

**Alabama Baptist Historical Commission**  
**2023 Ministry Report to Associations**  
*Unveiling the past to enlighten the present and illumine the future.*

The Alabama Baptist Historical Commission is dedicated to preserving the record of God's faithfulness to His people called Alabama Baptists. Alabama Baptists' gifts through the Cooperative Program support ministries of the ABHC that challenge, encourage, and equip Alabama Baptists to collect, preserve, share, and promote our rich story and heritage.

Collection and preservation of original records are important ministries of the ABHC. The best way to preserve the information in historical records is by microfilming, which ensures that Alabama Baptist history will be maintained regardless of natural disasters or unexpected tragedies. The ABHC microfilm ministry is offered free of charge to all Alabama Baptist State Convention churches, associations, entities, and the convention. Pick up and return of records is also provided at no cost. Last year, more than 12,000 pages of Alabama Baptist materials were preserved through our microfilm ministry.

Anniversaries are important times of thanksgiving, celebration, and remembrance in the lives of Alabama Baptists. The ABHC assists with celebration planning for and presents recognitions to churches, associations, and Alabama Baptist entities celebrating milestone anniversaries. Last year, the ABHC celebrated 81 milestone anniversaries through presentations of framed certificates or letters of commendation.

For the sixteenth consecutive year, the ABHC served every Alabama Baptist association. The staff conducted 32 workshops and presentations for churches and associations on highlights of Alabama Baptist history, anniversary celebration planning, records collection, preservation, and management, writing of church and association history, setting up church archives, and oral history interviewing. The ABHC also presented and/or displayed at 36 state and association events.

It is important to remember the stories of God's Alabama Baptist Great Commission people. One way to preserve and share our individual and family of faith stories is through the use of oral history. The ABHC added several oral history interviews to its collection last year.

The ABHC made available several publications including: *Children of Light*, a historical coloring/puzzle book, *A Miracle of God*, the memoir of Dr. Troy Morrison, former Executive Secretary of the Alabama State Board of Missions, *Every Day with Jesus*, the memoir of Jane Ellen Gaines, a missionary to Nigeria, *My Day*, the memoir of Dr. H.O. Hester, a state missionary who served in the area of racial reconciliation, and an instructional brochure series. The ABHC delivered information packets throughout the state containing materials helpful to churches and associations in preserving their history. The ABHC website, [www.abhconline.com](http://www.abhconline.com) provided information regarding upcoming anniversary celebrations and ABHC presentations and ministries.

Last year, the ABHC added approximately one hundred fifty church photographs to its survey of Alabama Baptist churches, which preserves the visual record of our Alabama Baptist places of ministry and worship.

Lonette Berg, Executive Director, announced her retirement as of the end of 2023. Wendy Westerhouse will become Executive Director at that time.

For more information about the ministries of the ABHC, please call 1-205-726-2363, email us at [llberg@samford.edu](mailto:llberg@samford.edu) or [wwesterh@samford.edu](mailto:wwesterh@samford.edu), visit our website [www.abhconline.com](http://www.abhconline.com), visit our Facebook page, or write us at P.O. Box 293928, Birmingham, AL 35229.