

◆ Director of Missions
Rev. Otis Corbitt

✚ COVINGTON BAPTIST ASSOCIATION NEWS

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Proclaiming Jesus, Serving Churches Since 1856

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CORBITT'S COMMENTS:

Our Core Values:

Corbitt's Comments for January:

In my comments this month I want to finish a three-article series on the topic of cooperation. In November I wrote about how our cooperation as Southern Baptists enables each autonomous local church to fulfill the Great Commission. In December I gave a recap of many of the good things we have done over the past year as we cooperated together in our own local association. I want to finish this series by asserting that cooperation among churches is not only a good and useful thing, but also a responsibility given from God

I believe the Biblical record is clear: God wants His people to help one another. For example, in Deuteronomy 3:18-20, Moses told the tribes of Reuben, Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh that they could occupy lands east of Jordan, but before they settled down to raise crops, herds, and families they would have to help their brethren in the other 10 ½ tribes to subdue the Promised Land west of Jordan. God actually expected these tribes to go to war on behalf of his children in other tribes.

In Nehemiah chapters 2 and 3 we find another example of mutual responsibility among God's people. Nehemiah assigned each family in Jerusalem a section of the city wall to rebuild. Each family was mutually responsible to the others and if one failed to do their part then Jerusalem would remain vulnerable to attack. Each family relied on the others to accomplish the mission at hand.

The concept of mutual responsibility was found in the early church as well: In Romans 15:26 we find that the churches in Macedonia and Achaia worked together to collect an offering for the church in Jerusalem and sent it to the mother church by way of Paul. Also, in Galatians 6:2, Paul instructed the churches of Galatia to "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." To me, this means a mutual responsibility between people, but also between churches.

Southern Baptists continue to believe strongly in the autonomy of the local church. This is a good thing. I believe that we also need to have a conviction that each church has a responsibility to help its sister churches obey the Great Commandments and fulfill the Great Commission. Churches can find many to fulfill this mutual responsibility, but two networks of churches already exist for that purpose: local associations and state conventions. I want to encourage our churches and their leaders to become even more involved in these networks as our churches exercise their mutual responsibility to one another.

Cooperation: the Southern Baptist way of "bearing one another's burdens!"

Every blessing, Otis Corbitt, Director of Missions

One of the most important aspects of our ministry that we studied during our strategy development effort last year was to come to understand the *Core Values* held by the members of our churches. *Core Values* are the unwritten assumptions that guide us as we minister. They are the motivations behind why we do what we do. *Core Values* are convictions about how we should operate our ministries, and they are fundamental for developing relationships, ministries, strategies, and management systems. *Core Values* clarify roles, relationships, and expectations and they shape behavior.

Aubrey Malphurs, professor of Leadership and Pastoral Ministries at Dallas Theological Seminary described the importance of *Core Values* this way, "Values shape a ministry's character. Values are the qualities that make up an organization's character. This character determines how an organization conducts its ministry. An organization's ingrained ownership and understanding of its core beliefs make it possible for its people to be successful in ministry."

During the Town Hall meetings we held a year ago, we discovered a list of *Core Values* that those who participated felt were held by the members of their churches. From that list our Board of Directors helped me to compile a list of *Core Values* we will use to guide the work of the Association:

APPRECIATION (1 Chronicles 16 and 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13)

COMMUNITY (MARK 3:35 AND Ephesians 4:4-6)

COMPASSION (Matthew 9:36 and Colossians 3:12)

HERITAGE (Psalm 61:5 and Luke 1:50)

INFLUENCE (Matthew 5:13-16 and Galatians 6:9-10)

RELATIONSHIPS (John 13:14 and Hebrews 10:24-25)

STEWARDSHIP (1 Corinthians 4:2, 2 Corinthians 4:2 and Luke 16:10)

TRUTH (2 Corinthians 4:2 and John 16:13)

In the next few months I will be looking at each of these *Core Values* in more depth in my Corbitt's Comments articles. I'll be looking at what each of these *Core Values* means, what the Scriptures tell us about them, and how we want them to impact our cooperative and collective ministry. I'll also try to give a practical example of how each *Core Value* operates in our associational strategy.

Every blessing,

Otis Corbitt

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ASSOCIATION NEWS (Cont.)

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

Our mailing list for 2015 has been updated for the CBA Newsletter. If you are not receiving the newsletter, or no longer wish to receive the newsletter, please call 222-3009 to update our mailing data.

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OLD SCHOOL MEN'S MEETING

(A County Wide Outreach to Non-Churched Men)

3rd Thursday of Each Month @ 7:00 P.M.

Old Stanley School House-17784 Ala Hwy 55 South

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### A WEEKEND THAT WILL CHANGE YOUR MARRIAGE FOR EVER !

**SAVE THE DATES: February 20-21, 2015**  
A Covington Baptist Associational Event  
**God is Love: ONE - A Marriage Event**  
**ONE Weekend That Will Change Your Marriage Forver**

With Tim & Debbie Childers

Cost: \$10 per couple

[www.THEREALITYGROUP.ORG](http://www.THEREALITYGROUP.ORG)

Location: **Bethany Baptist Church**

Friday Evening: Desserts & Sessions 1 & 2

Saturday: Breakfast; then Sessions 3 & 4

Saturday: Lunch and Final Session

Register now with Marty Holley at 222-3009

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**CBA ministers/mission leaders: Big Apple Vision Trip**  
**April 7-10, 2015/cost \$300/person**  
**deadline for commitment Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>**

### "DIVORCE CARE" Spring 2015

13 Week Support Group – Opened To Anyone That is Separated or Has Been Through Divorce.

Monday Evenings 7p.m. – 9 p.m.

01/19/15 – 04/13/15

@ Covington Baptist Association

Contact: 222-3009

or [mholley@covingtonbaptist.org](mailto:mholley@covingtonbaptist.org)

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**Simulcast of the Johnny Hunt Men's Conference**  
**Jan 30 & 31**

Hosted by Men of Westview Baptist Church Men

Open to the Public

Admission - \$25 and includes a hamburger supper

For Details call 493-6467

### JANUARY FOOD BANK DONORS

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

## SAMFORD UNIVERSITY NEWS

Samford Ministry Training Institute will begin the spring semester Thursday, January 29, 6:00 – 9:00 pm, and will continue on Thursday nights for 8 weeks for the first class. Introduction to the New Testament, taught by Rev. Marty Holley. The second class will begin March 26, 6:00 – 9:00 pm and continue on Thursday nights for 8 weeks. Rev. Otis Corbitt will teach, Christian Ethics. Classes will meet at the Covington Baptist Association office.

Registration for the semester is \$10.00, tuition is \$50.00 for each class. Scholarships are available for Alabama Baptist with family income less than \$40,000.00. For more information call Ed Ganus at 222-4870

## NEWS FROM CHURCHES

### BUCK CREEK

The Buck Creek Baptist Church took part in an "Old Fashioned Sunday" on November 30<sup>th</sup>. Following the service, a fellowship meal was enjoyed by all who attended.

A Chrismon Service was held on Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup>.

The ladies of the church participated in an ornament exchange Christmas Party on Thursday, December 11<sup>th</sup>.

The children and youth presented a Christmas Play on Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>. "Breakfast for Supper" (a tradition held each year) was served following the play.

On Wednesday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, a church-wide "Pancakes & Pajamas" evening was held, following a devotion by Pastor Tyler Ingram.

The children will attend a Christmas Skating Party at the Opp Skating Rink on Sunday afternoon, December 21<sup>st</sup>.

A Candlelight Lord's Supper service will be held on Sunday evening, December 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 p.m. All are invited to attend.

The Buck Creek Baptist Church family would like to wish you and yours a Merry CHRISTmas.

The church is exchanging Christmas cards throughout the month of December. The money that each person would have been spent on stamps will be donated to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

### ARE YOU IN CONTACT?

During this Christmas season we are in contact with our families and friends enjoying their friendship and love. But, are we in contact with God, the reason for the season?

The American astronauts who went to the moon had to be in constant contact with their leader. When the contact was broken, they did nothing else until it was restored. When your connection with God is broken because of sin, you must do what His Word says to restore that connection.

*My little children, I am telling you this so that you will stay away from sin. But if you sin, there is someone to plead for you before the Father. His name is Jesus Christ....Corrie Ten Boom.....*

*I John 2:1*