

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

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Proclaiming Jesus, Serving Churches Since 1856  
**OCTOBER 2020**

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## CORBITT'S COMMENTS

Corbitt's Comments for October 2020

What a year 2020 has been! And I don't mean that in the usual way that we use such a phrase to describe how awesome an experience has been. In this case it is more of a lament. Sometimes it has seemed as if the plagues of Egypt had returned to the Earth. That is an exaggeration, of course, but it did seem that way at times.

One plague that did appear and did cause considerable damage during 2020 was one that had been building up over many years and that is the plague of judgmentalism and criticism. Judgmentalism is not a new sin; Jesus certainly addressed it in the sermon on the Mount and Paul did as well in his epistles. It seems that humans have forgotten all of those discussions and our social media and our interpersonal discussions have become a free-for-all of judgmentalism and criticism. The "cancel culture" is alive and well in our society and, sadly, also in our denomination and our churches.

As our churches have responded to the challenges of the Coronavirus, I have had many conversations with pastors who were concerned about what other pastors and other churches were thinking of the way their churches were addressing this modern-day plague. I have said many times that there is no playbook and no instruction manual for how to respond to COVID-19. While I believe our churches are responding very well, we've also had to do unusual things this year in worship, in fellowship, and in Sunday school, etc., people have taken that as an opportunity to criticize other pastors and other churches. My friends this ought not to be so.

Let us consider what Paul said in Romans 14:4 "Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To their own master, servants stand or fall. And they will stand, for the Lord is able to make them stand." As our churches deal the best they can, under the leadership of the Holy Spirit with the challenges of 2020, remember that they report to God and not to us.

In my ministry, I have a county-wide view of decisions made by churches. It would be easy for me to place my own values and judgments on the effectiveness of those decisions. But here's the thing: I am not the Holy Spirit, nor am I in charge of any church. While I may have concerns and I sometimes disagree with decisions made by churches, I know that I have to let the Holy Spirit lead each church and trust that they are allowing that to happen.

The truth is, none of us are the Holy Spirit. We need to allow each of our autonomous churches to decide on their own, under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, what their ministry will be and how they will pursue it. We all work for the same boss. Let's let him be the judge.

Every blessing, Director of Missions Otis Corbitt

## 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

### OCTOBER 2020

October 4: Salem  
October 11: Covington Baptist Association  
October 18: Sanford First Baptist Church  
October 25: Southside Andalusia

### OCTOBER FOOD BANK DONORS

Sanford, New Song, Babbie, Beulah, Cedar Grove, Rawls, Pleasant Home, Southside-Andy, Conecuh River, Pleasant Grove, Victor, Mt. Gilead, Mobley Creek

### 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

### From Gary Miller Westview Baptist Church

I want to invite you and your church to be a part of a Community Prayer Walk for Our Nation on Saturday, September 26 beginning at 10:00 am. It will start in front of the Opp City Hall and we will walk to Westview Baptist Church, where we will conclude with a prayer service in the worship center. I hope you and many people in your church will be able to attend. This will be held in conjunction with Franklin Graham's Prayer Walk for America that same day in Washington, D.C. Join us as we pray for revival and a spiritual awaking for our country.

## 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 Kingdom:

The Kingdom of God includes both His general sovereignty over the universe and His particular kingship over men who willfully acknowledge Him as King. Particularly the Kingdom is the realm of salvation into which men enter by trustful, childlike commitment to Jesus Christ. Christians ought to pray and to labor that the Kingdom may come and God's will be done on earth. The full consummation of the Kingdom awaits the return of Jesus Christ and the end of this age.

The entire Baptist Faith and Message can be downloaded from:

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

## 2020 Annual Meeting

You are invited to the 163rd Annual Meeting of the Covington Baptist Association  
To be held in conjunction with Red Oak Baptist Church

At 6pm October 15, 2020.

Due to COVID-19 no fellowship meal will be served.

Social distancing will be observed.

### "Good News" - the Best News Ever!

Proverbs 3:27 says "Do not withhold good from those who deserve it when it is in your power to help them." During the uncertainty of Covid-19, people with disabilities are still in need of mobility, and they still need Jesus. Until he turned fourteen Tattanin was healthy in every way but began developing symptoms similar to cerebral palsy. His terrified parents took their son to the doctor who refused to treat him. Being Thai means being Buddhist. To the doctor Tattanin was cursed...a direct result of his parent's sin and; therefore, he didn't deserve treatment. Now at age nineteen, his parents carried him everywhere. His parents could never afford to purchase such a luxury item as a wheelchair for their son. But through a Joni & Friends- Wheels for the World (WFTW) outreach, a team not only fitted Tattanin with a wheelchair, but his family heard the Gospel message and learned about God's promises in the Thai Bible they received. Tattanin was cheered by the WFTW team as he learned how to use his new wheelchair, and his smile said it all! Our area Wheelchair Drive begins in October. Should you have a broken or used wheelchair, metal crutches, or a cane that you no longer need, please consider donating these items to WFTW. The gift of mobility through receiving a restored wheelchair to those in need around the world is a tangible way of meeting a physical need, but opens the door for sharing hope in Jesus. Please call Brenda Mooney, Chair Corps Representative for Joni & Friends, at 343-8825 to arrange pick-up. Wheelchair donations are tax deductible.