

✠ COVINGTON BAPTIST ASSOCIATION NEWS ✠

18350 US Hwy 84 Andalusia AL 36421
Phone 222-3009
Proclaiming Jesus, Serving Churches Since 1856
JANUARY 2021

CORBITT'S COMMENTS

Corbitt's Comments for January 2021

People are tired. Pastors are tired. I am tired. 2020 was a dumpster fire of a year; in fact, someone designed a 2020 Christmas tree ornament in the shape of a dumpster fire. I find that most appropriate. We all need a new start.

The last time I felt this tired was ten years ago at the end of my deployment to Iraq as a chaplain in the Alabama Army National Guard. I was not only chaplain for a very busy unit, but I also was pastor of the largest chapel service on Camp Victory in Baghdad.

During the week I burned the candle at both ends and by the time Sunday afternoon arrived I was so tired that all I could do was lie on my bed and close my eyes. I was so tired I could not even sleep, much less read a book, watch a movie on my computer, or listen to music. By supper time, however, I had revived enough to make my way to the dining facility for a good meal, and by Monday I was back up and at it, starting another busy week.

I am not quite as tired today as I was in Iraq, but the past year has presented us all with stresses and challenges that have made us all tired and we are all looking for some relief in 2021. The good news is that relief is available to us, as the writer of Hebrews reminded us:

There remains therefore a rest for the people of God. For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God did from His. Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience.

(Hebrews 4:9-11)

To be clear, the writer was talking about our rest from relying on works for salvation, and resting in Christ as our Savior, but if we can rest in Him for salvation, can we not also rest in Him for . . . rest? The Corona virus has negatively impacted many areas of our life, but participation in church worship and other ministries has been impacted more than most in my estimation. What lessons can we draw from our experience of 2020?

First, and most immediately, we must take every opportunity to build our spiritual endurance. We can do this through private and family devotions, through use of technology and the internet, and, most importantly, through safely gathering as often as possible with our church family for mutual support and encouragement.

Second, as the Corona virus situation improves, and I am confident it will, we need to remember the lesson of the seven fat years and the seven lean years in the story of Joseph. We need to build our spiritual strength in the easy times, because one thing is for certain, hard times will come again.

Finally, we all must remember that our ultimate rest in Christ is yet to come, when we cross over the Jordan into the Eternal Zion of Heaven. Even if the Corona virus continues to bedevil us, God has prepared a place for us with Him for Eternity, so be of good cheer, child of God!

Every blessing, Director of Missions, Otis Corbitt

ASSOCIATIONAL NEWS

Praying for Each Other in 2021

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

JANUARY 2021

January 5: Adellum

January 12: Babbie

January 19: Beda

January 26: Bethany

JANUARY FOOD BANK DONORS

Damascus, Southside-Opp, Westside, Babbie, Beulah, Cedar Grove, Rawls, Pleasant Home, Southside-Andy, Sanford, New Song

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

WHO CAN ADD TO CHRISTMAS?

The perfect motive is that God so loved the world. The perfect gift is that He gave His Only Son. The only requirement is to believe in Him. The reward of faith is that you shall have everlasting life!

Corrie Ten Boom

Association-Wide Mission Celebration January 23-24, 2021

One of the tasks of the Covington Baptist Association is to help our churches become stronger supporters of our Southern Baptist mission efforts. That is why we are planning a Mission Celebration for Sunday, January 24, 2021.

Participating churches will transport their morning speaker from their hotel to church and then feed them lunch afterwards. After lunch, the missionaries' morning host church would bring them to the location of a mission's fair at Southside Baptist Church, Andalusia for the afternoon.

In the evening, host churches would transport their evening speaker from the mission's conference to their church to speak in the evening. Afterwards, the host churches would feed the missionaries before returning them to their hotel.

We are asking each participating church to collect a love offering for all the missionaries and forward it to the Association where it will be divided equally among all the missionary speakers. The Association has recruited the missionary speakers and pay for their travel here and their lodging.

Participating churches, please forward the name(s) of your driver(s) to the Association by **January 8th**. We will hold banquet and coordination meeting for our speakers and drivers at 6pm on Saturday, January 23rd at Westview Baptist Church.

Please pray for our Mission Celebration! If you have any questions, please call our office at 222-3009.

Every blessing, Otis Corbitt, Director of Missions

God grant you the light in Christmas which is faith; the warmth of Christmas which is love; the radiance of Christmas which is purity; the righteousness of Christmas, which is justice; the belief in Christmas, which is truth; the ALL of Christmas, which is Christ!

Wilda English