

Director of Missions

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✝ COVINGTON BAPTIST ASSOCIATION NEWS ✝

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Proclaiming Jesus, Serving Churches Since 1856

CCM Team Leader

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CORBITT'S COMMENTS

One of my responsibilities as your Director of Missions is to visit our member churches. Unless I am filling the pulpit for a church which is between pastors, I am usually in a different church each Sunday. These visits are an effort to stay in touch with our congregations and also to "show the flag" for CBA.

At the CBA, we are friends of all of our churches and are glad of the opportunity to worship with them. That's why it surprised me a few months ago that when one of our pastors saw me, he said, "So, I guess you are here for our annual audit, huh?" Nothing could be further from the truth!

The real truth is that the CBA is a creation of our churches, and our desire is to fellowship with them and to serve them. In fact, the CBA *is* our member churches, because in 1856 the Southern Baptist Churches in Covington County decided to associate together as the Covington Baptist Association. This was many decades before Jake Phillips was called to become our first DOM. The HQs of the CBA is not in Sanford, but in our 52 member churches, individually and collectively.

No employee of the CBA, and no member of the Board of Directors has any authority over one of our member churches, and we would never try to assert any. As I said above, we are friends of our churches and we desire to help each one of them to be the best church they can be by offering them support and encouragement, and by ministering collectively in ways that they could not do on their own, like operating the Christian Service Centers.

The collective ministry of the CBA has had many forms. We have associated and ministered with, and also without, full-time employees. We have associated and ministered with, and also without, the Christian Service Centers. We have associated and ministered with, and also without, written strategies. The question is, how will we associate and minister together in the future?

Like the decision to form the CBA in 1856, and like the decision decades later to call a full-time DOM, the churches of the CBA must ultimately decide what the future of our associational fellowship and ministry will look like. Ministry has changed significantly in the past 3 years, and what we have done in the past may not be, and probably will not be, as helpful to our churches in the future. That's why we are conducting a review of our ministries and we need your help!

We want to hear from you so that we can serve our member churches better. As you can see elsewhere in this newsletter, we are conducting a survey and we'd love to have input from you and from the leaders of your church. Will you help us serve you better?

Every blessing, Otis Corbitt, Director of Missions

ASSOCIATIONAL NEWS

PRAYING FOR EACH OTHER IN 2023

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 2023, join us in praying for a different member church each week.

JUNE CHURCHES

June 4: Lockhart
June 11: Damascus
June 18: Beda
June 25: Pleasant Home

JUNE FOOD BANK DONORS

Brooks, East Highland, New Hope, Pigeon Creek, Fairmount, Beda, Blue Springs, Carolina, Northside, Enon, FBC Florala, FBC Andalusia, FBC Opp, Zion Hill

SPECIAL PRAYER REQUEST

Please pray for the following churches who are searching for pastors:

Adellum
Brooks
Lockhart
Mt. Gilead
Sweet Home
Victory

VBS REPORTS

Vacation Bible School is one of the most important and most fruitful ministries of the local church. In a typical year, a quarter of the baptisms in the Southern Baptist Convention are the result of VBS!

We want to celebrate with you the blessings of VBS, so please submit a VBS report soon after your school is concluded. We have sent a paper copy to each church which you can send to our office, or you can do so on-line at:

<https://vbs.lifeway.com/church-report/>

We are praying with you for a great VBS this year!

Help us Plan for the Future! Please Complete our Survey!

We need your help as we review our ministries at the CBA and plan for the future!

In 2014, we adopted a ministry strategy that includes the following principles and emphases:

MISSION, MAJOR MINISTRIES, AND VISION

Covington Baptist Association exists to assist member churches to work cooperatively to advance the Christian faith through the ministries of:

- Church and Minister Equipping and Encouragement
- Community Missions
- Global Missions
- Mission Support

In order to become a fellowship of churches that help each other obey the Great Commandments and fulfill the Great Commission.

This ministry plan served to guide us well until 2020, but the impact of COVID-19 and the changes that it has caused in the individual ministries of our churches now require us to review how we can best serve our 52 member churches. That's why we have developed a survey through which we hope to gain input from as many of our church members and leaders as possible.

This survey will take 10-12 minutes to finish and can be completed in one of three ways: First, here is a link to an on-line digital survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CKG7T9X>

You can also scan the QR code at the bottom of this panel to complete the survey with your cell phone or mobile device.

Finally, if you would like to submit a paper version of the survey, call us at the office and we can mail one to you.

We will be receiving responses to this survey through the end of June so we can tabulate the results in time for the July 17th meeting of the Executive Committee. Thanks for helping us look toward the future of our ministry together as Covington Baptist Association!

