

◆ **Director of Missions**
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✠ COVINGTON BAPTIST ASSOCIATION NEWS ✠

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CORBITT'S COMMENTS

Corbitt's Comments for November

It is hard to believe, but I am now beginning my seventh year as your Director of Missions. When I look back over the past year I see an association with a vibrant ministry in almost every area of its strategy:

Encouraging and Equipping: Our churches are our association, and one of our major areas of emphasis is to encourage and equip our churches and our ministers. During the past year we accomplished this in several ways including our Christmas Banquet, our minister's wives retreat, our Senior Adult Revival, and our banquet for our deacons, pastors, and wives. We also consulted with churches on numerous occasions and on a variety of subjects, from pastor search committees to budget and administration questions to child safety. Our Ed Ganus Center of the Samford Ministry Training Institute continued to offer Bible college classes to equip our pastors and key leaders right here in Covington County.

Community Missions: We were very active in community missions last year, mostly through our Christian Service Centers (see Leroy Cole's report) but also through our counseling ministry and by donating eighty four-color study Bibles to the clients in recovery at Crossover. Our United Youth Conference continued to grow and mature and it will celebrate its Tenth Anniversary in 2019. The CBA also has recently partnered with the Covington County Emergency Management Agency to establish a chapter of Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters to organize and staff emergency shelters/safe havens here in the event of a disaster.

Global Missions: Our partnership with the Central Baptist Regional Convention in Mexico City continued to develop during 2018, with the CBA conducting a pastor's conference in March and a retreat for church leaders in June. The CBA also continued to support Lindsey Moore as she helps plant a church in Michigan and we provided scholarships at assist church mission teams who worked in Haiti, Belize, and Alaska. Our churches donated hundreds of Christmas Backpacks to the Mississippi River Ministry. We trained additional Disaster Relief volunteers in 2018 and as I write this, our team is in Dothan assisting our neighbors in their recovery efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Michael.

Mission Support: As usual, Byram Lambert gave stellar support to all our ministry activities. We try to do all things decently and in order and Byram is crucial to that effort. In the past year we have improved the security systems at the Neal and Kittye Wyatt Andalusia Christian Service Center and at our offices in Sanford also. In addition, we updated our website and changed to a new host for our email system.

Room for Improvement: Although we are very active in most areas of our ministry strategy, we do have some areas where we could improve. I am concerned about the general lack of leadership training and equipping among our churches. Equipping church leaders was once a hallmark of associational ministry in Alabama, but in recent years this is less and less true across the State and we are no exception. We need to see a revival in interest and participation in equipping among our churches. We stand ready to help in any way we can with training church leaders. I am also increasingly concerned about the number of declining churches we have in our Association. To some extent this is a reflection of the decline in interest in leadership training, there are other factors at play as well. Pray with me in 2019 that we can find ways to reverse these trends!

Every blessing, Director of Missions Otis Corbitt

ASSOCIATIONAL NEWS

Christmas Backpacks Collection October 29th – November 2nd

The CBA will be collecting Christmas Backpacks for the Mississippi River Ministry during our regular office hours Oct 29-Nov 2. Here's a video describing the impact of this ministry and how you can participate: <https://youtu.be/tB5q8urtSJA> We are partnering with the Alabama Woman's Missionary Union for this effort.
www.AlabamaeWMU.org/backpacks

BACKPACKS AVAILABLE

Babbie Baptist Church has 150 extra backpacks available if any church needs any. Please contact Mrs. Mary Sue Ashberry at 493-9460.

ANNUAL CHURCH PROFILES

Thanks to all churches and church clerks for submitting church profiles in a timely manner. Although we didn't meet our October 1st deadline, we did get them submitted earlier than ever before. Thanks again for all your hard work.

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.

Baptist Women World Day of Prayer

Monday, November 5, 2018, 6:00 PM
Covington Baptist Association
Meal provided by CBA WMU
Speaker: Kim Olson
Contact Shirley Smith for more information, 334-488-4715 or shirley23214@gmail.com

BALDWIN PIANO

Excellent condition. **FREE** to church or individual who must move it. For further information please contact: Ms. Donna Baughman at 493-2313.

Annual Christmas Banquet:

Our annual Christmas Banquet is scheduled for Westview Baptist Church on December 4th at 6pm. We have invited Dr. John Thweatt, pastor of FBC Pell City and President of the Alabama Baptist State Convention, to be our speaker. Make your reservations by calling the Association office at 222-3009 by November 27th.

ASSOCIATION NEWS

Response to Hurricane Michael

In the wake of Hurricane Michael people have asked, "How can we best help those affected by this devastating storm?" We can help by 1. going and 2. giving.

Currently our Disaster Relief teams are aiding our neighbors in Dothan to recover from the storm. If you'd like to help our CBA Disaster Relief team, even though you haven't yet been trained, please call our Team Leader, Larry Jackson at 504-0984. Soon, Alabama Disaster Relief will probably be asked to help in Florida as well, and we'll disseminate those details as soon as we get them.

If you can't go you can give, and the best way to do that is by giving through your church to the Alabama Baptist Convention Hurricane Relief fund. You can be sure that 100% of funds donated through that channel will go to help people affected by the storm. Gift cards are also a good option, and our Association will be glad to receive gift cards from churches and individuals and forward them to people in need.

Several organizations in our county are packing trucks or trailers with water, cleaning supplies, and other commodities, and if you are led to donate physical goods that is a great option. **Please, please, please, please don't send clothes or other household items!** The best way to provide for that kind of need is through donations of money or gift cards. Our Christian service Centers would be glad to take your donations of clothes and other household items and use them for ministry, but please don't send them into the areas affected by the hurricane!

Finally, our Disaster Relief team would be glad to have more fully trained volunteers! Training is conducted at the AL Baptist DR Center in Prattville as well other locations around the state and in south Alabama also. Please contact Otis Corbitt at the Association (222-3009) or our Team Leader Larry Jackson (504-0984) to find out more about becoming a trained DR volunteer!