



**Mid-America Baptist  
Theological Seminary  
Third-Annual Alumni  
Founders' Days  
Golf Fellowship**

Monday, August 16, 2010  
Cordova Country Club  
Shotgun start at 8:00 a.m.

Cost: \$25  
per alumni, faculty or student

Deadline to register: July 30

Call 901-751-3044 or e-mail  
ahynes@mabts.edu for  
more information.



**DISCOVER CONFERENCE**  
*Sunday School Leadership Training  
Like You've Never Experienced*

Friday, August 13, 2010  
Saturday, August 14, 2010

Bellevue Baptist Church  
2000 Appling Rd. • Cordova, TN

Visit [www.bellevue.org/discover](http://www.bellevue.org/discover)  
for more information.

**TBC Annual Convention**

The 136th Annual Meeting of the TN Baptist Convention will be November 9-10, 2010, at the Grace Baptist Church, Knoxville. TBC does not plan to mail a housing brochure to churches this year. However, you can download a brochure from their website at [www.tnbaptist.org](http://www.tnbaptist.org). Reservations can be made online, but to receive the group rate, you must call the hotel.



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over \$10,000 in prizes to be given away. There will be over 300 fishermen (and women) in attendance who will come to a mandatory pre-tournament meeting where the church will love on them, serve them, feed them and most importantly, share the gospel with them. Many of them have never been to church or heard the gospel.

Riverwoods is planning to add a Saturday night service starting July 17. The church recently ran 290 on one Sunday and has also called a church planting intern. Brandon Norton and his wife Kellie and their three children have come on staff to be church planters and are in the process of starting Riverwoods Church, Dyersburg, TN.

Having been a student at Mid-America, Bro. Darrin was familiar with Mid-South association and knew of the association's commitment to missions and church planting. So it was a natural fit when the church began looking for an association to partner with, that God brought the two together. Bro. Darrin is looking forward to working with other MSBA churches and partnering with them in mission efforts.

God has given Riverwoods a vision to reach 400-500 in worship services. They want to see over 50% of their members serving somewhere and 100% participation in small groups. They want to start at least one church plant a year, and have many people called to missions and church planting. Presently, over 70% of the congregation is from an unchurched background and most of their baptisms have been adults. Bro. Darrin is excited about what God is doing at Riverwoods, Benton and Dyersburg and about what God has in store for both congregations as they serve in the Mid-South Baptist Association.

**Opportunities Within Our Churches**

**Associate Pastor/Minister of Music**  
Whitten Memorial Baptist Church (P/T)  
Send resume to church attn: Search Committee, 5773 Macon Rd., Memphis, TN 38134.  
**Hartland Baptist Church (P/T)**  
Contact the pastor at 901-870-6834.

**Minister of Music**  
New Life Baptist Church  
Contact Dr. Kenny Hodnette at 901-452-0127 or 901-487-0207.

**Financial Secretary**  
Eudora Baptist Church (P/T)  
Shelby Systems experience needed.  
Submit resume to Vick Couthfield, 4684 Poplar Ave., Memphis, TN 38117

**Keyboardist/Pianist**  
Balmoral Baptist Church (Sun./Wed. nights)  
Send resume to 2676 Kirby Rd., Memphis TN 38119 or e-mail [balmoralchurch@bellsouth.net](mailto:balmoralchurch@bellsouth.net) or call 901-754-2300.

**Bartlett Hills Baptist Church (F/T)**  
Contact Stephen St. Clair at 901-386-9763.

**Childcare Teachers (2 positions)**  
Balmoral Baptist Church  
Infant class (M-F: 7 a.m.-4 p.m.)  
3-year-old class (M-F: 6:30 a.m.-2 p.m.)  
Call Connie Concklin at 901-754-2302.

*If your church has filled a position, please call 901-373-6161 to remove it from the list.*



**MSBA Secretaries Luncheon**

August 5, 2010 • Noon  
Wells Station Baptist Church  
1510 Wells Station Rd., Memphis 38108

**Christmas in August**  
*Please Bring a new \$10 toy for the Leawood Mission Center  
Toystore in December.*

R.S.V.P. by July 30 to:  
Debby Jarrett  
901-682-2295

Periodical Postage Paid at Memphis, Tennessee and additional entries.

Dated material. Useless if Delayed!



**The Mid-South Baptist**  
July 2010  
Vol. 5, Issue 7

**Mid-South Ministry Profile**

**Riverwoods Church and Pastor Darrin Miller** by Stuart McCollough

"Greater things are yet to come, greater things are still to be done in this city..." Those are lyrics from a recent Contemporary Christian song, and they are also the prayer of Pastor Darrin Miller of Riverwoods Church in Benton, KY. Riverwoods is the newest member church of the Mid-South Baptist Association. So how did a church in Kentucky become a member of the Mid-South association? The affiliation began through a series of God-orchestrated events and the prayerful search by the church to be involved in an association committed to missions and church planting.

Darrin Miller grew up in western Kentucky, right on Kentucky lake. At 13 years old, he made a profession of faith during a revival service. After high school, he attended Mid-America College of Funeral Services and after graduating came back near his hometown to work in a funeral home. But God had other plans. He met his future wife Carolyn during a revival service where she was playing the organ. Soon God began dealing with him about preaching. He surrendered to the call and began attending Mid-Continent Baptist Bible College in Maysfield, KY. He and Carolyn got married and were called to Grand Rivers Baptist Church where Carolyn's grandfather had pastored 40 years before.

God gave Darrin a passion for lost souls and evangelism and missions became a priority of his ministry. He pastored churches in western Kentucky and northwest Tennessee and later came to Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary in Memphis to continue his education. God laid a desire for church planting on his heart and while in seminary, he started a church and continued his involvement in missions. Over the years, he has been involved with leading and participating in 14 international mission trips, and also many national and local trips.

Over eight years ago, God led Darrin and his family to move back to their home area of Benton, KY and start a church. He started his own business and began waiting on God to give the go ahead to begin the church plant. It took over five years for God to show him it was time to move forward. He and others began having informational meetings and formed a launch committee for Riverwoods Church. After much prayer, Bible study and vision casting, the church officially launched on October 19, 2008 with 139 in attendance. A second service was added in the summer of 2009. On the church's one-year anniversary, they were running over 200.

One of the reasons Bro. Darrin believes the church has grown so quickly is their commitment to outreach. Each month, the church hosts an outreach event to reach the community and show them they care. They have provided free car washes, window washing, and even free oil changes for single moms. Over 850 people attended their 2nd-annual Trunk or Treat. This month, they are hosting a free bass tournament with



Pastor Darrin Miller (back row, center) and his family.

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The Mid-South Baptist





Dr. Michael Day, Executive Director of Missions

## The Mid-South Baptist Association and A Great Commission Resurgence

I reached a "minor milestone" a couple of weeks ago when I had the privilege of joining 11,069 other Southern Baptists in Orlando, Florida for the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention. It was my 25<sup>th</sup> consecutive SBC meeting. I am glad to be Southern Baptist, thankful that our association encourages my convention participation, honored to serve as a messenger from my church, and grateful for the 25 opportunities I have had to participate in the life of the Convention. Twenty-four of those years were marked by many dramatic and defining moments for Southern Baptists and will be easily remembered at the mention of phrases like "The Conservative Resurgence," "The Peace Committee," "The Covenant for a New Century," and "Baptist Faith and Message 2000." The actions of this year's SBC meeting have the potential to be the most defining and dramatic yet.



The focal point of the 2010 SBC Annual Meeting was debate and consideration of the much-anticipated "Great Commission Resurgence Task Force Report and Recommendations." The Great Commission Resurgence Task Force, appointed by SBC President Johnny Hunt in June of 2009, was charged with studying and recommending how the SBC might become more effective and efficient in fulfilling our Great Commission mandate. Their year-long study, highlighted by preliminary and final reports issued in February and May of 2010, resulted in much prayer, many discussions, some differences of opinion, and seven recommendations to be considered by the Convention in our 2010 meeting. The report rightly focused upon the stunning lostness of our nation and world, the declining impact of Southern Baptists in evangelism and disciple-making, and the need for "resurgence" in our commitment to fulfill the Great Commission of our Lord. The "bottom line" of the report is a call to pray for and engage in revival and renewal, to "put first things (The Great Commission) first," and to allocate more Southern Baptist resources (time, energy, and money) to preaching the gospel and making disciples in the unreached and underserved areas of our nation and world.

After 1½ -hours of debate, and one significant amendment, the messengers to the SBC Annual Meeting approved the seven recommendations of the GCR Task Force by a 3-to-1 margin. As a result of that action, Southern Baptists have:

- Adopted a new mission statement for the Southern Baptist Convention which reads, "As a convention of churches, our missional vision is to present the Gospel of Jesus Christ to every person in the world and to make disciples of all the nations."
- Adopted core values that affirm our desire for Christ-likeness; our dependence upon the truth of God's Word; our determination to be unified; our intention to love and respect one another through trusting relationships; our commitment to future generations; our belief in the authority and primacy of the local church; and, our focus upon the Kingdom of Christ and the glory of God;
- Affirmed the Cooperative Program as the primary method of funding global mission efforts, but requested adoption of a new term (Great Commission Giving) to describe, affirm, and celebrate the generous designated gifts of Southern Baptists to strategic missions causes;
- Requested revision of the ministry assignment of the North American Mission Board to reflect the priority to plant churches in North America, reach our cities and underserved regions and people groups, and clarify NAMB's role to lead and accomplish efforts to reach North America with the Gospel;

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## Important Dates for July

- 4 Independence Day
- 5 No Pastors' Conference
- 8 MSB Foundation Board Meeting  
MSBA Office - 8:30 a.m.
- 12 Administrative Leadership Council Meeting via Conference Call
- 12 Pastors' Conference  
Bellevue Baptist Church - 11:30 a.m.  
Dr. Frank Anderson, speaker
- 15 Minister of Education Network  
Bellevue Baptist Church - 9:00 a.m.
- 19 Pastors' Conference  
Bellevue Baptist Church - 11:30 a.m.  
Rev. Billie Bell, speaker
- 26 Pastors' Conference  
Bellevue Baptist Church - 11:30 a.m.  
Shepherd Haven Ministries

## Thank You

Rev. Vaughn Denton and family wish to express thanks to the Mid-South Baptist Association pastors and friends for your prayers over the past two years during Mrs. Denton's illness and for the flowers and other expressions of love.

## Student Ministers' Network

The next meeting of the Student Ministers' Network is scheduled for noon, August 24, at Newks on Germantown Pkwy. All youth ministers are invited to attend.



## RA UNIVERSITY

at Camp Linden  
August 13-14, 2010

Leaders - changes are coming. You will want to make plans to attend this conference. Space is limited, so make plans now. Details and registration is to come soon.



Dear Friends -- Thank you so much for your investment in Opportunity Camp 2010! Through your faithfulness to give each year, refugee children of different cultures and religions are able to hear the Gospel in a non-threatening environment, build relationships with Christians and receive their own Bible. This year we had 12 professions of faith and gave out over 30 Bibles.

Opportunity Camp 2011 will be held at The Grove (formerly Camp Cordova), and planning has already begun. Please pray about how your church, WMU, Sunday School class, or even you as an individual can make an impact for Christ in other cultures without leaving Memphis!

Please visit our website at [www.opportunitycampmemphis.com](http://www.opportunitycampmemphis.com) for more information and to view this year's picture slideshow.

Serving Him together,  
Beth Cox, Opp. Camp Administrator

## Brinkley Heights Street Reach Ministry Lunches Needed

Your help is needed again this summer to provide lunches for mission teams coming to Brinkley Heights. Please contact Jamae Zarshenas at [jarshenas@aol.com](mailto:jarshenas@aol.com) or 901-372-9020 if your group would like to schedule a day to provide lunch.

## Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes Quarterly Meeting

July 8, 2010 • 10:30 a.m.-noon  
Boys' Ranch • 9224 Quito, Millington

Bring a 2-liter drink and dessert. We will have lunch with the Boys' Ranch staff and residents. Contact Julie at 901-373-6161 for more information.

## Church Missions Leader Training

August 20 • 5:30-8:45 p.m. and  
August 21 • 8:30 a.m.-2:15 p.m.  
Calvary Baptist Church • Jackson, TN

Sponsored by Tennessee Baptist WMU. Make plans now to join us for fellowship, inspiration, motivation and training. Contact Julie at 901-373-6161 or [midsouthbaptistwmu.org](http://midsouthbaptistwmu.org) for more information.

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- Requested revision of the ministry assignment of the International Mission Board that would remove any geographical limitation on its mission to reach unreached and underserved people groups wherever they are found;
- Requested that the Executive Committee work with state convention leadership to develop a comprehensive program of Cooperative Program promotion and stewardship education; and,
- Requested the Executive Committee recommend an SBC Cooperative Program Allocation Budget that will increase the percentage allocated to the International Mission Board to 51 percent by decreasing the Executive Committee's percentage of the SBC Allocation Budget by 1 percent.

In addition to the approved recommendations, the report of the Great Commission Resurgence Task Force issued specific challenges to individual Southern Baptists, local churches, local associations, state conventions, and SBC entities. The report affirms the autonomy of Southern Baptist believers at every level, concedes that a Task Force cannot direct the actions of Southern Baptist churches and organizations, yet urges all Southern Baptists to consider and respond to the challenges that will lead us to be more focused on accomplishment of the Great Commission. The recommendations and challenges are significant and their prayerful and careful implementation will have significant impact and serious implications for the operation, priorities, and budgets of Southern Baptist organizations, including local associations.

No one has asked...and it might not be necessary to tell...but I want you to know that I cast my vote in favor of the Great Commission Resurgence recommendations. It is my conviction, regardless of the implications, that this moment represents an opportunity to build upon, broaden and deepen the Southern Baptist Convention's historic loyalty to the Great Commission. It is an opportunity to examine and prioritize our loyalties and commitments for the sake of the fulfillment of the Great Commission. We are a large, complex, diverse, and struggling denomination for which change and adjustment is difficult. I am praying that response to and implementation of the recommendations and challenges will provide our beloved denomination a challenging and stretching discovery process that prepares us for more effective and higher-impact ministry going forward. It is my conviction that this is a significant moment in which we can be strengthened as we examine what we have been committed and loyal to and what we must be committed and loyal to for the sake of the gospel and for the sake of the nations. It is a dramatic and defining moment.

I left Orlando and the SBC meeting pleased with what we had done, but pondering what the real effect and result will be. *Will we respond to the challenges? Will we make the necessary sacrifices? Will we maintain a right spirit? Will God grant us Great Commission "resurgence" among Southern Baptists?* Two weeks later, I am still pleased, still pondering and still convinced: (1) That I, individually, and the Southern Baptist Convention, corporately, need a renewed and intentional focus upon fulfillment of the Great Commission; (2) That the Great Commission was given to the church and its fulfillment will be accomplished by the spirit of God as He works through His church; and, (3) That Southern Baptist organizations, including our association, should position themselves to encourage and help churches as they boldly seek to take the gospel to the nations. As we follow through, we will find ourselves in the midst of additional dramatic and defining moments.

Over the next several weeks and months, our association will be exploring just what it means to "encourage and help the churches" as they engage in accomplishment of our God-given task. MSBA Moderator John Allen is forming a representative task force that will examine our options for responding to the Convention actions and challenges, explore the variety of ways in which we might best allocate the resources of the association toward accomplishment of the Great Commission, and bring appropriate recommendations to our leadership council, Executive Board, and our member churches. In the meantime, I encourage you to visit [www.pray4gcr.com](http://www.pray4gcr.com) and view the video and documents related to the Great Commission Resurgence. In the meantime, I encourage you to pray, with thankful hearts, for the churches in our region who are so effectively engaged in living out the Great Commission. In the meantime, I encourage all of us to search our own hearts and ask God to gently redirect us, if we need it, to His purpose for our lives and churches. May He revive us, and renew us...for His purposes and for His Glory!