

THE MONTGOMERY BAPTIST



Serving Christ Through Montgomery Area Churches

KEN MAY, DIRECTOR OF MISSIONS • THURSDAY, JUNE 28, 2007

A Personal Word



Ken May

To put it simply, our job as the Church of Jesus Christ is to make disciples—to make disciples of Jesus. To gauge success, we look at the entirety of the Great Commission. Have we led them to commit their lives to Jesus to follow Him? Have we baptized them? Have we taught them to obey all that He has commanded? These are included in Jesus' command to “make disciples.”

Healthy churches are focused on their mission reflected in the Great Commission. They know their job is not simply to have Sunday School and worship services every Sunday. Their job is not to have a calendar full of activities for the church members. Great Commission focused churches build their activities and spend money to fulfill that Christ-given commission. Programs and activities are evaluated based not on how many people attended, or on how those attending felt about the activity, but rather on how that activity helped the church to accomplish its mission.

My observation has been, both as a pastor and as a director of missions, that most of our churches will talk about being mission focused, but are in reality self-focused. Some are driven by what the members “want” rather than by what the community “needs.” The focus is not on what will it take to reach our city, but on what we “like.” Others, driven by tradition, say, “we’ve never done it that way before!” Meanwhile, the lost around us are dying without the salvation Jesus brings. It’s time to be on mission.

If you went to a “foreign” mission field, what would you do first? You would seek to learn the language.

Then you would begin studying the culture. You would learn what is acceptable and what is not. You would learn how the people live and what is important to them. If your goal was to evangelize them, as it should be, then you would seek to build relationships without being judgmental about their cultural practices. Well, for most of our church members and many of our churches, we are living in a “foreign” field. The people around us do not think like us, or talk like us, or necessarily act like us. But the responsibility is not for them to become like us so that we can reach them, but for us to find creative ways to take the good news to them where they are. Pray with me that God would open our eyes to see the people around us and touch our hearts with the compassion of Jesus to reach out to them.

Ken

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, 272-0604, or email: Bob@EHBCOnline.com.

Capitol Heights - Congratulations to **Chris Owens** on his 6th anniversary as Minister of Music.



The MBA Staff wishes you a Happy and Safe 4th of July!

The FBC JOY Singers Set to Present Patriotic Concert

The First Baptist Church JOY Singers will present the patriotic concert, *From Sea to Shining Sea* on Sunday, July 1 at 6:15 p.m. in the main sanctuary.

From Sea to Shining Sea, the 7th patriotic concert for the JOY Singers, will feature a musical and pictorial salute to all 50 states, guest musicians, a children's chorus, and a display of historic American flags. All active, reserved and retired military personnel from all branches of military service will be recognized during the performance.

The JOY Singers have had the pleasure to entertain audiences at conference centers, churches, and retirement facilities throughout the state for the past nine years. The choir is under the direction of Dr. Theresa Gordon. Virginia Figh and Sara Jo Bagley are the accompanists.

The program is free and open to the public. First Baptist Church is located at 305 South Perry Street. Jay Wolf is pastor.

For more information, please call FBC at 334-834-6310.

URGENT NEED

The Conversational English school through Montgomery Baptist Association is in need of a few VAN DRIVERS and a church van for the fall and spring semesters. It is a one day a week volunteer position. Drivers pick up and drop off students for school each Thursday morning. Contact Kathy Kelley at 273-9249 or Lisa Rose, 271-6794 for more information.



Vacation Bible School Schedule

Church	Dates	Time
Eastdale	July 17 - 21	5:45 - 8:45 p.m.
Eastmont	July 16 - 20	9:00 - 12:15 p.m.

The Capitol Sounds Concert Band Taylor Road Baptist Church

&

Dalraida Baptist Church Worship Choirs

present

MUSIC OF AMERICA

Sunday, July 1, 2007

7:00 p.m.

Music of America is a multi-media musical presentation of family entertainment honoring and celebrating America's freedom through patriotic music. This year's special guest features Dr. John M. Long, legendary director of Troy University's "Sound of the South" band. The best news is it's FREE!!!! Make your plans NOW to be part of this 4th of July celebration. Troy University Davis Theatre for the Performing Arts, 251 Montgomery St.