



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
12,
2017

As we enter the New Year of 2017, I want to talk about New Life. Before the Apostle Paul became a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, he had an impressive resume. In Philippians 3:5-6 he mentions his race (of the nation of Israel, the tribe of Benjamin), his religion (a Hebrew of Hebrews & a Pharisee), his record (a persecutor of the church), and his righteousness (blameless according to the Law). He was a model Jew, who displayed a zealous devotion to his Jewish heritage and keeping the Law. In fact, Paul states in the verse preceding this text, “If anyone else has a mind to put confidence in the flesh, I far more.” In essence, Paul’s confidence was in himself and his own religious works. He believed such a religious lifestyle made him right with God, acceptable to Him. Boy, was he in for a rude awakening! While travelling to Damascus (to persecute more Christians) He met the resurrected Christ and his life was forever changed. He became a believer in Christ, and his “life focus” transitioned from religion to a relationship with God. He would write afterwards, “.....I count all things [including those listed on his resume] to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.....” (Phil. 3:8) It was now about knowing Christ, a personal relationship with Jesus that empowered Paul’s life and ministry. And this newfound relationship gave Paul new life.

I wonder how many people today believe like Paul once did, that the practice of religion is the way of acceptance with God? Or perhaps there are many who think “a good, moral lifestyle” will lead a person to heaven. I grew up in a family that, besides the influence of a godly grandmother, was pretty much void of religion of any kind. So there are others who presently aren’t seriously considering the things of God and eternity. In all of these cases/scenarios the need is for new life, which comes from a personal relationship with Jesus. Those who believe/have faith in God’s Son have eternal life (Jn. 3:16), which includes qualitative life and quantitative life. Christians have an abundant life here on earth which continues forever in heaven. Do you know of anyone who needs New Life in the New Year? Tell them about Jesus, who is the giver of new life, for it is acquired through a faith relationship with Him (not by religion or good works). “He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.” (I Jn. 5:12)

Happy New Year!
Charlie

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

\$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.

Minister’s Conference

Thursday, February 9, 10:30 a.m.

The guest speaker will be State Missionary Mark Wakefield (ALSBOM) speaking on the topic of Church Security.

Fellowship and lunch will take place after the conference. Lunch will be provided for \$5 per person.

We hope to see you there!

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!

Executive Board meeting

Monday, January 30th

10:00 a.m.

- 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”
- Feb 12 Racial Reconciliation Sunday
- Feb 13-19 Focus on WMU
- Feb 14 Happy Valentine’s Day!
- Feb 14 Minister’s Tax Conference (Decatur First)
- Feb 20 President’s Day (MBA Closed)
- Feb 26 RA Racers (Huntsville First, Registration @ 1:00 PM)
- Feb 27-28 State Evangelism Conference (Pelham First)
- Feb 28 Ministers’ Wives Luncheon (Pelham First)

NIGHT to Shine

SPONSORED BY THE TIM TEBOW FOUNDATION™

FEBRUARY 10 | 6 PM—9PM | FBC HUNTSVILLE

Please visit www.fbchsv.org/nighttoshine to register as a volunteer or guest.

Space is limited: *volunteer registration ends 01/22!*

TEXT-DRIVEN PREACHING CONFERENCE

MARCH 6 - 8, 2017
Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary
Fort Worth, Texas

Guest speakers include: H.B. Charles, Steve Gaines, Steven Smith, David Allen, Matt Carter and many more!

SWBTS.EDU/PREACHINGCONFERENCE

SOUTHWESTERN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Madison Baptist Association, Inc.

Dr. Charlie Howell, Executive Director of Missions
 Rev. Ron Lynch, Church Ministry Director
 Regina Berry, Financial/Administrative Assistant
 Denise Panter, Receptionist/Publicist/Clerk

2318 Whitesburg Drive S, Huntsville, AL 35801
 Web Site: www.madisonassociation.org
 Phone: 256-536-0015 ~ Fax: 256-536-0017

Office Hours: 7:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m., Monday-Thursday
 Closed on Fridays

