

◆Director of Missions  
Rev. Otis Corbitt

# ✚ COVINGTON BAPTIST ASSOCIATION NEWS ✚

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Proclaiming Jesus, Serving Churches Since 1856  
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## CORBITT'S COMMENTS

Corbitt Comments for April 2019,

“Jesus said unto him, ‘Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.’” We all know that Jesus commanded us to love God first, but he also expects us to love our neighbors as well if we are to be obedient to the spirit of the Law. Our love must not only have a vertical component (to God) but also a horizontal component to our neighbors. Sadly, some leaders and members of some congregations in the Southern Baptist Convention have violated the second half of that equation in the worst way possible.

The *Houston Chronicle* recently published an expose’ in which they revealed that literally hundreds of cases in which children and other vulnerable members of SBC churches have suffered abuse *AT CHURCH OR BY CHURCH LEADERS*. My friends this should not be so! If anyplace in the world should be a safe place it should be a church, and if any people in the world should be safe people it should be church people!

As your Director of Missions, I have no authority to direct a church to do anything, but I implore you to take the steps necessary to prevent any such thing happening in one of our CBA churches! Many trite sayings have a grain of truth in them, and in this case, an ounce of prevention is worth much more than a pound of cure.

First, Jesus also said, “But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were thrown into the sea.” We need to do whatever we can to prevent one of our children from being harmed; either from outside our fellowship or, God forbid, from the inside. We MUST protect our children.

Second, and much less importantly, the church no longer has the benefit of the doubt when it comes to the world. Should such an offense occur in one of our churches today, that fellowship’s ministry would be greatly damaged, maybe even beyond repair. We also MUST protect our Gospel witness.

The Alabama Baptist Convention ([www.alsbom.org/Safe](http://www.alsbom.org/Safe)) and other denominational agencies offer help to churches of all sizes in this area. *Ministry Safe* (<https://ministrysafe.com/>) is a non-denominational group which has a great reputation in this area also.

I am urging all of our churches to find the right solution for their needs, and we at the CBA are glad to help as well; but the most important thing is that we act decisively to protect our children, remembering that Jesus said, “Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven.”

Otis Corbitt,  
Director of Missions

## ASSOCIATIONAL NEWS

### APRIL FOOD BANK DONORS

Conecuh River, Pleasant Grove, Victory, Mt. Gilead, Mobley Creek, Damascus, Southside- Opp, Westside, Sanford, New Song, Philadelphia

#### FREE NAME TAGS

We have FREE name tags available, with TWO options to choose from! -These options - not only fill a practical need for your VBS, but they also help to share with your kids about our ministry to children and families, through a short story printed on the back.

Sign up to receive your free VBS name - tags at [alabamachild.org/VBS](http://alabamachild.org/VBS) or call (888)720-8805. Please note that the deadline to request these is May 17!

#### Hey Alabama Baptists!

You're invited to a day full of fun for the whole family! This year our State Pinewood Derby Race is not just a race. In addition to the pinewood derby, we will feature a classic car show, cookout, and games all at the Alabama Disaster Relief Center in Pine Level. (118 Jesse Samuel Hunt Blvd., Prattville, AL 36066)

While this is a free event, we ask all participants who plan to eat with us to register by April 29<sup>th</sup>. Register online [www.alsbom.org/ra](http://www.alsbom.org/ra)



## CHURCH NEWS

### Praying for Each Other in 2019

In Paul’s teaching about the gifts of the Holy Spirit Ephesians 6, he told us we should be “praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints, . . .” In 2019, I’d like you to join me in praying for a different one of our churches each week. Every blessing, Otis Corbitt, Director of Missions

#### April and May 2019

April 7: Enon Baptist Church and their pastor search process  
April 14: Fairmount Baptist Church and Pastor John Bell  
April 21: First Baptist Church Andalusia and Pastor Kevin Wilburn  
April 28: First Baptist Church Florala and Pastor Charlie Lennard  
May 5: First Baptist Church, Gantt and Pastor Shawn Bentley  
May 12: First Baptist Church, Opp and Pastor Randy Breedlove  
May 19: Harmony Baptist Church and Pastor Keith Ray  
May 26: Hopewell Baptist Church and Pastor Barry Wilkinson

#### BLUE SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH

Blue Springs Baptist Church will host a community singing on Friday, March 29, 2019 at 6:00p.m. Singing will begin after a hot dog supper and everyone is invited to attend. The church is located on County Road 32 in Onycha. Soloists and musicians are invited to sing and bring instruments and join in the music.

For further information please call Mr. Bobby Jackson at 334-493-7900 or Pastor Jim Kelley at 256-283-4150.

#### EASTER SUNRISE SERVICES

Easter Sunrise services will be held on Sunday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, at 7:00 AM at the ASGSC hall in Gantt. Services will include music, Scripture reading and breakfast. Gantt First Baptist and East Highland Baptist churches will be among those present. Come join us for a wonderful time of love and fellowship.