

God's Amazing Grace

Studies in Romans



Dr. Ray Van Neste, Director of the R. C. Ryan Center for Biblical Studies at Union University will lead the MSBA January Bible Study preview on December 8, at the Mid-South Conference Center. The study will begin at 8:00 a.m. and conclude by 1:00 p.m. Breakfast and lunch will be provided as will a copy of the book and outline. Reservations are needed.

In this study, let Paul's explanation of his beliefs to Roman Christians long ago help Christians in your church today. Through this relevant study adults will understand that

the amazing grace of God is the basis of His salvation and be led to allow themselves to be transformed by it.

Please call the association office at 901-373-6161 to make reservations.



Visit
Mid-America
Baptist
Theological
Seminary

On November 9, 2007, from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., the faculty and staff of Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary invite you to attend their annual Fall Preview Day for prospective students. You will have an opportunity to tour the campus and seminary housing, meet the president and faculty, sit in on classes and attend chapel. For more information or to register online, go to www.mabts.edu or call 800-968-4508 ext. 3060. Remember, a call to ministry is a call to prepare. . . consider Mid-America.



Let's
Celebrate
Jesus

December 15, 2007 • 6:00 p.m.
Wells Station Baptist Church
1510 Wells Station Rd.

Groups include: Reed Family;
Abundant Grace; Lo-Note Duo,
The Crains and The Bradfords.
Steve Bradford - emcee

Call 901-682-2295 or 901-682-4020
for more information.

Happy
Thanksgiving



Mid-South Baptist
Conference Center

God is good; all the time! We have had a good amount of activity for the month of October, and November looks good too. We are still booking banquets for December. Let us know if we can be of service.

As you may already know, we will be ceasing overnight retreats beginning January 1, 2008. However, the Palmer Dining Hall will still be operating. We will be available for meetings, breakfasts, lunches, dinners and banquets. We will be available for Senior Adult Rallies, Retired Ministers' Luncheons, MSBA Secretaries' Luncheons, Team Meeting, Council and Executive Board meetings.

Call us! We'll do our best to accommodate you. It is a privilege and joy to serve Mid-South Baptists.

Serving our Lord Jesus and serving you,

Bro. Dale Gravatt, Manager of Operations
901-754-7028
Deut. 23:14

Opportunities Within Our Churches

Pastor

Big Creek Baptist Church (Bi-vocational)
Mail resume to Sid Fulghum, P.O. Box 126
Millington, TN 38083-0126
Hispanic Pastor • Cherokee Baptist Church
E-mail garry.burback@cherokeebaptist.org
or fax resume to 901-683-7349.

Elliston Baptist Church

Mail resume to Hugh Garner, 4179 Elliston Rd.,
Memphis, TN 38111

Hartland Baptist Church

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

Associate Pastor/Minister of Students

Faith Baptist Church, Bartlett (F/T)

Mail resume to 3755 N. Germantown Rd, Bartlett, TN 38133,
or e-mail Brenda Splean at brendas@faithbaptistbartlett.org.

Piperton Baptist Church (F/T)

Contact Mrs. Penny Jones or Bro. Thomas Foy at
901-853-1711.

Secretary/Financial Secretary

Berclair Baptist Church (P/T: 20-25 hours per week)

Contact the church at 901-583-3585 or Joe Burnette at
901-685-0896.

Georgian Hills Baptist Church (P/T)

Contact Rev. Tim Vassar at 901-357-5333.

Youth Pastor

Broadmoor Baptist Church

Contact Rev. Bo Grace
P.O. Box 280649, Memphis, TN 38168

Hope Baptist Church

Contact Rev. Burr Lovett at 662-890-4673 or
901-526-4673 or e-mail hope@hopeinhim.org.

Range Hills Baptist Church (P/T)

2741 Frayser Blvd., Memphis, TN 38127

Richland Baptist Church (P/T)

Contact Dr. Jerry Paul or Laurie at 901-683-2451
or e-mail at richlandbaptist@comcast.net

Music Assistant

Bartlett Hills Baptist Church

Contact Stephen St. Clair at 901-386-9763.

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.

Forest Hill Baptist Church (P/T)

Contact the church at 901-754-7455.

Grace Baptist Church (Music/Youth)

Contact Rev. Bill Harrald, 901-872-4294 or
901-849-0252.

Graham Heights (P/T)

Contact Don Amburn or Peggy Montgomery
at 901-324-6141.

Hope Baptist Church (Worship Leader)

Contact Rev. Burr Lovett at 662-890-4673 or
901-526-4573 or e-mail at hope@hopeinhim.org.

Keyboardist

Balmoral Baptist Church (Sundays and Wednesday night)

Send resume to church at 2676 Kirby Rd.,
Memphis, TN 38119, or call 901-754-2300.

Pianist

Merton Avenue Baptist Church

Contact Richard Carter at 901-755-7487 or
901-382-5833 or the church at 901-458-4469.

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

Dated material. Useless if Delayed!



The Mid-South Baptist

November 2007
Vol. 2, Issue 10

Mid-South Ministry Profile

Pastor Jim Perdue and Crosspointe Baptist Church by Stuart McCollough

The association joins Crosspointe Baptist Church in Millington in welcoming their new pastor and his family. Bro. Jim Perdue, his wife Stephanie and sons Jake and Judd began their ministry at Crosspointe in August. Prior to coming to Millington, Bro. Jim served as Pastor/Planter at North Cross Baptist in Cummings, GA.

Bro. Jim was born and raised in Bonaire, GA and accepted Christ at the age of 11 during a revival service. At the age of 17, he surrendered his life to full-time Christian service and says, "There is nothing else in this world that I would rather do." He received his Bachelor of Arts in Business Education from the University of Georgia and went on to receive his Masters of Divinity from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. Bro. Jim is currently pursuing his Doctorate of Ministry degree from Liberty University. Prior to becoming Pastor/Planter at Northcross, Bro. Jim served for six years as a youth pastor at churches in Georgia and North Carolina.

Even though they weren't looking to leave Georgia and the ministry there, God had other plans for their family. After being contacted by the Crosspointe Pastor Search Team, the Perdues began praying and asking God to reveal his will. The more they prayed, the more they felt that God was leading them to step out in faith and come to Millington. It became clear that this was God's will, and there is no place they would rather be.



Bro. Jim Perdue and family began ministering at Crosspointe Baptist in Millington in August, 2007.

"People are being saved, families are joining, God is moving and healing is taking place. There is an excitement, a spirit of enthusiasm, a joy and an expectation of what God is going to do and how He has continued to move in this church. Crosspointe is a fellowship of excitement and it is obvious that the people enjoy being here."

Crosspointe Baptist Church has a rich heritage and proud history in the Millington area. Began as Mission Bible School in a home in 1936, 44 men, women and children began worshipping together. They erected a brush arbor meeting place later that summer and met there until that fall when they began meeting in a farm home on a dirt road that would later become Shelby Rd. In 1949, they moved to 4284 Shelby Rd. and changed the name to Second Baptist Church. To accommodate new members, a new sanctuary was built on to the existing facility in 1967. In 1995, the church purchased an additional 15 acres adjacent to their property and a larger facility was built.

In August, 1998, Dr. Steven Flockhart was called as pastor. Over the next seventeen months, the church membership would increase by over 600 members. In 2000, Dr. Flockhart led the church to relocate Second Baptist Church to Highway 51 in Millington. The property was purchased and construction began. The church held its first worship service in the new location in August, 2003, and the name of the church was changed to Crosspointe. Today, Crosspointe has an active roll of over 1300 members.

Not satisfied to just focus on the past, Bro. Jim is thoroughly excited about what God has in store for the congregation. God has given him the vision of reaching Millington, Shelby and Tipton counties, the surrounding community, the nation and the world with the gospel of Christ. He wants the community to know that Crosspointe is a church that will minister to them in practical ways, that will love them, care for them and welcome them.

"Crosspointe is the point of new beginnings, and that is not just a slogan. We are here to share the message of the cross and we understand that the cross offers us a new beginning. Our desire is to be a church and ministry where people can come and experience life change and new beginnings for their lives. God has a mighty plan for this church in this area and around the world. I believe we can see the world change from Millington, TN."

Bro. Jim likes to spend his spare time with his growing family (A new baby is due in April.), watching college football and hanging out and having fun with church members.





A Word from the Executive Director of Missions

Dr. Michael Day

Annual Meeting Report

THE RAINS CAME DOWN...

(in buckets) on our Annual Meeting for the second consecutive year as 259 representatives and guests gathered for the 104th Annual Session of the Mid-South Baptist Association on October 15 at Whitehaven Baptist Church. Many thanks to all of you who chose to "weather the storm" and attend the extended meeting! Your participation, support, and spirit were encouraging! A "Special Thank-You" is due Dr. Jim Meredith, Peggy Ryan, and the staff and membership of Whitehaven Baptist Church for hosting the meeting in such fine fashion. We were well hosted and well taken care of as we attended to the business of our Association. Thanks also to our Moderator Don Marston, our MSBA Officers and our Associational Staff for their excellent preparation and flexible facilitation of the meeting. *The Rains Came Down...*

...*And the Praise Went Up* – as God blessed our Annual Meeting with an attitude of praise and a spirit of worship! Special thanks to Associate Pastor Mark Branson, Accompanist Carla Freeman and the Men's Trio of Whitten Memorial Baptist Church for their enthusiastic and inspiring leadership in "lifting up songs to the Lord." We also praised God as we heard reports of what He is doing through the churches of the Mid-South Baptist Association. It was tremendous to hear Michael Ellis (Impact Baptist Church), Robert Grisham (Neighborhood Church), and Jordan Thomas (Grace Church) praise God through their testimonies of His blessing upon three of the Mid-South's newest church starts. It was fantastic to hear our Treasurer report that God has blessed us with needed financial resources through the generous and steady gifts of our member churches. It was great to hear how God has blessed the work and ministry done in our ministry strategy teams through the leadership of Reverend John Allen (Resource Development), Dr. John Finley (Mobilization), Reverend Preston Poindexter (Leadership Development), and Dr. Danny Sinquefield (Church Planting/Revitalization). We praise God for all He is doing through His churches in the Mid-South Baptist Association!

...*And the Hands Went Up* – as representatives to the annual meeting unanimously elected Dr. Rick Isbell, Pastor of Leclair Baptist Church, as Associational Moderator for 2007-2008. Rick has served faithfully as vice-moderator and Nominating Team Leader in the past year and will provide committed and spirited leadership in the days ahead. Dr. John Finley, Pastor of Bartlett Hills Baptist Church, was unanimously elected to serve as Vice-Moderator and Rev. D.C. Cobb (Faith) and Mr. Bud Clements (Brookside) were unanimously affirmed to serve as Clerk and Treasurer for the Association in

the coming year. We are grateful to these men for their willingness to lead our association. I am thankful to have opportunity to work closely with Officers who are committed to God's church and to the vision of the Mid-South Baptist Association.

...*And the Prayers Went Up* – as we very carefully and prayerfully discussed and debated a critical and pivotal decision in regard to future ministry through the Mid-South Baptist Conference Center. A total of 226 registered representatives participated in the discussion and a total of 209 votes were cast. The Executive Board Recommendation to close the camping ministry effective January 1, 2008, and to divest the property in a manner that enables our Association to assist churches in starting and

**2007-2008
Associational Officers**

Moderator
Rick Isbell (Leclair)

Vice Moderator
John Finley (Bartlett Hills)

Clerk
D.C. Cobb (Faith)

Treasurer
Bud Clements (Brookside)

revitalizing congregations, developing leaders, and mobilizing members for mission involvement was approved by a margin of **127** (61%) to **82** (39%). We must express our thanks to Moderator Don Marston and Parliamentarian Charles Perkins for their fair and flexible leadership during the discussion. They did a fantastic job and God blessed us with extraordinary doses of kindness, calmness, and clarity as we debated and made a hard decision. Now we must continue to pray for God's blessing and direction for our Association leadership teams, staff teams, and churches as we move forward in implementing the recommendation. (The recommendation, as approved, appears in this issue of The Mid-South Baptist and on the MSBA website at msbac.org.)

...*And God's Blessings Keep Flowing Down!* It is an awesome privilege to serve as your Director of Missions. I am grateful for a good Annual Meeting, a good spirit among the churches and a good direction for the future. Most of all, I am grateful to God for His abundant blessings upon the churches of the MSBA. May we glorify Him through exceptional stewardship of the resources He has provided!

Important Dates for November

- 1 MSBA Secretaries' Luncheon - MSBCC - Noon
- 2 Baptist Hospital Auxiliary - Women's Hospital
- 5 Baptist Women World Day of Prayer
- 5 MSBA Staff Meeting - MSBA Office
- 5 Pastors' Conference - Bellevue B.C. 11:30 a.m.
- 5 Ministers' Wives Fellowship - Bellevue B.C. 11:30 a.m. - Dr. Chuck Herring, Speaker
- 6 Administrative Leadership Council MSBCC - 7:30 a.m.
- 8 Foundation Board Meeting - MSBA Office 8:30 a.m.
- 8 Baptist newsletter articles due
- 9-10 Mother/Daughter Retreat - MSBCC
- 12 No Pastors' Conference
- 13-14 TN Baptist Convention - Kingsport, TN
- 16 WMU Fall Missions Celebration - MSBCC 6:00 p.m.
- 19 Pastors' Conference - Bellevue B.C. 11:30 a.m.
- 20 Senior Adult Rally - MSBCC - 10:30 a.m.
- 21 Thanksgiving Dinner for Internation Students - U of M BSM
- 22 Thanksgiving Day - MSBA Office Closed
- 23 MSBA Office Closed
- 26 Pastors' Conference - Bellevue B.C. 11:30 a.m.

Upcoming Church Events

LIFEBLOOD DRIVE

Wednesday, November 7 • 4:00-6:00 p.m. Call Colonial Baptist Church at 901-682-6644 or go to www.colonialbaptistmemphis.org for more information.

CALL TO WORSHIP GOSPEL QUARTET

Colonial Baptist Church would like to invite the community to hear the *Call to Worship* Gospel Quartet at their church located at 1503 Colonial Rd., on Sunday, November 11, at 5:00 p.m. Admission is free. Call the church at 901-682-6644 or go to www.colonialbaptistmemphis.org for more information.

AARP DRIVERS' SAFETY PROGRAM

An AARP Drivers' Safety Program will be conducted at Colonial Baptist Church, 1503 Colonial Rd., on November 27-28, 2007, from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Cost is \$10 per person. Contact Tom Ferrell at 901-386-3700 for an application.

Church Needs and Resources

- Person needed to develop cartoon character/series for Christian website (godbreak.com). Prefer knowledge and use of Photoshop/Illustrator. Contact Forrest Harrell at 901-409-1186 for more info.
- Pianos for Sale. Call Mark Branson at 901-373-7193 or e-mail sap101@bellsouth.net.
- If your church is seeking a pastor, the Association has a book available to assist you. *Seeking God to Seek a New Pastor*, by Gregory Frizzell, is being provided by the Association. Contact our office at 901-373-6161 if you would like to pick up a copy.

WMUTM HAPPENINGS

Mother/Daughter Fall Retreat



Friday-Saturday
November 9-10, 2007

Mid-South Baptist
Conference Center

Cost: \$30 per person
Deadline: November 5

Mission Project:

Donations to help a missionary with shipping costs.

Fall Missions Celebration

Friday, November 16, 2007

6:00 p.m.

Cost: \$8.00 per person

Mid-South Baptist Conference Center

Speakers: Anita and Ron Hunt

Please make reservations by November 9.

Opportunity Camp Sponsors

Sponsor a child for Opportunity Camp next summer for \$150. Send checks to MSBA, 6896 Hwy. 70, Memphis, TN 38133.

Gifts Needed for Toy Stores

The Leewood and Brinkley Heights Mission Centers' Toys Stores are in need of new toy donations valued at \$5, \$10 or \$15 for ages babies through high school for the upcoming Christmas season.

Brinkley Heights Needs

Brinkley Heights Mission is in need of personal hygiene products (especially bar soap and deodorant). Please contact them at 901-458-0617 if your group can help out.

Call Julie at 901-373-6161 or e-mail her at midsouthbaptistwmu@msbac.org for more information on any of the above events.

Missionaries Needed

Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes, Inc.

The Bartlett Campus at 6896 Highway 70 and the Double B Boys' Ranch in Millington are taking applications for Houseparents, a married couple whose primary work assignment is to maintain the day-to-day ministry of a Campus Home and its residents. Please contact Troy Styers, Program Director at the Ranch (901-872-0839) or Darren Andrus, Program Director at Bartlett (901-386-3961)

Approved Mid-South Baptist Conference Center Recommendation

Since January of 2007, the *Resource Development Team* of the Mid-South Baptist Association has been engaged in a discussion of the past, present, and future of the Mid-South Baptist Conference Center (formerly known as Camp Cordova). The discussion and study was prompted by: (1) The **steady increases** in operational costs; (2) The **limited usage** of the facility by MSBA churches; (3) The **lack of sufficient funds** to develop the Conference Center for viable future ministry opportunities; and, (4) The **commitment to utilize the resources of the Association** for assisting churches in starting new churches, revitalizing and strengthening existing churches, involving church members in missions, and developing church leaders. As a result of our study, the *Associational Resource Development Team* recommends to the Administrative Leadership Council, the MSBA Executive Board, and the Mid-South Baptist Association, the following actions in regard to the future use of the MSBCC as a resource to benefit accomplishment of MSBA priority strategies:

1. That MSBA cease operation of Mid-South Baptist Conference Center as a residential Christian encampment effective January 1, 2008.
2. That MSBA retain a tract of approximately 5-acres (inclusive of Palmer Center, upper and lower parking space, and residence with frontage on Rocky Point Road from existing entrance to North boundary) for day use and future development of MSBA Operations Center, with the provision that the specified tract and ownership of other facilities with frontage to Rocky Point Road is negotiable in the event that the property is sold for development and usage as a camping related ministry.
3. That MSBA authorize a "Mid-South Conference Center Property Task Force" to negotiate the divestiture of the remaining 69.53 acres of real property and attached assets of MSBCC in a manner that is beneficial to achievement of the priority strategies of the MSBA. The Task Force shall consist of the *MSBA Trustees* and the members of the *Associational Resource Development Team* and shall seek to negotiate divestiture of the property and assets within the following parameters:
 - a. Sale of the property for real estate development; or,
 - b. Sale of the property for development as a Christian encampment; or,
 - c. Sale of the property for other ministry purposes; or,
 - d. Exchange of the property for other real properties or in-kind services of equal value that will benefit accomplishment of MSBA priority strategies for church planting and revitalization, church leadership development, church mobilization, and associational resource development; or,
 - e. Donation of the real property to ministry institutions that will include and facilitate accomplishment of MSBA strategy priorities of church planting and revitalization, church leadership development, church mobilization, and associational resource development as part of their long-term ministry plan.
4. That MSBA authorize the *Trustee Members* of the *Property Task Force* to:
 - a. Select and Contract appropriate brokers/agents to represent MSBA in sale or divestiture of the property;
 - b. Secure legal services and documentation necessary to the sale/divestiture of the property and pay accompanying fee from the Retreat Center Development account;
 - c. Receive and review offers in regard to sale/divestiture of the property for a period not to exceed six months;
 - d. Recommend the appropriate offer for approval of the MSBA Executive Board by June of 2008; and upon approval by the Executive Board, "close" the sale/divestiture of the property.
 - e. Determine the disposition of the accompanying assets of the Mid-South Conference Center.
5. That MSBA authorize the *Resource Development Team* Members of the *Property Task Force* to:
 - a. Develop a proposal for investment of potential net proceeds and subsequent allocation of investment earnings toward the priority ministries of the Association.
 - b. Develop a reasonable and appropriate "Transition Plan" for current MSBCC staff. (Inclusive of, but not limited to, severance pay, assistance with future placement, etc.)
6. That MSBA authorize the *Administrative Leadership Council* to:
 - a. Review, revise, approve and implement the proposal for investment of net proceeds and subsequent allocation of investment earnings toward the priority ministries of the Association.
 - b. Review, revise, approve and implement a proposal for the transition of current MSBCC staff within the parameters established by MSBA operational policies.

Approved by *Associational Resource Development Team* – June 18, 2007

Approved by *Administrative Leadership Council* – July 10, 2007

Submitted to *Executive Board* for Consideration – August 14, 2007

Amended and Approved by *Executive Board* – September 17, 2007

Approved by *MSBA* – October 15, 2007