



A Call To Prayer for the Southern Baptist Convention by Johnny Hunt

WOODSTOCK, Ga. (BP)—We live in unprecedented times, with Christian and moral foundations rapidly crumbling before our very eyes. Meanwhile, many Christian churches, which should be a mighty force ready to spread salt and light in this dark world, are unprepared. God's glory has been set aside while other things have overshadowed our first love.


The reputation of SBC churches is akin to the church at Ephesus in Rev. 2:1-5. Jesus commended them for doing many good things, but called them to repent. Baptism rates are down, divorce rates are up and too many families are falling apart. We're busy doing church but have lost our connection to the power of Almighty God.

Since God requires humility, confession and complete dependence on Him before granting healing to a land (2 Chron. 7:14), it is time to ramp it up a notch by inviting all SBC churches to set aside Sunday, Jan. 31, 2010, to pray specifically for our denomination. We are asking churches to not only incorporate a season of prayer for our denomination into your regular worship services on Sunday, Jan. 31, but to make provision and give direction for a full day of prayer focus. The prayer leaders are prepared to provide free downloadable resources to assist in a meaningful day of seeking God on His terms. Some of the suggested things to pray for include:

- A spirit of repentance to fall on our churches corporately and personally for individuals, and for genuine revival of first love for Jesus. (See Matt. 4:17; Rev. 2:4.)
- A great spiritual awakening across our land so that the lost will be drawn to a personal relationship with Jesus. (See John 6:44; Rom. 1:19; 2 Cor. 2:14.)
- A sweet spirit of reconciliation among any Southern Baptists who are at odds with each other, or other works of God. Love for one another in the body of Christ to grow and blossom. (See Prov. 28:13; 1 Cor. 13:25-27; John 13:34-35.)
- Wisdom for the members of the Great Commission Resurgence Task Force as they prepare their report in February. (See Jer. 33:3; James 1:5.)
- Guidance for the search committees for presidents of the Executive Committee, the International Mission Board, and the North American Mission Board. (See Prov. 3:5-6, 13, 15:22, 27:17; Acts 1:21-26.)

More ideas will be shared and we look forward to response and suggestions from you. This is a time to consecrate ourselves and be ready for what God may want to do among us. "Then Joshua said to the people, 'Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you.'" (Joshua 3:5)

Johnny Hunt is pastor of First Baptist Church in Woodstock, Georgia, and president of the Southern Baptist Convention.



Every Marriage has Room to Grow

Marriage & Family Enrichment Conference
at Union Avenue Baptist Church
with special guest Dr. William Cutrer

Friday Feb. 12 5:30pm-8:30pm
Saturday Feb. 13 8:30am-12:30pm
childcare provided

Call to Register 2181 Union Avenue - 901-276-5421
www.unionavenue.org

Cost: \$25 per couple or \$12 per person. This includes dinner Friday night, childcare for those who need it and Dr. Cutrer's book. Dinner begins at 5:30 p.m.; conference begins at 6:30 p.m.

Opportunities Within Our Churches

Associate Pastor/Minister of Music
Whitten Memorial Baptist Church (P/T)
Send resume to church attn: Search Committee, 6773 Macon Rd., Memphis, TN 38134.

Minister to Young Families and Singles
Eudora Baptist Church (P/T)
Contact the church office at 901-888-7800.

Music Minister
Community Baptist Church, Rosemark, TN
Contact Pastor Terry Cobb at 901-876-3055 or 901-606-5404.

Hartland Baptist Church (P/T)
Contact Pastor Maley at 901-870-6834.

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

Administrative Assistant
Leawood Baptist Church (24 hrs./wk.)
Pick up an application at the church office from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., M-F, or send resume attn: Lynn Butler, Leawood Baptist Church, 3638 Macon Rd., Memphis, TN 38122, or info@leawoodbaptist.org.

Pianist
Community Baptist Church, Rosemark, TN (P/T) Contact Pastor Terry Cobb at 901-876-3055 or 901-606-5404.

Providence Baptist Church (P/T)
Send resumes to the church attn: Music Committee, 4351 N. Germantown Rd., Arlington, TN 38002, or contact Sarah Petty at 901-734-6330.

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

Women's Prayer Retreat

Saturday, January 30, 2010
9 a.m.
Holy Calling Ministries
(former National Ave. Baptist Church)
1348 National Avenue • Memphis
901-219-0914

Guest Speaker: Kelly Johnson
(Director, Two by Two Prayer Ministry)

Please contact the women of your church, and plan now to attend this time of prayer for ourselves, our churches, city and communities.)

Periodical Postage Paid at Memphis, Tennessee and additional entries.

Dated material. Useless if Delayed!



The Mid-South Baptist

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Dr. Michael Day, Executive Director of Missions

HAPPY NEW YEAR! Those words virtually jump from the page, don't they? And they bring with them a sense of both disbelief and anticipation. Perhaps it is just a function of aging and the fact that life seems to fly-by more rapidly than it used to, but it is amazing to me that the year 2009 is behind us and the largest part of 2010 is ahead. It is astounding to me

that all of the talk of Y2K (remember?) is ancient history and the second decade (depending upon how you calculate decades) of the 21st Century is underway. Most of all, it is awesome to me to consider the tremendous blessings of God through previous years and to anticipate another year of opportunity to serve Him through the work and ministry of His church and this association of churches. I look forward to a HAPPY NEW YEAR in 2010 and I pray the same for you. I am assured and convicted that the "happiness" and "joy" of this new year will be a direct result of our "connectedness" to God and His direction for our lives. So, it is more than fitting that we begin our new year in a spirit and attitude of prayer for one another. Perhaps this "Prayer for the New Year," by Rubel Shelly, will encourage us to surrender this year to God's control and live it to His glory!

Holy God of Heaven and Earth, I know that a thousand years are as a day to you, but we humans are bound up in time. As a new year is beginning, please teach me to...

- care more about people and less about money,
- enjoy my work but not let it enslave me,
- and laugh more easily than I did last year.

As I get ready for 2010, help me to remember things that are easy to forget...

- that it might well be my last year,
- that some people are counting on me,
- and that you have things for me to do.

Lord, with the things I have accumulated over the years, please let me...

- shake off the monotony of life,
- try some new things in this new year,
- and mend some broken fences.

And, Father of Mercies, please teach me in this new and unspoiled year to...

- lighten up and enjoy children, sunsets, reading, and long walks,
- avoid quarrels and work at being a peacemaker in this world,
- and start next year with fewer regrets than I bring to 2010.

I cannot know what this year will bring, and I am grateful for that! But help me...

- eat less junk food,
- exercise and take better care of my body,
- and learn to enjoy the simple pleasures of life.

Above all other things, Father, I want to be your instrument for...

- easing somebody's too-heavy load,
- relieving some sad person's misery,
- and introducing some lost soul to Jesus.

Come what may in the year just beginning, may we live it for your glory, within your will, and to your delight. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

The Mid-South Baptist



Mid-South Ministry Profile

Rev. Tim Hickman and Big Creek Baptist Church by Stuart McCollough

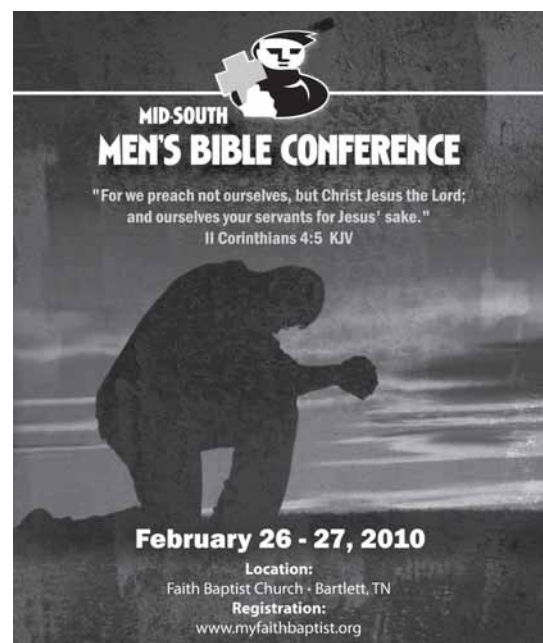
Big Creek Baptist Church in Millington recently called Rev. Tim Hickman as their new pastor. Bro. Tim had served at the church as youth pastor for a year prior to becoming the bi-vocational senior pastor in the fall. He also has a business cleaning out foreclosed homes and readying rental property for new tenants.

Bro. Tim grew up in the Frayser community of Memphis and graduated from SkyView Academy in 1982. He likes to tell that he was raised Methodist, attended a Baptist school and married a Catholic wife. After graduating, he enlisted in the U.S. Army where he served four years active duty and two years in the reserves. He attended what was then State Technical Institute and Memphis State University to study engineering. After getting married to Angela, he left school to work full-time to support their growing family. Tim worked in the engineering field for 15 years and also managed a construction company before his call into the ministry.

Bro. Tim made a profession of faith at the age of 10, but he ran from religion through most of his teenage and early adult years. He feels he was truly saved about 12 years ago when he totally surrendered his life to Christ and His will. He started serving as a lay leader and Sunday School Director in a Methodist church his family began attending. After much study and prayer, God led them to the Baptist faith because of the fact that he believed it to be the closest doctrine to the Bible. His family ended up at Grace Baptist Church where Bro. Billy Harrald was the pastor. Bro. Tim was ordained at Grace Baptist to be an evangelist and preached at many inner-city churches.

Big Creek Baptist is the oldest Baptist church in Shelby County. It was established in 1812 and the present buildings still remain on the same property where the church began meeting all those years ago. Former Pastor Ed Anderson called Bro. Tim and asked him to consider leading their youth program. When Ed came to the church, they were averaging four youth a week. They are presently averaging 10-20 youth on Wednesday nights, and the church is averaging 30-40 members on Sunday and is continuing to grow with new families. There is lots of new housing growth in the community around the church, and Bro. Tim wants the church to see that as their Jerusalem where they are to reach out and make disciples. He is also excited about the growing fellowship at the church and the fact that they treat everyone like family and make you feel welcome whether you're a long-time member or first-time visitor.

Bro. Tim and his wife Angela have five children: Shannon, who is married and lives in Texas; Tim, age 21; John, age 20; Baily, age 16; and Morgan, age 14. He is taking courses to complete his bachelor's degree. In his spare time, he likes to hunt with his kids and has written a book, "Prepare Now: A Christian's Perspective to Preparing for Hard Times." Welcome Bro. Tim Hickman and family to Big Creek Baptist Church and the Mid-South Baptist Association.



Important Dates for January

- 1 New Year's Day
- 4 Mid-South Baptist Offices Open
- 4 Pastors' Conference
Bellevue Baptist Church - 11:30 a.m.
Rev. Richard Johnson, speaker
- 8 Baptist Hospital Auxilliary
Baptist Women's Hospital
- 11 MSBA Staff Meeting - 8:30 a.m.
- 11 Administrative Leadership Council
Bellevue Baptist Church - 10:00 a.m.
- 11 Pastors' Conference
Bellevue Baptist Church - 11:30 a.m.
Dr. Fenwick Chappell, speaker
- 11 Ministers' Wives Fellowship
Bellevue Baptist Church - 11:30 a.m.
- 14 Foundation Board Meeting
MSBA Office - 8:30 a.m.
- 14 Ministers of Education Network
Kirby Woods Baptist Church - 9 a.m.
- 16 RA Pinewood Derby
Location: TBD - 4:00 p.m.
- 18 No Pastors' Conference
Martin Luther King Holiday
- 21 Childhood Education Network
Crosspointe Baptist Church -9 a.m.
- 25 Pastors' Conference
Bellevue Baptist Church - 11:30 a.m.
Dr. Paul Barkley, speaker

WMU™ HAPPENINGS

Thank you to all who provided and/or served food at the University of Memphis Baptist Collegiate Ministry Thanksgiving dinner. There was plenty of food and good fellowship.

Tennessee Baptist Children's Home Quarterly Meeting

Thursday, January 14, 2010
9:30 a.m. • Bartlett Campus



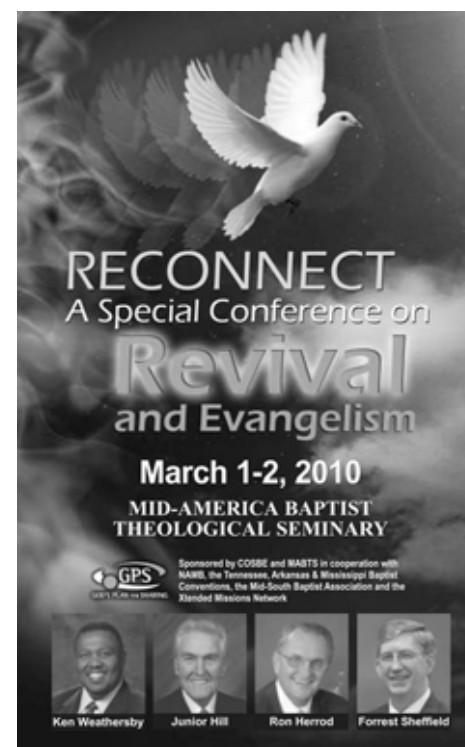
Registration:

\$50/person if registered by March 1
\$60/person after March 1
Online registration opens January 6.

Mid-South Baptist WMU has a block of rooms available if you would like to ride with us. Please contact Julie at 901-373-6161 if you are interested in reserving a room.

Daddy-Daughter Banquet

Coming in February.
More details to come.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Childhood Education Network Gathering

Thursday, January 21, 2010 • 9:00 a.m.

Crosspointe Baptist Church
Millington, TN

Facilitator: Connie Lawyer



The Blend That Cleaves YOURS, MINE AND OURS

Stepping Stones for Improving the Step Family

One Day Seminar

Saturday, January 30, 2010
8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Did you know?

Today, at least one-third of all children in the United States are expected to live in a stepfamily before they reach the age 18. (Helpguide.org)

Hosted by:

True Light Baptist Church
4635 Stage Rd.
Memphis, TN

Facilitators:

Rev. Dr. Tom McKinley	Roberta Walker
Ellen Bratcher	Debra Reid
Pastor James E. Kendrick	Pastor James Henderson

Limited space available. Cost is \$25 per two; \$15 for one.
Lunch will be provided.

Call 901-775-0878 for additional information.



The Grove at Red Oak Lake (formerly Mid-South Baptist Conference Center) is now taking applications for 2010 camping. Contact Manager Neal Pfibsen at 901-217-7660 or 901-230-6488 or e-mail at nealp@mygrove.org.