

◆ **Director of Missions**
Rev. Otis Corbitt

✠ 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 May 2021

From both personal and professional experience, I think one of the most difficult emotional and spiritual challenges is the task of starting over. Let me explain.

When I was in elementary school, I was assigned a long and difficult homework project. I labored over the task all afternoon, being very careful to write clearly and legibly, because my handwriting has never been very good, and this was many years before computers. I had just finished the last sentence on a multi-page paper when I bumped over a glass of milk on the kitchen table where I was working. I literally cried over spilt milk!

I wanted to throw up my hands in defeat and crawl into bed, but my mother made me sit back down and copy the spoiled pages onto new sheets of paper. It did not take as long as I thought it would, and the next day I received a good score from my teacher. I was so glad that my mom made me buckle down and start over, but at that moment that I was staring in disbelief and dismay at the spilled milk and spoiled document, I wasn't happy at all. I just wanted to quit! Interestingly, I was in good company when I didn't want to start all over again. In Genesis 9, Noah got stressed out about starting over also.

Noah, of course, had just saved humanity and the animal kingdom from destruction by the flood, and so he had a lot more reason to be stressed out than I was, but we can still see what was happening in his life. Before the flood and before God used him in a work of salvation, we see no indication that Noah drank or used any intoxicating substance. After the flood, with the world he knew destroyed, and with the task of rebuilding ever present in his life, "He drank of the wine and became drunk and lay uncovered in his tent." (Genesis 9:21). Noah tried to drink his fears, cares, and troubles away. Of course, when he sobered up the next day, his troubles were still there, and they had actually multiplied because he resorted to alcohol to self-medicate and dull his anxiety.

Now that the COVID-19 restrictions we have been under for over a year have been reduced, our churches need to rebuild their ministries. This is much harder than starting from the beginning. It is less exciting and more stressful. And yet rebuild we must.

Although we have had to cancel many meetings and restructure many ministries in the past year, the Great Commission has not been cancelled and God has not restructured the way the Gospel works. People need a relationship with God through Jesus more than ever, and we need to rebuild and renew our ministries so that we can be the hands and feet of Jesus in a post-COVID-19 world. Now is not the time to give into our fears or to cater to our fatigue and inertia. When Jesus calmed the storm in the Sea of Galilee that was not the end of the work. When they arrived on the opposite shore, Jesus healed the demoniac.

Our work awaits us. We must rebuild! Pray for our churches and pastors as we restore and reinvigorate our ministries in the weeks to come!

Every blessing, Director of Missions Otis Corbitt

ASSOCIATIONAL NEWS

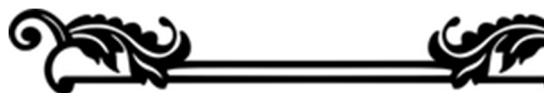


MESSAGE TO GRADUATING SENIORS

All school graduating seniors, during the month of May 2021, are standing on the precipice of the future. It's not a distance reality anymore. It begins here. It begins the day of graduation! You began school as children, but are leaving as adults. Some will go to college, some will go straight into the work force, but each of you will travel your own path. No matter where you go or what you do, there are challenges ahead of you. Please meet those challenges straight on with your head held high and your heart wide open. It's simply not enough to just "get by" in life. That doesn't move the world forward. Strive for excellence in everything you do. Although it may not be easy to see, every accomplishment you achieve is added to the world's accomplishments. When you succeed, you benefit the world and your fellow man. This will allow you to be in a position to give rather than take. You may not have the power to inspire the entire world to strive for success, but you do have the power to try to achieve it for yourselves.

Some of you are wondering how your lives will turn out. It is okay to wonder, but it is very important to realize how your future is not "just something that happens to you." It is up to you to create!

Prayers and blessings on your future!



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 Christians and the Social Order:

It is the duty of Christians to seek peace with all men on principles of righteousness. In accordance with the spirit and teachings of Christ they should do all in their power to put an end to war. The true remedy for the war spirit is the gospel of our Lord. The supreme need of the world is the acceptance of His teachings in all the affairs of men and nations, and the practical application of His law of love. Christian people throughout the world should pray for the reign of the Prince of Peace.

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

NEWS FROM OUR CHURCHES

HARMONY

Harmony Baptist Church has an opening for a church secretary. If interested, please send your resume and references to:

Harmony Baptist Church
ATTN: Personnel Committee
20932 County Road 70
Andalusia, Alabama 36421

JUDSON BAPTIST CHURCH

Judson Baptist would like to invite all males, including youth, to come join us in prayer on the first Thursday of each month at 6:30pm. We want to bring our prayer warriors together to pray for a great awakening in our community, our state, and our nation. If anyone has any questions, feel free to call or text me at 334-806-1195. We are located 7 miles south of Andalusia on Hwy 55 South.

HAVE A BLESSED DAY!
Pastor Donnie Uptain
334-806-1195