



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,
MAY
19,
2016

INVESTING IN ETERNITY THROUGH THE 99 CLUB

By Harold Chandler, Chairman

Last year’s report was so great that I want to begin by quoting the beginning of it, then give an **update**.

“We have both **good news** and **bad news**. The **good news** is that we have just approved \$10,000 each to 2 new churches through the 99 Club. First, the Simple Church, Rev. Jimmy Brantley, pastor, is located at 7041 Moores Mill Road, North of Winchester Road in Northeast Huntsville. The Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions gave \$25,000 toward the purchase of a church building and land.

“The other is the House of Hope and Restoration (an African American church), Rev. Jarman Leatherwood, pastor, which is located at 4619 Commercial Drive, just off Jordan Lane in Northwest Huntsville. The 99 Club has approved \$10,000 for them and the State Board of Missions has approved \$30,000 for them (including \$5,000 for startup cost). Both churches bought property well under the appraised value.

“The **bad news** is that inasmuch as we have approved \$20,000 to 2 churches in less than 6 months, this has greatly reduced our balance to assist other churches. This is compared with an average of gifts to one new church every 1-1/2—2 years for 23 years. We greatly **need more new members** and continued support from our present members.” The **update** by the New Works committee, Frank Swalley, Chm, is that both churches are doing exceptionally well.

Our Association now has 92 congregations: 87 churches, 3 churches with 2 campuses and 2 churches under watch care, one of which may come into our association in October.

When a new church is ready to buy land, for every \$1.00 given by the 99 Club, the Cooperative Program matches it with \$2.50! What a wonderful return on laying up treasure in heaven. The Madison Baptist Association has been a leader in new church starts for over a quarter of a century. An average of about one new church a year has been coming into our Association since 1988!

It is estimated that about **161,000** people in our county are **un-churched!** With few exceptions, new or recent church starts win people to Christ at a greater ratio of people to members than long established churches. According to reports in The Alabama Baptist, the Madison Baptist Association churches had the second largest number of baptisms for several years in our state, second only to either the Birmingham or Mobile Associations.

The **purpose** of the 99 Club is to provide funds to new churches to purchase property for new church facilities. We started the 99 Club 22 years ago and provided \$5,000 for each qualifying church. Since then we have raised the amount **up to \$10,000**. The Alabama Baptist State Convention has increased the amount that they provide **up to \$25,000**. Obviously, this means that we drastically need to **double** our 99 Club membership in order to adequately support our new church starts. Individuals, mission organizations, Sunday School classes and churches are also encouraged to join. Notice that we have two new committee members: Alan Jones and Gary Swafford.

We are truly grateful to all who are already members of the 99 Club! Some of our loyal supporters have already given \$300, \$500, \$1,000, \$2,000 or more. **If you are not yet a member, please prayerfully consider agreeing to give \$99 a year for at least 3 years (or \$297 if you prefer).** You may do so by completing the form below and mailing it with your check to the Madison Baptist Association for the 99 Club to the address below. This gift can be made **IN HONOR OF** or **IN MEMORY OF** a loved one or a friend. **IF YOU ARE ALREADY A MEMBER, NOW IS THE TIME TO SEND IN YOUR GIFT. THANK YOU! (Your gift is tax deductible!)**

Memory of _____ **In Honor of** _____

Contact Person: _____ **Telephone:** _____

Address: _____

YOUR NAME: _____ **PHONE: (256)** _____

YOUR ADDRESS: _____

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP: _____

MBA2016

PLEASE MAIL TO :

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