

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

# ✠ COVINGTON BAPTIST ASSOCIATION NEWS ✠

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Proclaiming Jesus, Serving Churches Since 1856  
**JUNE 2019**

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## CORBITT'S COMMENTS

Corbitt's Comments for June 2019

In Biblical terms, the church is the Bride of Christ, which makes the church an organism and not an organization. Likewise, Paul uses the analogy of a body to describe how all Spiritual Gifts and all members of the church are important for the church to accomplish the mission set before it. So, if the church is an organism, are there lessons we can take from that idea to apply to our ministry today? I believe there are.

Like any organism, churches are born. In modern terminology the intentional starting of a new church is called "church planting." Some new churches are intentionally planted while some start by splitting from an existing congregation, but regardless, all get born somehow.

After churches are born, they, like organisms, grow. Some grow larger and faster than others, but all have growing pains. After about 15 years, the average church is about as big as it will grow, all things being equal (and sometimes they are not). Like any adult organism, once a church stops growing it may live and be productive for many decades. And, like every human, churches grow old and all will either die or be raptured that glorious day when the Lord returns for His church.

It is no secret that some of our churches are growing older, and while they are still precious to us and our Lord, they face increasing challenges to their ministry. What can these churches do to breathe new life into their ministry?

One path that they can follow was recently taken by Philadelphia Baptist Church and Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church. Philadelphia had some problems with its building, and it was landlocked. MT. Pisgah was without a pastor but had a great facility in a strategic location. In an awesome display of stewardship, humility, and vision, the two congregations decided recently to merge.

The new fellowship is called Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church and the pastor is Ed Ganus, the former pastor of Philadelphia. They had a great first service on Easter Sunday and they are moving forward, making one new congregation out of two. Pray for them as they start their new ministry together as one new family of God!

Pray also for other churches who need to find a way forward. Merging might be an option, but other paths are available also. Churches, like people, are called to follow God's leading in their lives and ministries. We at the CBA are always available to help churches make these types of decisions, and so is our Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions. We stand ready to help!

Every blessing, Otis Corbitt,  
Director of Missions

## ASSOCIATIONAL 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

### June / July 2019

June 2: Judson Baptist Church and Pastor Donnie Uptain

June 9: Liberty Home Baptist Church and Pastor Gary Martin

June 16: Lockhart Baptist Church and Pastor Tim Carpenter

June 23: Mill Creek Baptist Church and Pastor Judd Holderfield

June 30: Mobley Creek Baptist Church and Pastor Terry Powell

July 7: Mt Gilad Baptist Church and Pastor Phillip Morgan

July 14: Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church and Pastor Ed Ganus

July 21: New Hope Baptist Church and Pastor Scotty Prescott

July 28: New Song Baptist Church and Pastor Robert Canant

### JUNE FOOD BANK DONORS

**Brooks, East Highland, New Hope, Pigeon Creek, Fairmount, Beda, Blue Springs, Carolina, Northside, Enon, FBC-Floral. FBC-Andalusia, Zion Hill, FBC-Opp**

### URGENT REQUEST

VBS Report forms should be completed as soon as VBS ends and mailed to or faxed to the Association office, P.O. Box 416 Andalusia, AL 36420. (Fax 222-0447) These forms are being mailed to the churches this date.

## ASSOCIATION NEWS

### WEST HIGHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH

#### 79th HOMECOMING

West Highland BC, located at Thweatt and Packer Streets, Andalusia, AL will observe Homecoming Services June 2, 2019 at 10:30 a.m. for a meet and greet with worship services at 12:00 noon.

All are invited to come and worship with 11:00 a.m.

Guest Speaker: Rev. Leroy Cole

Music Director: Mrs. Linda Hartin

Accompanists: Sue Reeves and Jane Graddy

Pastor: Rev. Larry Stewart

Fellowship meal will be served at noon.

### HOPEWELL BAPTIST CHURCH

Hopewell Baptist church is searching for God's person to be their Worship Leader. This is a part-time position. If you feel called to lead worship and would like to be considered for this ministry, please send a resume to Hopewell Baptist Church, 6592 Brooklyn Rd, Andalusia, AL 36421 by June 2nd at 11:00 A.M.

### VBS DATES

BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH Will hold their VBS June 2<sup>nd</sup> -6<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-8:30 pm each night. Thursday, June 6<sup>th</sup> will be Family Night.

SOUTHSIDE ANDALUSIA Will hold their VBS June 9<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm each night. K - 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

BABBIE BAPTIST CHURCH Will hold their VBS June 2<sup>nd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup>. 5:30 pm - 9:30 pm each night. Grades 2 through Senior Adult,

HARMONY BAPTIST CHURCH Will hold their VBS July 14<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup>. 5:30 pm 8:45 pm each night. 4 yrs old -8<sup>th</sup> grade.

FIRST BAPTIST ANDALUSIA VBS  
JUNE 2<sup>nd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup>  
Sunday June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 8:30 am - 12:00 Noon  
June 3<sup>rd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm K - 5<sup>th</sup> grade