

2016

Executive Board Staff Reports

Developing Leaders

Gary Mathes - Church Revitalization

Church Revitalization is a topic of great interest both nationally and in our own state. This past year churches in our state discovered ways to strengthen their ministry through the renewal process called *Momentum: A Church Revitalization Strategy*. To assist churches with a thorough assessment of their health and needs, the MBC makes available the *Vital Sign Health Assessment Tool*, which can be downloaded from the convention website at no charge. Additionally, five churches utilized the *Transformational Church Assessment Tool* (TCAT) and were provided consultation to help interpret and process the survey results leading them to identify action priorities.

Sixty-five pastors and their families came to the MB125 Pastor's Conference in Branson. They were encouraged by speakers Chuck Kelley of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Micah Fries, vice president of LifeWay Research.

This past year the MBC offered Transitional Pastor Ministry training events in Springfield and Jefferson City to prepare more ministers to be available to help pastor-less churches, and MBC staff educated and assisted a number of churches to understand the transitional process and find a transitional pastor.

Three deacon training events were conducted in churches and associations to help prepare and educate men called to deacon ministry.

Dwain Carter - Disaster Relief

Disaster Relief (DR) hosted four training events this year, adding many new volunteers to the response teams. DR also added several new recovery units and two new shower units to the volunteer fleet.

The Christmas floods in December 2015 saw a major response effort resulting in 21 state conventions assisting, 19 salvations and hundreds of families hearing the gospel through help, hope and healing provided by MBC DR. Disaster Relief responded to calls from Texas during summer flooding as well.

MBC DR had another great team of college interns throughout the summer. Four young men assisted all summer in response to Texas flooding and during events like the Southern Baptist Convention and Crossover in St. Louis. Disaster Relief provided all of the child care during the SBC as well as providing feeding and shower units during Crossover.

In May 2015 an earthquake devastated Nepal. Missouri Disaster Relief responded by means of funding and volunteers. In May of 2016 Dwain Carter was provided the opportunity to go with Baptist Global Response and help with community development training along with National Nepali Partners.

Joe Ulveling – Family Ministry

The family is the core of our society. Family ministry specialist Joe Ulveling spoke at numerous marriage, parenting, men’s and family events. By strengthening families, we will in turn be strengthening our churches.

The Minister’s Juggling Act, a retreat for ministers and wives, was at capacity this year with 85 couples in attendance. This event meets a specific need by encouraging ministers and wives. The MBC continues to hear comments how marriages are being strengthened as well as addressing leadership issues that empower and encourage those attending.

Ulveling continues to receive many calls from churches that are now starting family/marriage ministry. He reports that several of these churches grow their small groups and worship attendance by using family/marriage studies as an outreach to their community.

Through the Cooperative Program, all Missouri Baptists have a part in making a difference in marriages and families throughout the state.

Executive Office

Business Services and Properties Management Group

Joe Ulveling, Group Leader

Samantha Spencer - Controller

The Business Services Group is the Cooperative Program’s entry portal for the MBC. The group accounts for all church receipts and allocates the monies to the appropriate ministries and missions. Below are the receipts processed by Business Services for the year ending Dec.31, 2015:

Cooperative Program	\$14,815,502
Rheubin L. South Missouri Missions Offering	\$ 754,843
Lottie Moon Offering	\$ 4,244,074
Annie Armstrong Offering	\$ 2,147,308

A clean audit opinion was received from auditors for the year ending Dec. 31, 2015.

Gene Foster – Human Resources / GuideStone / Church Ministries Specialist

The HR/GuideStone office helped more than 900 churches participate in the church retirement plan this year. There were more than 100 new participants added to the GuideStone church retirement plan. HR/GuideStone participated in 12 compensation planning seminars, 15 church tax-filing seminars, and five planning-for-retirement seminars. HR also administered the MBC personnel policies and benefits.

HR/GuideStone assisted many Missouri Baptists with individual needs such as retirement option choices, retirement applications, insurance applications, ACA questions, troubleshooting claims requests, coverage questions, etc. In addition, the HR office facilitated the continued participation by the MBC in the “Mission Dignity” Program.

Other work included participation in several statewide meetings such as the MBC annual meeting, mb125, and evangelism conference.

Brooks Crawford – Properties Management Specialist

The Properties Management staff maintains the Jefferson City convention building, High Point Road conference center, Disaster Relief warehouse, five BSU buildings and fleet management. The staff serves by cleaning, setting up for meetings, conducting light construction, and doing repairs and regular maintenance at these locations.

Spencer Hutson – Liaison / Strategic Partners

The liaison connects Missouri Baptists in MBC churches, associations, and other organizations for the purpose of enhancing effective ministries that lie outside the scope of MBC’s vision and mission. In addition, the office of the liaison works with institutions, MBC and SBC entities, and other organizations, striving to raise awareness among Missouri Baptists of available non-MBC financial support for ministry activities.

The office of the liaison works directly with directors of missions and the DOM Fellowship, and assists in planning DOM conferences in the spring and fall.

Stewardship for churches is promoted through the liaison, who works with local churches and associations. The office provides a limited amount of resources available on the MBC website at no charge to churches, and provides access to other resources at a reduced cost, all supported by Cooperative Program giving.

The liaison continues to assist churches in church-facilities planning and point them to available resources both for plans and capital funding.

When churches have a question about who to talk to about a specific ministry need, the office of the liaison is a good resource.

Laura Wells - Missouri WMU Executive Director / Consultant

Missouri WMU is making an impact in Missouri. Several WMU new organizations were started again this year, and for the fourth year running, the Missouri Missions Offering exceeded the goal. Also, the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering reached its highest amount ever in the history of the offering - \$165.8 million. Thank you for your generous giving!

The 2016 Missions Celebration / Annual Meeting was held at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City. The new chapel building is beautiful. Approximately 325 were in attendance. The theme was "All for You: Surrender, Sacrifice, Serve." Rosalie Hunt brought the theme interpretations. IMB missionaries Darrel and Kimberly Hathcock (European Peoples) and Michelle (South Asian Peoples; last name omitted for security reasons) shared testimonies and about their ministries. NAMB Church Planting Missionary Matt Marrs gave his personal testimony and shared information about church planting in Kansas City. And Dwain Carter, MBC, also gave his testimony and gave a Disaster Relief update. Approximately 53 people were involved in mission projects in the Kansas City area.

In March, the seventh annual Parents of Missionaries Retreat was held in Jefferson City. Fifteen were in attendance. Jackie Bursmeyer, retired IMB missionary, shared about her work in Chile.

Thirty-six emeritus missionaries attended Missionary Retreat held at Cross Pointe Retreat Center in October.

Teri Broeker – Preschool / Children / Student Missions Consultant

Eight young ladies attended the Emerging Leader Summit in Jefferson City, where they prepared for leadership during training sessions and activities. They served in leadership roles during the year.

Missions Exploration was held in October in five locations around the state with 622 in attendance. First- through sixth-grade boys and girls met cowboy church leaders, enjoyed general sessions, and participated in mission activities with a western theme.

Sixty-two teen girls and their leaders attended PURSUIT at FBC, Camdenton. Girls heard testimony from Tish Hedger and Kimbre Thrower, attended breakout sessions, and participated in ministry projects in the community. HLGU's Praise Song led in worship.

Many Missouri mission organizations took part in Children's Ministry Day Feb. 13, 2016.

More than 400 were in attendance at the 2016 RA Congress in Sedalia. Royal Ambassadors met IMB missionaries Don and Diane Combs during the worship rally and enjoyed music led by the youth praise team from FBC, Troy. First- through sixth-grade boys took part in general sessions and participated in the traditional RA Congress competitions.

Don Hinkle – Editor, *The Pathway* and Public Policy Advisor

The Pathway's readership topped 51,000 in 2016. Readership on all three platforms – print, website and app – experienced unprecedented increases. The print edition of *The Pathway* is now the fifth largest paid circulated newspaper in Missouri. *The Pathway* website (mbcpathway.com), also won an award from the prestigious Evangelical Press Association.

The 11th annual Legislative Prayer Service -- sponsored by *The Pathway*, Concord Baptist Church, and the Christian Life Commission -- was held in January at Concord Baptist Church, drawing record attendance. Jason Allen, president of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City served as keynote speaker. Attendees included a record number of Missouri General Assembly and Supreme Court members.

The Pathway, along with the Christian Life Commission and Hannibal-LaGrange University, sponsored the fifth annual Christian Worldview Conference in April, held at HLGU. The conference's theme was "The Family in America."

Don Hinkle led a statewide coalition in an attempt to secure passage of the Missouri Religious Freedom Amendment (SJR 39), which would have put religious liberty protections into the "Bill of Rights" of the Missouri Constitution. The effort fell just short, but attempts to win passage will continue in 2017.

Making Disciples

Matt Kearns – Catalyst

Collegiate Ministry

Members of the collegiate ministry staff are excited to be a part of what God is doing in and through the lives of students in Missouri. God is mobilizing the next generation to reach the lost on college campuses and beyond. Here are a few highlights from the last year.

Engage Leadership Development Conference: This year 268 college students, campus missionaries, and leaders attended Engage 2016 for a weekend of teaching on growing as a leader and being a change maker. Other conference topics addressed making disciples, living on mission, effective communication, and racial conciliation.

Summer Missions: In 2016, 63 summer missionaries were commissioned to serve with 32 mentors in associations and camps across Missouri. As of July 1, 2016, there were reports of 476 spiritual encounters, 160 professions of faith, and five baptisms taking place through their ministry.

Youth Evangelism

Super Summer: During two weeks of Super Summer at Hannibal-LaGrange University, there were 757 students and leaders represented from 63 churches between the two weeks of camp. Twenty-one students give their lives to Christ; 52 expressed a call from God on their life to serve Him in ministry/missions, and 43 made other decisions they felt God leading them to make during those two weeks.

The Project: Through a partnership with Global Encounter Ministries, MBC missionaries had the opportunity to serve alongside 50 churches with more than 550 students, youth leaders and staff to minister to 879 children through Vacation Bible School in churches and parks across the St. Louis metro area. During that week of ministry, 106 children and youth gave their lives to Christ.

Vacation Bible School

Christy Nance continues to serve as state VBS coordinator to oversee VBS training for associational VBS directors and their VBS teams. There were two associational trainings in 2016 with a total of 228 people from 26 different associations in attendance.

Evangelism Conference

This year the MBC Evangelism Conference, “Desperate for Jesus,” was hosted February 4-5 at Crossway Baptist Church, Springfield. The 685 in attendance heard from speakers Jimmy Scroggins, Bill Elliff, Anthony Allen, Vernon Armitage, Bill Hull, and Michael Catt. The host church provided worship leadership by Mark Mathes.

Ministry Support

Rob Phillips - Catalyst

As part of the MBC’s reorientation, the Ministry Support Group was formed late last year, combining Creative Services with Media, Technology & Events.

In Creative Services, the MBC’s graphic designer, videographer, and web/social media specialist continued to improve integration of video, audio, and social media into the MBC’s web presence. Video continues to play an expanding role in MBC ministries, while the convention’s presence on Facebook is among the most active among the SBC’s state conventions.

In June, the group unveiled the Scripture theme for the 2016 Missouri Missions Offering – Hebrews 13:16 – and produced electronic resources that reduced mailing costs and made it easier for Missouri Baptists to download and share MMO materials.

Finally, Creative Services produced a new apologetics resource in print and Kindle editions: *The Apologist’s Tool Kit: 3rd Edition*.

In Media, Technology & Events, the staff has upgraded all desktop and mobile devices, improved the speed and reliability of information networks, enhanced the convention's database, and significantly lowered the cost of IT services.

The group also provided audio-visual and set design support for all major MBC events.

Multiplying Churches

Rick Hedger – Catalyst

The MBC Multiplying Churches Group focuses on transforming lives and communities with the gospel in Missouri, the U.S., and around the world. As a result, reports through the MBC Kingdom Growth Tracking System from May 2015 through April 2016 include over 3,500 evangelistic encounters, resulting in 180 baptisms with a current church membership of 1,750 and Cooperative Program giving of \$93,304.

Twenty new church planting missionaries were assessed. Twenty-six church planting teams participated in Basic Training. Advances have been made with local churches to multiply church planters in a pipe-line for future discovery, development and deployment. There are currently four Multiplying Churches missionaries and eight Multiplying Churches field assistants in Missouri to assist MBC churches in this process.

MBC is currently in official partnerships outside of Missouri to assist in multiplying churches in the HIS (Heartland Interstate Strategy); Iowa; Hudson Baptist Association New York; Puebla, Mexico; and Northeast Italy. The latest ACP report indicated that MBC has 483 churches or 25 percent involved in multiplying churches in at least one of these fields if not all three. One hundred fifty-two churches indicated involvement in funding a new church plant and 232 churches expressed interest in participating in multiplying churches.

Strategic Partners

Missouri Baptist Children's Home

Missouri Baptist Children's Home *"Serves God by Assisting Children, Youth and Families to make a lasting difference in their lives."*

In 2015, the MBCH family of corporations touched the lives of 4,413 children and families. Fourteen children in residential programs and numerous others in foster homes made professions of faith. Four hundred eighty children found loving, forever families. Seventy-eight babies were born who may have not been given life without this ministry.

MBCH Children and Family Ministries (MBCH CFM) delivered 325,128 days of service (one consumer for one day). Approximately 93 percent of all ministries were provided in community-based programs rather than on a residential campus.

Forty-five young women (37 adults and 8 minors) were served through the “*Freedom 43:19*” human trafficking rescue ministry.

MBCH CFM developed a partnership with the Jennings School District to provide housing for homeless youth in that district.

Eight adults with developmental disabilities were ministered to in the Country Haven house on the Byrne Campus in Peculiar.

Transitional living programs in Bridgeton, Springfield, and Mt. Vernon helped 54 young people prepare to leave foster care and become independent.

Intensive Family Reunification Services offered hope and restoration to 13 families.

Hannibal-LaGrange University

For the thirteenth year in a row, HLGU has been named one of America’s Best Christian Colleges by Institutional Research & Evaluation, Inc. The 2015-16 school year wrapped up with 14 out of 17 athletic teams being named All-Scholar Teams by the NAIA for earning an average GPA of 3.0 or higher for the fall and spring semesters.

In May, HLGU Senior Kristen Garwood completed her collegiate running career, and earned the distinction as the most decorated individual athlete in our history. Her greatest achievement came this year, winning the NAIA 5K Indoor National Championship.

During Welcome Week, HLGU students once again took part in the annual Hannibal's Helping Hands community service project. This year, close to 200 students went out into the Hannibal community and performed more than 400 hours of community service.

The school continues to offer a 50 percent tuition scholarship for fulltime Southern Baptist students.

HLGU’s 75th Annual Booster Banquet will feature Darryl Strawberry, former MLB right fielder, known for his fearsome home run hits and intimidating 6'6" presence in the batter's box. This annual event will take place on Friday, Nov. 11. Please visit hlg.edu for more information.

Southwest Baptist University

Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Mo., is a Christ-centered, caring academic community preparing students to be servant leaders in a global society.

During the past year, construction started on the renovation and expansion of the Gene Taylor National Free Enterprise Center that houses the Robert W. Plaster College of Business and Computer Science. The new Nursing and Health Sciences Training Center on the Springfield campus opened in August, with a new state-of-the-art simulation lab and learning resource center. Other campus improvements, including the renovation of Leslie Hall, were completed during the summer.

The master of business administration program was reinstated during the past academic year. New degree programs for 2016-17 include computational finance, computer science education, and Christian studies and physics.

Students, faculty and staff continue to travel the world spreading the gospel through teams organized by SBU's Center for Global Connections.

SBU has been selected as one of America's Best Christian Colleges annually since 1996 and has been recognized as one of America's Best College Buys since 1997. SBU also is one of 25 universities in the U.S. to receive an "A" rating from the American Council of Trustees and Alumni.