



# Tent Makers Bivocational Ministers Newsletter

Mississippi Baptist Convention Board



Robin Brumfield

Ken Cook

## Mississippi Bivos – Organized, Encouraged, and Energized!

by Ken Cook

The Mississippi Council on Bivocational Ministry held a highly successful meeting immediately upon the conclusion of the Annual Meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention (MBC) in Jackson on Wednesday, October 27, 2004.

The Bivo Council, which was hosted by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB), selected Joe Young, bivocational pastor of Calvary Chapel of Parchman (Iglesia El Calvario) to serve as president of the council for the coming year. Chris Carter, pastor of Madden Church,

Madden, will serve as vice-president. Joanne Young, wife of Joe Young, will serve as secretary. Robin Brumfield, bivocational pastor living in Forest, and Ken Cook, director of communications for the Southern Baptist (continued on page 2)



Left to right: Robin Brumfield, co-editor of the Bivocational Ministers Newsletter; Joel Medina, representative to ethnics; Ken Cook, co-editor of the Bivocational Ministers Newsletter; Dale Holloway, advisor to the council; Damaris Medina; Joanne Young, secretary; Joe Young, president

## BIVO Minister/Ministers Wives Supper

Temple Baptist Church, Hattiesburg

4:45 - 6:30 p.m – January 24, 2005

Associational  
Events

### WINSTON BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

6:30 p.m. – February 17, 2005

Lake Tiak'O'Khata, Louisville

Be sure to contact us to advertise your associational events here!



## “The Greatest Valentine Love”

(Lamentations 3:22-24)  
Robin Brumfield

### I. Introduction.

- A. It has been said, “Love makes the world go round.”
- B. There is a lot of truth in that statement.
- C. But the extreme love is between God and His children.

### II. Sermon.

- A. v. 22 “Because of the Lord’s faithful love.”
  1. This shows the consistent compassion of the Lord.
  2. No one knows the true meaning of love until they become a Christian.
  3. The Lord shows His love for us every day.
  4. Illustration on God’s love.
- B. v. 22 “We do not perish.”
  1. The steadfast love of our Lord never ceases.
  2. God continues to love us even when we do not show our love for Him.
- C. v. 22 “For His mercies never end.”
  1. The proofs of the grace of God have their foundation in His compassion.
  2. Illustration of showing compassion.
- D. v. 23 “They are new every morning.”
  1. The Lord’s compassionate love is supplied to each day’s requirements.
  2. Much like the manna in the wilderness, its supply could not be exhausted.
- E. v. 23 “Great is your faithfulness.”
  1. The conclusion of God’s love and compassion leads us to say – “great is Thy faithfulness.”
  2. Discuss the chorus to the hymn “Great Is Thy Faithfulness.”

### III. Application.

- A. God’s love is shown to us every day.
- B. God’s love for us is not dependent on our love for Him.
- C. God’s love for us meets our daily needs.

(continued from page 1)

Bivocational Ministers’ Association (SBBMA) and retired bivocational pastor, Brandon will serve as editors of the Bivocational Ministers Newsletter, TENT MAKERS, provided by the MBCB.

Joel Medina, bivocational pastor of Iglesia Internacional Las Americas, Carthage, and newly elected second vicepresident of the MBC, will service as representative to ethnics. Lowell Ingram, Associational Missions Director (AMD) for Noxubee Baptist Association and bivocational pastor, Concord Baptist Church, Macon, will serve as liaison to AMDs.

Steve Stone, associate executive director, church growth division, MBCB, will serve as liaison to the board. Dale Holloway, regional missionary for the SBBMA will serve as advisor from the North American Mission Board.

Cook encouraged the council to remember its important purposes in providing:

- Affirmation and encouragement for bivocational ministers in Mississippi.
- A network to help connect bivocational ministers to ministry opportunities.
- Help for churches facing economic pressure to move toward a bivocational status.
- Opportunities for professional growth among bivocationals.
- Encouraging young men and women to prepare themselves intentionally for service as bivocational ministers.
- A means of recognizing bivocational ministers for outstanding contributions to ministry.
- Encouraging a mentoring relationship between fully supported and bivocational ministers.

Holloway informed the council that almost half of the churches in the SBC could be classified as bivocational churches and Stone said it is the same among churches in the MBC. They both affirmed their continuing commitment to assisting, encouraging, and resourcing bivocationals in their ministries. Joining in the affirmations were Keith Gordon, consultant, Pastor/Leadership Development Department (MBCB); Don Lum, single staff church consultant, Sunday School Department (MBCB); and Robin Nichols, annuity representative, Resource Services Division (MBCB).

# Bivocational Hispanic, Medina, Elected Second Vice President of Mississippi Baptist Convention

by Joe Young

It is a great day for bivocationalism, Hispanic ministry and church planting in Mississippi!

For a long time I have had a burden that Mississippi Baptists need leaders from every part of our family – bivocs, small church pastors, laymen and ethnic leaders.

But every time I have nominated anyone, the only ones who are accepted are white men over 50 like myself. This year I declined to even send a name to the Committee on Nominations.

Long after their work would have been



*Joel Medina*

done, I began to feel that Joel Medina of Carthage would be an excellent person to serve Mississippi Baptists as second vice president. Two months ago I even e-mailed him and asked him if he would be willing to serve in a position if nominated, and he wrote back, "I would serve any way the Lord's people wanted me to

serve." But he had no idea what I had in mind.

I am not a political person, and I decided that I was not the person to do it and laid the whole idea aside until the morning I left for Jackson. An hour before I left my school (I'm a teacher) I typed a brief nomination speech for Joel Medina to serve as second vice president. I stuck it in my Bible and left for the Lay Missions Conference.

On Tuesday morning I decided I was not the person to make the nomination, because I am too close to Hispanic ministries. Yet I knew no one who knew Joel that I could ask to do it. I began to feel an urge to simply offer a resolution that would ask our Committee on Nominations to be mindful of every segment of our Baptist family in nominating convention leadership. I wrote that proposed resolution over lunch.

But I never knew I would have lunch with

Joel Medina. I had sat with my co-workers in Hispanic ministry, Chris and Denise Carter of Madden, and they invited my wife and me to

*"It is a great day for bivocationalism, Hispanic ministry and church planting in Mississippi!"*  
*Joe Young*

lunch. Then they said, we have to wait for our friends, Joel and Damaris Medina. They're going to join us.

I couldn't believe it. I felt God was bringing us together. No one knew what I was doing as I scrawled the proposed resolution. I had given up on the nomination. But as we left the restaurant I handed the speech to Chris Carter, told him to read it later and do as he felt led.

When I went to the front to present the resolution, I was thrilled that Chris Carter was there with me to present the nomination. There was no other nomination. The Baptist Record had printed that our second vice president was eligible for another term. I had known that was not accurate when I typed the nomination. But I never dreamed there would be no other nominations.

Joel was elected by acclamation, and I rejoice that we have a bivocational Hispanic preacher as one of our elected leaders. It is a great day for bivocationalism, Hispanic ministry, and church planting in Mississippi. And it was done totally without political maneuvering!

Praise the Lord!





## One Bivo to Another...

by Joe Young

I am honored to be the president of our Bivocational Ministry Council, but even more so overwhelmed at the possibilities we have to be a part of real kingdom growth as tentmaker preachers. If we are second class, the Apostle Paul was as well. Yet he argued effectively that he was no second-rate apostle.

In the coming months there are some concerns I hope our council can address that are important to all in the ministry, and to bivocs as well. We have dealt with them before, and we will hammer away at them until we see progress.

- (1) **Assisting bivocs with training in a practical way.** We need help with everything from sermon preparation to time management.
- (2) **Ministerial discounts at Baptist Hospitals.** In

recent months the insurance companies have reduced the percentage that the companies will pay for services provided at Baptist hospitals. Because of this the hospitals have increased the percentage ministers will have to pay. We will try to join with our fully-compensated preacher brothers and achieve cost-saving benefits for all of us.

- (3) **Acknowledgement that bivocationalism is a significant part of the Kingdom.** It is imperative that Southern Baptist all recognize that denominational services, literature, and outlook must be in touch with the reality that most churches are not large and that even if they are quite effective, they never will be. Our agencies need to prepare materials appropriate for use by churches our size as well as for mega churches.
- (4) **Helping bivocs realize that we can make a difference, and that we must be determined to work together with God to achieve the Great Commission.**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe".

