

◆ **Director of Missions**
Rev. Otis Corbitt

◆ **Office Manager**
Byram Lambert
(334)222-3009

◆ **News Editor – Ray Lambert**
CONTACT
covingtonbaptistnewsletter@gmail.com

✠ COVINGTON BAPTIST ✠ ASSOCIATION NEWS

18350 US Hwy 84 Andalusia AL 36421
Phone 222-3009

Proclaiming Jesus, Serving Churches Since 1856
NOVEMBER 2013



Corbitt's Comments:

Dear Friends,

It is a tremendous honor to serve as your Director of Missions! Along with the great honor comes a great responsibility. The CBA is a very complex ministry enterprise, and being a steward of it is a challenge. In the past year we have conducted a number of big ministry events along with conducting a search for a new staff member. In addition, as Paul put it, "Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches." (2 Cor 11:28) Yet, all of this may pale in comparison to my next challenge as your Director of Missions.

My job description states this challenge simply: "The Director of Missions casts the vision for the Association."

This might be simple, but it isn't easy. Baseball great Ted Williams said that hitting in baseball simple, just "hitting a round ball with a round bat, squarely." Simple, yes! Easy, no!

As I forecasted in our 2012 Annual Meeting, I plan to lead our Association to review and revise our ministry strategy. Our current one has served us well, but our circumstances and our context have changed in the 12 years since it was adopted in 2001. It is time for us to study our ministry and revise our strategy. The strategy development process begins with a vision and it is my task to cast it. What an awesome responsibility it is!

As a Baptist I believe in the autonomy of our congregations, and as a Southern Baptist I believe that our churches should cooperate in ministry. Further, I believe that this is Biblical: A number of Biblical passages refer to the concept of cooperative ministry among God's people. In Deuteronomy 3:18-20, God required that the tribes of Reuben and Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh assist the rest of Israel in subduing the Promised Land before returning to their own lands east of the Jordan River. In rebuilding Jerusalem, Nehemiah assigned sections of the wall to various families so that the work could move forward effectively (Neh. 3:1-4:23). In the New Testament, the offering for the church in Jerusalem (Rom. 15:25-27) is an excellent example of cooperative ministry among various churches.

I also believe that the essential ministries of our churches and denominational bodies are found in the very commands of Christ Himself in the Great Commandments and the Great Commission. That is, we are to love God, to love people, and to make disciples.

So, based on these things, let me cast a vision for our Association:

The Covington Baptist Association will be a fellowship of churches who help each other to obey the Great Commandments and the Great Commission.

I don't know where our new strategy will take us, in terms of ministry activities, but I pray to God that wherever it takes us that we will go there together.

Every blessing,

Otis H. Corbitt, III
Director of Missions

SAMARITAN'S PURSE DATA

Shoebboxes may be taken to Hopewell Baptist Church, Brooklyn Road during the following periods: **Nov. 18-25, 2013.**

Monday – Friday 4:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Saturday 9:00 – 3:00

Sunday 8:00 – 10:00

For further information, please contact:

Mrs. Jan Gager @ 222-7465 / 222-0644

Hopewell BC @222-2757



ATTENTION LADIES!!!!

GET "IN STEP WITH THE SPIRIT" , JOIN US FOR BAPTIST WOMEN WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

On Monday, November 4, 2013, the Covington Association WMU will celebrate Baptist Women World Day of Prayer. The event happens each year when women around the world recognize prayer is a vehicle for making changes in the world.

PROGRAM

SALAD SUPPER at 6:00 PM (Bring a salad)

SPECIAL MUSIC at 7:00 PM By Betty

Johnson (Bethany)

SPEAKER- Marty Holly, Director of Church Development, Covington Baptist Association

PLACE - Covington Baptist Association

Office 18350 U S Hwy 84, Andalusia, AL

Contact Martha Cordell for more information

334-222-4548 or 208-6296.

INTERDENOMINATIONAL THANKSGIVING SERVICE

To be held at the ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 903 E 2nd St, Tuesday November 26th. At 7:00 P.M.. The Speaker will be Bro. Bob Madsen, Pastor of The First Presbyterian Church.

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 139
Andalusia, AL 36420

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

MARTY HOLLEY
Church Development Director

Transformational Discipleship

On September 26th I had the privilege of attending the Transformational Discipleship Conference led by Michael Kelley at ALSBOM. Michael stated that our generation of believers have excess to more resources at their fingertips; yet, there is a discipleship deficiency. Superficiality permeates our society and our churches, especially in relationships. Starbucks is proof – “all together but all alone”. I learned that the convergence of 3 key factors can led to a “Transformational Discipleship Sweet Spot”: Truth, Posture and Leaders.

The Truth factor comprises of the 3 lens: Gospel, Identity, & Discipline. The Gospel lens embraces: Gospel-center teaching, Jesus as the main character, and Gospel as the central theme. The Gospel is not just the starting block; it is the whole track (*say it again and again; repetition is important*). The Identity lens is being reminded who we are in Christ. The Holy Spirit reminds us, “remember who you are”. The first portion of some of Paul’s epistles reminds us who we are in Christ; then is followed by how we are to behave (*being therefore behaving*). The Disciple lens is to understand that: feelings follow faith, planning brings freedom (*execute a plan, share your plan, created a sense of expectation*), and celebrating small progression is healthy than emphasizing failure toward perfection.

The Posture factor should be characterized by humility as expressed in: weakness, and interdependence & outward facing. Related to weakness Charles Spurgeon stated, “I have learned to kiss the wave that throws me against the Rock of Ages”. Admitting our weakness opens the door for the gospel (*so that the gospel can be heard afresh*), confirms our true identity in Christ, and positions our disciplines. Interdependence is a posture of discipleship – allowing others into our lives; so that they can speak into our lives. The Lord has not designed us to live alone. Yet, pride will prevent this from happening. The outward facing posture: looks to Jesus, creates margins in time, finances, schedule & relationships (*“just in case”*), sees the means as well as the effect.

The Leader factor is best expressed by Ken Blanchard “the key to successful leadership today is influence, not authority”. It is the intersection of Truth, vulnerability, love and multiplication. The Holy Spirit and man’s effort collaborate in the disciple making process (*work to position the sails to catch a Force beyond your control*). The Holy Spirit is the One who transforms lives. May we join Him in the disciple making adventure.

Marty Holley, Church development director

Leroy Cole
Church and Community Ministries

The Christian Service Centers is a vital ministry of our association. The service centers are ministry centers to the residents of Covington County. We could not operate the centers without volunteers. For 27 years people have been volunteering at our centers. We have some volunteers who have been working at one of the centers from the beginning. I am so appreciative to everyone who volunteers their time and abilities in order for our centers to be open and functioning. There is no way to calculate how much is donated each year. It is the donated items that keep our centers in business. Every item must be inspected and prepared to be placed on the sales floor. This is what our volunteers do every day. The sales from the donated items fund the ministries that our centers support. Katie Cooper and I would like to come to your church and tell you more about the vital ministry of the Christian Service Centers. Contact the service center at 222-3840 about scheduling a time for one of us to speak at your church. Thanks for your support to the success of the centers.

Leroy Cole GGM

**ALABAMA BAPTIST STATE
CONVENTION**

HUNTSVILLEALABAMA
November 12th – 13th

NOVEMBER FOOD BANK DONORS

West County Line, Adellum, Harmony, Mill Creek, Salem, Hopewell, Oak Grove, Sweet Home, Westview Opp, FBC Gantt, Liberty Home, Lockhart, Sweet Water, River Falls.

NEW HOPE

New Hope Baptist Church has a used piano they would like to donate to any church needing one in the association. Please contact: JL Wallace, 15577 Tweed Bell Rd, Opp, AL 36467. Phone 334-493-7489

FIRST BAPTIST ANDALUSIA

Will hold their HOMECOMING services
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3
Guest Preacher: John Foster
Music: Don Lingle
All are invited to come and celebrate our Homecoming
With us.

HOPEWELL

Hopewell Baptist Church will be having revival services Novembe 3-6. Services will be at 11:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. on Sunday and at 7:00 on Monday through Wednesday. Revivalist Don Graham of Clanton, AL will be preaching and Rev. Gerald Simmons of Memphis, TN will be leading music. We would love for you come and worship with us.

BUCKCREEK

The Buck Creek Baptist Church welcomes Tyler Ingram as its new Pastor.