

◆ **Director of Missions**
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✠ COVINGTON BAPTIST ASSOCIATION NEWS ✠

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Proclaiming Jesus, Serving Churches Since 1856
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CORBITT'S COMMENTS

Corbitt's Comments for February 2020

I recently read some notices on public and social media that cautions us from abbreviating the Year 2020 on official documents that require signatures. We have been told that if we just use the two last digits (20) to designate the year that someone could then add numbers behind the 20. This would make it look as if the document was authored in another year such as 2010 or 2001 etc. Although I cannot imagine why someone would do such a thing, I do believe it is good counsel and I will try to follow that advice during this calendar year. This caution about altered documents reminded me of an event that happened years ago.

When I was a young pastor, I was shocked to find out that a colleague of mine had to resign his church due to his theft of church funds. This was when computers were very new, and in, fact, this man was the only person in his church who owned a personal computer. He "volunteered" to keep the financial records of the church on his computer, at home, and apparently temptation overcame him. It is never a good thing for a pastor to keep the financial records of a church!

Accountability in ministry is vital. Byram Lambert and I spend many hours each month preparing ministry reports and financial statements to submit to our Executive Committee and/or our Board of Directors. We also, at some expense, engage the services of a certified public accountant too ensure that all our finances are properly accounted for and, of course, our tax return is completed properly for submission to the IRS for our Christian Service Center 501C3 charity. We are happy to do this because we are happy to be accountable. We are glad to make sure that people understand our business practices and how we conduct the affairs of the Association.

I do think it is sad however, that due to our sin nature, people can't be trusted to do the right thing. If humans did not have this propensity for sin, then we could just hand people money and let them take care of the business of our churches, associations, and government without anyone looking over their shoulder. We'd save a lot of time and money if this was true! Sadly, this is not the case.

I am glad to say however that there is a remedy for this sin nature that we have. Of course, that remedy is Salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. Obviously, even after we are saved, we are tempted to sin and to do things we should not do. Blessedly, Jesus also sent us the Holy Spirit to encourage us and to guide us and to chastise us when we do wrong.

The evils of this world are real but for us the love of our God can overcome all those things!

Every blessing, Otis Corbitt, Director of Missions

ASSOCIATIONAL NEWS

Praying for Each Other in 2020

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 2020, 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

February 2020

February 2: Beulah
February 9: Blue Springs
February 16: Brooks
February 23: Buck Creek

FEBRUARY FOOD BANK DONORS

Bethany, Red Oak, Buck Creek, Judson,
Hopewell, Oak Grove, Sweet Home,
Westview-Opp, West County Line, Adellum,
Harmony, Mill Creek, Salem



Save the Date
REFRESH
a Retreat for Wives of Pastors & Church Staff
MARCH 6-7, 2020
Blue Lake Methodist Camp
Andalusia, Alabama
For More Information contact
Shirley Flowers at (205) 239-1263 or sflow101@gmail.com

ASSOCIATION NEWS

SPECIAL PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for the following churches who are without pastors:

Brooks Baptist Church
Enon Baptist Church
FBC, Opp
Lockhart
Mobley Creek
Southside – Opp
Victory

"A GOOD WORD"

God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the Son of man, that He should repent; hath He said, and shall He not do it? or hath He spoken, and shall He not make it good? (Numbers 23:19 – KJV)

Balaam was sent to Balak with the message of which we must be reminded today: God is not a man, and His word is good.

How well I recall as a small child, stating with great authority some new-found fact, only to have a friend retort: "How d'ya know?" With every ounce of confidence I would reply, "Cause my daddy said so?" I would stand steadfast, I would not be moved. It was true cause daddy said it, and that was that!

God's word is true. His promises are sure. If He said it, He will not change His mind. We can depend on it! As followers of Jesus Christ – the Truth in flesh – we have the opportunity of giving our generation a time when once again our word means something.

Elaine H. Onley