



2020, A Challenging and Exciting Year for MTBA

Almost every couple of days someone will ask me, "Well how are things going in the Mid-Tidewater Baptist Association?" I usually have something very special to share about what is taking place in MTBA life. Most of the time the people I share with respond with something like, "Sounds as if good things are happening in the MTBA." That usually gives me a chance to brag on the great volunteers we have serving on our Action Teams, Leadership Committees, and associational officers. I am always thankful for those kind of moments. I just love sharing about what the Lord is doing in and through our MTBA family.

At the end of the January meeting of the MTBA Executive Committee, I was a little speechless (which doesn't happen very often). At this meeting those in attendance heard reports from our Action Teams, Treasurer, Program Committee, and the DOM. By the end of that meeting, the Executive Committee approved three items put before them. You can read more about the details of these three items in other articles that follow in this newsletter. When I first reflected on these three challenges, I wonder if we were asking too much of our 28 MTBA churches. But the more I thought about these new challenges, the more I began to realize that our Executive Committee had made the right decision. I understood that the decision was not so much about what the MTBA can do, but what God can do through the MTBA. Once I let that reality set in, I knew we were on the verge of experiencing something very special as we move forward with no fear and only a little anxiety as we put our confidence in our Lord God who is calling us to embrace the challenges before us.

By now you must be wondering what are these three challenges that were presented at the January Executive Committee meeting. Glad you asked and here they are:

1. **The April 26, 2020, MTBA Spring Meeting will be a MTBA Fish Fry and Prime Rib Cookout at Beale Memorial BC in Tappahannock.** The Program Committee made this decision for a cookout over more meetings because they wanted to do something that would significantly contribute to the strengthening of the fellowship component of the MTBA.

2. **MTBA Ramp Up.** The Community Ministries Action Group presented this mission challenge to our MTBA family for 2020. MTBA Ramp Up has set a goal of identifying 10 families across the greater MTBA landscape who are in need of a new ramp or the refurbishing of an existing ramp. The goal is to involve our youth and adult volunteers in addressing these 10 ramp projects. Ideally we will have MTBA Ramp Up projects from each of our 5 Ministry Hubs. The committee has set an average cost of around \$1,500. per ramp.

3. **Rise Against Hunger.** The Community Ministries also presented a one day mission project for the Executive Committee to consider as well, **Rise Against Hunger.** Our MTBA family has been supportive of previous packing events. Our first packing effort was 20,000 meals, and our second packing event in 2018 was 50,000 meals. In light of the MTBA Ramp Up Challenge, the Community Ministries asked the Executive Committee for their input concerning also taking on another **Rise Against Hunger** packing event in 2020. If the Executive Committee wanted to proceed with a packing event in 2020, what level did we want to commit to. There were four choices:

1. 25,000 meals at a cost of \$8,000.
2. 50,000 meals at a cost of \$16,500.
3. 75,000 meals at a cost of \$24,000.
4. 100,000 meals at a cost of \$32,000.

After some discussion, the Executive Committee unanimously voted to do another **Rise Against Hunger** packing event in 2020, and they voted to undertake the **75,000 meal challenge** with a price tag of \$24,000. You can learn more about each of these exciting challenges for our MTBA in 2020 in other articles that follow. But in summary I am sure you feel the same as I do, **2020 is going to be a challenging and exciting year for the MTBA.**

Eddie Heath, your MTBA DOM

2020 MTBA Spring Gathering

Sunday, April 26, 4:00-6:30PM

Beale Memorial BC, Tappahannock

Fish Fry and Prime Rib Dinner

Make your plans now to be a part of this unforgettable gathering to enjoy the **FELLOWSHIP** of your MTBA family.



When the 2019-2020 Program Committee held its first meeting in December 2019, they spent time considering different program and format ideas for the MTBA Spring meeting. The Spring Meeting has always had more flexibility for program ideas since the Spring Meeting is not the primary business meeting of the MTBA. The annual business of the MTBA is mostly conducted at the Fall Meeting. In past Spring meetings we have had speakers, training events, breakout sessions, and mission programs using a variety of formats. For this reason the MTBA Program Committees usually feel they can be a little more creative when it comes to planning the Spring Meeting.

As this year's Program Committee was thinking about the 2020 Spring Meeting, two observations surfaced. One was the report given in 2018 by the MTBA Strategic Planning Committee that stated Fellowship was one of the core values of the MTBA. The second observation was that all of our MTBA Associational meetings offered a Fellowship Meal, provided by the host church, for those who attended the meeting. But the reality has been that only about half of those in attendance stay for the Fellowship Meal, which is one of the most important aspects of our Spring and Fall meetings. These two observations led to a great deal of discussion about what the Program Committee can do to strengthen the Fellowship component of our MTBA, and how they can get more folks to participate in the Fellowship Meal experience.

As a result of the discussions that revolved around those two questions, the Program Committee made a decision to make the Fellowship Meal the main focus of the Spring Meeting with the following goals:

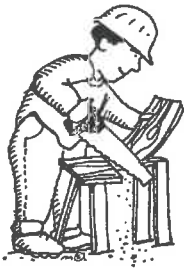
- *Great Fellowship between our church families.*
 - *Great Food*
- *Great Fun for the entire family (games, music, laughter, inspiration)*
 - *Debut of the MTBA Singing Pastors*

Here is what the Program Committee needs for you to do:

Plan to come. Come Casual. Bring a lawn chair. Bring your favorite cookies or brownies on a disposable plate. Bring some people from your church. Give us a rough idea of how many from your church plan to come. Come prepared to enjoy the fellowship with your MTBA Family.

It is going to be one of the best MTBA Spring Meetings Ever!

Sunday, April 26, Beale Memorial BC, 4:00-6:30 PM



Ramp Up MTBA

At the January 2020 Executive Committee Meeting, the Community Ministries Action Team presented their 2020 Mission Initiative for the MTBA. The mission project is called *Ramp Up MTBA*. The goal is to identify 10 families who are in need of a new ramp or repairs to an existing ramp. They want to find families who are unable to safely exit and enter their homes without a safe ramp. Without such ramps, there are families who are unable to get to the grocery store, to their doctor appointments, or even to church. The Community Ministries Action Team felt strongly that we have enough volunteers in our churches who can build these much needed ramps for our neighbors. At the January Executive Committee meeting, the vote was unanimous to proceed with this *Ramp Up MTBA* community mission challenge.

The Community Ministries team projected an average cost of around \$1,500. per ramp. If we build 10 ramps, that will be a cost of about \$15,000 to our association. Where will the needed funds come from? Our MTBA has a special Love Offering each year for the MTBA. This offering is what we use to fund our mission projects like Impact VA, Disaster Relief, and Rise Against Hunger meal packing events. This year we are asking our 28 MTBA churches to give generously to our Association Week of Prayer Associational Offering. May 17-24 will be the week of Prayer for our MTBA, but our churches can give to this special offering any time between now and the end of the year. Many of our MTBA Vacation Bible Schools give their mission offering to this MTBA Associational Offering. If your church would like someone to come and share more about this community mission project, and the *Week of Prayer Associational Offering* for MTBA, please call the MTBA Office and Eddie Heath, our DOM, will be glad to come and share with your church family about this exciting mission challenge.

The Community Ministries Team will need the help of each of our MTBA churches in identifying the ten families that we want to reach out to. The team would like to have at least one ramp built in each of our 5 ministry hubs (Newington Hub, Mathews Hub, Harmony Grove Hub, Hermitage Hub, Poropone Hub). These were the same feeding hubs we used for Impact VA. Of course we will be looking for volunteers from each ministry hub to build the ramps. The goal of the community mission project is to provide mission opportunities for churches and multiple generations to work side by side to touch people's lives in the name of Jesus. Please contact Jim Burns (757-876-3114) or the MTBA office if you would like additional information. It is time to:

RAMP IT UP MTBA!!!



SAVE THE DATE:
SATURDAY,
SEPTEMBER 26, 2020,
from 9:00 am—2:00 pm
at Hermitage BC.



MTBA Takes on Its Biggest Rise Against Hunger Challenge

This year the MTBA will take on its biggest Rise Against Hunger challenge EVER!! The January Executive Committee voted to participate in another meal packing event sponsored by the nationally known non-profit organization, *Rise Against Hunger*. This will be the third meal packing event since 2016.

What sets this year's challenge apart from the other events is that the Executive Committee voted to pack the largest number of meals the MTBA has ever undertaken. The MTBA packed 25,000 meals in 2016. In 2018 the MTBA wanted to try packing 50,000 meals in one day, and they did it. But for 2020, The Community Ministries Team has agreed to lead our MTBA in packing **75,000 meals** in one day. That's right, **75,000 meals**. This challenge comes with a \$24,000. price tag which will come from our 2020 Associational Week of Prayer Love Offering from our 28 MTBA churches.

This took a real step of faith to undertake such a huge challenge, but its just the

MTBA Way

Serving...Cooperating...Sharing

STAY CONNECTED

Mid-Tidewater Baptist Association
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Saluda, VA 23149

1. Visit us: 884 Gloucester Road, (behind Saluda post office), 2nd floor, Mon.-Wed. 8:30 am - 3:00 pm.
2. Call us: 804-758-4385
3. Communicate with us: e-mail:

Rev. Eddie Heath, DOM (Cell: 804-921-3658) eddie@midtidewaterbaptist.org
Barbara Bareford, Office Administrator barbara@midtidewaterbaptist.org

4. Share our Stories: On Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/MidTidewaterBaptists/>
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6. Read The Tidings: your MTBA Newsletter