Japanese in Bangkok.

As your volunteer Missionaries-in-Residence, we are ready to assist you. We can help by being a missions' resource person for you, by being a missions' speaker (our experiences cover most of Asia but specifically Japan, Myanmar, and Thailand). We can also assist in helping your church become a part of the volunteer missionary movement locally, nationally, and/or internationally.

We are working on international trips to Japan and Myanmar. Let us know of your interest as soon as possible. We encourage you to begin praying now about how your church can be a part of what God is doing among peoples whose native language is not English. If God is leading you to be involved in missions outreach Internationally, in the USA, or here in Mobile, please contact us and let us know how we can assist you. You can reach us at the MBA office, 661-7111, or 251-378-1116, or at burch.gerald@gmail.com.

John Myrick Resignation

We are very saddened that John Myrick has resigned as Director of Camp Whispering Pines. He has accepted a pastorate in Norman Park, Georgia. John led in improving camp facilities and programming for the past two and a half years and we had over 400 decisions at the camp last year. The Personnel Committee, under the leadership of Rev. Tom Boone, will begin work immediately to secure an interim and begin the search for a new director. A position description and contact information for submitting resumes can be found at www.mobilebaptists.org.

CHURCH PLANTING

“Encouraging MBA Churches to Congregationalize All of Mobile County”

News from International Ministries

The Father is doing some amazing things among Internationals in our great county. There are four International Language schools serving the Mobile community. We have around 18 new students from several different countries join recently to learn ESL. All 50+ students are hearing the gospel regularly! At the International Ministries Center (IMC) over 500 people have heard the Gospel during the month of January with 128 Bibles given out to sailors in their own languages. Many sailors are renewing their commitment to follow Christ more faithfully and share the Gospel in ports where they go. All praise to the Lord Jesus for His wonderful grace as He has brought 49 new men to faith in Christ during January! Finally, a new Filipino church is prayerfully being birthed. By His grace, Bible study meetings are scheduled to begin soon. Many thanks to Cottage Hill Baptist Church for being the sponsor church for this new and exciting work. Thank you, Mobile Baptists, for being obedient to the call to spread the Gospel to our Jerusalem!

2011 Walk For Bibles and International Ministries is scheduled for **October 22**. Walk or sponsor 5 miles for Bibles and the work of the International Ministries. Put this special date on your church calendar.

Needs in International Ministries:

- Volunteer drivers at the IMC on Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday nights
- Volunteer receptionist to answer the phone and help with front desk activities on Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday nights
- Churches to bring refreshments for 15-20 seafarers to the IMC once a month on a Tuesday, Thursday, or Friday

For more information, contact Buddy Brents, Director of International Ministries, at 661-7111, or imc@mobilebaptists.org.

Bi-Vocational Ministers and Wives Fellowship

March 4 - Hosts: Eddie & Tonya Holmes - 679-3471
April 1 - Hosts: Bryce & Joan Evans - 662-0589
May 6 - Hosts: Herb & Bobbie Collier - 603-8394

These supper fellowships are held on the first Friday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Bi-vocational Ministers, Staff, and their spouses are invited. Contact Sandy Pugh, 479-4464 for more information about these monthly fellowships.

The Wright Word



The Wright Word, Feb-May 2011

A New Year to Serve Jesus

Which is harder in your church, getting people outside the church to be interested in Jesus or getting people inside the church to tell people about Jesus? The Lord has blessed MBA churches and staff with another year to make an eternal

difference in Mobile County and beyond. Please don't let the enemy discourage you from initiating the changes and outreach that you need to reach the community. The lost-ness of our county demands we not grow weary in consistent, effective outreach. In Numbers 13:17-20 the children of Israel studied the land and possessed it. They did not allow giant obstacles to keep them from completing the Lord's will.

A New Year for Biblical Prayer

It is a good time to revitalize your Prayer Committee and continue the prayer walks in our community. This no-cost tactic "plows" the field to raise spiritual responsiveness to our evangelistic ministries. LEASE include the MBA in your Wednesday night and Sunday prayer lists. Please include specific prayers for wisdom, and our financial, volunteer and strategic needs to be met.

A New Year for New Churches

We would be a church county if every evangelical church in Mobile County had 1,200 people attending. A look at the former churches of Mobile County shows clearly that it is the new or revitalized churches that are being most effective in reaching our community. Where will Mobile be in 25 years, if each of our healthy churches does not participate in planting more churches NOW? The analogy to having children is accurate and applicable. Contact me or Buddy Brents if you would like to be involved in starting new work in Mobile.

A New Year for Partnership Missions

The financial challenges we are facing do not need to result in an unbalanced inward focus. We need to continue to involve one more than ever before in local, state, national and international missions. We have a list of needed missions VBS sites in Mobile as well as projects at CWP and the IMC for your local construction and ministry teams. Keep looking outward to help each member serve the Lord! Contact Gerald and Brenda Burch for customized help for your church to be involved in national or international mission's opportunities.

Financial Hurricane update

The Budget and Finance Committee continues to monitor our budget and the impending impact of NAMB changes in Cooperative Agreements (CA). It still has the potential to have a category five impact on our association and state convention.

Cooperative Agreements (CA)

The probable changes in NAMB/ALSBOM CA will impact the MBA Budget by as much as \$82,630 as early as January 2012. This is in addition to the \$34,300 we had to take from savings to pay all of the 2010 expenses. In January, the Executive Committee affirmed the July 2010 vote to access our savings accounts until we get past the oil spill impact and prepare for NAMB changes.

MBA Gifts to Cooperative Program and MBA

In 2010, MBA churches sacrificially reported giving a missions tithe of \$1,768,511 to the Cooperative Program (CP, a reduction of \$372,636 from 2009), and \$391, 851 to the MBA (a reduction of \$67,235 from 2009). Prior to the GCR, the MBA received back \$82,630 through the CA with NAMB and ALSBOM. Leaders cooperatively agreed that CP funds would be used in Mobile to help underwrite the cost of an International Ministries Director, the Church Development Director and the Associational Missionary. This is due

to the recognition that half of the population of Mobile is lost. A 15% reduction in the support for the Associational Missionary from ALSBOM began in January 2011.

Preparing for the Hurricane

Many DOM's have endorsed ALSBOM adopting a shared ministries budget as is done in Georgia. This budget system provides the CP split *after* state ministries have been funded. Alabama currently takes the CP split *before* state ministries are funded. National DOMS report the same conclusion reached by our Finance Committee and Moderators. We are being encouraged by the GCR statement to provide locally for what was formerly returned to us through the CA. The Moderators and Finance Committee have discussed worst case scenarios and have contingency plans in hand if our churches choose not to make up for the changes. I am not afraid to lead us, even where I do not prefer to go, to maintain a balanced budget.

Impact Mobile, Associational Missions Offering in May 2011

Look at page 1 for a letter from the Moderators and Finance Committee about the new "impact Mobile" Associational Missions Offering. The yearly offering will be held in conjunction with Associational Missions Week in the month of May. The Executive Committee voted in January that it is time to provide this offering. Churches may choose to give, who feel they have not been able to support cooperative missions in their Jerusalem as much as they would like. We also recognize many ethnic congregations are accustomed to collecting special offerings for their missions support. We are very grateful for the congregations that give sacrificially through their budget to support Associational missions. There is no expectation for all MBA churches to promote the Impact Mobile Offering.

How to Adjust your Church Missions Tithe

Your church determines how much it gives to the CP and the MBA. Those funds go from your church to the State Convention, then on to the CP. (Some send their MBA missions tithe directly to us). Each church needs to decide how to respond to the impending change in how we tithe to missions. Some are wisely choosing to reduce their gifts to Para church ministries in favor of SBC ministries. Please consider allocating at least 3% of your missions tithe to associational missions. If you choose to make any adjustments to the allocation of the missions tithe you send to CP and the MBA, all you have to do is designate the change in your monthly missions deposit to ALSBOM. The total amount you tithe to missions will remain the same. The bottom line of your church budget will remain the same. The allocation of your missions tithe is all that will change.

The Future Remains Bright

The Lord is not surprised by, nor worried about, these challenges. He continues to bless. Your sacrificial support of associational missions resulted in over 600 decisions last year. More than 80% of our churches were involved in training options. Dozens of Pastors, staff and members received individual consulting for strategy, processes and issues in the church. We are making progress toward new Anglo and Ethnic churches and members are increasingly involved in partnership missions. You can be confident the association continues to focus on relevant and effective impact. Agreed, we tend to help our smallest churches more than churches with multiple staff and large budgets. Thank you to our largest churches making possible the help for the smallest churches because they maintain priority cooperative giving to the MBA and CP.

In the Lamb,
Brother Thomas