

THE MONTGOMERY BAPTIST



Serving Christ Through Montgomery Area Churches

KEN MAY, DIRECTOR OF MISSIONS • THURSDAY, JULY 26, 2007

A Personal Word



Ken May

In a number of recent columns I have discussed the need for our churches to be missional if they are to be faithful in reaching people and making disciples. In Reggie McNeal's book, *The Present Future*, he mentions the tendency for churches to be caught up in a "church club culture," where the focus is on getting the right people into the church club, folks who know the dress code and the right language. He points out that our commission from Jesus is to make disciples everywhere we go.

I recently read another interesting contrast about 'churches as they are' versus 'churches as they ought to be.' The terms used by the authors in their comparison and contrast were "attractational" and "incarnational." For too long we have focused primarily and almost exclusively on being "attractational." Even churches that could be considered creative and contemporary are often caught up in the attractational mode, seeking to attract members to the church, asking "What can we do to draw more people to us?" The contrast is clear when we compare it with the "incarnational" church. This church seeks to be light and salt in its world. The incarnational church is concerned with how to become what we need to be IN the world. This church seeks to find ways to connect with the world rather than withdraw from it. There is no fortress mentality in the incarnational church. The incarnational church is willing to give herself as a sacrifice in order to reach people with the life-changing gospel of Jesus Christ. The question is, "How can we do what Jesus has called us to do in our world?" "What can we do to get more people into a relationship with Christ, even if it doesn't mean more members for our church?" The main focus does not need to be, "How can the church survive?"

The incarnational church is involved in peoples' lives, yes, people OUTSIDE the church. They are important because Jesus died for THEM as well as for US. And, the incarnational church acknowledges that people do not have to be like us to show love to them. We need to learn what is important to them in order to relate the gospel to their lives. I am praying that we all might incarnate the love of Jesus Christ more effectively!

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 **Patsy Binford**, Financial/Youth/Music Secretary, on her 4th anniversary.

Cloverdale-Congratulations to **Carol Brown**, Pastor/Financial Secretary on her 11th anniversary.

McGehee Road is seeking a part-time Minister of Children. Resumes can be mailed to the church as follows: Attn. Personnel Committee, 2877 McGehee Road, Montgomery, AL 36111 or emailed to gmurks@mrbch.org. For more information and a job description contact the church at 262-0689.



URGENT NEED

The Conversational English school through MBA Church & Community Ministries, Inc. 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.

ALCAP Seeks Teachers

Alabama Citizens Action Program

2376 Lakeside Dr., Birmingham, AL 35244
205-985-9062

Drive-in Teachers Conference for anyone interested in teaching for ALCAP Educational Program. Thursday, August 9, 2007, 1-3:30 p.m. at the Shelby Association, 205 Walton St., Columbiana, AL 35051. If you have any questions, please phone the association office for additional information at 205-669-7858.

DO MORE WITH YOUR GIFT OF TIME!

Volunteers at Baptist Health do more with their gift of time — helping others while making new friends and enjoying the mental and physical benefits of active involvement in the healthcare community.

Choose to share just four hours of your week as a volunteer with Baptist Medical Center South, Baptist Medical Center East, Baptist Hospice or Prattville Baptist Hospital and you'll discover that your gift of time has more meaning and purpose than you'd ever imagined.

You are needed at Baptist Health!

Call Becky Smith, Director of Volunteer Services, at 334-286-2974 for more information.

Because you choose us, we do more.



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.