



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF MISSIONS

Welcome to the first issue of the Mid-South Baptist, the monthly newsletter of the Mid-South Baptist Association. The new name and new format for our monthly print communication tool is just one of the next steps in communicating and supporting the new vision of our Association. The Baptist will continue to provide much of the same kind of information you are accustomed to finding in

The Beacon, but, in months to come, will also report and communicate more of what God is doing through the work of His churches in the Mid-South. We hope you will find the Mid-south Baptist to be a helpful and informative tool for reporting and supporting the work of your church. Please feel free to offer comment and make suggestions about how the Mid-South Baptist can serve you, your church, and your ministries. We'll look forward to hearing from you!

I am writing my first column for our new newsletter from Gulfport, Mississippi where I am serving this week as the Worship Speaker for a student missions project. Though the combination of a 55-year-old preacher and 500 teenagers is potentially "deadly," God has given us a tremendous week of work and worship on the Gulf Coast. The experience has renewed my thankfulness for what God is doing across our country and around the world through students who are not only committed to restoring houses, but to restoring lives by communicating the wonderful message of the gospel. It makes me especially grateful for churches of the Mid-South Baptist Association who are offering their students the opportunity to engage the culture and share the gospel through missions involvement.

One of our churches, Bartlett Hills, decided to put a "different twist" on their annual summer missions project this year. They stayed at home and worked in the nearby Horton community. The teens stayed at the church, had a worship time each night, then slept on the floors of the church. John Finley, pastor, said "we have about 60 youth and adults going to the work site and about 40 more adults who volunteered to cook a meal. This World Changers "at home" concept of serving people in your own neighborhood can be a good experience."

Bartlett Hills is just one example of the way students in Mid-South churches are serving God this summer. Literally, the students of our churches are sharing the gospel around the world this summer and throughout the year. We encourage you to send us a word about your missions projects so that we might feature them in future issues of the Mid-South Baptist. We give God all the glory for what He is doing through His churches in our Association!

Bro. Mike