

MERGE 2011

The theme for Merge is "Where Camp and Missions Meet!" In the fall of 2008, God placed a burden on the student ministry staff of First Baptist Church, Millington to start a camp that combined all of the best aspects of mission trips and summer camps that they had attended and/or led over the years. They also wanted to provide the highest quality camp and missions experience, yet still allow it to be the most affordable camp for churches to be able to attend.

In 2009, Merge started with 300 students from five churches around the Memphis/Tipton County area. First Baptist Church, Millington hosted all of the churches at their campus for an awesome week of camp. In just one year, Merge more than doubled and in 2010 over 700 students and adults representing 19 churches from three states met up at First Baptist Church and Crosspointe Baptist Church in Millington for camp. This year at Merge 2011 we saw close to 1,000 students and adults representing 32 churches from six states come together for an exciting week of missions and camp. Youth groups slept in classrooms, as well as showered in trailers and tents at FBC-Millington, Crosspointe Baptist, Gateway Baptist, Fellowship Baptist, and Tipton Rosemark Academy. All of the meals, recreation, ministry sessions, and worship sessions were held at FBC-Millington.

Each morning, individual churches traveled with their group to various other churches and communities throughout the Mid-South, doing different types of mission work. These mission projects ranged from painting, landscaping, cleaning, yard work, block parties, cookouts, car washes, tract distribution, door to door evangelism, nursing homes, VBS, back yard Bible clubs, amongst others. The Mid-South Baptist Association, as well as the Tennessee Baptist Convention partnered with FBC-Millington to set up and fund all of the mission projects that were done all throughout Memphis, Shelby, and Tipton County. Through the mission projects, we were able to see many people make professions of faith in Jesus Christ throughout the week of Merge. Youth groups returned to FBC from their mission projects each day for lunch and an afternoon of crazy recreation competition and ministry sessions. Student Ministers/Adult leaders were also encouraged and equipped as they had a separate track that they went through during these ministry sessions. These sessions were led by Brian Houseman with Awake to Life Ministries, as well as Rick Morton, Discipleship Pastor at Temple Baptist Church in Hattiesburg, MS. After dinner each night, we entered into worship services led by Ed Newton and the Dave Hunt Band. During these worship services we saw many students pray to receive Christ, as well as several students sensing God's leading to full time Christian service and ministry/missions.

After worship each night, students broke down into their own church groups and discussed what the Lord did throughout that day. *Nazareth*, Christian comedian, concluded the week with a late night comedy routine as a celebration of the week.

The plans for Merge 2012 are already under way and God has continued to bless in amazing ways. The dates are June 18-22, 2012 at FBC-Millington. Ryan Fontenet will be the camp speaker, as well as Jeremy Horn Band leading in worship. Phil Newberry will be leading the student ministry sessions, and Dr. Alan Jackson will be leading the adult ministry sessions. Justin Chandler, a Christian Illusionist, will also be there. The cost for Merge 2012 will be \$125.00 for the students and \$99.00 for the adults as long as you register and sign up for the early bird pricing. Call (901) 872-2264 for more information regarding Merge 2012.



Opportunities Within Our Churches

Pastor

Berclair Baptist Church (bi-vocational)
Mail resume to: Pastor Search Committee, 4584 Summer Ave., 38122.

Associate Pastor/Minister of Music

Whitten Memorial Baptist Church (P/T)
Send resume to church attn: Search Committee, 5773 Macon Rd., Memphis, TN 38134.

Minister of Music

Berclair Baptist Church (P/T)
Send resume to: Personnel Committee, 4584 Summer Ave., Memphis, TN 38122.

Providence Baptist Church (P/T)

Send resume to: Music Committee, 4351 Germantown Rd., Arlington, TN 38002

Children's Minister

Highland Heights Baptist Church (P/T)
Mail resume to 675 National Ave., Memphis, TN 38122.

Preschool/Children's Minister

Ellendale Baptist Church
Mail resume to Tommy Webster, 3861 Broadway Rd., Bartlett, TN 38135 or e-mail twebster@ebcbartlett.org.

Minister of Youth

Piperton Baptist Church
Send resume to: Search Committee, 205 Old State Line Dr., Collierville, TN 38017, or e-mail to pipbap@bellsouth.net
Richland Baptist Church (P/T)
Contact the church office at 170 N. Oak Grove Rd., 38120 or 901-683-2451.

Covenant Baptist Church (youth/recreation)

Mail resume by July 31 to Personnel Committee, P.O. Box 1165, Collierville, TN 38027-1165.

Pianist

Cordova Baptist Church (P/T)
Call 901-754-1064 or mail resume to P.O. Box 174, Cordova, TN 38088.

Elliston Baptist Church

Contact the church office at 901-743-4250 or elliston@comcast.net.

First Baptist Church, Lakeland

Contact Mike McCrory at 901-494-2276 or e-mail MHMcCrory@ftb.com.

Gateway Baptist Church

Contact Phil McKibben at 901-837-8087 or 901-937-9682.

Childcare

Balmoral Baptist (M-F; 9 a.m.-6 p.m.)
Contact Connie at 901-754-2302.

Nursery Worker

Cordova Baptist Church (P/T)
Call office at 901-754-1064.

Gracepoint Baptist Church

Contact the church at 901-755-7660 or info@gracepointmemphis.com.

Periodical Postage Paid at Memphis, Tennessee and additional entries.

Dated material. Useless if Delayed!



The Mid-South Baptist

July 2011
Vol. 6, Issue 7

2011 transform EVENT

Changing Lives Through Teaching

Transform 2011: Changing Lives Through Teaching will be held Saturday, August 20, at Kirby Woods Baptist Church, from 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. This training is for all church staff, Sunday School directors, teachers and small group leaders. Dr. Mitch Martin, Mid-South Baptist Association Church Leadership Development Strategist, says, "The goal of Transform is to help Sunday School teachers teach the Bible for life transformation — not just knowledge transfer." With this goal in mind, a great faculty of leaders from Lifeway have been brought in to instruct during the age-level conference tracks.

Transform is designed to lead teachers to understand what it means to have a Sunday School class or small group with a central focus on seeing lives transformed through the teaching and ministry of the class. Teachers will be led to understand that teaching is more than just sharing information and that a teacher uses all of his or her relationships with class members and others they seek to teach. Some of the topics covered will include: the meaning of transformational teaching; how to teach with the goal of transformation; practical methods that can be put to use in teaching; understanding how those they teach learn; planning and preparing to teach; classroom dynamics and other issues that will help teachers teach for life change. Teachers will leave with practical ideas and understandings they can put to work immediately in the class or small group.

Age-Level Conference Leaders include:

Childhood Focus Conferences

Preschool — Krista Storts, Childhood Specialist, Lifeway

Children — Bill Emeott, Lead Childhood Specialist, Lifeway

Student Focus Conference

Paul Turner, Lead Student Specialist, Lifeway

Adult Focus Conferences

Young Adults — Jason Hayes, Lifeway

Median Adults — Alan Raughton, Lead Adult Specialist, Lifeway

Retired Adults — David Apple, Adult Specialist, Lifeway

Pastors and Ministers of Education

Bruce Raley, Director, Leadership and Evangelism Training and Events, Lifeway

Sunday School Directors

Wayne Poling, Lead Sunday School Specialist, Lifeway

Dean Abernathy, Sunday School Specialist, Lifeway

(Continued on inside back cover.)

The Mid-South Baptist





Southern Baptist Convention Report

Dr. Michael Day, Executive Director of Missions

The 154th annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention has come and gone. Here are a few observations from this year's meeting in Phoenix...by The Numbers!

26...The number of consecutive SBC Annual Meetings I have attended as either a messenger or representative of an SBC agency, or both. This number may not mean much to you, but it prompts me to be grateful for the opportunity to participate in the life and work of a wonderful, mission-driven denomination. I am thankful that our Association makes it possible for me to attend and participate in the annual meeting.

4,814...The number of registered messengers reported just before registration closed June 15. According to *Baptist Press*, "It's the lowest messenger count at an annual meeting in more than six decades, when in the throes of World War II, 4,301 messengers gathered in Atlanta in 1944." The "sluggish economy" and the "travel distance" to Phoenix were the most often cited explanations for the low attendance.

ZERO...The impact that the low number of registered messengers had upon the significance of the meeting. The substance and spirit of the meeting made a strong argument that it shouldn't be judged on numbers alone. The Convention's focus on ethnic diversity, unity in mission, planting churches in North America, and engaging the unreached people groups of the world served was refreshing and challenging. Southern Baptist Convention President Bryant Wright, who was re-elected to another one-year term, told *Baptist Press* after the Phoenix gathering. "I do believe it could prove to be the most spiritually significant convention over the last 50 years." That could indeed be the case, particularly if we as Southern Baptists respond to the consistent biblical pleas of this meeting to join the church planting movement in North America and to adopt an unengaged people group around the world.

1...At least one thing happened that had never happened at the annual meeting of the SBC. Fred Luter, Senior Pastor of Franklin Street Baptist Church in New Orleans, is the first African-American pastor to be elected First Vice-President of the Southern Baptist Convention. Pastor Luter is not unaccustomed or uncomfortable with leading Southern Baptists along a path of growing unity in the midst of our growing diversity. In 1992, he was the first African-American elected to the executive board of the Louisiana Baptist Convention. In 2001, he was the first African-American to preach the convention sermon at the SBC annual meeting. Many are predicting that next year, in New Orleans, he will be the first African-American elected as President of the SBC. That would be a good thing, but it is only one of many steps our Convention must take to embrace and enhance our cultural and ethnic diversity.

3,800...The number of people groups in our world currently not engaged by anyone with an intentional church-planting strategy and where less than 2 percent are evangelical Christians. "To the best of our knowledge ... nobody has them on the radar screen," said Tom Elliff in his first report to the Convention as President of the International Mission Board. "It's like having people standing out in the cold around your house while you're enjoying a wonderful warm meal. You know they're out there but you have no plan to go out there and offer them anything. Well, I believe Southern Baptists do."

It was evident, at this year's annual meeting, that Southern Baptists do have a plan and that the plan includes the deployment of new missionaries to engage the unreached in our world. One of the highlights of this convention, for me, was the commissioning and appointment of 20 new NAMB missionaries and 40 new IMB missionaries. I give thanks to God for their tremendous commitment and willingness to reach the unreached.

"Millions Upon Millions"...David Platt, pastor of The Church at Brook Hills in Birmingham, Ala., preached the annual Convention Sermon and reminded us that people groups by the thousands and individuals by the millions, worldwide, are unreached for Christ. He pointed to an example from northern Yemen, which has a population of about 8 million people but only about 20-30 Christians. "That is a problem," Platt said. "Masses of people groups. Millions upon millions upon millions of people who do not have access to the Gospel."

(Continued on inside back cover.)

Important Dates for July

- 1 Baptist Hospital Auxiliary Women's Hospital - 10:30 a.m.
- 4 No Pastor's Conference Independence Day
- 4 MSBA office closed for holiday
- 9 MSBA WMU Leader Team Meeting MSBA Office - 9:00 a.m.
- 11 Administrative Leadership Council Bellevue Baptist Church, Fireside B 10:00 a.m.
- 11 Pastor's Conference Bellevue Baptist Church - 11:30 a.m. Nick Daniels, speaker
- 14 MSB Foundation Board Meeting MSBA Office - 8:30 a.m.
- 18 Pastor's Conference Bellevue Baptist Church - 11:30 a.m. Sam Nichols, speaker
- 25 Pastor's Conference Bellevue Baptist Church - 11:30 a.m. James Kendrick, speaker

RA University

Whether you are new or experienced, small or large church Royal Ambassador leadership, RA University is for you! Training will be held July 29-30 at Linden Valley Conference Center in Linden, TN and on August 12-13, at Carson Springs Conference Center in Newport, TN. Cost is \$75 and includes overnight reservations, three meals, participant notebook and CDs/DVDs. A flyer can be downloaded at www.tnbaptist.org/pdf/2011-rauniv.pdf. Call Ken Cole at 901-604-6055 or Herschel Wells at 901-568-0466 for more information.

ESL Workshops

English as a Second Language (ESL) Teacher Training will be held Friday, August 12, from 6:00-9:00 p.m., Saturday, August 13, from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. and on Sunday, August 14, from 1:00-4:00 p.m., at Kirby Woods Baptist Church. This is a 14-hour workshop, and a NAMB ESL Certificate will be awarded. Cost is \$25 to cover manual and materials. Call Minne Garrett at 901-853-2491 or 901-283-6609 for more information or to register.

An ESL Workshop will be held for current or future teachers on Saturdays, August 13 and 20, at Bellevue Baptist Church. Cost is \$35 including materials and lunch. Attendance both Saturdays is required for certification. Register by August 8 by calling 901-347-5730.

WMU HAPPENINGS

Brinkley Heights Street Reach Ministry Opportunity

There are still some dates available for your group to provide lunches for teams ministering to inner-city children through the Street Reach program at Brinkley Heights. You will need to provide paper products, bread, meat, condiments, lettuce, tomato, chips, fruit, dessert and a drink. Contact Jamae Zarshenas at 901-372-9020 or 901-831-3158 if your group can help with one of the following dates:

- July 4-8 99 people
- July 11-15 152 people
- July 18-22 153 people
- July 25-29 125 people



Running Unhindered!

Training Church Mission Leaders to Run the Race with Perseverance

July 30 • 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Ellendale Baptist Church • Bartlett, TN

Classes will be offered for leaders teaching Mission Friends, GAs, Children in Action, Acteens, Women on Mission/Adults on Mission, Mentoring in Christian Women's Job Corp or Your Church. Ideas for Women's Ministry mission projects will also be discussed. There will be missionary speakers and a mission involvement fair.

REVEAL – REVIEW – RENEW

Equipping Missions Leaders 2011

For Church and Associational Missions Leaders

August 26-27, 2011

First Baptist Church, Humboldt

Registration fee: \$10/person (before August 5) and \$15/person at the door. Fee includes conferences, sessions, materials and refreshments.

Whether you are a new or experienced missions leader, Equipping Missions Leaders provides you with fellowship, inspiration, motivation and training with other missions leaders.

For more information, visit www.tnwmu.org or contact Vickie Anderson at vanderson@tnbaptist.org or 800-558-2090.

Piano and Organ Concert

Union Ave. Baptist Church will be hosting a piano and organ concert by Jonathan Rodgers and Richard Wright on Sunday, July 17, 2011, at 5:00 p.m. Jonathan Rodgers, formerly of Memphis, is Minister of Music at First Baptist Church, Picayune, MS. Richard Wright is the organist at Union Ave. A love offering will be taken for the Union Ave. Mission Trip to Haiti in August. The church is located at 2181 Union Ave. Call 901-276-5421 for more information.

(Transform continued from front cover.)

Lifeway is so excited about Transform 2011 that they are offering a special incentive for pastors to bring their people to the conference. Every pastor, minister of education and Sunday School director present will receive a free copy of the new HCSB Study Bible. This Bible normally retails for \$49.99.

Because of the support of the Tennessee Baptist Convention and generous churches in the Mid-South Baptist Association, the cost for the entire day of training (including lunch) is only \$5. Registration begins at 8:00 a.m., with the first age-level training session starting at 8:30 a.m. and going until 11:30 a.m. Lunch will be provided at 11:30 a.m., and the afternoon session will run from 12:15-2:30 p.m. You can register online by clicking the link on the MSBAC.org website or by calling 800-254-2022.

(SBC Report continued from inside front cover.)

The part of David Platt's sermon that really tore into my heart came next. "This is not a problem for the International Mission Board to address," he said. "This is a problem for every local church in this convention to address."

165...The number of Southern Baptist churches in the Mid-South Baptist Association. And, coincidentally, it is also the number of churches in our Association with the capacity and the resources to embrace and engage one of the 3,800 unengaged people groups in our nation, on our continent, and in our world. During the Convention, hundreds of people from hundreds of churches of all types, sizes and shapes responded to the invitation to "engage the unengaged" and "reach the unreached." I left the meeting with the conviction that I, an individual, must do more and the prayer that we, as an association of churches, might do more to declare the glory of God in all the nations. May He grant us the willingness and the commitment necessary for that Great Commission task!