

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

# ✠ COVINGTON BAPTIST ASSOCIATION NEWS ✠

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Proclaiming Jesus, Serving Churches Since 1856  
**SEPTEMBER 2021**

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## CORBITT'S COMMENTS

Corbitt's Comments for September 2021

My comments this month are a continuation of a theme that our churches, by and large, are rebuilding their ministries in the aftermath of COVID-19. I have recommended 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.

Over the last two months, we have looked at eight of the characteristics taught by the IMB: Biblical Evangelism, Biblical Discipleship, Biblical Membership, Biblical Leadership, Biblical Preaching and Teaching, Biblical Ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper, Biblical Worship, and Biblical Fellowship. Let's look at the last four characteristics of a healthy church this month:

**Biblical Prayer:** In the same way that God wants to hear the praise of His people, God our Father wants to hear the prayers of His Children. He wants to hear our concerns and cares, our joys and sorrows. He wants us to share our hearts with Him and He with us. Healthy churches promote and practice intercessory prayer as well as prayer that praises and glorifies God.

**Biblical Accountability and Discipline:** Our God corrects and disciplines His children, and He expects the church to do the same. Accountability and discipline must be done with a mixture of grace and truth, justice and mercy. It is always done with the goals of repentance and restoration, not judgment and condemnation.

**Biblical Giving:** Because God is the Creator of this world, He owns it all. He does not just own "the cattle on a thousand hills," but also the hills, the gold under the hills, and the oil under the gold under the hills. Everything that we have comes from God, and He has given us charge over it. We must be good stewards of what He has provided to us!

**Biblical Mission:** One of our human frailties is that we can't see the forest for the trees. That is, we become so consumed by everyday life that we forget the big picture, but the church cannot. As the Body of Christ present on the earth today, the church must continue with His mission of seeking and saving that which was lost. Billions of souls around the world still need a relationship to God through Christ and the church must take the Gospel to them if we are to honor and obey our Lord.

I know that we are having a surge in COVID-19 cases at the moment, but that will not last forever. The church has ministered through plagues and epidemics in the past and will no doubt do so in the future. In fact, adverse times like these should spur us to be even better stewards of God mission over which He gave us charge. We need to "redeem the time" for these are indeed trying days!

How do our churches measure up in these twelve 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

### **SEPTEMBER 2021**

September 5: Pleasant Home  
September 12: Rawls  
September 19: Red Oak  
September 26: River Falls

### **SEPTEMBER FOOD BANK DONORS**

Mt. Pisgah, West Highland, Oakley Ridge, Northern Heights Brooks, East Highland, New Hope, Pigeon Creek, Fairmount, Beda, Blue Springs, Carolina, Northside, Enon, FBC-Floral

### **SPECIAL PRAYER REQUESTS**

Please pray for the following churches who are without pastors:

Brooks Baptist Church	Harmony
Millcreek	Moble Creek
Victory Church	Blue Springs Baptist

### **VBS REPORTS**

A reminder that VBS Reports are due within one week after completion of VBS. We have received very few reports as of this date. Forms were mailed to each church June 1, 2021. If you DID NOT have VBS please mark your form NO VBS and return. If you did conduct VBS please complete form and return as soon as possible so we may get these input in all systems. Questions? Please call Byram Lambert at the Association Office @ 222-3009.

### **AVAILABLE PULPIT SUPPLY**

Rev. Dr. Charles W. Lennard has announced to the congregation of First Baptist Church Floral of his retirement as Pastor effective September 1, 2021. Rev. Lennard has served in Pastoral Ministries since 1983 in Florida, North Carolina and Alabama. He is a graduate of the Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary obtaining a Master of Divinity and Minor in Religious Education. Rev. Lennard has a Doctorate in Christian Counseling from the Colorado Theological Seminary and is Licensed to Counsel by the National Christian Counselors Association. He is also Certified in Church Revitalization. Rev. Lennard will be available for pulpit supply, revivals, counseling and Bible studies. You may contact him by phone or text at 850-585-3168.

## **ASSOCIATIONAL NEWS**

### CHURCH PROFILES

The annual church letters (ACP's-Profiles) will be mailed to each church clerk during the last week of July. Churches are reminded the church year ends August 31, 2021 and reports **MUST BE** completed and returned to the Association no later than **October 1, 2021!** Please remember to elect your church messengers to the annual meeting during your business meeting in September so you will be able to forward this information on your church profile. This will give us time to consolidate and publish the list of messengers for the annual meeting on October 21, 2021 at Buck Creek Baptist Church at 5:00 p.m. Thank you for your assistance in this matter. Questions? Please call Byram Lambert at 222-3009.

### DEACON, PASTOR, SPOUSE BANQUET

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**

### HOPEWELL

Hopewell Baptist Church will be having revival services September 12th-15th with Bro. Melvin Mordecai of Sturgis, MS preaching and Steve and Becky Carver of Mathiston, MS leading music. Services will be at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. on Sunday and 6:30 Monday through Wednesday. For more information, please call 488-5133.

### ADELLUM

SLADE WICKER IS THE NEW PASTOR OF ADELLUM BAPTIST CHURCH. HE PREVIOUSLY SERVED 5 YEARS AS THE WORSHIP PASTOR/STUDENT PASTOR/ASSOCIATE PASTOR AT SOUTHSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH In Opp, AL.