

Director of Missions and Ministries Report
for the
Quarterly Executive Committee Meeting
September 23, 2019

Ken Blackwood
Director of Missions and Ministries

This summer has been busy with revivals and a few late Vacation Bible Schools. Since our last Executive Committee Meeting on July 22, 2019, things have been relatively quiet in the MBA office, but I have been busy outside the office. We have had several ministers retire after many years of service in Morgan Baptist churches. We are grateful for their ministry and legacy.

I hope you have marked your calendar for **October 28th**! That is the date of **Annual Meeting at FBC, Hartselle**. We are hoping to streamline the meeting this year by having most of our annual reports presented as short videos rather than with live presenters. This should save time and allow time for a brief presentation of the first one hundred years of history for the Morgan Baptist Association. The **First Session will begin at 4:00 pm**, followed by a meal at **5:30 pm**. There will be no charge for the meal, but donations will be accepted. The **Final Session will begin at 6:30 pm** and will conclude with a message from God's Word from **Junior Hill!**

Our **Missions Team** has been busy planning for the trip to **Peru** this November. In early September, two members of our association travelled to **León Mexico** to serve with **IMB** missionaries there. I am thankful to **Steve Cannon**, MBA Mission Team Leader for his excellent efforts in helping our association raise awareness in missions. Our **Pastor Enrichment (PEN)** ministry has continued this summer with good attendance considering all the vacations, ballgames and other activities competing for our time. We meet once each month on a Tuesday night. If you know of an individual or couple who are involved in bivocational ministry, encourage them to contact me about joining this group.

Currently, **Cave Spring, Cedar Ridge, Flint, Mt. View, Oak Forest, Parkview, Rock Creek, and Shoal Creek** are seeking pastors. This number may seem somewhat alarming, but I am told that, at any given time, about ten percent of the SBC churches across our state are seeking pastors. We need to lift up these churches in prayer. I praise the Lord that He has called **Christopher Campbell** as pastor at Southside Baptist Church! In my estimation, there has rarely been a more difficult time in our nation's history to be involved in vocational ministry. Satan has always attacked God by attacking those He loves, and that means His churches and their pastors.

I attended the **Biblical Church Revitalization** Training in Athens last month. Many SBC churches across our nation are plateaued and/or dying. Several of our churches were represented there and I have shared the materials we received with those interested. We need to continue to

pray for our association and all our member churches, as well as for our state and national conventions as a whole. As I said in my last report, our SBC heritage of Cooperative Missions, Evangelism, Discipleship, and Church Planting must never take a back seat to other issues.

Regular use of our facilities continues each week. The **Gideons** meet here every week. Our pastors also enjoy a time of worship and fellowship together each Monday in Hacker Hall. Our MBA **Disaster Relief Team** meets in Hacker Hall each month as well. I thank the Lord for the faithful work of our **Trustees, Leadership Team, Finance Team, Strategy Teams, Senior Adults, Nominating Team, and Volunteers**. The **Caring Place** Bible Study continues to be a blessing to all who participate. **MTI (Ministry Training Institute)** began on Tuesday, **August 20**. Pastor **Walter Blackman** is teaching an 8-week course on the **Minor Prophets** in Hacker Hall. The second MTI semester will begin on **October 22**. **Chris Martin** will be teaching an eight-week course on **Biblical Foundations**.

Our MBA in-office **Pathways Christian Counselor, Neill Hunter** is here each Wednesday. Call the office for his contact information. Neill schedules his own appointments and his counseling is completely confidential.

Since July, your Director of Missions and Ministries has been privileged to preach or visit several of our member churches including **Danville, Liberty, West Hartselle, New Center, Lebanon, Central Park, Sixteenth Avenue, Hartselle First Baptist, Westmeade, Tunset Road, Central, and Stoney Acres**. I have also been privileged to preach at **Sherwood Baptist** in Madison and at the **Lawrence County Tennessee Association's Annual Meeting** in Lawrenceburg, Tennessee. Since our last meeting, I have attended the Church Revitalization Conference at **Lindsey Lane Baptist** in Athens, and a Christian Ministers' Reunion at **Lakeview Baptist** in Auburn. As always, Alison and I enjoy visiting our churches and getting to know them better!

We are currently still in need of a few volunteers in the front office for a few hours each week or once a month. If you or someone you know would like to serve the Lord through the association in this way, give **Belinda Ealey** a call at (256) 773-5243.

Thank you for your prayerful and financial support of our association as we continue to work to foster partnership among our member churches. I am grateful to serve alongside you! 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 **complete our 100th year** of ministry together, remember, **partnership begins here.**

Blessings,

Ken

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