



# Birmingham Baptist Association

*Churches working together...to meet needs...to change lives.*

Dr. Mike McLemore, Executive Director • 750 Montclair Road • Birmingham, AL 35213 • Phone: 205-599-3245 • Fax: 205-599-3246 • [www.BBAonline.org](http://www.BBAonline.org)



## A word from our Executive Director

### Revealing Stats

By Dr. Mike McLemore

As we begin the second quarter of this year, I wanted to share with you some highlights of something I read recently in a Facts and Trends article written by Aaron Earls.

*A word  
from  
Bro. Mike*

In the article entitled, "How Churches Are Doing More with Less" Earls points out the following information.

First, he states that American churches have smaller budgets, and fewer congregations have full-time paid senior pastors, but churches don't seem to feel the pinch as much as they did a few years ago, according to the American Congregations 2015 study.

While the median church budget dropped \$25,000.00 in the last five years, down from \$150,000.00 to \$125,000.00, most churches seem financially optimistic.

Secondly, he reported that the number of churches that say they are experiencing some or serious financial difficulty, declined the last five years after a decade of increase. From 2000 to 2010, the percentage of churches that claimed difficulty grew from 8% to 18%. But in 2015, researchers found a slight drop to 16%.

Lifeway Research states that a third of Protestant senior pastors say their church's giving was under budget in 2015. One in five saw their finances decline. However, 2016 marked the lowest percentage of pastors saying the economy was negatively impacting their churches.

Thirdly, the article goes on to list four ways the research found churches are making the most of their financial situation:

- More churches have inspirational worship. Despite budget adjustments, weekend services are more upbeat according to the study.
- Fewer churches are fighting. In

2010, the study found a "recession surge" of church conflicts. Churches that had any conflict in the past five years jumped from 57% in 2005 to almost 78% in 2010. Those numbers crept back down closer to previous years in 2015. Last year, that number dropped by 16 points. 62% of churches reported conflicts in the last five years.

- More churches are moving to bi-vocational pastors. In 2010, more than 71% of churches had a full-time pastor. That number fell by almost 10% in 2015, dropping to 62%.
- Churches are focusing on specialized programs. Churches that have at least one program specialty such as Bible studies, music programs, or children and youth activities are more likely to grow.

In my opinion, these highlights from church research specialists underscore the importance that every church needs...

- Its members to be tithers.
- To look at what ministries your church is providing to the community.
- To be a unified body of believers on mission with God.
- To make sure your worship services are Christ-centered, and Christ-honoring. Quit trying to entertain the people and start equipping them! People have all kinds of places to go for entertainment. They want to come to church to hear the truth as found in the Word of God! Paul admonished Timothy to, "Preach the Word" not to "Placate the World!"

In the work of growing healthy churches,  
Bro. Mike

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## SIGN UP FOR OUR NEWSLETTER

Send your e-mail address to [news@bbaonline.org](mailto:news@bbaonline.org) to receive our monthly updates.

## MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT

# Get ready! World Changers is coming to Birmingham!

by Rev. Butch Henderson

World Changers national work projects began in the summer of 1990. Briceville, Tennessee hosted 137 youth and adults one week in the World Changers pilot project. High school youth performed other construction jobs on nine homes in the area. The participants, who paid their own expenses for the project, were divided into work crews. This allowed them to meet students from other churches in addition to spending time with their own youth group and is a formula still used today.

In 1992, World Changers expanded abroad with a project in Ciudad Victoria, Mexico. In 2011, World Changers partnered with Lifeway Student Ministries to create new ministry opportunities for an even wider audience.

Also in 1992, BBA Metro Changers and World Changers began working together in the city of Birmingham and the Jefferson County area and with the exception of a few years has continued to address the need of sub-standard housing in our community.

In 2007, Metro Changers was granted 501-C-3 status by the Internal Revenue Services. 2016 will mark the 24th anniversary of World Changers and Metro Changers working in the City of Birmingham. During

2015, Metro Changers was able, in partnerships with other entities, to bring over 1,100 volunteers to our City and 110 projects were completed.

## World Changers 2016 Schedule

World Changers is coming to our city in the Summer of 2016 on June 19th-24th, June 28th-July 1st, and July 17th-21st. Metro Changers/World Changers is a faith-based organization that partners with the City of Birmingham Mayor's Office, the Community Development Offices and the Birmingham Baptist Association to assist low to moderate income homeowners who qualify for their Volunteer Rehabilitation Program.

During 2016, Metro Changers/World Changers will be working on approximately 100 homes. Each home will have approximately 13 volunteers.

It is essential to the success of the ministry that our churches provide a place of worship, pray for the crews and provide their lunches the week they are here.

We encourage our BBA member churches to get involved in this local mission opportunity and host the volunteer crews that are so willing to serve the needy in our city.

*During each week, the host church will provide lunches for every crew at their worksite each day, except Sundays.*

### Week 1 (June 19th-24th)

Week 1 lunches will be served Sunday (at your church), Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

### Week 2 - (June 28th-July 1st)

Week 2 lunches will be served Tuesday-Friday.

### Week 3 - (July 17th-21st)

Week 3 lunches will be served Sunday at your church, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

*Please note that all lunches should be delivered between 11:30 a.m. and noon each day.*

Also, remind your volunteers that this is a great time to get to know the crews they are feeding and pray for them during the week.

To involve your congregation in this opportunity of service, please call the BBA or Butch Henderson at 205-599-3245.

*Rev. Butch Henderson is the Executive Director of Metro Changers Ministries, and the Church/Community Missions Specialist at Birmingham Baptist Association.*

## Call 599-3245 to become a World Changers host church!





## BBA HAPPENINGS



Claude King, co-author of "Experiencing God," led the Return to Disciple-Making Conference at the BBA office in March.



Photo by Tyler Hobbs

An Evening of Sacred Music fundraiser, in March at FBC Birmingham, was a wonderful evening of inspirational music. Pianists Frank Jones and Daniel Cason, along with vocalists Joe and Suzanne Hopkins, led the audience in a worshipful experience.



Lowell Vann was a recent guest at the BBA Minister's Conference in April. Lowell, who has a ministry as a Chalk Artist, visually told the story of the Gospel through his on-site drawings. Lowell's presentation was one of the most well-attended Minister's Conferences to date.



VBS Jumpstart for Pastors and VBS Leaders was held at Raleigh Avenue Baptist Church in February. Participants received beneficial training to help their VBS have greater impact on the community.



Integrity Baptist Church, a church plant sponsored by Sixth Avenue Baptist, dedicated their new building in April. Rev. Morris Johnson is Pastor.



The Franklin Graham Prayer Rally in Montgomery drew a large crowd from around the state. BBA chartered a bus and had fifty-five church members join us in Montgomery to pray for our nation and the political elections in our country.



# BBA CALENDAR

## Ministers Conference Spring Schedule for 2016

### April

**April 25** - BBA Executive Board Meeting, BBA Building



### May

**May 2** - Jonathan Miller, Jewish Rabbi

**May 9** - Doug Dortch, Pastor of Mountain Brook Baptist Church

**May 16** - Dr. Michael Wesley, Greater Shiloh Baptist Church

**May 23** - No meeting

**May 30** - BBA office closed for Memorial Day Holiday

## BBA WMU Spring Meeting & Luncheon

**Saturday, May 14, 2016**

**11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.**

Cost is \$9.00.

Reservations deadline is 05/09/16.

Contact Jennifer Scott at (205) 540-4703 or [wmu@bbaonline.org](mailto:wmu@bbaonline.org).

Leeds First Baptist Church  
7481 Parkway Drive  
Leeds, AL 35094

## SAVE THE DATE!

**Gospel preaching and singing at its best!**

### Fall Jubilee 2016

**September 19 - 21, 2016**

Autumn bus trip to Gatlinburg, Tennessee

Scan the QR code to register online!



## Disaster Relief Chaplaincy Training

**April 28th - April 30th**

Training will be at the BBA office located at 750 Montclair Road, Birmingham, AL 35213.

Register online at [www.sbd.org](http://www.sbd.org).



## 2016 VBS Clinic

**Saturday, April 23, 2016**

**9:00 a.m. - noon**

*Eastside Baptist Church  
558 Gadsden Hwy  
Birmingham, AL 35235  
Main Office: (205) 833-3463*

## BIRMINGHAM - OUR JERUSALEM: Where Missions Begin

### Week of Prayer for Associational Missions

**May 15 - 22, 2016**

This offering supports local ministries in our Jerusalem through the churches of the Birmingham Baptist Association.

**2016 Association Goal: \$15,000.00.**

*Suggested donation is \$1.00 per resident member.*

Download promotional materials for your church at [bbaonline.org/weekofprayer](http://bbaonline.org/weekofprayer).

Scan the QR code with your mobile phone for online e-giving.

- Posters
- Flyer
- PrayerGuide/  
Bulletin Inserts
- Church Bulletin Ad
- Facebook Ad



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