

Director of Missions

Otis Corbitt

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July 2023

Proclaiming Jesus, Serving Churches Since 1856

CCM Team Leader

Leroy Cole

CCM Coordinator

Katie Cooper

CORBITT'S COMMENTS

The Psalms are wonderful because they are beautiful poetry, but also because they revealed truths that apply to today's world as well as in the time they were written. An example of this is the "Holy Trilogy" in the Psalms: Psalm 22, Psalm 23, and Psalm 24. In these three, David shared visions of Christ on the Cross (Psalm 22), of Christ as the Good Shepherd (Psalm 23), and of Christ as the King of Kings (Psalm 24). From these we can see what Christ did for us in the past, what He is doing for us in the present, and what He will do for us in the future. As the leadership of the CBA reviews its ministry plans and strategies, we must keep all three of these dimensions in mind.

First, we must remember from where we have come. Associations have a rich history in Southern Baptist life, and they, in fact, were the first denominational entities formed by Baptists. Autonomous churches, willingly associating together, defined who Baptists are and what we believe, long before there were any Bible colleges and seminaries. After conventions were established, associations were key partners with them in training church leaders and mobilizing church members for missions, including promoting the Cooperative Program.

Next, we must realize that associations, like churches, are recovering from the prolonged effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The collective ministries that pastors and church members previously found to be useful are not as well supported as they once were. Fewer churches look to their local association for equipping and training their leaders, because they have found other sources of equipping that they prefer, or because they no longer train-up leaders in their church as they did before. Times have changed, and the expressed (and unexpressed) needs of churches have changed.

What about the future? That, as the saying goes, is the "\$64,000 question." I cannot predict the future of associational life in the SBC, but I can say that the future is getting here quicker than it used to. Dr. Thom Rainer has said that the rate of change in church life was accelerated by at least three years due to the experience of COVID-19 pandemic. We must be prepared to face and embrace the future of our cooperative ministry as God reveals it to us.

As your leadership reviews our collective ministry, we cannot live in the past, because there is no future in it. We cannot live only in the present because it does not provide us with the perspective we need. We cannot live in the future, because, unless it is revealed to us by God, we cannot predict what tomorrow may bring. Pray for the CBA and your leaders as we prayerfully consider the past, the present, and the future as we seek to follow God's direction for our Association.

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.

July Churches

July 2: Conecuh River

July 9: Mobley Creek

July 16: River Falls

July 23: Pleasant Home

July 30: Zion Hill

July Food Bank Donors

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

VBS Reports

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!

July Executive Committee

Our Executive Committee will meet on July 17, 2023, at 7:00pm. A major focus of this meeting will be the results of our recent Associational strategy survey. Our Board of Directors will use these results in our on-going ministry review process. Please be sure your church is represented!

Annual Church Profiles

It's that time again! Pastors and church clerks, please note that the Annual Church Profiles will be mailed to each church clerk on, or about, July 16, 2023. We want to encourage all of our church clerks to begin gathering information for completion of this profile. Profiles will be due in the Association Office no later than October 1, 2023. Help us celebrate what God is doing in our midst by completing an ACP!

NEWS FROM CHURCHES**Deadline For Submission of Church News To The CBA Newsletter**

Our deadline for submission of church news is the 20th of each month for inclusion in the next month's newsletter. Email to:

covingtonbaptistnewsletter@gmail.com

Brooks Baptist VBS Is July 17th-21st

VBS will be for 4-year-olds through 5th Grade each night from 6-8pm. The theme is "Twists and Turns," and Friday is family night.

Blue Springs Will Host The Perry's In Concert On July 27th

One of the nation's top Southern Gospel singing groups, "The Perrys," will be in concert at Blue Springs Baptist Church on Thursday July 27 at 7:00 pm. No admission charge but a love offering will be received. Call Pastor Flint Harrelson @ 334-222-2281 for more information.

Adellum Is Seeking VBS Materials

Adellum Baptist Church will conduct VBS beginning July 10, 2023, and would like any donations of VBS Materials from any church which has already completed their VBS. Contact Mrs. Holloway at 892-4412.

Special Prayer Request

Please pray for the following churches who are searching for pastors: Adellum, Brooks, Lockhart, Mt. Gilead, Sweet Home, and Victory.

POSITION AVAILABLE**Manager Of Andalusia Christian Service Center**

Schedule: 8:30-4:30, 5 days a week for 40 hours plus one Saturday per month. Compensatory time provided for Saturday hours.

Starting Salary: \$28,000/Yr.; no insurance benefits are available.

Church Membership: Employee must be a member in good standing of a member church of the Covington Baptist Association.

To Apply: Applications are available at the Andalusia Christian Service Center. Contact Katie Cooper at 222-3840 for more information.