

◆Director of Missions
Rev. Otis Corbitt

✠ COVINGTON BAPTIST ASSOCIATION NEWS ✠

◆CCM Team Leader
Leroy Cole

◆Office Manager
Byram Lambert

18350 US Hwy 84 Andalusia AL 36421
Phone 222-3009
Proclaiming Jesus, Serving Churches Since 1856
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◆CCM Coordinator
Katie Cooper

◆News Editor – Ray Lambert
Covingtonbaptistnewsletter@gmail.com

CORBITT'S COMMENTS

Corbitt's Comments for August 2019

When I was a child, we had a beagle dog as a pet. My father named him "Uno," which actually wasn't the lamest dog name he ever conceived; late in his life my dad named his dog, "Dog." In any case, Uno, even though a beagle, was the biggest dog on the porch, if for no other reason that he was the only dog on the porch. That is, until we adopted a stray bulldog mix puppy that just showed up on our property one day.

Uno was not the least bit pleased, let me tell you. He bedeviled and tormented that little puppy right up to the day that the puppy outgrew him, beagles not being the largest breed of dog. At that point the tables were turned, and Uno's life became as miserable as the one he had previously inflicted upon the erstwhile bulldog puppy. Some in today's world might comment with a knowing look, "What goes around, comes around." A pithy phrase for sure, but how Biblically correct a statement is it? Let's consider that question.

Deuteronomy Chapter 8 is the foundation for what scholars call the "Deuteronomic Formula," which can be summarized thusly: If people did good deeds and lived a righteous life, then God would bless them. Conversely, if people behaved badly and lived an evil life, then God would punish them. Again, "What goes around, comes around."

Even Galatians 6:6 says, "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap." That's fine. So, if we could live a good life, we'd be OK, right? Sadly, Romans 3:23 tells us, "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Since Romans 6:23 tell us that, "the wages of sin is death . . ." this is bad news for us all!

What goes around comes around . . . we reap what we sow . . . all have sinned . . . the wages of sin is death . . . all this sounds very depressing! What hope have we? Are we doomed to a miserable existence here on earth and in the hereafter also?

Blessedly no! Romans 6:23 goes on to say that, "the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." So, in Christ, the whole "what goes around comes around" thing falls apart. We don't get what we really deserve. Instead we receive God's grace and mercy on our lives! Let us all rejoice in such good news! Let us love the God who saved us!

So, since we can be forgiven of our sin, should we become like Uno, bedeviling and tormenting people just because we can? No!

While we can escape the eternal penalty for our sin, we can't escape the temporal consequences of it. We often do "reap what we sow" on this earth, and Jesus told us if we love Him, we should keep his commandments. He spoke long and often about the way we should treat others, and Paul also taught us, "If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men."

Treating our family, neighbors, colleagues, and even strangers well pleases God, and it blesses them and us alike. "Let us not grow weary in well-doing" so that as we sow good things, we can reap good things also!

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 in 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

August/September 2019

August 4: Northern Heights Baptist Church and Pastor Jonathan Jones

August 11: Northside Baptist Church and Pastor Ray Miles

August 18: Oak Grove Baptist Church and Their Pastor Search Process

August 25: Oakey Ridge Community Church and Their Pastor Search Process

September 1: Pigeon Baptist Church and Their Pastor Search Process

September 8: Pleasant Home Baptist Church and Pastor Fred Kelley

September 15: Rawls Baptist Church and Pastor Doyle Prescott

September 22: Red Oak Baptist Church and Pastor Waylon Bush

September 29: River Falls Baptist Church and Pastor Jim Walker

AUGUST FOOD BANK DONORS

Hopewell, Oak Grove, Sweet Home, Westview-Opp, Bethany, Red Oak, Buck Creek, Judson, FBC-Gantt, Liberty Home, Lockhart, Sweet Water, River Falls

URGENT REQUEST

Please remember to forward your VBS Report to The Association Office at P. O. Box 416, Andalusia or fax to 222-0447, or e-mail to blambert@covingtonbaptist.org. Thanks for your assistance in getting our Bible Schools reported.

MINISTER APPRECIATION MONTH – OCTOBER

The Alabama Baptist Convention has designated the month of October as "Minister Appreciation Month. In most churches it is the deacons who will need to initiate the planning for such an occasion. So, you may want to: Appoint a Committee, Designate a Sunday, and make plans to say, "We Appreciate You!" Resource materials for Minister Appreciation Day are available at the State Board of Missions. These are: posters, sample resolutions, ideas for recognition, and a brochure. You may get these by calling 1-800-264-1225 ext. 263, or you can e-mail lhicks@alsbom.org. As always, we at the Association stand ready to assist you also.

ASSOCIATION NEWS

HOPEWELL BAPTIST CHURCH

Hopewell Baptist Church is having homecoming on Sunday, August 18th. Jim Walker, Pastor of River Falls Baptist Church will be preaching. We will have a potluck lunch after the worship time.

Hopewell Baptist Church will be having revival services on August 25th-28th with Billy Graham, Pastor of prayer and evangelism at Redemption Church in Mobile preaching and Jeremy Hawsey and family as music evangelists. Worship will be at 11 A.M. and 6 P.M. on Sunday and 6:30 Monday through Wednesday. For more information, please call the church at 222-2757.

ZION HILL BAPTIST CHURCH

Zion Hill Baptist Church is now taking applications through August 5, 2019 for the bi-vocational youth pastor position. We are looking for the individual that God has prepared to love, teach, nourish, and lead our students to be true followers of Jesus while also helping reach the community around us. Call John McMath at 251-377-4838 or email at zionhillmediaandalusia@gmail.com for full position details.

OAKEY RIDGE BAPTIST CHURCH

Oakey Ridge Baptist Church invites you to their Homecoming Services on August 10, 2019 at 10:00 A.M. Rev. Richard Collier will be the guest speaker and lunch will be served following the service. Everyone is invited.

CAROLINA BAPTIST CHURCH

Carolina Baptist Church is excited to announce that they have called Rev. Jack Armstrong as their pastor. Jack comes to Carolina from Westview Baptist, Opp, where he served as youth pastor for 8 years. He and his wife, Terri Leigh, have two children.