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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 September 2020

September marks the beginning of Fall, which has always been my favorite season of the year. The Fall of 2020, of course, will be different than any we have ever experienced due to COVID-19. But all is not lost! I want to encourage us to continue to move forward as we reopen our ministries in the wake of the Governor's Safe at Home Order.

Although it has taken much work, planning, and prayer, I believe our churches are doing a great job of maintaining safe conditions for ministry. Over the past few months our churches have safely resumed conducting in-person worship services, along with continuing to use social media to allow those in our churches who are safer at home to experience worship at their own church. While it is true that a smaller percentage of church members are attending in-person worship than in former days, the numbers of attendees is growing steadily as people feel more confident in getting out into the public.

Not only are our churches conducting worship safely, I am excited to see other types of ministries reopening as well. At least three of our churches are safely and successfully teaching Sunday School on-site, and these, as well as a number of other churches, have conducted Vacation Bible School. Most of these VBS events have been of the one-day variety, but some have been week-long schools. In addition, churches have safely reopened daycare ministries and also conducted youth retreats without any reported out-breaks of COVID-19.

Every church must prayerfully decide which ministries to re-open and how soon. I do believe, however, that the evidence to date shows that we can safely do more than we previously believed that we could.

Of course, our schools are reopening, and this will give us even more evidence of how things will be going forward. I am cautiously optimistic that as we observe a successful fall semester at our schools, it will show us the way forward in continuing to open up to a more complete ministry schedule in the weeks to come.

Let me also encourage you by reminding you that we serve an awesome God who helps us in ways we don't even realize or understand. In Ephesians 3:20, Paul tells us that God "is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think . . ." and Proverbs 2:6 reminds us that the "Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding." God will help us as we lead our churches in ministry, both in good times and in the challenging time we currently face.

So, be of good cheer, and move forward, wisely and safely, as God leads!

Every blessing, Otis Corbitt, Director of Missions

ASSOCIATIONAL NEWS

DAY OF PRAYER FOR OUR SCHOOLS, AUGUST 16, 2020

The Year 2020 has brought us many challenges, not the least of which is COVID-19. As we learn how to live with this virus, the schools in our county will be resuming operations beginning August 17th. We know that many communities in our county and many of our churches routinely have prayer events at the beginning of every school year, but we think that it is especially important that we bathe the 2020-2021 school year in prayer.

We are asking that all of our churches pause for a moment during worship on Sunday, August 16th and pray for our schools, our teachers, our students, our parents, and the leaders of our county.

Please pray for:

Health and Safety from the Virus	Patience for Everyone
Wisdom and Good Judgment	The Ability to Teach and to Learn
Cooperation between School and Home	A Spirit of Compassion
A Spirit of Unity	Those Learning On- line
Above all the Grace, Mercy, and Peace that come only from God.	

We would also like to share one more suggestion: it might be useful if a church would adopt one or more schools and pray specifically for them throughout the coming school year.

Regardless of how a church does it, thanks so much for praying for our schools!

Conversations with the CBA

Our next Facebook live conversation will begin at 7pm on August 31st. Our guests will be Alisha Lewis, Derek Smith, and Jenn Napper, and the conversation will be about Christian Counseling. You can join us live at: <https://www.facebook.com/CovingtonBaptistAssociation> or you can view the video of the conversation later on our website at: <https://www.covingtonbaptist.org/conversationswiththecba/>

CHURCH CLERKS & PASTORS

A reminder that church profiles (ACP's) were mailed the last week of July to all Church Clerks. Please remember to complete the profiles and return to the Association office **NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 1, 2020**. Thank you for your assistance in this very important matter. For assistance/questions please call 222-3009.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL REPORTS

VBS Report Forms were mailed to all churches in July. Please complete the form and return to the Association immediately upon completion of your school. If no School was conducted, please follow instructions on the form. For further information please call 222-3009.

ALL REPORTS MUST BE IN NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 1st.

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

SEPTEMBER 202

September 6: Pleasant Home
September 13: Rawls
September 20: Red Oak
September 27: River Falls

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

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

The Baptist Faith and Message

In the year 2000, the SBC adopted a revised statement of faith.

This is what the BF&M 2000 says about the Lord's Day:

The first day of the week is the Lord's Day. It is a Christian institution for regular observance. It commemorates the resurrection of Christ from the dead and should include exercises of worship and spiritual devotion, both public and private. Activities on the Lord's Day should be commensurate with the Christian's conscience under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

The entire Baptist Faith and Message can be downloaded from:

<http://www.sbc.net/bfm2000/bfm2000.asp>.