

THE MONTGOMERY BAPTIST



Serving Christ Through Montgomery Area Churches

KEN MAY, DIRECTOR OF MISSIONS • THURSDAY, JUNE 14, 2007

A Personal Word



Ken May

At our 2004 Annual Celebration the MBA celebrated “church health.” We highlighted 12 churches that in recent years had exhibited one or more of the key components and promoters of church health. Those components were: mission, focus, spirit, leadership, interaction, and conflict negotiation. The promoters of church health were: sense of purpose, clarity, conflict management, mood and tone, mature interactions and healing capacities.

I mentioned last week the reality that some churches ought to be growing, are in great locations to grow, but don't. The reasons are often found in that list above—lack of clarity about mission, immature interactions, poor conflict management, lack of leadership, etc.

I prefer to focus on the positives. Several of the churches we accented in 2004 had experienced difficulty. Three had worked through major problems with their buildings. One was in a declining neighborhood. Yet all had excelled in doing some kingdom things and had used their God-given resources to accomplish what they could. Others were clearly focused on their mission and calling and all were doing kingdom work.

So, what is the first step in achieving health and church growth? First is to ask the question, “What is God calling us to do?” It may seem like a trite question, but it is one that absolutely must be answered. It can be phrased in many ways. “Who is God positioning us to reach?” “What is unique about us that God can use to reach people?” “Do we have special resources, human or physical, that equip us to reach certain people?” Individuals and church leaders must ask themselves very personal spiritual questions—“Who am I and who is God calling me to be in relationship to Him?” “What is my mission in life?” “What are my gifts and how am I to use those gifts in kingdom work?”

Church health and growth are not about the next new program! There are no easy ways, no short cuts, to church health. Sometimes we have to admit and come to grips with our past failures. Here is one example from another state: A certain church had six pastors in a 12-year period. Serious introspection after the last termination led the congregation to conclude that the problem rested in the congregation, not in the pastors who had served. With help from a conflict resolution coach, the church came to confess their failures (as sin) and sought restoration with each of the terminated ministers and their families. All were invited to come to the church (expenses paid) in order for the congregation to apologize personally. Four of the six pastors and their wives came. It set the congregation in a new direction. Perhaps it may not be as drastic as that example, but concrete steps must be taken to process and deal collectively with the past pain in order to move forward into God's future. I am praying that your church will experience good "church health."

MBA News:

Eastern Hills is accepting resumes for a full-time education/outreach administrative assistant. Computer experience with Microsoft Word, Excel and Publisher is required. Experience in church software is helpful. Please send your resume to Eastern Hills Baptist Church, Attention: Bob Moore, 3604 Pleasant Ridge Road, Montgomery, AL 36109.



Vacation Bible School Schedules for June

<u>Church</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Time</u>
Snowdown (supper served at 5:30)	June 17 - 21	6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Capitol Heights	June 18 - 22	9:00 - 12:00 p.m.
First	June 18 - 22	9:00 - 12:00 p.m.
Open Acres	June 18 - 22	6:00 - 8:30 p.m.
Taylor Road	June 18 - 22	8:45 - 12:00 p.m.
Heritage	June 25 - 29	8:30 - 11:45 a.m.
McGehee Road	June 24 - 28	5:30 - 8:00 p.m.
Morningview	June 24 - 27	9:00 - 12:00 p.m.

If your church is not currently listed, e-mail Patsy Watson at pwatson@mgmbaptist.org with your information.

CONVERSATIONAL ENGLISH WORKSHOP

Teacher Training July 25 - 27, 2007

- When?** July 25 – 5:00-8:00 p.m.
July 26 & 27– 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
- Where?** Montgomery Baptist Association Building
20 Interstate Park ~ 271-6227
(Interstate I-85 at Perry Hill Road exit)
- Cost?** \$25 covers cost of your Manual
- Bring?** Please bring sack lunch, drinks provided.

Need more information? Call Judy Randall, 271-6794

Tools for School

Once again it is time to prepare for the **Tools for School** project administered through your Baptist Ministry Centers. This project gives ministry centers opportunity to assist many children and their parents by providing needed school supplies. Supporting churches for the Regional Baptist Centers will be participating in this ministry.

School supply lists will be sent to each church. Supplies need to be collected by Sunday, August 5th. The following week supplies should be delivered to the Regional Baptist Center supported by each church on a day the center is open.

Chisholm – Mon., Tues., Thurs. 9:00-2:00 p.m.
Day Street – Wed., Thurs., Fri. 12:00-3:00 p.m.
Forest Park – Mon., Wed. 9:00-12:00 p.m. / 1:00-3:00 p.m.
Valley Park – Tues. 9:00-2:00 p.m.

Supplies will be packaged and delivered to guidance counselors at participating schools. Teachers from kindergarten through 6th grade will be given supplies, as the students need them. Please contact your church for a list of needed supplies. **All monetary donations (cash or check) should be given directly to the Baptist Center or the Montgomery Baptist Association.**