

Bellevue Baptist Church to Host Evangelism Explosion Clinic

July 7-11, 2008



Purpose:

To equip church leaders with the tools necessary to implement an effective, intentional and proven evangelism training ministry and to train new teachers for churches that currently have an EE ministry in place

Who should attend:

Pastors, ministerial staff and key lay leaders

For more information, contact Evangelism Explosion International at 888-567-3543 or www.eeworks.org or call Bellevue EE Ministry at 901-347-5210.

English as a Second Language (ESL) Workshop

June 7 and 14, 2008
8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

La Baut. La Buena Esperanza
(Behind Graham Heights B.C.)
1304 N. Graham St. • Memphis

Cost: \$25 (includes materials)

Bring a sack lunch – drinks will be provided.

Class limited to 25 participants.

Call Minne Garrett at
662-890-6046 or 901-283-6609
to make reservations.

I HEAR AMERICA SINGING

(A Panoramic Celebration of America from 1492-Present)

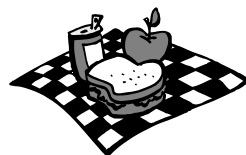
Sunday, June 29, 2008
6:00 p.m.

First Baptist Church
5010 West Union • Millington, TN

Written and arranged by:
Rusty Eason, Minister of Music

Featuring:
Praise Team • Live Orchestra • Visual Effects

Call 901-872-2264 for more information.



Is Your Group Looking for a Mission Project?

Brinkley Heights Outreach Ministry is just what you're looking for! This summer will bring mission teams coming to host Backyard Bible Clubs, complete community projects, and building projects, etc. and Brinkley Heights needs church groups from around the Memphis area to provide weekly lunches for the mission teams. They also need teams willing to do laundry the week of June 5-12 for the Carpenters for Christ Construction Team. They love homemade desserts also.

If your adult, youth or children's group can help, contact Jamae or Hannah Zarshenas at 901-372-9020 for available dates or more information.



A Cerebral Palsy Victim Shares How He Became a Cerebral Palsy VICTOR!

Sunday, May 25, 2008
9:30 a.m. Worship Service

Crosspointe Baptist Church
8850 Highway 51 N.
Millington, TN 38053

David Ring is a nationally-known speaker and author. Come hear how God has worked in his life and allowed him to overcome seemingly insurmountable obstacles.

Call 901-872-4413 for more information.

Opportunities Within Our Churches

Pastor

Forest Hill Baptist Church
Mail resume to Pastor Search Committee,
3645 Forest Hill Irene Rd., Germantown, 38138
Hartland Baptist Church

Contact James Shivers at 901-388-2040, or
mail resume to 1820 Hartland, Memphis, 38128

Union Avenue Baptist Church
Contact Mike Elkins, 183 Marrakesh Circle,
Memphis, TN 38103 or e-mail
melkins@trojungbrannen.com

Wells Station Baptist Church
Contact the church office at 901-682-2295,
or e-mail djar3435@aol.com.

Secretary/Financial Secretary

Union Ave. Baptist Church (P/T)
Must have experience in Shelby Systems, posting,
payroll and monthly, quarterly and yearly financial
reports. Send resume to Rev. Jeff Williamson, 2128
Union Ave., 38104, or call 901-276-5422, or
e-mail williamson@unionavenue.org.

Music Minister

Balmoral Baptist Church (P/T)
Send resume to 2676 Kirby Rd., Memphis, TN
38119, or call 901-754-2300, e-mail
balmoralchurch@bellsouth.net.

Berclair Baptist Church (P/T)
Send resume to 4584 Summer Ave., Memphis,
TN 383122.

Grace Baptist Church (Music/Youth)
Contact Rev. Bill Harrald, 901-872-4294 or
901-849-0252.

Oakland First Baptist Church (Bi-vocational)
Contact J.R. Doyle at 901-485-0625.

Keyboardist/Pianist

Balmoral Baptist Church (Sundays and Wed. night)
Send resume to church at 2676 Kirby Rd.,
Memphis, TN 38119, or call 901-754-2300.

Magnolia Baptist Church (Sunday morning only)
Contact Pastor Vaughn Denton at
662-890-0680.

Weekday Teacher (incl. Kindergarten) and 4-yr/ Pre-K Lead Teacher

Bartlett Baptist Church
Contact Pam Crawford at 901-373-8919 or
bbps@bartlettbbaptist.org.

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

*How great is the love the Father has
lavished on us, that we should be
called children of God!*

– I John 3:1 (NIV)

Second Class Postage Paid at Memphis,
Tennessee and additional entries.

Dated material. Useless if Delayed!



The Mid-South Baptist

May 2008
Vol. 3, Issue 4



A Word from the Executive Director of Missions
Dr. Michael Day

A Brand-New Thing

This Morning... I started the day with a commitment to read all of Isaiah 43 as part of my devotional time. I confess...I did not live out my commitment. I got stuck, and could not get past Isaiah 43:18-19. As God unfolded His plan and promise to deliver Israel from their time of exile, He reminded them of the marvelous ways in which He had "delivered" them in the past, particularly in the exodus from Egypt. Then, He said: *"But forget all that—it is nothing compared to what I am going to do! For I am about to do a brand-new thing. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it? I will make a pathway through the wilderness for my people to come home. I will create rivers for them in the desert!"* (Isaiah 43:18-19, NLT) That little phrase, *"Do you not see it?"* is the one that hit me squarely between the heart. It caused me to stop and reflect on the "new things" God is doing in the churches of the Mid-South that I might not have taken the time to "see" and reflect upon.

Two weeks ago... I had the privilege of joining a team of volunteers from Bellevue Baptist Church who spent the day applying a fresh coat of paint to the exterior of Leclair Baptist Church, just inside the I-240 loop. As part of the "Bellevue Loves Memphis" project, it was a wonderful example of the sharing of cooperation, resources, and manpower in our association as volunteers from both churches worked together to complete the task. I am not sure that all of the workers knew the full impact of the "new thing" they were doing at Leclair. You see, for several months the leaders and members of Leclair and National Avenue Baptist have been talking, praying and thinking about how they might combine their energies and vision for reaching their communities with the Gospel to do a "new thing" inside the loop. On May 4, the "former" members of those two "former" churches will gather at the "former" Leclair Baptist Church facility to celebrate the beginning of New Church Memphis, a new Southern Baptist work with a new vision for shining light in the darkness and sharing the Good News in their community. Their God-given vision includes the future establishment of a community ministry center on the site "formerly occupied" by National Avenue. God is doing a "new thing" through New Church Memphis. Please pray for New Church Memphis! Please pray about the possibility for your church to encourage and perhaps participate in this "new thing" that God is doing in Memphis!

That Same Afternoon... after my under-developed painting skills were discovered and I left the worksite in shame, I made my way to the corner of Rocky Point Road and Walnut Grove Road where I joined the congregation of the Memphis Mandarin Baptist Church for dedication of their new worship facility. It was a tremendous celebration of a "new thing" God has done in the life of this Chinese congregation and through the lives of committed believers who have prayed, trusted, given, and worked for many years toward the realization of a vision. It was also a wonderful reminder of the support, encouragement, and resources that area churches like Eudora Baptist Church and Whitten Memorial Baptist Church have shared over many years so that the gospel might be shared with the "nations" and the church might be established. Please pray for Pastor Peter Tsai and the Memphis Mandarin Baptist Church as they continue to experience the "new things" of God in the new facility He has provided.

Night Before Last... I ended a long day of long meetings by having dinner with our Administrative Leadership Council and introducing them to Reverend Willie Jacobs, the new North American Mission Board National Missionary who will soon be a resident of our city. Reverend Jacobs represents a "new thing" that God is doing in Memphis through a new pilot project partnership between the North American Mission Board, the Tennessee Baptist Convention, and the Mid-South Baptist Association. He will be leading us in an effort to identify the various people groups that live in our city, working with our churches to develop effective plans for sharing the gospel within those cultures, developing Christian leadership within those groups and potentially starting new churches. This is a "very new thing" that God is doing among us. Please pray for the partners

(Con't. on inside center page)



Mid-South Ministry Profile

La Iglesia Bautista La Buena Esperanza by Jean Fitts

Organizacion Y Celebracion. These three Spanish words which easily translate to English – *organization and celebration* – describe well the event that took place on March 29, 2008 at the Graham Heights Baptist Church, 1302 N. Graham. The Hispanic congregation that has been meeting there for the past three years was formally *organized, celebrating* God's continued blessings. Surely, it has been the providential hand of God that has brought this unique congregation to such a significant event.

Begun in 1994 as a small home Bible study with dedicated Christian believers from six different Spanish-speaking countries, this congregation has identified itself as "La Iglesia Bautista La Buena Esperanza" (The Good Hope Baptist Church). Actually, the group was never considered as an integral part of another church. The Leewood Baptist Church and now the Graham Heights Baptist Church have provided adequate facilities for the Sunday services and other activities. Numerous members of the Ellendale Baptist Church have assisted with donations, manual labor, teachers of English, etc.

The only financial assistance the Good Hope Baptist Church has received was for a three-year period for pastoral supplement several years ago. Since then the church has been completely self-supporting financially. For the past eight years the church has faithfully contributed 10% of its yearly budget (\$60,000) to the Southern Baptist Convention and the Mid-South Baptist Association for missions.

On this historic day, March 29, 2008, the formal organization of the church with approximately 90 charter members, the pastor, Rev. Hernan Gimenez, a Venezuelan, directed the service with the assistance of Dr. Marvin Fitts, an active associate member and retired missionary. The attendance was approximately 200 including members, friends, invited guests and children.

It was a special blessing to have a large number of the members seated together, participating in all that was done. The service began with prayer and the singing of hymns and choruses. A brief history of the congregation was then reviewed and followed by eight members reading the church's Declaration of Faith. The invited guest to deliver the sermon was Dr. Steve Hicks, retired professor and dean of the Mexican Baptist Seminary in Mexico City. This message was followed with another group of eight members of the church reading the Church Covenant. After the reading of each of the eight paragraphs, the charter members stated emphatically, "This we will do!"

The final act of this meaningful service was the unanimous adoption of the Constitution and Bylaws of the formally constituted "La Iglesia Bautista La Buena Esperanza." Then, as an additional blessing from God, a Baptist lady from Honduras presented herself for membership and was joyfully received. Rev. Don Amburn, pastor of Graham Heights Baptist Church, led the congregation in the closing prayer of gratitude and commitment.

At the conclusion of this memorable service, every one was invited to the newly remodeled dining room to enjoy a delicious meal prepared and served throughout the entire three hours of *organization and celebration!* To God Be the Glory!

The future for this newly constituted Hispanic Church "La Buena Esperanza" is full of "Good Hope in God" as He continues to bless in multiplied ways. Two well-known words in the beautiful Spanish language express the sincere feeling of this church to God and to all others: "MUCHAS GRACIAS"



Left to Right: Rev. Hernan Gimenez, Pastor, La Iglesia Bautista La Buena Esperanza, Rev. Don Amburn, pastor, Graham Heights Baptist Church

The MSBA office will be closed Monday, May 26 in observance of Memorial Day.

Upcoming Important Dates

May

- 4 Senior Adult Sunday
- 5 Pastors' Conference
Ministers' Wives' Fellowship
Ministers of Music Fellowship
Bellevue B.C. – 11:30 a.m.
- 6 Senior Adult Tune Sharing
Leewood B.C. – 10:00 a.m.
- 8 MSB Foundation Board Meeting
MSBA Office – 8:30 a.m.
- 8 *Mid-South Baptist* Articles Due
- 11 Mother's Day
- 11 Mother's Day Offering for TBCH
- 12 Pastors' Conference - Bellevue B.C.
11:30 a.m.
- 13 Administrative Leadership Council
MSBACC – 7:30 a.m.
- 15 Deadline for Opportunity Camp
Donations
- 17 RA Racer Competition
FBC, Lakeland
- 19 Pastors' Conference - Bellevue B.C.
11:30 a.m.
- 23-24 Disaster Relief 30th Anniversary Rally
Camp Linden
- 26 Memorial Day – MSBA Offices Closed
No Pastors' Conference
- 27-31 Opportunity Camp – *For the Kingdom*
Camp



Mid-South Baptist Association Regional Sunday School Training

Monday, July 28, 2008

First Baptist Church, Collierville
830 N. Byhalia Rd.
Collierville, TN 38018

First Baptist Church, Millington
5010 W. Union Rd.
Millington, TN 38053

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Kirby Woods Baptist Church
6325 Poplar Ave.
Memphis, TN 38119

One Faith Fellowship
4945 Winchester Rd.
Memphis, TN 38118

WMU™ HAPPENINGS

Opportunity Camp Sponsors

Sponsor a child for Opportunity Camp this summer for \$150. Camp will be held May 27-31, at For the Kingdom Camp. Send checks to MSBA, 6896 Hwy. 70, Memphis, TN 38133 by May 15.

AiM Girls' Camp - Race for the Prize

June 1-2 - Overnight Camp
June 2-6 - Weeklong Camp
For the Kingdom Camp
Cost: \$55 (overnight); \$160 (weeklong)

CAMP NEEDS

- Mission team/church group to help clean cabins on Friday afternoon.
- Churches or WMU groups to provide snacks: fruit snacks; Little Debbie's; trail mix; boxed drinks; pop-ice; etc.
- Churches or WMU groups to provide paper products: paper plates/bowls; napkins; cups; plastic forks and spoons.

Contact Julie Binford at 901-373-6161 if your group can help with any of the above needs.

A Brand-New Thing (con't.)

in this pilot project. Please pray for Reverend Willie Jacobs as he becomes part of our community and shares in our common task of reaching "all of the peoples" of Memphis with the life-changing message of the gospel.

Yesterday Morning... I was blessed as I joined a gathering of Mid-South church planters for a time of fellowship and celebration of what God is doing through the new churches He is establishing in our region. A guest said to me: "I trust you know how blessed you are to have in this room the commitment and energy of such a well-prepared, knowledgeable and diverse group of church planters. You don't see this everywhere." His comments reminded me of the "new things" God is doing through new churches in Memphis. Please pray for the planters, pastors, and sponsors of our newest churches as they continue to discover the new things God wants to do through them.

Tomorrow... I hope to wake-up with my eyes open. Not only in the physical sense that would insure that I did, indeed, wake-up, but I hope to be awakened with a spiritual sensitivity that will cause me to keep my eyes and my heart open to the new things that God is already doing in Memphis. I pray that I might wake-up with a fresh commitment to join Him in His mighty work of making "pathways through the wilderness" and "rivers in the desert" so that our city and our region might find their way to Jesus and drink of His living water! Will you join me in that prayer?

– Bro. Mike



Guest Article

Bro. Rick Isbell
MSBA Moderator and
Pastor, Leclair Baptist

As I think about the current and future work of our association, there are certain buzzwords that keep coming to my mind, but we hear them over and over in church leadership, so I promise to not use words or phrases like "out-of-the-box," "new paradigm" or "networking" in this article.

I have been very privileged in my ministry to live and serve in some of our nation's finest associations: Union Association (Houston, TX) and Tulsa Association (Tulsa, OK). They are considered 'fine' because they are not business-as-usual associations, but rather, cutting-edge ministry environments that continue to push into new arenas of ideas and methodologies. As I ponder why Union and Tulsa Associations have been trendsetters over the years, I would have to conclude that they have had two key ingredients: forward-thinking leadership and significant levels of participation from their churches' pastors and staff.

My sense of privilege continued with God's call on my ministry five years ago to the Memphis area and subsequent opportunities among our Mid-South Baptist Association. We are a fine association in my view and I have no doubt that we are poised to be one of the greats as we implement fresh, new approaches to assisting churches in carrying out their mission.

I am pleased to be a part of something that compliments my call as a local church pastor by stretching me and the church I serve beyond our local impact into a regional, national and global force. I have found a very satisfying strength in the partnerships formed with other pastors, churches and ministries throughout the Mid-South Baptist Association.

If a part of the mantle that God has placed upon us is to develop a new model of associational work in this region, then it will take us all 'networking' as 'out-of-the-box' thinkers in order to establish a 'new paradigm?' Oops... sorry.

Rick Isbell,
MSBA Moderator



First Baptist Church, Sherwood, Ark.
April 21-22, 2008

*Step into God's plan
for the former
Soviet Union...*



Register online at hope4cee.org

- Discover opportunities to serve in CEE
- Meet with more than 40 missionaries, including top leadership
- Explore prayer advocacy training
- Learn how to fund strategic mission involvement
- Examine using media in missions



The
Mother's Day
Offering

to support
Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes

State Goal: \$2,250,000.00

This offering represents 35% of the annual operating budget of TBCH.

For more information, or to request materials, visit www.tbch4kids.org.