

Director of Missions Report



Our focus as an association this past year has been on church revitalization. You can refer to the report by the Renovate SEMO team to see all that has been accomplished in detail. One of the most encouraging things has been to see the Missouri Baptist Convention initiate work in this same area. They have created and will launch an MBC Revitalization Network at their annual meeting scheduled for October 28-29. Additionally, the metro associations, which our association is among, created an assessment process for church replanters, the first of which will be October 10-11 at First Baptist Jackson. Our association pastors and leaders have led out in the State of Missouri in bringing not just an emphasis but real solutions to Southern Baptists in the area of church revitalization. You will continue to hear more about this in the coming weeks as we continue to press forward in this critical work.

Our shared leadership agreement with the Charleston Baptist Association (CBA) continues to be a positive partnership that is bearing fruit. They have increased the amount they contribute directly to our association which you can see in our financial report. They also have significantly increased their financial support of the Church Planting Center and Church Revitalization Team. One of the most exciting developments is the partnership of our associations in the development of youth ministries. We have had two youth leaders' meetings in the past 45 days to discuss how we can be more intentional in seeing the lives of young people transformed by the gospel. This involves an intentional plan for every event and teaching opportunity. The group of leaders has decided to have a monthly youth rally that is focused on specific, pre-determined goals that build throughout the year. The Camp programming at both associations will be based on the theme and components of these monthly events. The hope is to see youth become firmly established in the faith and take positions of leadership within the church. The next meeting is October 15 at 6:30pm at First Baptist Church of Jackson youth building commonly referred to as "The Bridge".

The challenge of finding and keeping trained, faithful men to serve as the pastors of our churches is an ongoing struggle. We currently have six bivocational churches seeking a pastor. God is faithful to supply and all of them except the most recent currently have someone serving as their interim. This shows the importance of having a leadership pipeline in place. To assist in this effort, we continue offering Bible Training Center for Pastors/Leaders and have recently released an ebook version of the book Why not me? of which there are free print copies at the registration table. Please take one and prayerfully consider who you might give it to as a challenge for them to consider pastoral ministry.

It is a great privilege to serve as your Director of Missions. Thank you for your continued support and partnership!

For the Glory of God,
John Vernon, Director of Missions