

✠ COVINGTON BAPTIST ASSOCIATION NEWS ✠

18350 US Hwy 84 Andalusia AL 36421
Phone 222-3009
Proclaiming Jesus, Serving Churches Since 1856

DECEMBER 2018

CORBITT'S COMMENTS

Corbitt's Comments for December 2018

As we come to the end of another year our minds often turn to the past. Before too long we will see retrospective programs on all the news channels looking back at the events from the previous 12 months. I've recently had thoughts of my childhood and particularly something my mother used to tell me. When I would get frustrated or upset and start to act out my momma would look at me sternly and say "Boy, you'd better straighten up and fly right!" But what does it mean to straighten up and fly right? Part of it means to be balanced in our lives and our ministry.

If we are going to straighten up and fly right in our churches, we need to get the balance right between evangelism and discipleship. Dr. Rick Lance, Executive Director of the Alabama Baptist convention has said that evangelism and discipleship are two wings of the same airplane. An airplane must have both wings to fly straight and level and our churches must do the ministry of evangelism as well as the ministry of discipleship if we're going to straighten up and fly right in our church ministry. Our task under the Great Commission is to make disciples, and to do that we must have converts whom we train up in the way they should go in following Christ.

Another factor that we must balance effectively is the relationship between grace and obedience. As Baptist we are firm believers that we are saved by grace through faith and this is a great truth of the Scriptures. It is equally true, however, That Jesus told us if we love him, we must keep his commandments. Some have criticized Baptists for believing in cheap grace, but grace is only cheap if it does not transform our lives into being obedient servants of Christ. In short, we are not saved by our works but when we are saved we are to work for the cause of Christ.

Finally, getting the balance right between the autonomy of the local church and cooperation between churches is a particularly Baptist issue in which we must find balance. Each church is free under the leadership of the Holy Spirit to go its own way should it choose to do so. It is also free under the leadership of the Holy Spirit to cooperate with sister churches of like faith and practice so that together they can accomplish more for the Kingdom of God.

My prayer for us as we closeout 2018 and look forward to 2019 is that we all would straighten up and fly right so that we can enjoy God's blessing on our lives and so that we can be a blessing to him and to the County in which we live.

May God give you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Otis Corbitt, Director of Missions

ASSOCIATIONAL NEWS

DECEMBER FOOD BANK DONORS

FBC- Andalusia, Zion Hill FBC- Opp, Mt. Pisgah, West Highland, Oakey Ridge, Northern Heights, Brooks, East Highland, New Hope, Pigeon Creek, Fairmount, Beda

Annual Ministers and Spouse 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.

CHURCH NEWS

HOPEWELL BAPTIST CHURCH

Hopewell Baptist Church, Brooklyn Road, Andalusia, Alabama honored their pastor, Rev. Barry Wilkinson, with a reception upon his completion of 20 years service on November 11, 2018. Rev. Wilkinson came to Hopewell Baptist from Louisiana in November of 1998 and completed 20 years of service in 2018. Rev. Wilkinson, his wife Laura, and their children, Hannah Grace and Joel were honored for their faithfulness to the congregation by men of the church who recalled many incidences of good works during their tenure. Bro. Wilkinson was given a personal gift and much encouragement for the next 20 years.

ASSOCIATION NEWS

BABBIE BAPTIST CHURCH

Babbie Baptist Church will have a special Thanksgiving Worship Service on Tuesday night, NOVEMBER 20, 2018 at 6:45. p.m. The church is located at 19863 Babbie Road, Andalusia, AL and Pastor, Dewayne Seay and the congregation, invite everyone to join them in giving thanks for all blessings He has bestowed.

BABBIE BAPTIST CHURCH CHRISTMAS CANTATA

Will be held Sunday morning, December 16th at 10:40 a.m. Minister of Music, Sheena Buckelew will be directing. Everyone is invited.

BABBIE BAPTIST CHURCH CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Will be held at 5:00 p.m. on December 24, 2018. Everyone is invited to join us as we celebrate the birth of our Savior.

Westview opp

A Walk to Bethlehem

December 14-15-16 6:00pm—9:00pm
Westview Baptist Church, 1302 N Main St, Opp There is NO ADMISSION

You will be guided in groups through what Mary & Joseph may have experienced as they went to Bethlehem.

Approximately a half mile walk will return you to Biblical times from the Birth of Christ to the Cross. A cast of over 150 and camels, sheep, donkeys and lots of other live animals. Wear good walking shoes, bring strollers and wagon's for the smaller kids. We Will accommodate the Disabled and the Handicapped.

For more information call, Westview Baptist Church, Opp 334-493-6467