

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

Ken Blackwood
Director of Missions and Ministries

Since our last Executive Committee Meeting on April 22, 2019, our association has been focused on missions planning and on **Vacation Bible School**. Although some of our member churches have not yet had VBS, most have and many have reported a good response this year, including numerous salvations. We all should be grateful for our **MBA VBS Team** and the great work they do each and every year to help VBS be a success in Morgan County!

Meanwhile, our **Missions Team** has been busy planning ministry efforts overseas and closer to home. One couple from our association went to **Wyoming** this summer to help a very small pioneer church plan and conduct VBS. The State Missionary in Wyoming tells me that this sister church would not have been able to have VBS without the aid of MBA and this couple! Our Missions Team is also making final plans for a team headed to **Mexico** at the end of August and another Team headed back to **Peru** in November. Closer to home, our association will be a site host for a local ministerial group initiative called "**Fill the Bus**". During the week of August 4th, a school bus will be parked on the MBA premises during office hours for the public to donate school supplies for Hartselle City Schools.

Our **100th Anniversary Celebration Planning Committee** continues to meet. We have made progress toward plans for celebrating 100 years as an association on **October 28th** at our Annual Meeting at **FBC, Hartselle**. Our Pastor Enrichment (**PEN**) ministry has continued this summer with good attendance considering all the vacations, ballgames and other activities competing for our time. Alison and I attended the SBC Pastors Conference and Annual Convention in Birmingham last month. We heard some good sermons and learned about the current vision of our Convention and her leaders going forward. I would encourage all our member churches and their flocks to continue to **pray for our convention of churches** and for the great ministries that God has assigned to Southern Baptists for more than a century and a half. Our SBC heritage of Cooperative Missions, Evangelism, Discipleship, and Church Planting must never take a back seat to other issues. Pray for our elected leaders at all levels.

Regular use of our facilities has continued throughout the summer. 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. MTI (**Ministry Training Institute**) will begin on Tuesday, **August 20**. Pastor **Walter Blackman** will be teaching an 8-week course on the **Minor Prophets** in Hacker Hall. Our MBA **Disaster Relief Team** continues to meet 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, 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 member churches including **Rock Springs, Liberty, West Hartselle, Westmeade, Unity, FBC-Decatur, Shady Grove, FBC-Hartselle, Mt. Nebo, Danville, FBC-Falkville, Central, Lebanon, Blue Springs, Flint, Shiloh, Sixteenth Avenue, and Oak Forest** 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. Currently, these churches are seeking pastors: **Cave Spring, Cedar Ridge, Flint, Mt. View, Oak Forest, Rock Creek, Shoal Creek, and Southside**.

One final word about **Volunteers**. Without all our great volunteers, the Morgan Baptist Association could not function! Next week, we will have an **appreciation luncheon** for all the wonderful people who give their time and energy at the Sycamore Bargain Center, Caring Place and MBA Front Office. In addition to these, all of our **committees** and **teams** are filled and served by volunteers. Drop by sometime and tell a volunteer “thanks” for their generosity. Remember: you can be a volunteer too! **We are currently in need of a few volunteers in the front office**. If you or someone you know would like to serve the Lord through the association in this way, give Belinda a call at (256) 773-5243.

As always, 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

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