

THE MONTGOMERY BAPTIST



Serving Christ Through Montgomery Area Churches

KEN MAY, DIRECTOR OF MISSIONS • THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 2008

A Personal Word



In the last article, I wrote about the power of structures or systems that we create to serve our purposes, which we end up serving instead. I likened this to the parable of the rich fool. He wanted prosperity. When he got it, it controlled him and took his life. I believe in many instances our systems have taken the **life** out of our churches. What were designed as small groups for deep interaction, genuine spiritual fellowship, evangelism and discipleship have evolved into social structures lacking any deep spiritual interaction.

Ken May How do we change our systems to restore the spiritual purposes for which the originals were created? Unfortunately, most of our efforts to reform the system have not succeeded. Systems and structures take on a life of their own and become entrenched in the minds and hearts of people. Often the system is **equated** with the spiritual purpose of its founding, even when there seems to be no current connection to that purpose. It seems obvious to me that many of our systems need to be changed, but the questions are: How can this be done? Are our people willing? What will it cost (not \$) in people, energy, conflict potential, etc.?

A few years ago, when Rick Warren wrote *The Purpose Driven Church*, many churches adopted purpose or mission statements. They printed them on their walls and in their materials, but little changed. Why? It was because the existing systems were not aligned with the purpose or mission statement, or were not changed to reflect the mission statement. In the church I was pastoring at the time, I asked those making budget requests to look at the mission statement and tell how their request would help us accomplish our mission. I got one response and the rest looked at me like I was crazy. The traditional system was controlling the activity, not the purpose statement.

A lot of churches and many associations go about their budgeting process by asking, "What did we budget last year?" and "What did we spend last year?" Then they add to or cut what was done previously. (I confess, this is what we have basically done since I have been here!) In this case, the system is in control, not the purpose. A better way would be to ask, "What do we feel God wants us to accomplish this next year?" Then we could ask "What is the best way to go about accomplishing that?" and begin building a system (organization and budget) to accomplish those objectives. It requires a lot of flexibility. Let's covenant to pray together toward this end.

Ken

MBA News:

Lakeview is currently accepting resumes for a part-time Minister of Students. Please send to:

Attn: Pastor, Lakeview Baptist Church
P.O. Box 241738, Montgomery, AL 36124.

McGehee Road will be having a revival **April 27--30, 6:30 nightly** with special music each night. **Rev. Neal Hughes** will be speaking Sunday evening. **Dr. Jay Wolf** will be the guest speaker Monday through Wednesday. Nursery provided.



“FUN IN THE SON” May 10, 2008 Eastdale Baptist Church

Eastdale Student Ministries inaugural volleyball tournament is a double elimination tournament and all day music event on the campus of the church. Cost is \$100 per team of 6-8. Call Jennifer at 657-7435 or Michael at 799-9315 for more info. Registration form along with check should be sent: Attn: Michael Boyle/ Jennifer Jones, Eastdale Baptist Church, 400 N. Burbank Dr., Montgomery, AL 36117.

MBA Baptist Men's Golf Tournament

Thursday, May 1

Lunch - 11:30 a.m.

Tee Time - 1:00 p.m.

Lagoon Park Golf Course

Cost \$50

(includes lunch, green fees, cart and prizes)

Registration and money due in the MBA office by Friday, April 25th.
Contact the office at 271-6227 or visit us on-line at www.mgmbaptist.org for a registration form.

*Proceeds to benefit the Samaritan Inn,
a ministry of the churches of the Montgomery Baptist Association.*



Ministers Conference

April 21 - 11:30 a.m.

Open Acres

47 Maplewood Drive

Program: **Ron Davis**

Music: **Mickey Conway**

R.S.V.P. to 265-8817
by Friday, April 18.

Executive Board

April 28 - 11:30 a.m.

Thorington Road

450 Ray Thorington Road

R.S.V.P. to 271-6227 or
jhedden@mgmbaptist.org
by Friday, April 25.

Senior Adult Choir Festival

Thursday, April 24

10:00 a.m.

Eastern Hills Baptist Church

3604 Pleasant Ridge Road

Contact the Montgomery Baptist Association office to register your choir or for more information at 334-271-6227.

(No lunch will be served this year.)



April 1 - May 9

Donate to Samaritan Inn Ministries when you shop at the following locations:

- Food World 2020 East South Blvd. Montgomery
- Food World 4896 U.S. Hwy. 231 Wetumpka
- Food World 1860 East Main St. Prattville
- Food World 3543 Alabama Hwy. 14 Millbrook

MBA WMU
Annual Meeting
April 24, 7 p.m.

First Baptist Church
305 S. Perry Street
Speaker: Rosalie Hunt
Alabama WMU President