



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



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Learn more about what's going on at BBA.

SIGN UP FOR OUR NEWSLETTER

Send your e-mail address to news@bbaonline.org to receive our monthly updates.

A word from our Executive Director

An Evening of Sacred Music

By Dr. Mike McLemore

What an exciting and inspirational evening it will be! I am talking about our BBA fundraising event entitled, "An Evening of Sacred Music." The event will take place on Thursday evening, March 3rd, at 6:30 p.m., at First Baptist Church of Birmingham.

The event will feature well known concert pianists Rev. Frank Jones and Rev. Daniel Cason who will be playing at two pianos as they present the great hymns of our faith.

Also, Dr. and Mrs. Joe Hopkins will present their arrangements of some of the most beloved songs of the Christian faith. Dr. Hopkins is the Dean of the School of Music and the Arts at Samford University. He and his wife Suzanne will bless you greatly as they sing their way into your heart!

Tickets are on sale now but going fast! You can order online by going to www.bbaonline.org/SacredMusicConcert. Tickets are \$25.00 per person. All seats are general admission except those that are reserved for our sponsors.

Sponsorships are still available for churches, corporations or individuals at a cost of \$350.00. You will receive 10 tickets to the event, special reserved seating, your name listed in the program and a special gift.

Our goal is to raise \$10,000.00 to support the ministries sponsored by the churches of the BBA that are facilitated by the Birmingham Baptist Association staff which include:

- Caring Hands Medical Apartments
- Metro Changers

A word from Bro. Mike

- Season of Our Savior
- Remedy
- Food-for-Friends, a Thanksgiving partnership with Daniel Cason Ministries
- Adopt-A-Station
- Church Planting/Church Revitalization
- Support for our local BBA churches
- Associational WMU
- Baptist Health System
- BBA Foundation/Community Transformation
- Disaster Relief

Remember that our mission statement is "Churches working together...to meet needs...to change lives." Here is just another way we work together to provide the financial resources it takes for us to be on mission for our Lord in our Jerusalem.

Thank you so very much for supporting this event in order to support the ministries of our churches who make up the BBA family!

Oh, how I look forward to seeing all of you on March 3rd, at 6:30 p.m., at First Baptist Church of Birmingham! Blessings!

In the work together,

Bro. Mike

Bro. Mike

Daylight Savings Time begins March 13th. Remember to set clocks forward one hour.

MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT - God is moving in the Black Belt region of Alabama.

Unity Admits Diversity

by Rev. Keith Stanley

In Jesus' last words to the Church, He commanded us to pursue diversity in the Body by taking the gospel to every ethnos (Matthew 18:22), and to Jerusalem, to the Jews, to the Samaritans, and to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8). We are all called to be His witnesses, through whom He will call out a people unto Himself, from "every nation, from all tribes, and peoples, and languages," for the glory of His Name (Revelation 7:9). This calling out of a people from every ethnos began as the Holy Spirit was poured out upon Jesus' disciples in Jerusalem, where people gathered from all parts of the world and heard the gospel in their own language. The result was three thousand people from around the world believing in Jesus (Acts 2).

As the Early Church was born into diversity, they initially exhibited great unity with sacrificial and humble love for one another (Acts 2: 44-46 and Acts 4: 32 - 37). This display of love and unity, as they lived their lives on mission, resulted in incredible church growth (Acts 2: 47, 4:4, 5:14, 42). In Acts 6, we see the unity of these new believers threatened as a charge of partiality was brought to the leaders of the church. The Hellenists, Greek-speaking Jews, who had come from beyond Palestine, said their widows were not receiving equal distribution of food in the daily distribution to widows. So how did they handle this threat to their unity? They empowered those who were offended, to choose seven men, full of the Spirit, to lead in the daily distribution. Seven men, mostly of Hellenistic background with Greek names, were chosen to share in leadership. This intentional sharing of leadership not only allowed the apostles to concentrate more on prayer and studying the Word, but brought integrity and unity to the Church and to all who observed. The end result of this intentional pursuit of unity, fairness, and diversity in leadership was that many of the priests even believed in Jesus and the gospel began to multiply greatly (Acts 6: 7). As they relentlessly pursued unity amidst diversity, this powerful display of the gospel and the empowerment of all the Body to join in the mission resulted in even greater effectiveness. The Church is never more effective in declaring the gospel than when we pursue unity with sacrificial love for



**Intentionally Moving
People Across Cultures
together**

one another and when we pursue diversity in leadership.

The church in Jerusalem continued to struggle to obediently take the gospel to every ethos. God allowed persecution to break out in Jerusalem against the thousands of believers residing there, causing them to leave Jerusalem (Acts 8:1). Some of those who left eventually made their way to Antioch and began to share the gospel with every ethnos and many people believed in Jesus, both Jews and Greeks (Acts 11: 19- 21). As this new church was born in Antioch, the apostles sent Barnabas to investigate. After returning to give a report to the apostles, he began to assemble a leadership team that included Paul of Tarsus to disciple the new believers (Acts 11:22-26). By no coincidence, this new church, which became the primary New Testament sending church, taking the gospel to every ethnos in Asia and Europe, had a diverse ethnic leadership team (Acts 13: 1). Through the influence of this diverse leadership team, the people displayed such sanctification in their lives that outsiders began to call them "Christians" because the way they lived and loved reminded them of Jesus (Acts 11:26). Their love for Christ and one another naturally spilled over to an expression of love for a lost world. This expression is observed as they set aside two of their best leaders to send out and spread the gospel among the Gentiles (every ethnos). As they sent out Paul and Barnabas, and eventually others, the gospel multiplied around the world (Acts 13: 2-3; 14 - 28).

Since civil rights reforms, we too have struggled with how to take the gospel to every ethos arriving in our country. The Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions Human Relationship Conference emerged from the era of civil rights reforms as a credible forum to promoting interracial dialog and understanding among residents of the state. While this forum best served its usefulness in the twentieth century, this new century demands new forums to pursue interracial unity and understanding. Two ministry challenges promote new demands: (1) New forums must address the emerging needs of the millennial generation. As their years of growth and development occur during periods of rapid multicultural advancements, new forums should consider the multicultural context of their development. (2)

Due to the growth of a multicultural society, new forums should be inclusive of other people groups. The search for interracial understanding is not among African Americans and Whites alone, but new forums must pursue understanding among Hispanics, Asians, and Native Americans as well.

Today, your Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions pursues a new bold mission strategy for securing unity among a society of diverse people groups. This new strategy challenges us, as a family of believers, to impact our culture by advancing our unity. Our missional direction suggests Intentionally Moving People Across Cultures Together (IMPACT). The activity of our intentionality requires us to take the initiative to engage people in every ethnos in efforts that cause us to move beyond our cultural differences. We acknowledge that because culture generally divides us, we must discover meaningful opportunities to overcome divisions. We believe that as we learn to move through differences together, we will discover the common ground that unites us. Therefore, we seek to live out oneness with each other daily, so that those who are touched by our experiences will also learn to display Jesus' likeness of unity in their own lives. We are likewise commissioned, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to join other disciples in declaring the gospel to every ethnos in our neighborhoods, our cities, through the states in our nation, and around the globe. We will be most effective when we display the power of the gospel by pursuing unity amidst diversity with other believers, by humbly serving one another, and by sharing leadership in our local church and community with believers from every tribe, language, nation, and people group.

As men and women, whose lives already demonstrate the work of Christ and acceptance of this new direction, you are invited to attend the first annual IMPACT Leadership Conference, to be held at Shooco Springs Convention Center, April 21-23, 2016. Through your willingness to follow Christ in this pursuit, we will engage new generations of people to penetrate cultural barriers with the Gospel and win souls for Jesus Christ.

Rev. Keith Stanley is the Pastor of Local Missions and Urban Ministries at The Church at Brook Hills in Birmingham, AL.

UPCOMING EVENTS



FRANK JONES



DANIEL CASON



JOE & SUZANNE HOPKINS



BIRMINGHAM BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

PRESENTS

An Evening of Sacred Music



TWO CONCERT PIANISTS - TWO VOCALISTS
ONE EXCITING EVENING!

A Special Event
March 3, 2016, at 6:30 PM

\$25 PER PERSON - GENERAL ADMISSION

3 Ways to Order Tickets!

1. Order tickets in-person at the BBA office located at 750 Montclair Road, Birmingham, AL 35213.
2. Order tickets by mail with the downloadable order form at www.bbaonline.org/SacredMusicConcert.
3. Scan the QR Code and order online with a credit card at our secure e-giving site.

Scan the QR Code
with your smart phone
for convenient online ordering!



Join us at
First Baptist Church of Birmingham
2209 Lakeshore Drive
Birmingham, AL 35209

Proceeds to benefit the ministries of the Birmingham Baptist Association.
Visit us online at bbaonline.org/SacredMusicConcert.

Ministers Conference

Winter/Spring Schedule for 2016

February

Feb 1 - Kerry Sparks,
Music Evangelist

Feb 8 - Rev. Matt Ma-
son, Pastor of The Church at
Brook Hills

Feb 15 - Leon Miller,
SRCC

Feb 22 - Roger Stone,
Pastor of FBC Chalkville

Feb 29 - State Evange-
lism Conference at FBC
Montgomery

March

March 7 - Chris Harrel-
son, Mt Hebron Baptist

March 14 - Practical
Shepherding Workshop,
Raleigh Avenue Baptist,
9am - 1pm

March 21 - James Sutton

March 28 - Reynard Mc-
Millian, Jr., Director of Car-
ing Hands Medical Apart-
ments



2016 VBS Jumpstart Conference for Pastors and VBS Directors

Thursday, February 25, 2016

Two Sessions:

10:00 am-12 noon
(Snacks served.)

6:30 pm-8:30 pm
(Light dinner.)

*Raleigh Avenue Baptist Church
309 Raleigh Avenue
Homewood, AL 35209
No Registration Required*

BBA CALENDAR

50 States Pray, Vote, Engage Alabama Franklin Graham Prayer Rally

Thursday, April 14, 2016

Capitol Steps - Montgomery
12:00 Noon

Reserve your seat on our TOUR BUS by sending your check
for \$15 (or \$25 per couple) to:



Prayer Rally
Birmingham Baptist Association
750 Montclair Road
Birmingham, Alabama 35213

Scan the QR code to learn more at
bbaonline.org/PrayerRally or call the BBA office at
(205) 599-3245 for more information.

Return to Disciple Making Conference

Guest Speaker
Claude King, Co-Author of
Experiencing God

Tuesday, March 22, 2016

9:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m.

COST: \$8.00

Birmingham Baptist Association
750 Montclair Road
Birmingham, AL 35213

Claude King is the co-author of Experiencing God
and serves as Discipleship Specialist for
LifeWay Christian Resources.

*Deadline for reservations is noon on
Thursday, March 17th. To make reservations,
call Katie Schock at 205-599-3245 or
e-mail katies@bbaonline.org.*