

Welcome Dr. Mitch Martin!

I have the month of July pretty well mapped out—for the first four days, I'll be taking advantage of every opportunity to join in every flag-waving, fireworks-shooting, picnic-basketing celebration of the "Fourth of July" that I can find. From that point forward, though, I will be celebrating what I'll call "The First of Mitch." Let me explain why.

On June 16, 2008, the Executive Board of the Mid-South Baptist Association unanimously elected Dr. Mitch Martin to serve as MSBA Church Leadership Development Strategist. In July, we will see the "first of Mitch" as he moves to Memphis, gets settled in his temporary housing and in his permanent office, and begins his ministry of working with the churches of the Mid-South to develop effective strategies and events for developing church leaders. I first "crossed paths" with Mitch about 15 years ago when he was a pastor in Utah and I was the Brotherhood Commission representative to the Utah-Idaho State Baptist Convention. Since that time we have enjoyed a fellowship that grew into friendship as we occasionally "bumped into" one another in the course of our respective ministry responsibilities. Mitch has served as a Pastor, a Director of Missions in Utah, a state Baptist Convention leader in Utah and Idaho, a North American Missionary, and an Editor and Consultant for LifeWay Christian Resources. He has great skills, great experience, and a great heart. More importantly, he has a real sense of calling and a true passion for God, the church, its mission, and its leaders. He has the heart of a Pastor and the calling of an equipper. I believe he is a "great fit" for and a "great gift" to the MSBA.

I know you will join me in welcoming Dr. Mitch Martin to the staff of the Mid-South Baptist Association. Will you also join me in praying for Mitch and Myra as they sell their house in Nashville, seek a new home in Memphis, say their goodbyes to a church family that has appreciated and loved them, and take all of the hard steps that we so easily refer to as *transition*? I know they will appreciate your prayers! ***Welcome, Mitch & Myra Martin!***

Bro. Mike