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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 November 2020

It has become common in recent days to misuse the word "ironic" to describe all manner of unfortunate events. In the case of 2020, however, I think the term applies in that many churches, denominations, businesses, and other institutions of our culture devoted much time and effort to strategic planning related to 2020, often using the ophthalmic phrase "a 20/20 vision." No one could have imagined that this year would have turned out the way it has, and none did. We have been confronted with a concentrated dose of cultural, medical, legal, and governmental turmoil unlike anything those of us who are alive have ever experienced. As one who was alive during the social upheaval that took place in the late 1960's and early 1970's I certainly have never encountered any period of time like 2020, and I pray that I never do again. That being said, I would like to put current events into a different perspective.

What we must realize is that the church has lived through turbulent times before, and indeed it was born both during a turbulent time and during a violent situation. Just hours after Jesus had celebrated Passover and instituted the Lord's Supper, something He and no doubt the Disciples had looked forward to with great anticipation, Jesus was arrested, beaten, scourged, and hung on a cross between two common thieves. The crowd in Jerusalem had chosen to free a radical terrorist murderer over the One whom the Disciples considered their Lord and Teacher. Less than a day after their intimate and richly meaningful celebration, Jesus had died on that cross and had been buried in a borrowed tomb. Besides all of this, they had personally abandoned and betrayed their Lord. With all the pain, suffering, and turmoil of current events, nothing we have yet seen could be as soul-shattering and disillusioning as what the Disciples experienced that first Easter weekend. Their entire world and everything they had believed in was turned upside-down.

Had that been the end of the story it would have been overwhelmingly sad, but, as we know, it wasn't the end of the story. Not by a long shot! Jesus rose from the dead, sent the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, and God has used His church since that time to minister hope in His Name. We who are alive today and who are members of His Kingdom are living proof of the power of God to overcome all obstacles and all the efforts of evil to defeat Him and His ministry of grace, mercy, peace, and reconciliation.

The church not only began in a time of turmoil, but it has grown during all manner of difficulties, almost like these are the fertilizer which makes it grow and flourish. Not for nothing did Tertullian say, "The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church." While 2020 has been a challenge to us, we certainly have not had the experience of martyrdom, and so we need to adjust our mindset some.

In truth, our disobedience is the only thing that can hold back the ministry of God's church. I am more and more convinced that discipleship is far more a matter of commitment than it is knowledge. Peter and Paul had vastly different levels of education, but both were completely committed to the Lord and the Gospel ministry. So, let us dig a little deeper into our lives and find our first love again for Our Lord and Savior. A new year is approaching, one with its own challenges and with its own blessings, but if the Lord tarries, it will also be a new year in which to minister the Gospel in His Name. Let us not waste a minute more fretting over 2020, but instead, as Paul urged the Ephesians, "Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light. See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil." Our best ministry is yet to come!

Every blessing, Otis H. 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

NOVEMBER 202

November 1: Southside Opp
November 8: Sweet Home
November 15: Sweetwater
November 22: Victory
November 29: West County Line



NOVEMBER FOOD BANK DONORS

West County Line, Adellum, Harmony, Mill Creek, Salem, Hopewell, Oak Grove, Sweet Home, Westview Opp, FBC Gantt, Liberty Home, Lockhart, Sweet Water, River Falls.



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

Covington Baptist Association's Annual Christmas Dinner for Ministers and Spouses

Will be held at Southside Baptist Church
1213 Western Bypass, Andalusia, al 36430
on Monday, December 7, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.
Dress: Christmas/Casual
Speaker: Dr. Ric Camp
Pastor of Ridgecrest Baptist Church
Trussville, AL

For catering purposes, please call our office
At 222-3009 to confirm your reservation
NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 1, 2020

or click on:
<https://forms.gle/y6k8LQDzm3EMD8bk6>

Day of Prayer Walk for Our Nation November 1st.

Covington Baptist Association and the Alabama Baptist Convention are asking all our churches to set aside November 1st as a day of prayer for our Nation and the upcoming election. For some

helpful resources for this event see:

<https://alsbom.org/ministries/prayer/>

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 LAST DAYS

God, in His own time and in His own way, will bring the world to its appropriate end. According to His promise, Jesus Christ will return personally and visibly in glory to the earth; the dead will be raised; and Christ will judge all men in righteousness. The unrighteous will be consigned to Hell, the place of everlasting punishment. The righteous in their resurrected and glorified bodies will receive their reward and will dwell forever in Heaven with the Lord.

The entire Baptist Faith and Message can be downloaded from:
<https://bfm.sbc.net/bfm2000/>

It's Almost Time To Collect Christmas Backpacks.

Christmas Backpacks are a wonderful ministry and one that isn't affected by all the Social Distancing caused by COVID-19! The goal this year for Alabama is 12,000 backpacks and we hope you will participate this year and help bless the lives of thousands of children and their families!

We are serving as a collection site again this year, but we will be receiving these at the Andalusia Christian Service Center during the week of October 26-30 from 9am until 4am.

If you want to know more about this ministry, here is a link to an interview I conducted with Pat Ingram of the Alabama WMU: <https://youtu.be/RUzI7MhUuOE>
Also here is the AL WMU's web page with information about this great ministry:

<https://www.alabamawmu.org/christmasbackpacks>
Feel free to call us with any questions!
Every blessing,
Director of Missions Otis Corbitt
Ofc: 334-222-3009