

Mid-South Ministry Profile

Pastor Jerry Harmon and Ellendale Baptist Church by Stuart McCollough

How does a native of Baltimore, MD become senior pastor of a Southern Baptist Church in Bartlett, TN? If you ask Dr. Jerry Harmon, it was an unmistakable calling from God. Answering that call, Dr. Harmon and his family began their new ministry at Ellendale Baptist Church on Sunday, August 19, 2007.

Growing up in an Independent Baptist Church in Baltimore, MD, Bro. Jerry came to know Christ and felt the call to preach as a young man. He attended Hyles-Anderson College in Crown Point, IN and developed a passion from God for expository preaching. He believes that God builds His church through the clear and anointed preaching of His Word. He began following the ministry of the late Dr. Adrian Rogers of Bellevue Baptist Church and would try to get to Memphis a couple of times a year to sit under the teaching of Dr. Rogers.

Bro. Jerry spent his first five years in the pastorate in Louisiana and served in other churches before God providentially provided a way for him to attend Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary in Memphis to further his education. He had a desire to learn everything he could to be able to be better equipped to teach the flock where God had placed him as undershepherd.

After graduating with his Doctorate, Dr. Harmon pastored at First Baptist Church, Marked Tree, AR. He then returned to Grace Bible Baptist Church – his home church in Baltimore – to serve as Teaching Pastor and Administrator of their Christian school. While not understanding at the time why God was calling them back to Baltimore, Dr. Harmon and his family came to realize that God was going to use them there to minister to his parents during a time of illness as well as support their home pastor through a time of devastating loss and serious illness in his family's life.

From the time Ellendale's Pastor Search Committee first contacted Bro. Jerry, he felt God impress upon him that this was truly His call. An already planned family vacation to Memphis provided an opportunity for the Harmon family to meet with the search committee and the staff of Ellendale. God used that visit and the subsequent visit in view of a call to confirm the plan that He had for the next step in their journey of service.

Ellendale Baptist is a growing, active and mission-minded church, and Bro. Jerry is excited to see what God is going to do and where He's going to lead in the future. He recently told the staff that his strategic plan for the first year is very simple. He wants to, "love the people at Ellendale and just get to know them." He feels that God has already placed a strong love in his heart for them. He and his family have become very involved in many areas of the church and have attended Sunday School socials, youth events and other special events in an effort to get to know as many members and families as possible.

Bro. Jerry and his wife Carolyn have four children: Abby is 17; Jeremiah is 14; Josiah is 10 and Annie is nine. The whole family is musically inclined, and three of the children play piano. In their short time in Bartlett, the children have already gotten involved in sports and Bro. Jerry likes to spend what little spare time he does have supporting their teams.

The one thing that Bro. Jerry would like people to know about Ellendale is, "That it is one of the best-kept secrets in Bartlett. This is one of the most loving churches I have ever been a part of. People who come to Ellendale see it."



Dr. Jerry Harmon and his family have recently moved to Bartlett to Pastor Ellendale Baptist.



**Mid-South Baptist
Conference Center**

Fall is in the air and it is a beautiful time to be outdoors. The Mid-South Baptist Conference Center still has a few weekend dates available for retreats. If a group in your church is planning a get-together for an overnight or just an evening, what would be more convenient and pleasant than the camp? We are located at 849 Rocky Point Road in Cordova.

Banquets are already being scheduled for the fall and a few have been set in December. Make your plans soon and give us a call. We have a variety of banquet menus to choose from. Banquet dates already scheduled are Nov. 30, Dec. 1, Dec. 3, Dec. 7, Dec. 8, Dec. 13 and Dec. 22.

It is a privilege to serve as your camp manager.

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

Piperton Baptist Church (F/T)
Contact Mrs. Penny Jones or Bro. Thomas Foy at
901-853-1711.

Secretary/Financial Secretary

Georgian Hills Baptist Church (P/T)
Contact Rev. Tim Vassar at 901-357-5333.

Weekday Preschool Teacher

Bartlett Baptist Church Kids' Day Out Program (3 days/wk.)
Contact Martha Shaeffer at 901-387-0827.

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

Gateway Baptist Church, Atoka, TN (P/T)
Contact Rev. Billy Skinner at 901-837-8087 or
901-840-4309.

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

Forest Hill Baptist Church
Contact Hulon White at 901-743-0342.

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

Rosemark Baptist Church
Contact Steven Curtis at 901-481-0198 or Beth
Campbell at 901-829-3396.

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Tennessee and additional entries.

Dated material. Useless if Delayed!



The Mid-South
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MID-SOUTH BAPTIST ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

WHITEHAVEN BAPTIST CHURCH
4800 ELVIS PRESLEY BLVD.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2007

The Mid-South Baptist Association Annual Meeting will be held Monday, October 15, 2007 at Whitehaven Baptist Church with dinner at 5:00 p.m. (reservations required). Cost: \$5.00 per person. The meeting will begin at 6:00 p.m. and conclude by 9:00 p.m.

Highlights include:

- Music provided by Whitten Memorial Baptist Church
- Rev. Don Marston, Moderator, presiding
- Ministry Updates from Churches
- Testimonies from Church Planters
- Consideration of Important Business Items

Please call the association office at 901-373-6161 for dinner reservations. Childcare will not be available.

WHAT'S INSIDE:

- A Word from the Executive Director of Missions is on the inside front cover.
- A copy of the Amended Mid-South Baptist Conference Center Recommendation is printed on the inside back cover.
- Ministry Spotlight on Dr. Jerry Harmon and Ellendale Baptist Church is on the back cover.

The Mid-South
Baptist





A Word from the Executive Director of Missions

Dr. Michael Day

"October is the Time For..."

The time for...Pastor Appreciation. I don't know who did it, but I am glad that someone has designated October as *Clergy Appreciation Month*. For several years, numerous Christian publishers and Christian organizations have been encouraging us to honor those who serve God as pastors in a special way during the month of October. I am grateful for those who serve faithfully as "preacher, pastor, shepherd, leader" of the churches of the Mid-South Baptist Association. We praise God for your faithful service! I hope that each non-pastor who is reading these words will find that "special way" to honor your pastor this month! We love our pastors!!

The time for...Associational Fellowship. I am looking forward to the fellowship we will enjoy as Mid-South Baptists gather for our 104th annual meeting on Monday, October 15, 2007, at Whitehaven Baptist Church. I join with Moderator Don Marston in expressing our gratitude to Dr. Jim Meredith and the membership of Whitehaven Baptist for offering to host this annual event. I am looking forward to an evening that is focused on celebrating what God is doing in His churches. We will hear reports, testimonies and updates that will inspire us and give us good reason to celebrate. I hope each church will make every effort to have a full-slate of representatives present at the Annual Meeting. Additional information about the meeting is found on the front page of this edition of *The Mid-South Baptist*.

The time for...Prayerful Deliberation. There has been much formal and informal discussion of our Executive Board's recommendation to close the operation of the Mid-South Baptist Conference Center and sell or divest the property in order to provide resources that will enable the Association to fully-focus on assisting churches to do the work and ministry that God has called and commissioned them to do. (*The full proposal, as amended and approved by the Executive Board in the September 17, 2007 meeting, is printed in this issue or may be viewed at msbac.org.*) To date, the recommendation has been developed and approved by the *Associational Resource Development Team*; approved by the *Administrative Leadership Council*; and, amended and approved by the *Executive Board*. There is no doubt that this is both a critical and sensitive subject for our Association. It is one that demands much prayerful deliberation and consideration.

As I attempt to pray through, think through and walk through this matter, I am struck by the truth that our decision is **not a choice between what is right or what is wrong. It is not a choice between what is good and what is bad.** If it were that kind of choice, it would be an easy decision. It is a hard decision because it is an attempt to determine the best way to use the resources that God owns and God provides to assist His church in fulfilling His Great Commission. Do we do that *best* by continuing to operate a camping and retreat facility on the 75-acres God has given us; or do we do that *best* by using the 75-acres God has given to provide additional resources that will help our churches in their work and ministry? It is a significant determination that demands prayerful deliberation. My personal attempts to pray through and think through this issue have led me to three conclusions. First, *as a representative* to the annual meeting, I will vote in favor of the recommendation because I believe it represents the best steps we can take toward focusing on the work of the churches and fulfilling the vision we have affirmed for this association. Second, *as your Director of Missions*, I will fully-support and enthusiastically-implement any decision our associational representatives make in regard to this matter. Finally, *as a fellow believer and follower of Christ*, I will pray that the decisions made at our meeting will reflect more than the "majority of those voting" and more than the "preferences of the people." I am praying that our actions will represent a strong and clear "word from God" on this matter. Will you join me in that prayer?

"To God be the Glory for great things He has done, is doing, and will do in and through the churches of the Mid-South Baptist Association!"

A Heart For Jesus Women's Conference

Crosspointe Baptist Church
8850 Hwy. 51 North • Millington

Friday, October 12, 2007 • 6:30-9:30 p.m.
(Doors open at 6:00 p.m.; Dinner served at 6:30 p.m.)
Saturday, October 13, 2007 • 8:30 a.m.-Noon

Speakers:

Carol Woodard (Crosspointe Baptist, Millington)
Ginny Porter (Lucy Baptist, Millington)
Joney Caudill (Faith Baptist, Atoka)
Music: Crosspointe's "Women of Praise"
Cost: \$10

Call 901-872-4413 for more information.



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 MABTS 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.

Important Dates for October

- 1 Pastors' Conference and Ministers' Wives Fellowship - Bellevue B.C. - 11:30 a.m.
- 5 Baptist Hospital Auxiliary - Women's Hospital
- 5-6 RA Tri-State Camp-O-Ree - MSBCC
- 8 MSBA Staff Meeting – MSBA Office
- 8 *Mid-South Baptist* articles due
- 9 Administrative Leadership Council MSBCC – 7:30 a.m.
- 15 No Pastors' Conference
- 15 **MSBA Annual Meeting - Whitehaven Baptist Church • 5:00 p.m. - dinner (w/ reservations) • 6:00 p.m. - meeting**
- 20 TBCH Fall Festival/Open House/Car Show TBCH Bartlett Campus
- 22 Pastors' Conference - Bellevue B.C. 11:30 a.m.
- 29 Pastors' Conference - Bellevue B.C. 11:30 a.m.

Upcoming Church Events

- An Introduction to Disaster Relief course will be offered at Germantown Baptist Church, Room L115, on October 16, 2007, at 7:00 p.m. The cost is \$5.00, and you can pay at the door. Pre-register at rgarrett@pol.net, or call Evelyn at 901-260-5712.
- Ivan Parker will be in concert on Saturday, November 10, 2007, at 6:30 p.m., at Wells Station Baptist Church. The church is located at 1510 Wells Station Rd., in Memphis. A love offering will be received. Call the church office at 901-682-2295 or 901 682-4020 for more information.
- English as a Second Language (ESL) Workshop will be offered at Germantown Baptist Church in the Parlor, October 13 and 20 (8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.) The cost is \$25.00. Please bring a sack lunch. You can register with Evelyn at 901-756-9450 or Minne at 901-283-6609 or e-mail minne@dsg.us.

Church Resources and Needs

- For Sale: 1989 Ford 29-Passenger Mini Bus. Good running condition and low miles. Contact Lynn at Leawood Baptist Church at 901-324-7169.
- Wanted: Part-time Cook to prepare Wednesday night meals. Contact Lynn at Leawood Baptist Church at 901-324-7169.
- Richland Baptist Church has church pew pads in various lengths that they would like to give to a church. Please call the church office at 901-683-2451 for more information.

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)



Call Julie at 901-373-6161 for information about any of these events.

National WMU Event

October 17-20, 2007
Little Rock, AR

World Day of Prayer Brunch

Saturday, October 27, 2007
9:30-11:30 a.m.

Tennessee Baptist Children's Home Bartlett Campus
Guest Speaker: Pam Wafler, missionary to Uganda

Fall Missions Celebration

Friday, November 16, 2007
6:00 p.m.

Mid-South Baptist Conference Center
Cost: \$8.00 per person



Opportunity Camp

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

Resource Guide

The 2007-2008 edition of the *Ministry and Mission Opportunity Resource Guide* is now available through the WMU office at the Mid-South Baptist Association. For your copy, contact Julie Binford at 901-373-6161.

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



Calling All Secretaries/Ministry Assistants

The next meeting of the Mid-South Baptist Secretaries Association will be held on Thursday, November 1, at the Mid-South Baptist Conference Center. Please make your reservations by Monday, October 29, by calling 901-754-7028. If no one answers, please leave a message. Our meeting for November will be a discussion time to plan our quarterly meetings for the next two years. Please jot down a list of ideas for programs and be prepared to let us know if your church would like to host one of our meetings. We will be asking different churches/the associational office/or group of churches to be in charge of each meeting. Also take into consideration if you would like to have a special Saturday "girls time" with a special speaker and some pampering time, etc. We may also want to consider a way to share some special ladies event from our church that our secretaries would be invited to attend. We want your ideas!

Amended Mid-South Baptist Conference Center Recommendation

(Amended Section Underlined)

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