



Mississippi Baptist Convention Board



Tent Makers Bivocational Ministers Newsletter

Robin Brumfield

Ken Cook

MISSISSIPPI BIVOCATIONAL MINISTERS AND WIVES RETREAT

By Ken Cook

Mississippi Baptist Bivocational Ministers and their wives participated in a time of worship, praise, encouragement, affirmation, inspiration, challenge and fellowship during the Ministers and Wives Retreat in Tupelo, Mississippi, on the first two days in December 2006. The significant event was sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board Pastor/Leadership Development Department. Alan Woodward is the director of the department. The meeting and banquet were hosted by the Lee County Baptist Association, Marc D. Howard, director, and by the Auburn Baptist Church, Tupelo, David Singleton, pastor.

Dale Holloway, bivocational specialist for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, encouraged the eager participants by reminding them that the Lord God knows exactly what is happening in each life, in each family, in each church and it is He who empowers and performs His will through His willing servants.

Devotions and/or testimonies were given by: Marty Merritt, pastor, Palestine Baptist Church, Union County; Waymon Betts, pastor, Van Fleet Baptist Church, Chickasaw County; and Jesse Massey, pastor, Unity Baptist Church, Tishomingo County. The congregational singing was led by Tracy Taylor, interim music minister at First Baptist

Church, Verona. Special music was presented by The Unity Trio (Chuck Clark, J.C. and Casey Johnson) of Iuka, Mississippi.

Four seminars were offered to the retreat participants. Ronald Meeks, associate professor of Bible at Blue Mountain College presented "How to Prepare Better Sermons with Limited Time." P.J. Scott, interim pastor of First Baptist Church, Ripley, and leader of Ministry of Reaching and Encouragement (M.O.R.E.), presented "Effective Growth in the Church through Sunday School." Mrs. P.J. (Betty) Scott, also of (M.O.R.E.), offered sessions entitled "Partners Assisting the Lord's Servants." Kenny Digby, associational missions director for Alcorn County, energized "Developing Leadership through Discipleship." Except for the seminar presenters, all program participants are bivocationalists.

A special highlight for everyone was a time of prayer in small groups at the conclusion of the session on Friday night. One participant excitedly stated, "This whole conference has been one of the best that I have been to." Other comments about the meeting included the following:

"I've been waiting almost 30 years to attend a bivocational conference. I enjoyed it all."

"Thank you so much for the scholarship. It made attendance possible for my wife and me."

A further special event was the presentation of resources and door prizes. Ken Pollock, pastor of Mt. Vernon Church, Tupelo was the recipient of the 20-inch flat screen color television. Pollock commented, "This is the first new TV we have had in 15 or so years. Thank you. Thank you." The funds for the door prizes were furnished by the Harmony Baptist Mission Church in Graceville, Florida. The pastor of the storefront church is Raymond O'Quinn, a bivocational leader in Florida.

Johnny Rakestraw, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Hickory Flat, Mississippi, provided the final sermon for the meeting. He encouraged bivocs to See the Lord, Hear the Lord, and Respond to the Lord's Call relying always on the promise of Jesus that He is with them always as they are ministering and making disciples.

Near the time of the conclusion of all events and just prior to the prayer of thanksgiving to God for the luncheon prepared by volunteers from Auburn Church, AMD Marc Howard, said, "On behalf of the Mississippi Council on Bivocational Ministries, I thank all of the volunteers for their efforts in hosting this retreat. Each one has gone way beyond and above in ministering to our every need." Bivocational specialist Holloway said, "Plans are already underway for the next Bivo Ministers and Wives retreat in 2007 in the Hattiesburg, Mississippi, area."

REMINDER TO ASSOCIATIONAL MISSIONS DIRECTORS:
Be Sure To Contact Us To Advertise Your Associational Events Here!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE FOLLOWING EVENTS:
JANUARY 22, 2007

BIVOCATIONAL MINISTERS AND WIVES SUPPER DURING THE EVANGELISM CONFERENCE, PINELAKE BAPTIST CHURCH, BRANDON 4:30-6:30 P.M.

APRIL 9, 2007

MISSISSIPPI COUNCIL ON BIVOCATIONAL MINISTRIES EAGLE RIDGE CONFERENCE CENTER, RAYMOND, NOON-4 P.M.



Mississippi Council on Bivocational Ministries Council Meeting Minutes

October 30, 2006 — Alan Woodward, director, Pastor/Leadership Development Department, MBCB, opened the meeting with a greeting and short devotion taken from Genesis 16:7-8a that was concluded with the questions “Where have you been?” and “Where are you going?”

Dale Holloway then took the following prayer requests: Dwight Smith, Willis Goodman, Shelby Cranmoore, Joe Young and his son-in-law’s family. Bryan Presson, pastor, Eagle Ridge Church, Raymond, prayed for the requests.

Dale then introduced the meeting agenda. Next he introduced Kiely Young, director of the Sunday School Department, MBCB, who spoke about the necessity and resources available for bivo churches to conduct VBS. Q&A followed briefly on the subject.

Ken Cook then summarized the agenda by highlighting each point.

Dale then introduced Wayne VanHorn from Mississippi College who spoke of the necessity of making aspiring ministry students aware of the need to be educated and prepared for a life skill that will enable them to be bivocational ministers. A brief discussion followed concerning whose responsibility it was to counsel such students and when.

Dale then introduced Weaver McCracken, director, Collegiate

Ministry, MBCB, who spoke about the role that BSU directors took in identifying and counseling prospective ministry students as well as the students’ roles in summer missions and the possibility of bivo churches using the BSU students as a resource for staffing a summer VBS program.

Lowell Ingram, AMD Noxubee Association and bivocational pastor, asked the council to consider taking steps toward getting someone from the bivo council to represent the council and bivo churches to the BSU bodies to make them aware of ministry opportunities in bivo churches.

Dale then spoke on the subject of connecting ministers with ministry opportunities, including students and lay people.

Jimmy McCaleb, consultant, Church Music Department, MBCB, left the meeting early by adding that less than 300 ministers of music out of 2200 churches in Mississippi are fully funded.

Ken Cook then was asked to share how he came to be in the bivocational ministry.

Vivian Buttrey, specialist, SBC Seminary Extension, was introduced by Dale and spoke about the various services and courses offered by the Seminary Extension service. Information about the extension services can be found at www.seminaryextension.org or obtained by call-



ing 800.229.4612. She also promoted the breakfast to be held Tuesday, October 31, at 7 a.m., hosted by Keith Gordon and the Pastor/Leadership Development Department.

Next, the Bivo Ministers and Wives Retreat in Tupelo was promoted and discussed briefly. There are 44 couples preregistered to date.

Next the council was given a copy of the calendar of bivo council events along with various other handouts including, but not limited to, the bivo pastors survey data compilation sheet. The results were briefly discussed.

Dale then gave a report on the progress in regaining representation of the bivocational ministers with the North American Mission Board. A brief Q&A concerning the issue followed.

Testimonies concerning bivo ministry and missions involvement were given by Joel Medina, Kenny Culpepper, and Chris Carter immediately after which Dale distributed travel vouchers and voiced his displeasure about the changing of the reimbursement rate from \$0.405 to \$0.14 per mile.

Finally, Dale recognized Kay McDonnell, ministry assistant, Pastor/Leadership Development Department, MBCB, for her hard work and asked a council member to close the meeting with prayer.



Ken and Carole Pollock were the lucky winners of the grand prize at the Bivocational Ministers and Wives Retreat in Tupelo on December 1 & 2. The following is a little something about them and their bivocational ministry.

Kenneth Pollock submitted to God's will 30 years ago to preach the glorious gospel of Christ. During the first four years of his new ministry, itinerate preaching and pulpit supply occupied most of his Sundays while he continued to be happily employed at Itawamba County Vocational Complex in Fulton, Miss., and to serve in the U. S. Naval Reserve. For a number of years after he had settled into the role of pastor, Ken maintained his career in education. Teaching a variety of subjects — drafting, industrial arts, Bible, and social studies — he also served for four years as principal of Faith Christian School, which he co-founded with his wife, Carole, and a friend, Fred Smith. Ken ended his career in traditional education in 2001.



Ken and Carole Pollock

Working together toward common goals, Ken and Carole have been able to share a very active and full life. Continuing education in the midst of the activity has not always been easy but has been rewarding. Ken earned his master of Christian education and a doctorate of ministry while Carole has completed the master of Christian education and looks forward to beginning work on a doctorate next year.

Has the time come to retire? Ken and Carole say “no.” While Ken has retired from the Naval Reserve and from his formal teaching career, he and Carole both feel that they still have professional callings. Today Ken is serving Mt. Vernon Baptist Church in Tupelo, as pastor, and Carole is right along side him ministering in the Lord's work. Five years ago they began a very unique educational ministry in their home. Working closely

with the Itawamba County School District, they greet as many as 16 middle and high school-aged students each morning. Each student brings with him/her a unique set of circumstances that requires individual attention.

This program began with six students and has grown each year. Using a variety of educational materials from primarily Christian publishers, the Pollocks try to meet the needs of these students who have difficulty functioning at their best in the traditional classroom setting. The conversion of their living and dining rooms offers a pleasant atmosphere while the kitchen is open for the students to prepare their own snacks and lunches. One of the best things about this type of learning is the ability to move in and out of discussions as they surface and to discuss them from the Biblical perspective. They feel that learning skills are extremely important to the futures of these children. They want the students to know how to learn and develop a love for learning that will continue for a lifetime. Carole often tells these youngsters that she does not know what the Lord will call them to do, but that she has been called to prepare them for whatever it is. By noon, each day, the students have spent four and a half hours in the classroom. The ones who are old enough to be employed have found jobs for work. The ones remaining at school for the hour and fifteen minutes after lunch, often spend time reading for pleasure, playing games or working on craft projects. Parents are always welcome.

Submitting to the Lord's service has led Ken and Carole Pollock on many exciting adventures while He has blessed them greatly. They are looking forward to many more years of service in whatever capacity He leads.



**Southern Baptist Bivocational Ministers Association
Annual Meeting
April 27-28, 2007**

*“Celebrating Bivocational Ministry A Mile High:
Connecting and Encouraging Bivocational Ministers”*

Cornerstone Baptist Church
Lone Tree, Colorado
(approximately 40 miles from Denver International Airport)
Check website (www.sbbma.org) for lodging and
other details as available.

Friday, April 27
Morning—meetings of ministry groups (check website for times)
(Resource Network, P.A.L.S., Educators)

2:00 PM Coordinating Council & Executive Committee meeting

6:00 PM Opening Session
Worship Music
Dr. Mark Edlund, Executive Director, Colorado Baptist Convention
H. B. London, “Focus on the Family”
Adolphus Cleveland, SBBMA President

Saturday, April 28
8:30 AM Devotional/Worship Music
Mitch Martin, LifeWay, “Setting Up Bivocational Teams”
Entertainment
Business
Dr. Allan Karr, Nehemiah Professor, Rocky Mountain Campus
P.A.L.S. Speaker—Kathy Karr, Bivocational Pastor's wife

12:00 Lunch
1:00 PM Local Testimonies
2:00 Adjourn—Optional local tours

Sunday, April 29—Worship in bivocational churches (optional)

April 30—May 4: Bivo Builders Project — Opportunity for a ministry service project in the area will be provided by the Colorado State Convention for those available to stay a week and work. Information will be posted on the website (www.sbbma.org).

Hints for a good trip: Bring a jacket—late April in Colorado can get cold. Plan to drink plenty of water due to the high altitude and dry air.



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MISSISSIPPI COUNCIL ON BIVOCATIONAL MINISTRIES
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One Bivo to Another...

by Joe Young

For the past five years I have passed a church building at least once a week. It was once the home of the Bethany Baptist Church, Drew, but its doors were closed. Its story is the story of many Baptist and other churches in our world. It once was a thriving congregation, but parents grew old and began to die. People who were kin to nobody moved in. Sometimes they just had a different family name. Sometimes they were a different color, from a different socio-economic group, and sometimes they even spoke another language.

Last summer a group of people who grew up on the same plantation decided to get together for a reunion. They asked the Bethany Church to allow them to use the fellowship hall. A few surviving people who were inactive church members said it was fine, and they met in the building, learning that their childhood church home was closed.

Some of these people still lived within driving distance and decided that day to try to reopen their church. For a few weeks they brought in preachers, well-trained men, to lead their services. But after a while, these men became unavailable. These

men were professionals and were looking for a church that could provide the needs of their families.

So one Saturday morning "Chubby," my newest deacon, called to tell me he had been asked to preach at Bethany. A few weeks later he was asked to return. After my own service, I noticed that I had a number of missed calls, all from Chubby, on my cell phone. I called him to see if all was well, and he excitedly told me about a young woman he had led to Christ before church. In fact, she had asked him as she entered the building how to be a Christian. Only the Wednesday before had I taught Chubby how to lead a person to Christ, and now he had the chance to actually do it! The people were so excited that they called Chubby as their interim pastor. They had their first baptism in years!

Months have gone by. Chubby Winters is still the interim pastor. He didn't even know about licensing, but we licensed him to preach. We simply told him we stand behind him. He doesn't know if he's called. He's just a lay, bivocational preacher. But not JUST a bivocational preacher, he is one of God's choice bivos, and we have many across our state who are doing whatever it takes to get the job done.

A church once defunct is alive again. People are being saved and baptized. People are growing in Christ. People are giving offerings. People are going on mission all because a bivo was willing to do whatever it takes! It could be the story of any bivo.

