

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

✠ COVINGTON BAPTIST ASSOCIATION NEWS ✠

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Proclaiming Jesus, Serving Churches Since 1856

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SEPTEMBER 2018

CORBITT'S COMMENTS

Corbitt's Comments for September 2018

As I continue to think about the subject of unity in our Association, the principle of unity within a local church has become more and more a concern for me. As Baptists we believe in congregational polity. That is, we believe that individual churches are led to make decisions through the Holy Spirit guiding their members collectively. The Holy Spirit inhabits the lives of believers, and He guides us to follow God's leading and God's will. The way we express this leadership of the Holy Spirit is through democratic processes: essentially we take votes in church conferences (or business meetings). We follow this same process at the Association; messengers from churches meet together in our Annual Meeting to make decisions in this same manner. In-between Annual Meetings our Executive Committee operates through democratic processes also. Baptists are not a people who believe in democratic practices per se; we are a people who believe in the leadership of the Holy Spirit expressed through democratic means. It is a distinction that makes a difference.

One thing that concerns me greatly is that in many churches today the process of making decisions collectively under the leadership of the Holy Spirit has degenerated and deteriorated. Too often church leaders dread holding church conferences or business meetings because they have become the locus of conflict and confusion.

Often, the "real church conference" takes place in the parking lot after the official meeting has concluded. In these "parking lot conferences" church members who sat silent in the official meeting will complain about decisions that were made; indeed they may complain about the very decisions for which they voted "yes" due to peer pressure or other reason!

All too often church members who disagree with a decision made in church conference will "vote with their feet" or "vote with their pocket book." What that means is that they decide not to attend church or to withhold their tithes and offerings until they get their way. None of this honors God or helps their church to serve Him effectively.

We all need to re-evaluate our walk with God and our willingness to follow the leading of His Spirit. No system is perfect; our Baptist system of congregational polity isn't because we are human and we are imperfect followers of our Lord. At the same time, as Baptists it is what we believe in and what we have practiced in America for over 300 years. When a church meets under the leadership of the Holy Spirit and makes a decision I believe it is incumbent upon the members of that church to recognize it for what it is – the leadership of God and an indicator of His will for that congregation. Then we need to do our best to carry out that decision and so make the ministry of our church a success.

Every blessing, Otis Corbitt, Director of Missions

ASSOCIATIONAL NEWS

SEPTEMBER FOOD BANK DONORS

Mt. Pisgah, West Highland, Oakey Ridge, Northern Heights, Brooks, East Highland, New Hope, Pigeon Creek, Fairmount, Beda, Blue Springs, Carolina, Northside, Enon, FBC-Floral

Save the Date! Deacon – Pastor – Spouse Banquet

The CBA's Annual Deacon – Pastor – Spouse Banquet will be held on Sept 25th at Harmony Baptist Church beginning at 6pm. Dr. Hugh Richardson, Director of Missions of the Shelby Baptist Association and North American Mission Board Ambassador to local associations in Alabama will be our featured speaker. The meal will be provided by the CBA. All deacons, pastors, other church ministers, and spouses are invited and encouraged to attend!

PATHWAY COUNSELING CONFERENCE

Fall conference topic Promoting Forgiveness will be held September 21, 2018 at Samford University, Sullivan-Cooney Family Fieldhouse, 800 Lakeshore Drive, Birmingham, AL 35209 from 8:00 – 4:30 p.m. (Registration from 8:00 – 8:30 am). All Counselors, Social Workers, Marriage & Family Therapists, and Pastors are encouraged to attend. \$75 general admission. CEU Credits are available for an additional \$25.00. The speaker will be Dr. Everett L. Worthington. For further info please contact Mrs. Alisha Lewis at 334-677-7856.

27th Annual Sav-A-Life Banquet

The 27th Annual Sav-A-Life Banquet will be held Monday, September 17, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. in the Kiwanis Community Center in Andalusia. Tickets (\$20) are available in Andalusia at Tabby D's Christian Book and Gift and Sav-A-Life's Family Hope Center, in Opp at the Chamber of Commerce and Larry's Prescriptions, and in Floral at Pharm-a-care. For more info, call Sav-A-Life at 334-222-0644. Our guest speakers will be Olympic runner Jim Ryun and his wife, Anne. Jim is a three-time Olympic runner who won a Silver Medal in the 1500 meter race at the 1968 Summer Olympics. He was the first high school four minutes. He has appeared on the athlete to run a mile in under cover of Sports Illustrated seven times. Jim served five terms as a U.S. Congressman from Kansas. He and his wife, Anne, are charter members of Falls Church Falls Church Anglicans for Life. You don't want to miss this inspiring evening.

NEWS FROM CHURCHES

BABBIE

BABBIE BAPTIST CHURCH
19863 BABBIE ROAD
ANDALUSIA, AL. 36421

HOMEcoming SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2018
SPEAKER: BRO. LARRY CUMMINGS
MUSIC DIRECTOR: SHEENA BUCKELEW
COME JOIN US FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL @ 9:30 A.M. FOLLOWED BY WORSHIP AT 10:40 A.M.

FELLOWSHIP MEAL AFTER WORSHIP
(BRING A COVERED DISH - CHURCH WILL

"Seasons of the Heart"

Ladies Ministry of Babbie Baptist Church Announces Lisa Harper Is Coming to Our Annual Ladies Event October 16, 2018 at 6:45 p.m.

Rarely are the terms hilarious storyteller and theological scholar used in the same sentence, much less used to describe the same person but then again, Lisa Harper is anything but stereotypical! She's been lauded as a gifted communicator, whose writing and speaking overflow with colorful pop culture references that connect the dots between the Bible era and modern life. Her style combines sound scriptural exposition with easy-to-relate to anecdotes and comedic wit.

During a recent interview she said, "I'm so grateful for the opportunities God's given me but don't forget, He often uses donkeys and rock's!" She went on to describe her greatest accomplishment to date as getting to be Missy's mama. In April 2014, after a difficult 2 year journey and several adoption losses, she finally got to bring her little girl home from Haiti and she's been smiling ever since.

Contact Person: Lisha Weeks 488-5061
Contact Person: Jean Ramer @ Church 493-9460
Contact Person: Becky Anderson 504-0511
Contact Person: Linda Linton 343-1602

At 5:45 to 6:45 You can enjoy an
EXTRAVAGANT DESSERT PARTY Come
join the fun and fellowship **Tickets \$15.00**