

THE MONTGOMERY BAPTIST



Serving Christ Through Montgomery Area Churches

KEN MAY, DIRECTOR OF MISSIONS • THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2008

A Personal Word



Ken May

When Jesus commissioned His disciples just before His ascension, He charged them (and us) with the task of making disciples. In the Greek, that is the only imperative found in the Great Commission. Most of us have heard emphasis on the word “go” as if it were also an imperative. In English, “go” is an imperative. In the Greek text, that word is not in the imperative form. Rather, using English grammar terminology, we would say it is present progressive, “Going therefore, into all the world, MAKE DISCIPLES of all nations.” As Baptists, most of us have heard “go” and “teach” and we have done a pretty good job of doing that. But the real task given us by Jesus is that of making “Christ followers.” I even like that term better than “Christian.” In today’s world and in our culture, the word “Christian” carries a lot of different meanings. It has become too generic. Seldom is it understood in the limited sense of a “Christ follower.” Sometimes it stands in opposition to other world religions as a term of general affiliation, and at other times it is used descriptively as the major religious affiliation of America. Ask any of the unchurched if they are Christian and many would answer with a “yes,” often adding “I was baptized,” “I go to church” or “Yeah, I believe in God.”

Our task is not to make “Christians” in the generic understanding, but true “Christ followers,” disciples of Jesus. We do that by connecting people with Jesus. That is not the same as inviting them to our church. Jesus did not tell us to go build up the membership and participation in churches, just to make disciples of all the peoples of the earth. Most churches’ outreach emphases focus on inviting people to church or church activities. These emphases have become simply other ways to market the church. I firmly believe that we have to get back to the task of evangelism, connecting people with Jesus, even if they never visit our church. That is our mission. It is time we got on task.

We will explore this further in several subsequent articles. In the meantime, let’s make disciples.

Ken



**Samaritan Inn
Volunteer Luncheon**
March 4, 2008, 12:00 noon
McGehee Road Baptist Church
RSVP by February 26th
271-6794

MBA News:

Eastmont-Congratulations to **Art Long**, associate pastor and minister to singles, upon his 18th anniversary.

Eastern Hills - Congratulations to **Amy Lavender**, church secretary and receptionist, on her 4th anniversary.



VBS Early Bird Clinic for Pastors, Children’s Ministers and/or Church VBS Directors

February 21st, 6:30 p.m.
Taylor Road Baptist
1685 Taylor Road
Call Steve Brown at
271-3363 to register.

Topics will include:

- Planning calendar
- Recruiting
- Budgeting
- Training
- Follow-up

This conference is not for all VBS teachers and workers; there will be a clinic in May for the general VBS training.

MBA Churches: Comparison of Baptisms and No Baptism

Year	Churches Reporting	# Baptisms	# w/no Baptisms
2004	56 *	815	10
2005	54	649	12
2006	51	665	11
2007	57	633	13

* Last reporting year for Coosada Baptist before they joined the Elmore Association.

Top Ten MBA Churches in Baptisms for 2007

Church	# Baptisms
Vaughn Forest	172
First	102
Eastmont	55
Taylor Road	38
Heritage	34
Eastern Hills	21
Gateway	19
Dalraida	18
Catoma	14
Westside	12

Gentlemen... Start your engines!
Robert Bates Memorial Pinewood Derby
Sunday, February 24, 2008
Eastern Hills Baptist Church Christian Life Center
3604 Pleasant Ridge Road
LADS: 1:00 – 1:30 pm Registration
1:30 pm Races begin
CRUSADERS: 1:30 – 2:00 pm Registration
2:15 pm Races begin (or after Lad races)

Glimpses of Instructional League Basketball

