

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

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Proclaiming Jesus, Serving Churches Since 1856
JULY 2021

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CORBITT'S COMMENTS

Corbitt's Comments for July 2021

Last Month I wrote about how all of our churches, by and large, are rebuilding their ministries as they move forward from the restrictions that COVID-19 forced upon us. We are all grateful to God for our restored freedoms and we should capitalize on this unique moment in our lives to not just restart them, but also improve them and give them an even more Biblical foundation for greater effectiveness for the Kingdom of God.

I recommend that our churches consider a list of Characteristics of a Healthy Church that the International Mission Board uses to help new churches become mature on the mission field. We could benefit from reflecting on these principles, and we will be reviewing them in these pages in the months to come. The first four characteristics taught by the IMB are:

Biblical Evangelism: Jesus did not actually issue many direct commands to His followers, but He did direct that they would be witnesses for Him and that they must go into the world and make Disciples in His name. This is obviously a central task for a healthy church because any healthy creature in nature will reproduce. The church must evangelize, or it will weaken and die. Also, many souls will be lost to eternal damnation if we don't share the Gospel as we have been commanded to do!

Biblical Discipleship: Jesus, in the Great Commission, did not command us to make converts, but to make disciples, and to teach them all that He has taught us. The central focus of most of Paul's Epistles is that it is necessary to grow and become mature in Christ, and the church is the place where that growth should take place. Spiritual maturity will overcome most of our squabbles and in-fighting as well.

Biblical Membership: The doors of the church should be open to everyone, but not the membership roll. While, like the credit card advertisement says, "membership has its privileges," it also has its requirements. Churches must ensure that their members give a clear testimony in word and action that they have been saved and regenerated through a relationship to God in Christ.

Biblical Leadership: A church can only be as strong as its leaders, and the Bible lays out rigorous and clear qualifications for church leadership. The Scriptures also provide us many negative examples of poor leaders and their destructive effects upon God's people. Churches should heed both aspects as it calls, installs, and follows its leaders.

How do our churches measure up in these areas? Now is the time to make improvements!

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 2021, 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

JULY 2021

July 4: Mt. Gilead
July 11: Mt. Pisgah
July 18: New Hope
July 25: New Song



LOCKHART BAPTIST CHURCH
Lockhart Baptist Church welcomes Rev. Cole Jackson as its new pastor.

JULY FOOD BANK DONORS

Babbie, Beulah, Cedar Grove, Rawls, Pleasant Home, Southside-Andy, Damascus, Southside-Opp, Damascus, Conecuh River, Pleasant Grove, Victory, Mt. Gilead, Mobley Creek



SPECIAL PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for the following churches who are without pastors:

Brooks Baptist Church
Harmony
Millcreek
Mobley Creek
Victory

ASSOCIATIONAL NEWS

Deacon, Pastor, Spouse Banquet, 09/21/2021

We're back in business post COVID-19! The CBA invites our churches' Deacons and Pastors to bring their spouses to a banquet so we can encourage and equip them for service in our churches.

Location: Westview Baptist Church, Opp
Date: September 21, 2021
Time: 6:30pm

State Missionary Ken Allen will be our speaker, and the menu is breakfast for supper!



There is no charge to attend, but reservations are required. Call the Association Office at 334-222-3009 or use this link to make reservations by September 16, 2021:
<https://forms.gle/JmnE6pDfjB5PkW6W8>

NEWS FROM OUR CHURCHES

WE'RE LOOKING TO HIRE A PART-TIME EMPLOYEE

This position is for a part-time (32hour) hourly employee hired in consultation between the CSC Coordinator and the Community Ministries Director with the approval of the Board of Directors.

JOB TITLE: Opp CSC Manager
START DATE: Not prior to July 15, 2021
LOCATION: Primarily Opp, AL but with occasional work at other affiliated locations.
WORK DAYS PER WEEK: Four (4) days per week.
HOURS: 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM (one hour for lunch)
32 hours per week / 4 days x 8 hour day.
STARTING SALARY: \$12.00 per hour
Applications available at Andy - Opp Svc. Centers