

◆Director of Missions  
Rev. Otis Corbitt

# ✠ COVINGTON BAPTIST ASSOCIATION NEWS ✠

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

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## CORBITT'S COMMENTS

Corbitt's Comments for November 2021

As I think back over the past year, in all honesty, I believe it has been the most challenging time of ministry that I have ever experienced. I have never seen churches and ministers challenged the way we have been over the past year.

The experience of doing ministry in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic has proved unpredictable, confusing, troublesome, and often, bruising. Churches across our Association have faithfully ministered to people while trying to "follow the science," but the fact is science is a learning process, and it rarely follows a straight path. The twists and turns of the different guidelines have left our heads spinning and our own paths of ministry tangled. It has proved to be almost impossible to speak with certainty about any element of this pandemic.

One concern on the hearts of our pastors is that many formerly faithful church members have ceased to attend church. Even churches that have recovered in their attendance levels to near pre-COVID numbers are reporting that they are still not seeing many of their formerly active members returning to their churches. This is a burden on the hearts of our church leaders and a disappointment to them as well.

What then, can we say to all these things?

First, we must continue to sail on. When a ship on the ocean finds itself in a storm it has only two options: sail on or sink. Ships on the ocean have no off-ramp, no highway rest stop, no way to say, "time out!" We are like a ship in a storm. We must sail on, bailing out the water, breasting the waves, and trimming our sails against the raging winds. Now is not the time to quit. If we quit, we sink, and that is not the fate planned by God for His church. We are "more than conquerors in Christ Jesus;" only those who give up on the Gospel ministry lose.

Next, we must prepare for the future. Over the past year it has been difficult for the Association to conduct many of its normal ministry activities. We have concentrated much effort, however, in preparing for the future. For example, we have recently made significant physical improvements to two different areas of the Andalusia Christian Service Center which will allow us more flexibility and, to also initiate additional ministries there when the time is favorable. Also, we invested in serving our churches by purchasing the local Christian bookstore. We continued to offer classes from the Samford Ministry Training Institute and we have worked in less public ways to assist our churches and our ministers. Pastors and churches can "redeem the time: by seeking God's face, re-confirming God's plan for our churches, and preparing to move down that path when the opportunity presents itself.

Finally, we all must recommit ourselves to our God. We need to realize the absolute truth of the old saying "We don't know what our future holds, but we know who holds our future." This is not a trite saying. Paul said as much in 1 Timothy 1:12, "For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day." The God of Paul has not changed. If we have, we should get back on board with Him!

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

### **NOVEMBER 2021**

November 7: Sweet Home

November 14: Sweetwater

November 21: Victory

November 28: West County Line



### NOVEMBER FOOD BANK DONORS

West County Line, Adellum, Harmony, Mill Creek, Salem, Hopewell, Oak Grove, Sweet Home, Westview Opp, FBC Gantt, Liberty Home, Lockhart, Sweet Water, River Falls.



### SPECIAL PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for the following churches who are without pastors:

Brooks Baptist Church  
Millcreek  
Victory

Harmony  
Mobley Creek  
Floral FBC

## ASSOCIATIONAL NEWS



YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND  
COVINGTON BAPTIST ASSOCIATION'S

### **Annual Christmas Dinner**

FOR MINISTERS AND SPOUSES  
TO BE HELD AT HARMONY BAPTIST CHURCH  
20932 COUNTY ROAD 70, ANDALUSIA, AL 36421  
ON

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2021 AT 6:30 P.M.**

DRESS: CHRISTMAS/CASUAL

SPEAKER: DR. KEVIN BLACKWELL,

DIRECTOR OF THE SAMFORD MINISTRY TRAINING INSTITUTE  
OF SAMFORD UNIVERSITY

MUSIC: KAELEN SMITH, HARMONY BAPTIST CHURCH

FOR CATERING PURPOSES, PLEASE CALL OUR OFFICE  
AT 222-3009 TO CONFIRM YOUR RESERVATION

**NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 1, 2020**

COVINGTON BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, PO BOX 416, ANDALUSIA, AL 36420

This event is funded by the Associational Missions gifts of the churches of Covington Baptist Association.



## NEWS FROM OUR CHURCHES

### **BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH**

Bethany Baptist Church Senior Adult Group Bethany Gold will host a concert with Mark Lowry on Tuesday, November 9th at 12:30pm in the church Sanctuary. Everyone is invited to come. There is no charge.

### **FIRST BAPTIST GANTT**

First Baptist Church Gantt is seeking someone to serve as Worship Pastor to lead worship for our Sunday morning service. The primary serving time is Sunday morning and will require other serving times as needed for different church functions that involve worship. FBC Gantt is also seeking a Youth Pastor, and the position can be combined with Worship Pastor, and pay will be adjusted accordingly for both positions. Pay will also be adjusted for Worship Pastor that is an instrumentalist (specifically piano or guitar).

Mail resume to:  
Personnel Committee FBC Gantt,  
P.O. Box 34, Gantt, AL 36038