

**Director of Missions and Ministries Report
for the
Quarterly Executive Committee Meeting
April 22, 2019**

Ken Blackwood
Director of Missions and Ministries

Since our last Executive Committee Meeting on January 28, 2019, we have started off on a busy year. I am grateful to those who came out in attendance at the last Executive Meeting so that we could have a quorum and take care of some routine business. This is the **100th** year of ministry for the Morgan Baptist Association and we are all privileged to be a part of the ongoing work of God in our county and beyond through our association!

We are planning to celebrate the **100th** anniversary of our association on **October 28, 2019** at **First Baptist Church, Hartselle**, so please mark that date on your calendar now! We have already had several meetings to plan what we want to do that evening to recognize all the ministry that has gone before us. You and your church will be hearing about these plans as they are developed. We are hoping for a memorable and Christ-honoring celebration in October!

I am very grateful to the churches in our association for your generosity in response to the ongoing crisis in **Venezuela**. We have already made several offerings to Venezuelan refugees and citizens who are malnourished and without medical supplies. We are channeling these funds according to instructions from on-field **IMB** missionaries who have advised us. We have already heard several responses telling us how our offering has been a life-changing blessing to suffering people. Our Mission Team, led by Pastor **Stephen Cannon**, is working on plans to send volunteers to serve in **Peru, Mexico, and Wyoming** this year.

The **MBA P.E.N.** (Pastors Enrichment Network) has met several times since our last meeting. We recently had a picnic at our home and enjoyed a great time of fellowship and followship. If you know of someone who would benefit from this "iron-sharpening-iron" ministry, please let us know.

Our association facility continues to be a hub of ministry activity each week. The **Gideons** continue to meet here every week. Our pastors also enjoy a time of worship and fellowship together each Monday here in Hacker Hall. This year, we have become the host for a new ministry. **MTI (Ministry Training Institute)** meets in Hacker Hall each Tuesday night for in-depth Bible study. The MTI program is a partnership between the Morgan Baptist Association and Samford University. The Director of the MBA Extension is Pastor **Matt Haines**. Our **MBA Disaster Relief Team** meets in Hacker Hall once each month as well. I thank the Lord for the faithful work of our **Trustees, Leadership Team, Finance Team, Strategy Teams, Senior Adults,**

and **Volunteers**. The **Bible Study** sponsored by the **Caring Place** continues to prosper and is a blessing to all who participate.

We continue to have an in-office Pathways Counselor here each Wednesday. **Neill Hunter** is available for Christian Counseling each week. Call the office for his contact information. Neill schedules his own appointments and his counseling is completely confidential.

Since January, your Director of Missions and Ministries has been privileged to preach or visit several of our churches including **FBC, Hartselle, Highland, Lebanon, Mt. Carmel, Mt. View, Southside, Valhermoso, and Westmeade** for various meetings and occasions. Alison and I always enjoy visiting our churches and getting to know them better! Please pray for our member churches who are seeking pastors.

Once again, I want to thank you for your prayerful and financial support of our association as we continue to work to foster partnership among our member churches. As always, we need your support and I am grateful that you and your church continue to value cooperative partnership that has been one of the distinguishing values and hallmarks of Southern Baptist life for many decades.

As we go forward in our 100th year of ministry together, remember, **partnership begins here.**

Blessings,

Ken

Ken Blackwood
Director of Missions and Ministries