

◆ 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:

I am sure that we have all heard the phrase "Nobody's perfect." This truism not only applies to individual people, but also to schools, governments, sports teams, and all other institutions of our culture. Churches and religious denominations are not immune either. No faith group serves God perfectly, not even Southern Baptists.

I have served Southern Baptists in one form or another all my adult life, so I think I know us pretty well. We do a great deal of good ministry together, and I could not imagine being a part of any other denomination or church group. I must confess, however, that one characteristic of Southern Baptists that troubles me greatly is our lack of discipline.

When I say we lack discipline, I don't mean trying to vote people out of the fellowship of a local church. What I mean by discipline is that we are not obedient to God. Too often we simply fail to follow His commands and directions.

God's will for us to be obedient to Him is found in both the Old Testament as well as the New Testament. In I Samuel 15:22, King Saul was told by Samuel, "Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams." Jesus himself told us in John 14:15, "If you love Me, keep My commandments." God clearly expects us to obey Him."

Don't misunderstand what I am saying here. We do not work for our salvation. That comes to us by grace through faith in Jesus our Savior. When we are saved, however, Jesus also becomes our Lord and Master. This means we are to obey Him. How is that working out for us?

Not so well I am afraid. The indicators that I see show that we are not serious about obeying our Lord. Let me give just one illustration of this. We are known as the biggest Protestant denomination in America with over 16 million church members, but we can't find half of them. Pastors, ministers, denominational workers and lay leaders of all kinds in our churches wear themselves out urging church members to become disciples and take part in the ministries of our churches, yet the amount of participation in our ministries is drifting downward each year.

Colonel Brant Hill, a commander in the Alabama Army National Guard has made this phrase his theme, "Do what's right even when no one's looking." Sounds like a good definition of discipline to me, and also a good word of counsel to us all.

Every blessing, Otis Corbitt, Director of Missions

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

The 2014 VBS theme is "Agency D-3" (Discover-Decide-Defend) I Peter 3:15. This Lifeway material offers a six-step outline this year. Whether you're the VBS Director or a class leader, VBS is easy this year. Follow six simple steps and you'll be on your way to filling the streets with special agents who are ready to share the truth about Jesus!

1. Know your Purpose and Theme.
2. Start Planning
3. Enlist and Train Workers
4. Promote and Publicize
5. Register Participants
6. Continue the Connection

This year we have changed our approach to two optional CBA-Walk Through Fairs. You may choose, Sunday, March 16th from 3:00p.m. to 5:00p.m. OR Sunday, April 6th from 3:00p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

ALL MATERIALS WILL BE SET UP AT COVINGTON BAPTIST ASSOCIATION OFFICE FOR YOU TO WALK THROUGH AND VIEW MATERIALS AND ASK ANY QUESTIONS.

We hope one of these dates will be appropriate for you to attend. **PLEASE NOTE: The clinic previously planned for Thursday, March 20th HAS BEEN CANCELLED!**

SENIOR ADULT REVIVAL

All Senior Adults mark your calendars for TUESDAY, May 6th at 10:15 a.m. for the Senior Adult Revival to be held at Babbie Baptist Church. Bro. Jamie Pruett from Gilliam Baptist Church will be our guest speaker and Bro. Wayne Goodwin will return for our music leader. He will have a 15 minute concert prior to the revival (10:15 – 10:30). Please plan to attend. Further information will be forthcoming.

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U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 139
Andalusia, AL 36420

Covington Baptist Association
P.O. Box 416
Andalusia, AL 36420

Derwood Cleland Chaplain With Hospice

A year ago, I started working for Comfort Care Hospice. I had just resigned a church after ten years of service. I was seeking God's direction and He opened a door at Comfort Care hospice. Comfort Care hospice has many locations through-out the state. We have a fully staffed office right here in Covington County. Some of my responsibilities as a Chaplain include visiting with patients and the bereaved. We share scripture and pray with them. It's not just about ministering to our patients but their families as well.

Bro. Billy Boles is the senior Chaplain for our region. We don't take the place of the local churches or pastors; we work along side of them. We work with some of the best nurses and hospital staff there is. We really take it to heart, it's not just a job, and it's truly a ministry for all of us.

When you think of hospice, some automatically think "Three days to live." Though there is validity to this, that's not always the case. Hospice increases the quality of a person's life. We also share in the responsibilities for the patient, easing the burden on the family. We have support groups, a grief share group; we also have an Alzheimer's support group. We also honor our veterans.

If anyone wants information about our services or the support groups they can call our office at 427-4000. It is so rewarding to be able to help our patients and comfort their families at such a difficult time. To help them prepare for death and eternity. It provides so many opportunities to minister, to share the wonderful love of JESUS CHRIST.

CROSSOVER MINISTRY TO HOLD APPRECIATION BANQUET APRIL 22

Crossover Ministries will hold its 10th Annual Appreciation Banquet on Tuesday, April 22, at 6:30 p.m. in the Opp First Baptist Church Fellowship Center.

The banquet will feature special music, an update on the ministry, and a message from Phil Waldrep, an evangelist since 1975 who has lead 1000+ revivals. Phil Waldrep is also the founder of the Annual Gridiron Men's Conference.

Seating is limited. Tickets will be \$10 per person. For ticket information, call Crossover Ministries at 493-1030.

Individuals and businesses who would like to be a banquet sponsor can contact the Crossover Ministry. Sponsor names will be listed in the banquet program, which will be printed the week before the banquet.

The mission of Crossover Ministry is to provide a Christian recovery solution for substance abuse and addiction through the use of education, work, counseling, partnering with churches and the knowledge of Jesus Christ; that will help people rebuild their lives and their communities.

Crossover Ministry opened its doors in January 2005 and it is located on Highway 52 East of Opp.

APRIL FOOD BANK DONORS

Conecuh River, Pleasant Grove, Victory, Mt. Gilead, Mobley Creek, Damascus, Southside- Opp, Westside, Sanford, New Song, Philadelphia

NEWS FROM CHURCHES

NEW HOPE

New Hope Baptist Church, located off US Highway 331 between Opp and Florala, invites everyone to join us on April 27, 2014 as we celebrate our 155th homecoming services which will Begin at 10:30 a.m. with Eugene Meadows as guest speaker.

PIGEON CREEK

We are very pleased to announce that Pigeon Creek Baptist Church has licensed Brother Winston Foshee to preach the gospel. Brother Winston has worked with our children and youth for the last several years. I can truly say he is a man of God, and we thank God for men like him who are willing to serve the Lord. Brother Winston has a full time job as county engineer in Conecuh County, but devotes much of his time to our children and youth. He has served as our AWANA Commander and Youth Director. Always looking for ways to reach and involve our young, Brother Winston and his wife, Michelle, are now focusing on Praise and Worship for our Wednesday night meetings. Brother Winston is also active in the community, coaching and organizing local sports events to keep our children and teens involved in good activities. We love you Brother Winston and Sister Michelle, and we pray for God to continue to bless your ministries.

Homecoming for Pigeon Creek Baptist Church is first Sunday in August. No further plans have been made at this time. Everyone is invited. I am sure we will have a fellowship meal following the service.

Our Young Adult class organized a Valentines Party for the entire church. We enjoyed good food and fellowship, and we wanted to thank everyone who participated. I had a great time just visiting with everyone and especially enjoyed our Wedding Game. We had drawings for door prizes for the youth and adults, goodie bags for the children and prizes for game winners. There was plenty of really good food, and lots of good clean fun. Thanks again to everyone.

WEST HIGHLAND

West Highland Baptist Church will hold a one night Revival on March 30th at 5:00 pm all are invited to attend

COMMUNITY SUNRISE SERVICE

The Red Level community and surrounding area is invited to attend a community-wide Easter celebration to be held Easter Sunday morning at sunrise. The service will begin at 6:30 AM. All area churches, all denominations are welcome to attend. The service will be in the Red Level stadium or gymnasium if weather does not permit the event to be held outdoors. A planning committee from multiple area churches is making final plans for the event. JOIN US.