



# Madison Baptist Association

“Assisting churches in fulfilling their mission, and providing them opportunities for fellowship and to work together in advancing the kingdom of God”

THURSDAY,  
JANUARY  
05,  
2017

I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and New Year's Day. As we begin the New Year of 2017, I want to talk about the mission/purpose of the church. We have 90 churches affiliated with our Madison Baptist Association, and each church is unique in its membership and location. But I believe the overall purpose of each church is basically the same. The mission of the local church centers around the Great Commission, to make disciples of all the nations. It has been stated that the mission of the church is fivefold: worship, evangelism, discipleship, fellowship, and ministry (remember it by the acronym "WED FM"). Any pastor could preach a good, five-sermon series on this topic. But today I only want to touch on two of these points: discipleship and evangelism. In Luke 5:1-11, Jesus simplified it to "teaching" and "reaching." We see in this text that Jesus is standing by the Sea of Galilee teaching the Word of God to the crowd (v.1). That is to be the content of our preaching/teaching today: the Word of God. We cannot improve on Jesus' model, for in God's Word there is truth and power! (Rom. 1:16) It was the penetrating power of the Word of God that drew the many listeners to Jesus that day. Religious entertainment may attract a crowd, but the sound teaching of God's Word will nourish/keep a crowd. Discipleship involves teaching/training believers that they might become fully-devoted followers of Christ. In Luke 5, Jesus eventually got into a boat (because of the pressing crowd) and, sitting in the boat a little way from the land, continued to teach the crowd. Now Jesus transitioned from "teaching" to "reaching." When He finished teaching he said to Peter, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch." (v.4) Peter was hesitant to do what the Lord said for he and his friends had already fished all night and caught nothing. Nevertheless, he obeyed Christ's request and fished again. The result was a miraculous catch of fish that filled two boats, to the point that the boats were sinking! The Bible says, "For amazement had seized him [Peter] and all his companions because of the catch of fish which they had taken." (v.9) Then Jesus said to Peter, "Do not fear, from now on you will be catching men." (v.10) This was an object lesson deluxe. Just as Christ had led Peter and the others to a great catch of fish, He would also lead them to a great catch of people. The bait would be the gospel (good news), the Word

of God, by which the apostles would "reel in" people into the kingdom of God. This simple, life-changing assignment has not changed today. The church of the Lord Jesus Christ is to be involved in teaching and reaching people with the Word of God. God has called us all to be "fishers of men." This is the mission of the church today along with worshipping our Savior, having fellowship with others in the body of Christ, and involvement in the many other types of Christian ministry. May the New Year of 2017 be a truly blessed year as we, the church, live out our fivefold purpose as God's light in a dark world.

Happy New Year!  
Charlie

- Jan 12 ..... Minister's Conference (10:30AM)
- Jan 12 ..... Church Tax Conference (Decatur First)
- Jan 15 ..... Sanctity of Human Life Sunday
- Jan 26 ..... Church Safety & Security Conference  
(FBC Huntsville, 9AM)
- Jan 26-27 ..... ABREA Annual Gathering
- Jan 27-28 ..... Alabama Bible Drill (Shocco Springs)
- Jan 30 ..... Executive Board Mtg (MBA, 10AM)
- Feb 9 ..... Minister's Conference (10:30AM)  
Mark Wakefield (ALSBOM) "Church Security"

**Minister's Conference**  
**Thursday, January 12, 10:30 a.m.**  
**The guest speaker will be Rev. John Dees, CrossPointe Church. His message will be entitled, "All we ever really need to do..."**  
**Fellowship and lunch will take place after the conference. Lunch will be provided for \$5 per person.**  
**We hope to see you there!**

*Guidestone and Brotherhood Mutual present:*  
**Church Safety & Security Conference**  
**January 26, 2017**  
**9 a.m.—4 p.m.**  
**First Baptist Church, Huntsville**  
**600 Governors Drive SW**

At this one-day conference, you'll receive real-world training on:

- Best practices for your safety and security team
- Protecting kids in the ministry environment
  - Volunteer screening process
- Learning to spot domestic violence in the church

Space is limited. **REGISTER NOW!**  
[GuideStone.org/cssc](http://GuideStone.org/cssc)

\$50 per person  
 Includes lunch and one free copy of *The Church Safety & Security Guidebook* per church. (Retail price \$39.95)  
 Registration deadline: January 14, 2017

Want to send more than two people from your ministry? Call (214) 720-4721 for group discount information.

**Mission Opportunities for 2017**

**Rocket City Missions**  
 Week #1 June 18 — 23, 2017  
 Week #2 June 25 — 30, 2017

**Williamsburg, Kentucky Mission Trip**  
 July 16 — 20, 2017

**Romania Summer Missions**  
 April 27—May 9, 2017

Mark your calendars now — more information is available at the MBA!



4315 Highway 72E Brownsboro, AL 35741  
(next to Madison Co High School)

**3 on 3 Basketball Tournament**  
**3 Game Guarantee**  
 Saturday January 28, 2017  
 Tip-off at 8:30am

\$75 entry fee — 3 shirts per registration  
 Additional shirts available for purchase

Must pre-register & pay by Wednesday January 11th

Ages 16 & up

To sign up or for info please contact:

Travis S. Dunson

Email: [Tdunson88@yahoo.com](mailto:Tdunson88@yahoo.com)

Call or text: 256-975-4930



Help the BBC Men's Firewood Ministry buy our own log splitter!

Only taking **20** teams!

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 missions

**changing one house and one life at a time!**

Rocket City Missions is a ministry of Madison Baptist Association.

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