

◆ Director of Missions
Rev. Otis Corbitt

✚ COVINGTON BAPTIST ASSOCIATION NEWS

◆ CCM Team Leader
Leroy Cole

◆ Church Dev. Dir.
Marty Holley

◆ CCM Coordinator
Katie Cooper

18350 US Hwy 84 Andalusia AL 36421

Phone 222-3009

Proclaiming Jesus, Serving Churches Since 1856

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◆ News Editor – Ray Lambert
CONTACT
Covingtonbaptistnewsletter@gmail.com

◆ Office Manager
Byram Lambert
(334)222-3009

CORBITT'S COMMENTS:

Corbitt's Comments for May:

The evangelical world was rocked in March when World Vision, a leading independent missions and relief ministry, announced that they would begin accepting legally-married same-sex couples as members of their staff. This stunning decision resulted in a fire-storm of criticism, such as that voiced by Dr. Russell Moore, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission, who wrote at his blog russellmoore.com, "At stake is the gospel of Jesus Christ. If sexual activity outside of a biblical definition of marriage is morally neutral, then, yes, we should avoid making an issue of it. If, though, what the Bible clearly teaches and what the church has held for 2,000 years is true, then refusing to call for repentance is unspeakably cruel and, in fact, devilish."

In the face of such comments, the leadership of World Vision quickly reversed course. Within three days, President Richard Stearns issued a statement that read, in part, "We are brokenhearted over the pain and confusion we have caused many of our friends, who saw this decision as a reversal of our strong commitment to Biblical authority," the board reported. "We ask that you understand that this was never the board's intent."

I am troubled by a growing trend among our churches of partnering with non-Southern Baptist mission groups. Like World Vision, many proclaim to believe the same things that we do as Southern Baptists, but, again like World Vision, how do we know when they might change their standards? Reportedly, the leadership of World Vision had wrestled with this issue for some time before deciding to make compromises with clear Biblical teachings about human sexuality.

Beginning in 1979 a great struggle took place within the SBC which centered on Biblical truth. Many leaders in our Convention laid their reputations and their ministries on the line to take a stand for truth. Yes, many mistakes were made, but the outcome was that we can trust our Southern Baptist missionaries to be doctrinally sound and to be intentional in ministry, following a strategy designed to win the lost and to plant disciple-making churches.

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Sadly, we are on the cusp of wasting the noble sacrifices of our predecessors. I believe that our churches should partner with our Southern Baptist missionaries instead of working with independent ministries who may or may not continue to hold to sound doctrine and who may or may not continue to follow sound missionary practices. The Acts 1:8 Connections ministry of our State Board of Missions is designed to do just that; I will be glad to help a church make that "connection."

The Southern Baptist Convention was founded for the cause of missions. Let's renew our commitment to partner together with our Southern Baptist missionaries

Every blessing,
Otis Corbitt, Director of Missions

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. Jamey 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. Please call the Association at 222-3009 and give us your headcount so we may prepare food for all attendees.

Faith-Focused Security Training Sentinel Level A

Led by Sentinel Trainers certified by Fort Sherman Academy. FSA is a recognized leader in faith-based training for missions organizations. Topics will include travel security, code of conduct, crime survival, basic crisis policy and more, all from a faith-based perspective. Cost: \$40/participant (non-refundable, includes lunch and training) For more information or to register, visit www.alsbom.org/ffst, call 1-800-264-1225, ext. 298, or (334) 613-2298, or email spoole@alsbom.org Location: Southside Baptist Church, Andalusia

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Andalusia, AL 36420

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

Pastors' Families' Outing at Blue Lake Methodist Camp

Saturday, April 12th was a beautiful sunshiny day; and was a great day for our Covington Baptist Associational **Pastors' Families' Outing at Blue Lake Methodist Camp**. Our group was there from 3 p.m. to 7p.m.; and enjoyed outdoor volleyball, indoor basketball, sitting and getting better acquainted on the large porch of the Pinewood Lodge/Gym. Then we enjoyed a delicious meal prepared by the Blue Lake kitchen staff. After our meal we went down to the amphitheater near the lake and had special prayer time, which include praying specifically by names for our churches, pastors, student ministers, worship/music leaders, and CBA staff.

2014 Covington Baptist Associational Bible Drill

On Sunday, April 13th, the 2014 Covington Baptist Associational Bible Drill was hosted at CBA facility. This year's theme "Champions of God's Word: go for the gold!" There were seven 4th and 5th grade children from First Baptist Church Andalusia who participated in the Associational Bible Drill. They were: Drew Seymore, Everett Thompson, Hannah Grace Blackstock, Rosemary Bass, Ashli Parker, Abigail Lee, and Ada Short. These children were supported by a room full of parents, siblings, and extended family/church family. The Bible Drill included Quotation Drill, Completion Drill, Book Drill and Key Passage Drill. Each of the children did well; and received a silver Associational seal for his/her certificate. They will be moving on to the District Bible Drill which will be held at Mt. Gilead Baptist Church, Dothan on Thursday, April 20th. Our congratulations to these children for their hard work and dedication to learn God's Word. If your church would like to start a children's Bible Drill Program for this next year, please contact Joan Mitchell @ 488-5755 or Marty Holley @ 222-3009 or mholley@covingtonbaptist.org

FBC Gantt, Liberty Home, Lockhart, Sweetwater, River Falls, Bethany, Red Oak, Buck Creek, Judson, West County Line, Adellum, Harmony, Mill Creek, Salem

ASSOCIATIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

If anyone would like a DVD of Dr. Mark Foley's presentation to the Ministers' Conference on April 7th please let me know.

Also, if you know of anyone interested in David Platt's "Secret Church" FBC Andy & Westview Baptist, Opp are hosting the simulcast April 18th!

NEWS FROM CHURCHES

CONECUH RIVER

CONECUH RIVER BAPTIST CHURCH will have their revival June 2 – June 6, 2014 7:00 p.m. with Rev. Dennis Knowles as guest speaker and Russell Thrift leading music.

Homecoming will be observed Sunday, June 1, 2014 at 11:00 a.m.

VBS Dates: June 16-20, 6-8 p.m

BLUE SPRINGS

Blue Springs Baptist Church will celebrate Homecoming Sunday, April 27, 2014 with our revival following on April 28th, 29th, and 30th. Services will begin at 7:00 p.m with Brother Richard Collier. Dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m. We invite everyone to attend. POC: Ms. Eileen Snapp, Church Clerk

FIRST BAPTIST OPP

GriefShare. Your journey from mourning to joy. If you have lost a friend or loved one or know of someone who has we invite you to join us in understanding this journey. First Baptist Church Opp will begin a GriefShare session on Tuesday, April 29 at 6:00 p.m. It will continue each Tuesday night from 6-8 p.m. For more information you can contact the church at 493-3235. The church is located at 110 E. Hart Avenue in Opp.

FIRST BAPTIST FLORALA

Will be holding REVIVAL services April 27th-30th. 6:00pm Sunday night - 7:00 Weeknights with Evangellist – Bro. Ronnie Owens from Tazewell, TN (Camp Jubilee) All are invited.