

### CORBITT'S COMMENTS

Corbitt's Comments for February 2021

With all of the drama and trauma of the past year, no doubt many of us have experienced a high level of emotional stress which has, at least from time to time, become distress. We all have dealt with this situation in the best way we could, and that reminds me of some experiences from my past service in the Army.

During the summer of 1981 I went to Fort Bragg, NC for several weeks of advanced officer cadet training and evaluation. The course was designed to put cadets under mental, emotional, physical, and social stress to evaluate if we were able to adapt and to exert leadership under those circumstances. While I had previously completed the US Army Airborne School, and I had already experienced living in an open-bay barracks before, I found myself having some trouble standing up to the stress I was feeling.

While I was still functional, I was very stressed, and unsure how to handle it. One particular area of trouble was the fact I was not sleeping well because I was thinking about the challenges of the next day.

Then, one night in my bunk, God brought an idea to my mind. He taught me to not dread tomorrow, but to focus on my current situation. In fact, the very words I He led me to say to myself were, "No matter what they might do to us tomorrow, right now I am O.K. No one is bothering me at the moment, and I need to enjoy this peace while I have it." From that moment, my attitude was transformed, and I went on to successfully complete my cadet training, and after graduating from university, I was commissioned as an officer in the Regular Army.

Although the purpose of our cadet training was to produce capable leaders by screening out those who did not meet the challenge, my time at Fort Bragg has another, more spiritual, effect on me. It brought to life a passage of Scripture that I had heard many times but had never before needed to apply to my life: "Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble." (Matthew 6:34)

I knew that Scripture, but until I had lived it, it was not real to me. Living that Scripture required that I experience difficulty and stress. Without those I would have known this truth in my head, but not in my heart.

Now, nothing I have said above implies that I have become immune from stress; far from it. I still have to deal with stress, although I am now more concerned about taking care of those for whom I am responsible than I am about myself. The key take-aways of my comments today are these: 1. Our world is fallen and imperfect (and stressful) because of mankind's sin, but God loves us, and He helps us in our infirmities. 2. Things always work better when we do them God's Way as revealed in His Word.

May God bless us all in 2021 and may we all learn to live empowered by God's Word and by His Holy Spirit.

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

#### **FEBRUARY 2021**

February 2: Beulah  
February 9: Blue Springs  
February 16: Brooks  
February 23: Buck Creek



#### FEBRUARY FOOD BANK DONORS

Bethany, Red Oak, Buck Creek, Judson, Hopewell, Oak Grove, Sweet Home, Westview-Opp, 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  
Lockhart  
Millcreek  
Mobley Creek  
Victory

#### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL THEME 2021

Lifeway's theme for 2021 is "DESTINATION" Unearthing the truth about Jesus! Jeremiah 29:13. Pack your bags and grab your gear! VBS 2021 is headed to present-day Israel where an epic adventure of discovery awaits. Discover long-hidden treasures, amazing finds, and exciting evidence that proves biblical events were not just stories. They really happened.

Materials may be ordered through Lifeway  
@<https://vbs.lifeway.com>

Follow-up reports will be mailed by the Association as soon as they are received.

VBS Reports should be completed immediately upon completion of VBS and mailed to the Association office.

For further information please contact:  
Byram Lambert, Ofc Mgr. at 222-3009

### Up-Coming Dates

#### **January 23-24: Mission Celebration Postponed**

After consulting with the medical we decided to postpone our Mission Conference to a later date when we would not be risking the transmission of the Corona virus among our member churches. At this time, we don't know when that might be. Our individual churches can, and do, conduct ministry events safely, but now is not the time for our Association to host an event in which we bring in multiple speakers from outside our county to circulate among members of over a dozen of our local churches. Taking such a risk at this time is probably not the best course of stewardship.

#### **February 1: Executive Committee**

Our first Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for 7pm on February 1<sup>st</sup> at the Association Office. We will be observing social distancing, and we will be broadcasting our meeting via Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/CovingtonBaptistAssociation>) for those who don't feel comfortable to attend in person.

#### **February 13-14: United Youth Conference**

Our United Youth Conference for 2021 is scheduled for February 13-14 at the Kiwanis building. Again, social distancing will be observed, and COVID-19 precautions will be in place. For more information contact Garrett Davis at Carolina Baptist Church.



#### **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 Stewardship:**

God is the source of all blessings, temporal and spiritual; all that we have and are we owe to Him. Christians have a spiritual debt to the whole world, a holy trusteeship in the gospel, and a binding stewardship in their possessions. They are therefore under obligation to serve Him with their time, talents, and material possessions; and should recognize all these as entrusted to them to use for the glory of God and for helping others. According to the Scriptures, Christians should contribute of their means cheerfully, regularly, systematically, proportionately, and liberally for the advancement of the Redeemer's cause on earth.

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