

## Interviews with Tennessee DOMs

### Interview with Dr. Mike Day, DOM, Mid-South Baptist Association, Memphis

1. How has your association changed in the past five years?
  - Name changed from Shelby Association to Mid-South Association.
  - Geographical context has changed. Now allow churches from outside Tennessee to participate.
  - Restated Priorities:
    - Church Planting
    - Church Strengthening - Revitalization
    - Mobilization - Involving members in Missions
    - Leadership Development.
  - Executive Board Meetings are now Quarterly. Administrative Council Monthly.
2. Has your Association adopted the “Agee Model?”

Yes. We focus on “Resourcing the Churches.”
3. How has giving to the Association changed in your association over the past five years?
  - Prior to this year, we were generally 5% below budget annually.
  - This year we are seeing an increase in giving.
4. Would you say that churches in your Association are “more involved” or “less involved” in the work of the association than five years ago?
  - About the same.
    - (1) What percentage of churches led by younger pastors (under 40) are involved? 20%
    - (2) What percentage of churches led by pastors (age 40-55) are involved? 40%
    - (3) What percentage of churches led by pastors (above 55) are involved? 40%
5. How do pastors in general view the work and ministry of your association today?  
(Total number of churches = 142)
  - (1) Very positive 30%
  - (2) Not positive but waiting to see what’s next (younger pastors) 30%
  - (3) Negative 20%
6. How many new church plants have there been in your association in the past five years? 22
7. What is the prevailing attitude in your association toward new church planting?
  - Tolerating - 80%

- Strongly supportive - 10%
- Those who do not want any new churches - 10%

“The model we are using regarding church planting is that ‘Churches plant churches.’ We are not going out and enlisting church planters to come into our association to plant churches.”

8. What changes do you believe you Association must make to remain viable and to be considered “relevant” for the future?

- Must make a “once and for all” decision about what the Association will “own” and what they will “not own.”  
(Currently, their “conference center” located on what was previously their association camp property. This is where their office is located as well.)

The Association currently owns no Baptist Centers.

Giving to the work of their local BCM has been reduced to \$5,000 annually.

9. If you could personally lead your association to do anything you believe would make it more effective, what would that be?

- Sell the “conference Center property and use proceeds to help resource churches.  
(They are going to make this decision at this Annual Meeting in October.)

10a. How is your time as a Director of Missions spent in an average week?

- (1) Dealing with pastors & staff of churches who want to either move in or move out of the area - 20%
- (2) Conversation and assistance with Pastors and Church Leaders - 20%
- (3) Office Tasks (Administrative) - 20%
- (4) Developing strategy (planning) - 20%
- (5) Filling Pulpit (Preaching)/Conference Leading - 20%

10b. George Buyllard (in a presentation made to Associational Summit, Richmond, in 2002) says that DOMs should be spending 80% of their time with new churches and only 20% with existing churches. Do you agree or disagree?

“I agree with the premise. I would qualify this by saying “time with new church pastors” as opposed exclusively to just “new churches.”

“I would be more inclined to say, with the above qualification, more like 60% & 40%, or perhaps even 70% & 30%.