

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

# ✠ COVINGTON BAPTIST ASSOCIATION NEWS ✠

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Proclaiming Jesus, Serving Churches Since 1856

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**FEBRUARY 2022**

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## CORBITT'S COMMENTS

Corbitt's Comments for February 2022

The Southern Baptist Convention was formed in 1845 with a focus on sending missionaries. Our two oldest SBC entities are the International Mission Board and the North American Mission Board who have sent out missionaries on behalf of Southern Baptist churches for 175 years. This type of cooperative sending ministry needs to be celebrated and supported.

Until recent times, the only practical way for local churches to be on mission with God was by sending out long-term missionaries. Missions is done outside the SBC by missionaries asking individual churches to support them financially. This process is called "deputation" and it consumes much time and effort. Often, missionaries would have to return from the mission field to gather more financial support, taking time away from sharing the Gospel. Southern Baptists had a different idea, however.

The Southern Baptist system asks churches to give voluntarily and regularly to a central fund, the Cooperative Program. This fund supports other ministries, but about 75% of national CP funds go to our mission boards. These boards screen missionary applicants and appoint them to represent all 45,000 Southern Baptist Churches; where our missionaries and church planters go, our churches go, as we support them through the Cooperative Program, the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. We have sent out thousands and thousands of missionaries who can focus on their ministries rather than fund raising.

As genius as the Southern Baptist method is, some have asserted that our missions effort had become impersonal, and that churches needed to send out their own short term missionaries. Indeed, I have agreed with that principle, and I led several teams since I became your DOM. They included: New York City, Peru, Haiti, and Mexico City. We also have a missions fund to provide scholarships for church mission teams. The concept of "both, and" was a good one; then COVID-19 hit.

As much as churches might want to send missionary teams right now, it is virtually impossible to do so. It is certainly impossible to do so on a consistent basis. I am looking forward to the day when the Corona virus is a nuisance and not a threat, and that day is coming, and prayerfully, it will be soon. It just isn't here yet. So, what are we to do in the meantime?

Let me suggest that we remember our heritage and the genius that is Southern Baptist cooperative ministry. Every church can be on missions with God if they support the Cooperative Program, and our missions offerings, including the Myers-Mallory State Missions Offering in Alabama. COVID-19 is not an excuse to fail in our obedience to the Great Commission. Southern Baptists have provided us a great channel to take the Gospel to the entire world. Let's use it!

Every blessing, Director of Missions Otis Corbitt

## ASSOCIATIONAL NEWS

### Praying for Each Other in 2022

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 2022, join us in praying for a different member church each week.

#### FEBRUARY

February 6: Rawls  
February 13: FBC Gantt  
February 20: Mt. Gilead  
February 27: Cedar Grove



### FEBRUARY FOOD BANK DONORS

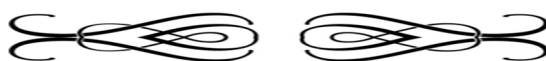
Bethany, Red Oak, Buck Creek, Judson, Hopewell, Oak Grove, Sweet Home, Westview-Opp, West County Line, Adellum, Harmony, Mill Creek, Salem



### SPECIAL PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for the following churches who are without pastors:

Brooks Baptist Church	Oakey Ridge
Millcreek	Mobley Creek
Victory	Floralda FBC
Southside Andy	Adellum
Lockhart Baptist Ch.	



## *Waiting in Hope*

### **Infertility Support Ministries**

Saturday, January 22nd 10:00 – 12:00 Oakwood  
Lodge 13725 Brooklyn Road Andalusia, AL 36421

\*Expert Guest Speaker and Vendors\* Support Group

## GRIEF COUNSELING

Grief counseling is conducted the second (2nd) Tuesday of each month by Comfort Care Hospice here at the Covington Baptist Association offices. There is NO CHARGE for these sessions and they begin at 11:00 a.m. These sessions include all areas of grief counseling and you are cordially invited to attend.

For further information you may contact Byram Lambert at 222-3009.



## 2022 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

The Lifeway VBS theme for 2022 is "Spark Studios." Spark imagination and kick creativity into high gear at Spark Studios. Kids will learn that God's creativity didn't stop in Genesis. The Master Artist is working to redeem, reclaim, and transform us – His creation – to the design He planned for us. Kids will see the beautiful truth that they are God's workmanship as they learn to use their talents to bring glory to Him. Our Book and Gift Store can order any/all VBS Supplies your church may need. Whether it is LIFEWAY (above) or any other publisher. Please contact Mrs. Pat Kelley at 334-222-3711 or come by the store at 18350 U.S. Highway 84 in Sanford (Same building as CBA) to place your order

## VBS Material Expo

Vacation Bible School is right around the corner! Which curriculum will you use this year? The Christian Book and Gift Shop wants to help you decide by providing a **VBS Material Expo, Tuesday March 8th @ 7pm @ Covington Baptist Association.** Refreshments will be served, and attendees will be eligible for a discount on their first VBS order. For more information call Pat or Robin at 222-3711. Make plans to be here and get ready for VBS 2022!

## CHURCH ANNUALS

Church annuals are printed and will be available for pickup after January 17th or at the Executive Committee Meeting which will be held Monday, January 31, 2022 At 7:00 p.m. at the Association Office. Each church is authorized two (1-Church Clerk/1-Church Office). The size and weight prohibits our mailing these books and we thank you in advance for picking them up. For questions please contact Byram Lambert, Office Manager, at 222-3009.