

✠ COVINGTON BAPTIST ASSOCIATION NEWS ✠

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Phone 222-3009
Proclaiming Jesus, Serving Churches Since 1856
SEPTEMBER 2019

CORBITT'S COMMENTS

Corbitt's Comments for September 2019

By now I'm sure that most of our readers are aware that Lifeway Christian Resources has begun the process of closing all its brick and mortar stores. We have been told that the system of Lifeway Stores has been losing money for some time, even though a certain number of these stores were profitable. Despite some stores returning a profit, and others of course, breaking even, the leadership of Lifeway decided that the best course of action was to shut all their brick and mortar stores and proceed with a purely digital sales strategy.

This process of deconstructing something that is apparently not working well has developed into a trend of leadership in the 21st Century. A friend of mine once wryly commented that, "When the horse is dead you need to get off of it." Incremental change is not popular with many leaders in our current day.

Interestingly, incremental changes are apparently not popular with the Lord our God either. At the same time, He is also not in the business of deconstructing things that he created! Let me explain:

The record of the Bible is that God created the Law which was perfect but which humankind in our fallen state could not satisfy perfectly. This seemed to put God in a difficult situation; He created the Law, and He created humans and He loved them both. Could He destroy humans or change the Law and still be the same Almighty God of the Universe?

Of course, where humans see only finite options, God is infinite, and He sees infinite options. Instead of destroying humans, and instead of destroying the Law, He sent Jesus to fulfill the law on our behalf. In Matthew 5, Jesus himself said, "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them." Paul, writing in Romans, explained how that even though we could not keep the Law it was a still good because the Law reveals to us our sin and our need for salvation through Jesus the Messiah.

Jesus coming to fulfill the Law allowed us to have His righteousness imputed upon us so that God says we fulfill the Law even when practically we have not. What a brilliant solution! Of course, how could we expect less of the Lord our God?

How does this relate to the closing of Lifeway Christian Stores? Well first it shows just how wise and wonderful God is to be able to solve an unsolvable problem in such a masterful way.

Second, it gives me the opportunity to say that we are trying to discover options to provide a source of Lifeway Christian materials here in our county. I can't say more about it at this time but look in these pages for more information to come soon. Pray that God will give us wisdom about how to solve this problem!

Every blessing, Dr. Otis Corbitt,
Your 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

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
October 6: Salem Baptist Church and Pastor Terry Campbell
October 13: Sanford Baptist Church and Pastor Ed Russell
October 20: Southside Baptist, Andalusia and Pastor Mike Flowers
October 27: Southside Baptist, Opp and Pastor Stewart Young

SEPTEMBER FOOD BANK DONORS

Mt. Pisgah, West Highland, Oakey Ridge, Northern Heights, Brooks, East Highland, New Hope, Pigeon Creek, Fairmount, Beda, Blue Springs, Carolina, Northside, Enon, FBC-Floral

ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

The 163rd Annual Meeting for Covington Baptist Association will be held **Thursday, October 17, 2019** with First Baptist Church, Opp, AL at 5:00 p.m. An evening meal will be served at 5:00 with the meeting to follow. All pastors and church messengers are reminded and encouraged to attend.

ASSOCIATION NEWS

ANNUAL CHURCH PROFILES (ACP)

All churches should have received annual church profiles within the last week. These were mailed to church clerks at their home addresses. These completed profiles are due **OCTOBER 1, 2019**. Should anyone need assistance in the preparation of these forms please contact Byram Lambert at Covington Baptist Association or call 334-222-3009.

Thank all of you for your cooperation in completing this very important document and returning them by the deadline. This will enable us to have your church's information included in the Book of Reports for the Annual Meeting at First Baptist Church, Opp, Alabama on Thursday, October 17, 2019 at 5:00 p.m.

Please announce the meeting date and encourage your members and messengers to attend. A meal will be served at 5:00 p.m.

FREE PRESCHOOL ITEMS

Free to any church.....Flannel-board Set and several Pre-school age Sunday School Items in like new condition.
Please contact Margaret Bennett
At 222-4880

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.

CHURCH NEWS

CAROLINA

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.