

◆ **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's Comments for May 2020

When we find ourselves in strange or awkward situations it is very difficult for us to know what to do. Take, for instance, a recent event that occurred when my wife and I were buying groceries at the beginning of the social distancing measures taken due to the COVID-19 virus.

We had finished our shopping and we were at the checkout counter, when my wife complained that the store was too warm. What she actually said, however, was, "I'm burning up!" I glanced around the store to see if anyone else had heard her declaration, and I was relieved that no-one seemed to notice.

As soon as I could I pushed our shopping cart out of the door and into the parking lot. I then quietly said to my wife, "Sweetheart, it isn't really the best thing to do in the middle of a pandemic to loudly announce in public that you are burning up!"

Blessedly, as I write this my wife and I and all of our family are safe and healthy, and we are praying for all those affected by the COVID-19 virus. Still, as we all deal with the impact of social distancing on our churches, what are we supposed to do?

First, I believe we should honor the efforts of our leaders to keep us well and prevent unnecessary deaths. This is in keeping with the spirit of Romans Chapter 13. I pray that we can reopen our churches sooner rather than later, but let's all realize that it is a good thing to cooperate with our leaders when the safety of our members is involved.

Second, I believe we should do ministry during this difficult time with all the means available to us. I am glad to report that most of our churches are using the internet to broadcast their services, and that our pastors are learning how to do pastoral ministry in novel ways. For example, one of our pastors will make a pastoral visit by calling ahead and arranging for the family he is visiting to stand in their front door so they can speak face-to-face as he stands several yards away from them. When the current crisis is over, I believe that our churches will be stronger. I believe that there will be a greater appreciation of attending church by our members. They miss seeing each other! I also believe that our churches will continue to use the internet as well, with many more people being able to see their services than can fit into our churches.

Third, I believe we need to send our tithes and offerings to our churches. I know for a fact that our pastors and church staff are working hard. Actually, doing ministry via the internet is more work than preaching at church on Sunday! I know that people have lost their jobs, but if you are able, please support your church. Even if your church does not have on-line giving, you can do what my wife and I have done since we moved here. Since we visit different churches, we are not able to attend our home church on Sundays. So, for years we have simply mailed our check to our church.

Finally, remember to keep the faith. As Paul told Timothy, "for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day." These are difficult and strange days, but the Church of God has seen worse, and He has guided His Church through worse. He will do the same for us!

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

May 2020

May 3: First Baptist Gantt
May 10: First Baptist Opp
May 17: Harmony
May 24: Hopewell
May 31: Judson

MAY FOOD BANK DONORS

FBC Gantt, Liberty Home, Lockhart,
Sweetwater, River Falls, Bethany, Red
Oak, Buck Creek, Judson, West County
Line, Adellum, Harmony, Mill Creek,
Salem

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

ASSOCIATION NEWS

Pathways Professional Counseling

For the past decade, our Association has had a partnership with Pathways Professional Counseling to provide high-quality, faith-based, professional counseling to the people of our county. Our counselors, Alicia Lewis and Jenn Napper are currently serving their clients via a secure internet-based connection and they are now accepting new clients again. Pathways can file your insurance and they also can provide a sliding fee scale as well. To make an appointment call their office in Dothan: 334-677-7856

NOTICE NOTICE NOTICE

Due to the current situation with the COVID-19 virus the SENIOR ADULT REVIVAL scheduled for May 5, 2020 has been **cancelled!**

We deeply regret having to do so but feel with the uncertainty date of returning to a somewhat normal status we have no choice. Look forward to 2021 for an OUTSTANDING event!

CHURCH NEWS

HARMONY

Harmony Baptist Church 20932 County Road 70 Andalusia AL, is seeking a Children's director. If interested please call Andrea Smith 334-208-2044 or email your resume to CDS_ALS2003@msn.com

RED OAK BAPTIST CHURCH

Red Oak Baptist Church, 13667 AL Hwy 55, Florala, AL is looking for a part-time youth minister/pastor. If interested, please contact Jason or Jennifer Hammac at (850) 758-0174.