

Director of Missions and Ministries Report
for the
Quarterly Executive Committee Meeting
September 28, 2020

When the COVID-19 virus was first making itself known, most of us assumed we were in for a few weeks of extra precaution and adjustment to this new health threat. However, those few weeks turned into months. This worldwide pandemic has affected our churches, our association, and our statewide ministries in various ways. Still, in the midst of this ongoing change and uncertainty, our members and our pastors have adjusted as needed and have continued to minister to their local community through social media, worship in their parking lots, and limited indoor services. Additionally, they have ministered to the world by continuing to give through the Cooperative Program and by supporting their local church budgets. I commend you for your continued and faithful praying and giving during these past months!

Your association has also had to make, sometimes painful, adjustments. We have worked hard to be sure that we were not placing our volunteers, many of whom are in high-risk categories, at undue risk while serving in the Caring Place and/or the MBA Front Office. We decided early on that the Sycamore Bargain Center was our most at-risk ministry for exposure to COVID-19, and therefore we decided to close the thrift store out of an abundance of caution for our volunteer workers and the public. Thankfully, we were able to reopen the thrift store this month! Meanwhile, we have continued other limited ministry activities through the Caring Place and the MBA Office.

During these past several months when churches were either not meeting at all or else meeting in limited ways, Alison and I also suspended visiting one of our member churches every week, as is our usual practice. We did not want to make anyone feel uncomfortable, or potentially cross-contaminate our churches by being among different congregations each week. Instead, we used this time to attend our home church when I was not preaching elsewhere.

Unfortunately, our association also had to cancel or postpone several mission trips we were planning, as well as a spiritual retreat scheduled for the Fall. Our Missions Team has continued to dialogue with our Alabama State Board of Missions about the need and potential for a Hispanic church plant in our county. We have also been able to encourage several of our overseas missionaries, Wyoming pastors' wives, and local churches and ministers through the generous financial offerings of our member churches. I am grateful for churches who are thinking of others even during these uncertain times.

As we begin to see our society returning to school and work, while remaining cautiously optimistic, we need to be in constant prayer for our nation and for our churches. God is still using Morgan Baptists in the midst of this ongoing medical event and in the middle of this controversial election cycle. I hope that these challenging months of uncertainty have caused you

to draw closer to the Lord and to rest in the realization that He Himself is our only hope, that His Church is our only haven, and that His Gospel is our only purpose! That is why we have this association in the first place. We want to continue to partner with each other in fellowship, in strategy, in ministry, and in unity for the purpose of furthering God's Kingdom by taking His Gospel to our community, our nation, and our world.

Partnership begins here,

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