

◆ **Director of Missions**
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✝ COVINGTON BAPTIST ✝ ASSOCIATION NEWS

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Proclaiming Jesus, Serving Churches Since 1856
JANUARY 2014



Corbitt's Comments:

Corbitt's Comments for January:

Anyone who knows me knows that I have a heart for missions. My wife, Geri, and I were honored to be IMB missionaries for seven years and we count those days as precious to us. I am excited that so many churches in our Association are active on mission and I hope to see the number of our volunteers missionaries grow even more in the future. With that said, I do have a challenge I would like to issue in this area, however.

I believe that many of us have developed a comfort zone in our mission endeavors that keeps us going back to the same places each year. Take, for example, Haiti. We have had multiple teams serve in Haiti in the past several years, and I believe we will expand our work there even more in the months to come. This is good, valuable work for the Kingdom of God, but I want to point out one inescapable fact: Haiti is not bereft of local churches to spread the Gospel. However, that is not the case in many places around the world.

In fact, almost 3,000 people groups around the world are both unreached and unengaged by the Gospel. That equals to one-fourth of the people groups of the world. Each year, hundreds of thousands of people die and go to eternity without ever having the chance to hear the Gospel!

These people groups are unreached and unengaged for a reason. They live in dangerous places that are hard to reach and they are often governed by oppressive and authoritarian régimes who are hostile to the Gospel and to Americans as well. Not everyone is called or equipped to be on mission in these places, yet these unreached and unengaged peoples need to hear the Gospel. Further, God has commanded us to take the Gospel everywhere and to all peoples.

Paul proclaimed to the church at Roman "I have made it my aim to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named, lest I should build on another man's foundation." John F. Kennedy, when describing the challenge of landing a man on the moon said, "We choose to go to the moon in this decade and do the other things. Not because they are easy, but because they are hard." Not everyone can go to an unreached unengaged people group but maybe we have some hardy souls among us who God is calling to become a part of a frontier mission effort.

In the next few months, even as we continue to support missions to Haiti and other close-by places, I will be exploring the possibility of our Association adopting an unreached unengaged people group. If God is calling you to be on mission in the "uttermost parts of the Earth" please let me know about it. Please also pray with me as I seek a way for our Association to take the Gospel to people and places it has never gone before!

Every blessing,

Otis Corbitt, Director of Missions

Everyone is invited to come and hear the exciting sounds of Gospel Music Featuring Popular Christian and Gaither Homecoming Artists

Janet Paschal and The Hoppers
5th Annual

"Celebration Concert"

Friday, January 17, 2014

7:00 PM (doors open at 6:30 PM)

Westview Baptist Church

1404 North Main Street – Opp, AL 36467

There is **NO ADMISSION CHARGE**



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MARTY HOLLEY
Church Development Director

A MESSAGE FROM
CHURCH-COMMUNITY MISSIONS DIRECTOR
LEROY COLE

The early part of 2013, Baptists were praying ACROSS Alabama and used a 60 Days of Prayer Guide. In one day's devotional Sammy Gilbert, director, office of evangelism, Alabama Baptist State Board of Mission, tells of the diagnosis his cardiologist gave him. "You are going to die and die very quickly!" Sammy relays specific prayers he and his family decided upon and conveyed to friends and Baptist all over the country.

Later in a follow up with the cardiologist the original diagnosis was reaffirmed. The cardiologist said, "I cannot give you one reason for you being alive." Sammy response was, "I can! There are people praying for me all over the world."

Sammy ends the devotional with a question: "What would happen if we prayed for revival and spiritual awakening like we pray for friends and family who are sick? **What if???** **I believe this is a question we all should ponder and take seriously.** I would add to Sammy's question - "What would happen if we prayed specifically for the lost like we pray for friends and family who are sick?"

Recently, John Bryan, pastor of Lockhart Baptist Church, left copies of a small book "Praying Effectively for the Lost" by Lee E. Thomas at CBA office. I picked one up and read it. From my gleanings of that book, I ask the question: "**Why should we fervently pray for the lost?**" We should pray for the lost because of the Biblical portrayal of the lost.

The Bible portrays the lost as:

1. **Broods** (children) **of the devil** (in John 8:44 Jesus conveys to unbelievers) "*You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.*"
2. **Bound by the power of Satan** (1 John 5: 19) *We know that we are of God, and that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one. (In Acts 26:17c-18 Paul recounts his call from Jesus) "I (Jesus) am sending you (Paul) to them to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me (Jesus)."*
3. **Belonging to Satan the Strong Man** (Mark 3:27) "*But no one can enter the strong man's house and plunder his property unless he first binds the strong man, and then he will plunder his house.*"
4. **Blinded to the Gospel** (II Corinthians 4:3-4) "*And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*"
5. **Bound with the devil for eternity in hell; eternally separated from God** (Romans 6:23a) "*For the wages of sin is death*" (which means eternal separation from God). (Matthew 25:41) "*He will also say to those on His left (the lost), Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil. "* (Isaiah 66:24) "*Then they will go forth and look On the corpses of the men who have transgressed against Me. For their worm will not die And their fire will not be quenched; And they will be an abhorrence to all mankind."* (Revelation 20:10) "*And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever."* (Revelation 19:20) "*And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet who performed the signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image; these two were thrown alive into the lake of fire which burns with brimstone.*"

What if we begin fervently praying for revival, spiritual awakening and specifically for the lost, just as we pray for the sick? Then God ...

I want to thank you for your support of the Christian Service Centers this year. Without your help we would not be able to provide assistance to the people needing help for food and clothing for their families. Thank you for collecting food. With your help we have been able to provide a larger variety of food items to families in Covington County. Next year we are going to provide food boxes to each church during their months of food collection. Churches may pick up their boxes the month **prior** to their collection month. Families can take these boxes home, fill them during the month, and return to their church. They can then be brought to the Center at the end of the month. Boxes can be used several times. All churches will receive a letter explaining this new opportunity of extended ministry.

Again, thank you so much for your support! We are looking forward to 2014, and with your help, will have another successful year of ministry.

DALLAS HOLM CONCERT

Dallas Holm will be in concert January 14, 2014 at LBW Dixon Center at 7:00 p.m. Southside Baptist Church Choir will sing with him. Admission is free, but an offering will be taken and divided equally between Sav-A-Life and Cross-Over Ministry. Everyone is invited to attend.

Further information: Jan White 334-222- 3087

JANUARY FOOD BANK DONORS

Damascus, Southside-Opp, Westside, Babbie, Beulah, Cedar Grove, Rawls, Pleasant Home, Southside-Andy ,Sanford, New Song, Philadelphia

NORMA'S NEST

Piano to be given away located at Norma's Nest. Contact Penny Anderson at 222-6241.

CHRISTMAS is not about the present under the tree, but it is about the **PRESENT THAT DIED ON THE TREE.**

JESUS' BIRTH

Matthew 1:18 (KJV)

Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.

Matthew 1:21 (KJV)

And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

Luke 2:6-7 (KJV)

And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

Luke 2:8-12 (KJV)

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this *shall be* a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

Matthew 2:1-2 (KJV)

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem,

Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.