

Executive Board Staff Reports

Developing Leaders

Gary Mathes, Church Revitalization

The Transitional Pastor ministry helps churches that have lost pastors become healthier and better prepared to seek and discover a new pastor, and help them begin well. Gary Mathes led a team to train more transitional pastors in Cape Girardeau and Kansas City. Also, a number of churches received education to understand the transitional process, and to find a transitional pastor.

Seventy-three pastors and their families came to the MB125 Pastor's Conference in Branson. They were encouraged to "Shepherd with Joy" by speakers Mark Dance, vice president of LifeWay Pastors, and Mark Hallock, Pastor of Calvary Church in Englewood, Colo.

MBC hosted the National State Leaders Church Revitalization conference at Midwestern Seminary in Kansas City. Mathes facilitated 40 leaders from state and national entities to tackle how to best assist churches needing and requesting help with revitalization. MBC also partnered with associations in the southwest region and First Baptist Branson to host the first Renovate – Church Revitalization conference in our state.

Churches continue to use the *Vital Sign Health Assessment Tool*, which may be downloaded for free from our website. Mathes assisted churches with this tool to help them undergo a thorough assessment of their health and needs, and lead them to identify action priorities.

Dwain Carter, Disaster Relief

Disaster Relief (DR) hosted five training events this year, including a special Recertification Event that offered Level 2 training for previously trained volunteers. DR also is working with an MBC church to build a refrigeration unit.

The April and May floods in Missouri saw a major response effort, resulting in 195 gospel presentations and 25 salvations through help, hope, and healing provided by MBC DR. Disaster Relief also responded to calls from Oklahoma early in the year during a winter ice storm.

MBC DR had another great team of college interns throughout the summer. Six young ladies assisted throughout the summer in response to Missouri flooding and wind storms.

In 2013 and 2014, MBC DR responded to a typhoon in the Philippines. Since then, 11 new churches have been planted. In July, Dwain Carter spent 10 days training local pastors in community development and disaster response.

Joe Ulveling, Family Ministry

Joe Ulveling spoke at several marriage, parenting, men's and family events. The family is the bedrock of our society. By strengthening families, we will in turn strengthen our churches.

The Minister's Juggling Act, a retreat for ministers and wives, was at capacity this year with 55 couples in attendance. This event meets a specific need by encouraging ministers and

wives. The MBC continues to receive feedback about how marriages are being strengthened as well as addressing leadership issues that empower and encourage those attending.

Family Ministry continues to receive many calls from churches that are now starting family/marriage ministries. These churches have seen their leaders developed and families/marriages transformed as a result of their new ministries.

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, 2016:

Cooperative Program	\$14,522,278
Rheubin L. South Missouri Missions Offering	\$ 705,506
Lottie Moon Offering	\$ 4,064,888
Annie Armstrong Offering	\$ 2,101,851

A clean audit opinion was received from auditors for the year ending Dec. 31, 2016.

Gene Foster, Human Resources/Church Benefits

The HR/Church Benefits office helped more than 900 churches participate in the church retirement plan this year. There were 100-plus new participants added to the GuideStone church retirement plan. HR/Church Benefits participated in eight associational meetings, 12 compensation planning seminars, and 10 church tax filing seminars. HR also administered the MBC personnel policies and benefits.

HR/Church Benefits 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 the Great Commission 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 on Missouri college campuses, and the convention staff's fleet of vehicles.

The staff serves by cleaning, setting up for meetings, conducting light construction, and doing repairs and regular maintenance at these locations.

Liaison/Strategic Partners

Spencer Hutson, Liaison

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 a DOM conference in the spring.

The liaison in 2017 is organizing the Pray Across Missouri effort, in which the Executive Director is leading prayer meetings in each county seat in Missouri.

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 Woman's Missionary Union continues to be important and relevant in our Missouri Baptist churches. Twenty-eight new WMU groups were started across the state in the past year. WMU emphasizes supporting missions through prayer, learning about missions, giving, and going. Thank you for giving generously to the Missouri Missions Offering, the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering this year. Please continue to help support missionaries through your generous giving to these offerings.

The 2017 Missions Celebration/Annual Meeting was held at First Baptist Church, Lebanon. Approximately 315 were in attendance. The theme was "By All Means." New National WMU President, Linda Cooper, presented the theme interpretation. IMB missionaries from the South Asian People Group ("S" Family) and Southeast Asian People Group ("N" Family) shared their testimonies. NAMB Church Planting Missionary, Matt Clark, shared about ministry in St. Louis among refugees. Matt Kearns, MBC, gave his testimony and thanked WMU for his missions upbringing. Fifty-one people participated in six different mission projects at the church and around the community.

Thirty-six emeritus missionaries attended a Missionary Retreat held at CrossPointe Retreat Center in October.

Teri Broeker, Missouri WMU Age Level

Teri Broeker serves as MWMU Preschool/Children/Student Missions Consultant. Kimbre Thrower served as Preschool Specialist through April, turning over all things Mission Friends to Vivian Howell. Lori Bohannon served as Children's Specialist, which includes Girls in Action, Royal Ambassadors, and Children in Action. Ruth Biellier served as Student Specialist through April, then turned over Acteens, Challengers, and Youth on Mission to Janet York. Jonathan Banderman began in April as RA/Challenger Specialist.

Throughout the year, the specialists work together ,planning age-level events, encouraging existing organizations, helping new starts, and leading in training and workshops. The specialists enlist special workers to help with these responsibilities.

One teen girl, Makayla Dickerson, served as Emerging Leader from July-June.

Four-hundred and eighty-eight girls and leaders attended the GA Retreat. With *Planted in Missions* for a theme, girls met Missouri church planters and took part in Bible study and other learning activities with a "planting" theme. Three salvation experiences were reported.

Three-hundred and ninety-three attended the RA Congress. They heard from Missionary/Military Chaplain, Michael Thomas. Boys participated in traditional RA Congress sports, racers, campcraft and project hall events. Fee Fee Baptist Church, Bridgeton, turned over the traveling trophy to FBC Willard.

The Pathway and Public Policy

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

The Pathway's circulation will top 25,000 in 2017 for the first time in its history, making *The Pathway* the fifth largest paid circulated newspaper in Missouri. Readership on both platforms – print and website – has topped the 55,000 mark.

The Pathway also won four awards for writing and website design with the prestigious Evangelical Press Association. The newspaper also won an award for writing from the Baptist Communicators Association.

Don Hinkle led a statewide coalition that secured passage of Senate Bill 43. Background: In 2015, a nurse, fired by St. Francis Hospital in St Louis, filed a sex discrimination lawsuit under the Missouri Human Rights Act (MHRA). The case went to the Missouri Supreme Court and, inexplicably, the court removed the longstanding religious exemption from the MHRA. That left the Missouri Baptist Children's Home, Hannibal-LaGrange and Southwest Baptist Universities exposed to possible discrimination lawsuits. Passage of Senate Bill 43 restored the religious exemption in the MHRA, ensuring First Amendment protections for Missouri Baptist entities.

Hinkle, along with the Christian Life Commission, were part of a coalition that helped secure passage of some of the strongest pro-life legislation in the state's history during July's special session of the General Assembly.

Making Disciples

Matt Kearns, Catalyst

Collegiate Ministry

MBC's collegiate missionaries 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.

Summer Missions: In 2017, 88 summer missionaries were commissioned to serve with 45 mentors in churches, associations, and camps across the state of Missouri. As of July 1, 2017, there were reports of 1,374 spiritual encounters, 195 professions of faith, and 13 baptisms as a result of their ministry.

Youth Evangelism

Super Summer: The MBC hosted two weeks of Super Summer at Hannibal-LaGrange University in June. There were 820 students and leaders represented from 60 churches between the two weeks of camp. During Super Summer, 39 students gave their lives to Christ, eight expressed a call from God on their life to serve him in ministry/missions, and 53 made other decisions.

The Project: Through the MBC's partnership with Global Encounter Ministries, state missionaries served alongside 43 churches with more than 600 students, youth leaders and staff to minister to more than 900 children through VBS ministry in 16 churches and parks across the St. Louis metro area. During that week of ministry, 52 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 three associational trainings in 2017 with a total of 152 people from 26 different associations in attendance.

Great Commission Conference

The Great Commission Conference was hosted Feb. 23-25 at Ridgecrest Baptist Church, Springfield. The 686 in attendance heard from speakers Alvin Reid, David Garrison, Ed Stetzer, Ed and Kathy Litton, Greg Stier, Sen. James Lankford, John Avant, and Michael Card. The Chris White Band led worship.

Ministry Support

Rob Phillips, Catalyst

The Ministry Support Group provides the state missionary staff with creatives services, media and technology support, and assistance with the staging and production of MBC events.

The group is completing a year-long Cooperative Program informational campaign focused on how CP works in Missouri. In addition, they have launched promotion of the 2017 Missouri Missions Offering season, producing electronic resources that reduce mailing costs and make it easier to download and share MMO materials.

In Creative Services, the MBC's graphic designer, videographer, and web/social media specialist continue 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.

Creative Services also released two new apologetics books in print and Kindle editions.

In Media, Technology & Events, the staff continues to improve the speed and reliability of information networks, enhance the convention's database, simplify the Annual Church Profile, and lower the cost of IT services.

MT&E also provides 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 2016 through April 2017 include more than 5,600 evangelistic encounters, resulting in 211 baptisms, with a current church membership of 1,440 and Cooperative Program giving of \$101,381.

Advances have been made with local churches to multiply church planters in a pipeline for future discovery, development, and deployment. The desire is to see 100 potential church planters in this pipeline. Strategies have been developed to assist associations and local churches to discover, engage, and multiply churches among pockets of previously unnoticed communities all over Missouri. There are currently three Multiplying Churches missionaries and seven Multiplying Churches field assistants to serve MBC churches in this process.

MBC is currently engaged in multiplying churches strategies in Puebla, Mexico and northeast Italy through 2020. Likewise, strategies have been developed to engage in partnership with the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention for making disciples, multiplying churches, and developing leaders across their states with the approval of Missouri Baptists at the 2017 annual meeting.

Strategic Partners Reports

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 2016, the MBCH family of corporations touched the lives of 4,235 children and families. There were 19 professions of faith and/or baptisms among those served in residential programs at MBCH.

Five hundred thirty-nine children found loving, forever families. Seventy-eight babies were born who may not have been given life without this ministry.

MBCH Children and Family Ministries (MBCH CFM) delivered 312,044 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.

One hundred forty-nine children were in treatment foster homes, and 565 children and youth were in family foster homes. MBCH maintained 346 foster/adoptive and/or relative/kinship homes. An additional 398 homes were maintained in northwest Missouri under contract with the State of Missouri.

Thirty-nine young women (23 adults and 16 minors) were served through the “*Freedom 43:19*” human trafficking rescue ministry.

Transitional living programs in Bridgeton, Springfield and Mt. Vernon served 64 young people as they prepared to leave foster care and become independent.

Intensive Family Reunification Services offered hope and restoration to 15 families.

Historical Commission

Dennis Gard, Chairman

The Missouri Baptist Historical Commission is celebrating the 200th anniversary of the missionary movement in Missouri. Two-hundred years ago, John Peck came to Missouri with the gospel message to bring the frontier to Christ. Today, the Historical Commission celebrates the achievement of our forefathers who ensured the gospel was spread throughout the nation.

In April, the Historical Commission held its annual meeting in Cape Girardeau, where Dr. John Yeats joined the Commission by touring Old Bethel Baptist Church. During the annual meeting, the Commission awarded the *Missouri Baptist Heritage Scholarship* to Draden Michael Davis of First Baptist Church, Butler. Draden will attend Southwest Baptist University, Bolivar, in the fall. The commission also decided to expand the scholarship opportunity to more students by eliminating the grade restriction to allow juniors and seniors in college to apply. The Commission encourages pastors to help promote the scholarship in an effort to increase applications for SBU and HLGU.

If a church is celebrating a milestone anniversary, please visit www.baptistparchments.org and register for the MBC historical recognition plaque in celebration of such an achievement. May God bless Missouri Baptists another two-hundred years or until the Lord returns.

Higher Education Institution Reports

Hannibal-LaGrange University

President: Dr. Anthony Allen

For the fourteenth year in a row, Hannibal-LaGrange University has been named one of America’s Best Christian Colleges by Institutional Research & Evaluation, Inc. During the 2016-17 school year, the Trojans also saw 27 NAIA-Daktronics Scholar Athlete Awards given to HLGU student athletes. Each of these junior and senior athletes earned a GPA above a 3.5.

HLGU students once again took part in the school’s annual welcome week tradition of Hannibal’s Helping Hands, a community service project. This year, close to 200 students went out into the Hannibal community and performed over 400 hours of community service. In addition, students and HLGU representatives traveled locally, nationally, and internationally on mission trips. A few of the mission fields included Chicago, New York, Canada, Southeast Asia, and Switzerland.

The school continues to offer a 50% tuition scholarship for full-time Southern Baptist students.

The first cohort of the school's Master of Education in Education Administration started in January 2017. This program offers two tracks including Elementary Principalship (K-8) and Secondary Principalship (7-12). HLGU also offers completely online master's degrees in leadership (MAL) and education (MSE). Go to www.hlg.edu/online for information.

Southwest Baptist University

President: Dr. C. Pat Taylor

Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Mo., is launching two new degree programs this year. A bachelor's degree in cybersecurity prepares students for jobs that are in extremely high demand among employers. The 42-hour Master of Arts in Christian Ministry is an innovative approach to blending theology with ministry with practical application as a part of every course.

Students continue to exhibit leadership and academic excellence. More than 200 students traveled around the world to serve others as part of 24 mission teams; Enactus placed in the top eight in the nation; the Speaking Bearcats speech and debate team placed in the top three in the nation; and competitive computer program teams placed first and third in regional competition.

It also was the best year ever for SBU Bearcats athletics. Football made the national playoffs, men's tennis made it to the final four in the nation, women's track and field was nationally ranked and competed well in national competition, and baseball and softball both had 30-plus wins. Student-athletes also excelled in the classroom, winning prestigious awards for both athletic and academic performance.