



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,
AUGUST
17,
2017

As I write this article in advance of publication, we are still in the midst of Vacation Bible Schools taking place in our Association. I enjoy visiting in our VBS's each year and usually stay awhile each visit to observe/enjoy the ministry and talk with the workers and church staff. I've been to 20 of our VBS's this year and Ron Lynch has visited some as well. There are just too many VBS's (55) this year for me to make all of them, but I go to as many as I can and want each visit to be a quality one. The more I visit in our various VBS's, the more I am convinced that VBS is still one of the very best ministries Southern Baptists have for reaching boys and girls with the gospel of Jesus Christ. I know when I served as a pastor, my church had VBS each year and it was a lot of work but also a tremendous blessing for everyone involved. When it ended on Friday (with the pie in the face?) it was a somewhat sad occasion, for that particular group of kids and workers that you had ministered to/with was disbanding. But there would always be next year, with perhaps a little different group of workers and kids attending. The great mix of activities that VBS offers our kids, all with a Christ-centered emphasis, makes it effective in impacting children and youth in a spiritual, godly way. As a former pastor, I still remember the music, Bible stories, mission emphasis, crafts, recreation, and snacks that all combined to make VBS an adventure for our children each year. And then there was reaching new kids in the community and inviting/bringing them to VBS. It's just a tremendous ministry, and I thank all of our MBA churches that are able to have a VBS in the summer. My visits this summer took me to Bethlehem Baptist in Hazel Green, where God moved in an extraordinary way during their 5-day VBS. This church's VBS consisted of 87 workers ministering to 223 children (age 3 to grade 6). An incredible number (62) of these children prayed to receive Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and Lord during the week. These salvation experiences occurred during the entire 5-day time in multiple teaching/Bible study groups, and each child was counseled with. Thus, God's hand was upon the VBS at Bethlehem in a special way resulting in the salvation of so many precious children. Jesus said, "...I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents." (Luke 15:10) Each indi-

vidual person/soul is valuable to God thus, it makes heaven happy when even one person comes to Christ. Well, heaven is certainly rejoicing as a result of Bethlehem Baptist and all of the other churches in our Association who have labored faithfully in VBS and other ministries throughout the entire year. Everyone keep up the good work, and remember that your labor is not in vain for the Lord.

Your Director of Missions,
Charlie

- Aug 17..... Bold Moves Discipleship Conference (Willowbrook, 10:00 AM)
- Aug 21.....MBA Executive Board Mtg. (MBA, 10:00 AM)
- Aug 26..... SS & Discipleship Leader Training (Lindsay Lane, Athens)
- Sept 4..... Labor Day (MBA Closed)
- Sept 10-17 Week of Prayer for State Missions & Myers-Mallory State Missions Offering
- Sept 12..... WMU: "Weaving the Missions Thread" (University, 7:00 PM)
- Sept 14..... Minister's Conference (MBA, 10:30 AM)
The Top Ten Leadership Challenges for Busy Pastors
- Sept 14..... ACPs & Leadership Worksheets Due
- Sept 16..... Trail of Tears Mission Opportunity (Madison, AL, 9:00 AM)

Weaving the Missions Thread

Charlotte Madison, Alabama WMU Trustee, retired pastor's wife and Spanish teacher, will lead us in integrating a cohesive missions emphasis across multiple generations and more.

Tuesday: September 12, 2017 Time: 7:00pm-9:00pm
University Baptist Church, 809 Jordan Lane, Huntsville 35816
 (Enter through Fellowship Hall in rear of Church)

There will be a Time of Prayer for our Myers-Mallory State Missions Offering
 Contact Paula Bowen at [256-880-2831](tel:256-880-2831) or Paula.Bowen@att.net for more info .

ATTENTION CHURCH CLERKS!
ACPs and Leadership Worksheets are due September 14! Please contact Denise (256-536-0015) if you have any questions or need assistance.

Minister's Conference
Thursday, September 14, 10:30 a.m.

Our guest speaker will be State Missionary Mike Jackson, and the subject will be *The Top Ten Leadership Challenges for Busy Pastors.*

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

We look forward to seeing you there!

Executive Board meeting
Monday, August 21st
10:00 a.m.

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