

**Director of Missions and Ministries Report**  
for the  
**Quarterly Executive Committee Meeting**  
January 28, 2019

Ken Blackwood  
Director of Missions and Ministries

Since our last Executive Committee Meeting on September 24, 2018, we have had an active fall and start to the New Year. Our Annual Meeting on October 22 was excellent. Many thanks to Cave Spring Baptist Church for hosting and to Bro. Jackie Kay for bringing an excellent message. Our moderator this year is Bro. **Chris Martin** and our Vice-Moderator is Bro. **Greg Compton**.

Last fall, our association sent a team of three to **Peru** to scout out the possibility of future ministry there. They returned excited and enthusiastic about the possibilities. Also, our association has been proactive in providing help to **Venezuelan refugees** who are fleeing their country in the midst of severe shortages of food and medicines. So far, we have sent about \$2000 in direct aid and have received letters of gratitude from those who have been able to feed and treat their sick children. **We should be grateful** that we belong to an association with such generous people! Our association was also the collection point for the **Mississippi River Backpack Ministry** which provides backpacks full of school supplies and other items for underprivileged children who live along the Mississippi River. It was a great success again this year!

The **MBA P.E.N.** (Pastors Enrichment Network) has met regularly since our last meeting. Some of our couples are planning on attending the upcoming **Retreat for Bivocational Ministers/Spouses** next month at Shocco Springs. The P.E.N. group meetings have continued to be a wonderful time of fellowship and encouragement for those who participate.

The **Gideons** continue to meet here each week. Our pastors also enjoy a time of worship and fellowship together each Monday here in Hacker Hall. Our MBA **Disaster Relief Team** meets in Hacker Hall once each month as well. The DR Team has been very busy this fall in providing relief in the aftermath of hurricanes to our south. Our other teams and committees have met regularly this quarter as needed to assure that the ministry and business of the association continues to move forward smoothly. I am grateful for the investment of time and energy that our **Trustees, Leadership Team, Finance Team, Strategy Teams, Senior Adults, and Volunteers** make each week to help us offer partnership opportunities to our churches. The **Bible Study** sponsored by the Caring Place has grown rapidly and is a wonderful local ministry effort.

Our Pathways Counselor, **Neill Hunter**, is in the association office each Wednesday. He is available for Christian Counseling. Call the office for his contact information. Neill schedules his own appointments and his counseling is completely confidential.

Since September, your Director of Missions and Ministries has been privileged to visit or preach at several of our churches including **Cave Spring, East Highland, Southside, FBC, Falkville, Lebanon, Trinity, Grace Point, Gum Springs, and Chapel**. In addition, Alison and I have spoken in other SBC churches around our state about missions during the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering season including Enon Baptist Church in Lawrence County and an SBC church north of Dothan Alabama.

The Morgan Baptist Association is currently in our 100<sup>th</sup> year of active ministry! Imagine all the things God has done through our association since 1919! **Mark your calendar** now and make plans to attend our Annual Meeting this year **at FBC, Hartselle on October 28, 2019**. Help us **Celebrate the Centennial!**

Many thanks to you and your church 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.

Remember, **partnership begins here.**

Blessings,

*Ken*

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Director of Missions and Ministries