

Executive Board Staff Reports

Developing Leaders

Jim Misloski, Catalyst

From July of 2017 to April of 2018, Jim Misloski served as interim director of missions (DOM) for the Spring River Baptist Association (SRBA). The SRBA, like many associations, was asking the question, “Why do we have an association?” During the interim, SRBA leaders recaptured a vision and purpose for the association and are moving forward with a new DOM. Misloski’s experience with the SRBA continues to inform decisions in the Developing Leaders group as state missionaries develop relationships with associations, their DOMs, and their churches.

In 2017, Dwain Carter, the MBC’s Disaster Relief director, left to take a similar position for Texas Baptist Men. His assistant, Tamara Parry, was named interim director. Almost immediately, hurricane Harvey struck Texas, with Irma and Maria following close behind. The Missouri Baptist Disaster Relief (MBDR) team did an excellent job of leading Missouri Baptists to respond. On July 1, 2018, Gaylon Moss, former director for North Carolina Baptist Men, began serving as director for MBDR.

The Developing Leaders group continues to review its work in light of MBC’s restructured mission. This year the MB125 event went on sabbatical. A revised plan in the works for 2019 promises to deliver on our vision to transform lives and communities with the gospel.

Gary Mathes, Church Revitalization

Fifteen MBC churches asked for and received resources and education on the Transitional Pastor ministry. This ministry leads congregations without pastors to be healthier and better prepared to identify a new pastor and move forward. Twenty-nine transitional pastors were trained to assist churches during interims in events held at Green County Baptist Association and Jefferson City.

Two weekend church revitalization workshops for associations were conducted, teaching pastors and church leaders to lead their congregations to assess, develop vision, plan strategically, and execute initiatives that result in greater health and effectiveness.

Gary Mathes joined with the North American Mission Board and associational leaders to help four MBC churches decide whether to be adopted or replanted by a healthier and stronger church.

Churches continue to take advantage of the *Vital Sign Health Assessment Tool*, which is a free download found at mobaptist.org. With this updated tool, Mathes led churches to undergo a thorough health and needs assessment and discover actionable priorities.

Four deacon training events held in churches and associations trained and encouraged men to serve effectively as deacons.

Disaster Relief

Hurricane Harvey offered the opportunity to bring help, hope, and healing in a big way. In Texas City, Texas, Missouri Baptist volunteers served more than 190,000 meals, cleaned in

excess of 100 homes, and provided child care, showers, laundry and mold treatment to residents. The gospel was presented 61 times during that response, and there were two salvations reported as a result. More than \$350,000 went directly to victim relief because Missouri Baptists were faithful in giving to the Harvey response efforts.

MBC DR also hosted four training events this year, and was blessed to another great team of college interns throughout the summer. Four students assisted with child care and helped provide additional relief in response to tornadoes and flooding across the U.S.

In July, MBC DR brought on a new state director, Gaylon Moss. Moss comes from North Carolina Baptist Men, where he served as director of disaster relief for the last 19 years.

Joe Ulveling, Family Ministry

Joe Ulveling spoke at numerous marriage and family events over the last year.

The Minister's Juggling Act, a retreat for ministers and wives, was at capacity in 2017 with 57 couples in attendance. This event meets a specific need by encouraging ministers and wives. Topics covered included leadership, marriage, family, and spiritual growth.

Ulveling continues to receive many calls from churches that are now starting marriage/family ministries. Many of these fledgling ministries are seeing their class size grow as they promote marriage/family topics to their churches and communities.

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

Executive Office

Dr. John Yeats, Executive Director

Don Hinkle, *The Pathway*

The Pathway set another circulation record this past year, reaching approximately 26,500 subscribers, making it the fourth largest paid circulation newspaper in Missouri. Additionally, more than 40,000 Missourians visited *The Pathway* website over the past year, along with another 10,000-plus coming from other states and nations. Estimated total readership of *The Pathway* is approaching 100,000 per year, with about 60,000 coming from the print edition. *The Pathway* is read in more than 115 countries.

In April, *The Pathway* website was selected the top website for news by the Evangelical Press Association, the most prestigious award given in American Christian journalism. *The Pathway* provided more than 26,000 non-partisan voter guides for the 2018 elections.

Copies of *The Pathway* are sent to missionaries around the world. In addition, the newspaper is in three state prison libraries and is provided to every member of the Missouri General Assembly and statewide officeholder.

Don Hinkle completed his 16th year as the founding editor, while Associate Editor Dr. Ben Hawkins completed his doctoral work at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Assistant Editor Brian Koonce also completed his master's degree from Hannibal-LaGrange University.

The Pathway is made possible at no cost to subscribers through the generous support of Missouri Baptists to the Cooperative Program.

The Christian Life Commission

The Christian Life Commission (CLC) of the Missouri Baptist Convention exists to serve the churches of the Missouri Baptist Convention as their public policy advocates.

In 2017, the CLC voted unanimously to file an amicus brief in the *Masterpiece Cakeshop, Ltd. v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission* Supreme Court Case. By God’s grace, the court ruled favorably toward Jack Phillips and Masterpiece Cakeshop, asserting that there were “expressions of hostility to religion” in the Colorado Civil Rights Commission’s ruling.

The CLC, which meets four times a year, continues to support key pro-life and religious freedom legislation and to stand for biblical values in Jefferson City and throughout Missouri.

The CLC also exists to serve churches. One way the CLC assists churches is by reminding them of the importance of prayer for our elected officials. This year the CLC joined Concord Baptist Church in Jefferson City for its annual Legislative Prayer Service and was represented at the National Day of Prayer service at the State Capitol.

The Commission also sought to help churches by providing resources to churches to host voter-registration drives.

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. The receipts processed by Business Services for the year ending Dec. 31, 2017, are as follows:

Cooperative Program	\$14,586,054
Rheubin L. South Missouri Missions Offering	\$ 759,920
Lottie Moon Offering	\$ 3,624,071
Annie Armstrong Offering	\$ 2,268,149

Auditors issued a clean audit opinion for the year ending Dec. 31, 2017.

Gene Foster, Human Resources/Church Benefits

The HR/Church Benefits office helped more than 900 churches participate in the church retirement plan this year. HR/Church Benefits participated in 10 compensation-planning seminars and 10 church tax-filing seminars. HR/Church Benefits also administered the MBC property and casualty insurance policy, personnel policies, and benefits.

HR/Church Benefits assisted many Missouri Baptists with individual needs such as retirement options, retirement applications, insurance applications, troubleshooting claims requests, coverage questions, etc. HR/Church Benefits also assisted Missouri Baptist church finance, personnel, and pastor search committees with payroll tax questions, retirement plan set up, and church compensation and financial issues. In addition, this 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 and 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, and the MBC fleet of vehicles.

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 a DOM conference in the spring.

The liaison organized Pray Across Missouri, in which the Executive Director led prayer meetings in each county seat.

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 the Cooperative Program.

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

Spencer Hutson and Gene Foster are working with the Missouri Baptist Foundation and Miller Management to do a series of regional, church security, church fraud, and church stability conferences.

Laura Wells, Missouri WMU Executive Director/Consultant

Missouri Woman's Missionary Union (MWMU) encourages churches and individuals to be on mission in their communities, in Missouri, in North America, and around the world. MWMU emphasizes praying for missionaries, supporting missions through giving, learning about missions, and living a missional lifestyle. Twenty-five new WMU groups have been started across Missouri.

WMU thanks Missouri Baptists for promoting and giving generously to the Missouri Missions Offering, the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering! Please continue to give to these important offerings!

The 2018 Missions Celebration/Annual Meeting was held at South Gate Baptist Church, Springfield. Approximately 325 attended. The theme was "By All Means." Kristy Carr from National WMU presented the theme interpretation. IMB Missionaries representing the East Asian Peoples Group and the North African and Middle Eastern Peoples Group shared their testimonies and gave information about their ministries. MBC Church Planting Missionary Mark

Fugitt shared about church planting in Missouri. Spencer Hutson, MBC liaison, gave his testimony and shared information about project planning.

Forty-five people participated in seven different mission projects at the church and around the community.

Forty-three emeritus missionaries attended Missionary Retreat at CrossPointe Retreat Center in October.

Teri Broeker, Missouri WMU Age Level

Teri Broeker serves as MWMU Preschool/Children/Student Missions consultant. Throughout the year, she works with age-level specialists to plan events, encourage existing organizations, help new starts, and lead in training sessions and workshops. The specialists enlist special workers to help with these responsibilities.

Shannon Catron and Kayla Moore served as Missouri Acteen Council April 2017- April 2018. Two teen girls attended the Emerging Leader Summit.

First- through sixth-grade children and leaders attended Missions Exploration, hearing from missionaries working with refugees and/or international students. They participated in activities revolving around the theme: For God so Loved the World in Missouri.

PURSUIT joined Missions Celebration, combining generations. Teen girls stayed an extra day, participating in ministry, hearing from missionaries as well as national WMU leader Kristi Carr.

One IMB missionary shared about his work with North African and Middle Eastern Peoples with boys and leaders at RA Congress 2018. Boys participated in traditional RA Congress sports, racers, campcraft and project hall events. First Baptist Church of Willard turned over the traveling trophy to Victor Baptist Church in Annut.

Making Disciples

Matt Kearns, Catalyst

Collegiate Ministry

God is mobilizing the next generation to reach the lost on college campuses and beyond.

Summer Missions: In 2018, the MBC commissioned 102 summer missionaries to serve with 55 mentors in churches, associations, and camps across Missouri, New York, and in North Africa. As of July 1, 2018, there are reports of 1,436 spiritual encounters, 408 professions of faith, and 28 baptisms as a result of the ministry.

Youth Evangelism

Super Summer: In 2018, Making Disciples hosted two weeks of Super Summer in June – week one on the campus of Southwest Baptist University, and week two at Hannibal LaGrange University. Some 955 students and leaders represented 59 churches between the two weeks of camp. During Super Summer, nine students gave their lives to Christ, 10 expressed a call from God on their lives to serve in ministry/missions, and 45 made other decisions.

The Project: Through a partnership with Global Encounter Ministries, Making Disciples staff members served alongside 50 churches with more than 550 students, youth leaders, and

staff to minister to 879 children through VBS ministry 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. The MBC held three associational trainings in 2018 with a total of 128 people from 21 different associations in attendance.

Great Commission Conference

This year the Great Commission Conference was hosted February 22-24 at First Baptist Church Harvester, St. Charles. More than 450 attendees heard from speakers Adam Thomason, Bill Hull, James Merritt, Robert Smith, James Choung, James Ogan, Ken Whitten, Linda Cooper, Mark Tolbert, Michaels Wear, Nate Larkin, Tom Moucka, and Vernon Burger. The Ryan Langford 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 campaign that tells the CP story through the eyes of Missouri Baptists. In addition, they have launched promotion of the 2018 Missouri Missions Offering, producing print and electronic resources that show the impact of 18 missions projects across the state.

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 a new apologetics resource 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 Group

Rick Hedger, Catalyst

The MBC Multiplying Churches Group focuses on transforming lives and communities with the gospel in Missouri, across the U.S., and around the world. Reports through the MBC Kingdom Growth Tracking System for Missouri from May 2017 through April 2018 include 30-34 church starts with more than 4,691 evangelistic encounters, resulting in 146 baptisms with a

current church membership of 1,529. Cooperative Program giving totaled \$88,074 and \$33,638 was given through their associations.

The Multiplying Churches Group desires to discover 100 potential church planters in a pipeline. As a result, local church pastors are encouraged to discover, develop and deploy young men into the multiplying churches process by pouring their personal DNA into those young men through training and coaching. Any MBC pastor or planter may contact the Multiplying Church Group for more information.

MBC is currently engaged in multiplying churches in Puebla, Mexico with 26 MBC churches and/or associations. In northern Italy, there are 14 MBC churches partnering with local congregations to multiply churches. Over 30 MBC churches or associations are currently engaging in a partnership for making disciples, developing leaders, and multiplying churches across the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention.

Strategic Partners Reports

Missouri Baptist Children's Home

Russell L. Martin, Administration President and Treasurer

Missouri Baptist Children's Home *"Serves God by assisting children, youth and families to make a lasting difference in their lives."* Approximately 93 percent of all ministries were provided in community-based programs rather than on a residential campus.

In 2017, MBCH touched the lives of 4,167 children and families.

MBCH served 55 children in Therapeutic Group Homes. There were 10 professions of faith and/or baptisms among the children served in residential programs.

Two-hundred seven children found loving, forever families. One-hundred thirteen babies were born who may have been aborted without the Pregnancy Services provided by MBCH and The LIGHT House.

One-hundred forty-four children were in treatment foster homes and 395 children and youth were in family foster homes. MBCH maintained 316 foster/adoptive and/or relative/kinship homes. Forty-two families were trained and licensed to become foster parents.

Thirty-eight young women (23 adults and 15 minors) were served through the *"Freedom 43:19"* human trafficking rescue ministry.

Transitional living programs in Bridgeton, Springfield and Mt. Vernon served 57 young people as they prepared to leave foster care and become independent.

Fourteen adults with developmental disabilities received care at Country Haven or The Branches at Brookline.

Intensive Family Reunification Services were provided to nine families.

Missouri Baptist Foundation

Neil Franks, President and Treasurer

The Missouri Baptist Foundation (MBF) develops, manages, and distributes financial resources for the benefit of Missouri Baptists' mission and ministry efforts within Missouri, other states, and around the world. In other words, the Foundation exists to advance the Gospel.

Since 1946, the MBF has been partnering with churches, entities, and associations to get the highest financial return on resources to which it has been entrusted. Investment options include cash management, short-term strategies, and long-term options for endowment and management. In addition, it partners in ministry growth by offering church loans.

The MBF helps Missouri Baptists with estate planning and planned giving options. It provides peace of mind as it walks with clients as they consider wills, powers of attorney, and the creation of trusts. By serving as a personal representative or successor trustee, the Foundation can ensure that an individual's wishes for his or her estate are accomplished. The MBF also helps people plan their giving. This makes sure their generosity receives the greatest tax benefit and the possibility of a stream of income over their lifetime.

Most importantly, the MBF exists to fund gospel ministry not only for today and tomorrow, but for ten thousand tomorrows.

Historical Commission

Dennis Gard, Chairman

According to the book *Missouri Baptist Centennial 1906*, the first Missouri Baptist Association was formed in 1816 as Bethel Association just 10 years after Baptists came to Missouri. At the time, there were fewer than 200,000 Baptists in the United States and fewer than 50 west of the Mississippi. However, by 1906 Missouri could claim that nearly 200,000 Baptists lived within the state. As of 2017, we record just under 450,000 members in the 1,817 Missouri Baptist churches affiliated with the MBC. Missouri Baptists should be proud of their accomplishments, but there is more to do.

In April, the Historical Commission held its annual meeting in Jefferson City. During the annual meeting, the Commission awarded the *Missouri Baptist Heritage Scholarship* to Rebekah Ray of Pathway Baptist Church, Raymore. Rebekah is attending Southwest Baptist University. The Commission encourages pastors to help promote the \$2,000 scholarship in order to increase applications for SBU and HLGU.

Please remember that Old Bethel needs your help. Currently, we desire to add water to the property for bathrooms and drinking water. We need to raise additional funds to keep this historical treasure serving Missouri Baptists. If you would like to contribute, please designate your contribution to the Old Bethel Water Fund.

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

Higher Education Institution Reports

Hannibal-LaGrange University

President: Dr. Anthony Allen

The 2017-18 school year was another example of HLGU's motto, "Knowledge for Service." Approximately 200 students performed 400 hours of service during HLGU's annual Hannibal Helping Hands service project. In addition, 64 students and staff traveled nationally and internationally on 11 mission trips.

HLGU also partnered with Passages Israel, sending 20 students to the Holy Land for \$600 per person. A trip with 40 students is planned for December 2018.

HLGU's athletics department celebrated a new affiliation with the NCCAA and received multiple awards during the year including NAIA Champions of Character Gold Status, AMC Coach of Character, and AMC Athletic Trainer of the Year. In addition, 11 teams qualified for the NAIA Team Academic Award with an average GPA of 3.0 or higher.

The nursing class of 2017 had a 97 percent pass rate on their licensure exams, well above the state and national averages.

HLGU is experiencing an enrollment growth in master's classes, particularly in education. The University also received an award for being a military friendly institution.

A women's residence hall and the university student center received beautiful renovations.

HLGU continues to offer a 50 percent tuition scholarship for full-time Southern Baptist students. For more information, visit hlg.edu.

Southwest Baptist University

Students at Southwest Baptist University continue to excel both academically and spiritually through a Christ-centered, caring academic community. Classroom instruction, extra-curricular experiences, mission trips, chapel services, Bible studies and more prepare students to be servant leaders in a global society.

Classes began this year for the 42-hour Master of Arts in Christian Ministry degree that blends theology and ministry with practical application as a part of every course. New degrees being added in 2018-19 include a bachelor's degree in digital marketing that is unique among Midwestern universities, and a health administration concentration within the Master of Business Administration degree.

SBU has received initial approval from the Missouri State Board of Nursing, pending an approved site visit, to begin its first pre-licensure Bachelor of Science in Nursing program in January 2019 on the Bolivar campus.

SBU has had the honor of hosting the "Khirbet el-Maqatir: A Journey Through the Bible" archaeology exhibit that is on display through Dec. 8. It includes 50 artifacts from excavations at Khirbet el-Maqatir, thought to be the site of biblical Ai, as well as artifacts from the David A. Dorsey Museum of Biblical Archaeology. Admission is free.