

COVINGTON BAPTIST ASSOCIATION NEWS

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Proclaiming Jesus And Serving Churches Since 1856

August 2023

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CORBITT'S COMMENTS

The results of our ministry survey are in, and the conclusions are both interesting and confusing in about equal proportions. Let me explain:

We received survey results during the month of June, and I was pleased with both the number of responses and the broad spectrum of church members who completed the survey. While it was not a perfect instrument, I have a lot of confidence in the data which we gathered. This is good, but it also poses a significant challenge.

The interesting part of our survey results is that the expressed needs of our churches have not really changed since 2014. After a decade of societal changes, the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, and changes in pastors and other church leadership, the needs of our churches are basically the same. Also interesting is that there was broad agreement that our three major ministry areas (Encourage & Equip Ministers & Churches, Community Missions, and Global Missions) constitute the correct strategy for us to follow to meet those needs. This should be reassuring, but instead, I saw some other data that caused me considerable confusion and concern.

The confusing part of our survey results is this: overall, about 40% of our respondents had no experience or no opinion of our ministry efforts. That is, although our ministry is designed to help churches with the needs that they express they have, nearly half of those who responded didn't know enough about what we do to have an opinion about our ministry. This reminds me of the old question, "If a tree falls in the forest, and no one sees it, does it make a sound?"

In closing, I want to thank everyone who completed the survey. I appreciate your time and contribution and I assure you we will take this information seriously. The Board of Directors and I will be carefully reviewing this information in the months to come. Please pray with me and the members of the Board as we discern God's guidance for the future of our collective ministry. Here is a link to a video in which I review all the information we gathered in our survey:

<https://youtu.be/x4edxptLHIg>

Every blessing,

Otis Corbitt
Director of Missions

ASSOCIATIONAL NEWS

Praying For Each Other In 2023

In Ephesians 6 Paul taught that 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:

August Churches

August 6: Harmony

August 13: Babbie

August 20: Oakey Ridge

August 27: Mill 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/>

August Food Bank Donors

Hopewell, Oak Grove, Sweet Home, Westview-Opp, Bethany, Red Oak, Buck Creek, Judson, FBC Gantt, Liberty Home, Lockhart, Sweet Water, River Falls

Food Bank Donation Suggestions

Here is a list of suggested items to donate to the Food Bank: Cereals, Oatmeal, Grits, Tuna, Puddings, Rice, Crackers, Dried Beans, Boxed Rice or Pasta Dishes, Condiments, Canned Corn, Green Beans or Mixed Vegetables, Peanut Butter, Instant Potatoes, Fruit Juices, Boxed Breakfast Pastries, Canned Soups, Apple Sauce, and Jell-O.

Christian Women's Job Corps

The Covington Christian Women's Job Corps shares the love of God in practical ways, and it is the newest ministry of the Covington Baptist Association. Judy Phillips, one of the directors of the Covington CWJC, shared with our Executive Committee an inspiring testimony of the great work being done in Covington County by the CWJC. Here is a link to a short video of that report:

<https://youtu.be/IdpLdVtBZBg>

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. Email to:

covingtonbaptistnewsletter@gmail.com

Hopewell Baptist Homecoming

Hopewell Baptist Church will be having homecoming on August 20th with Richard Collier preaching. Sunday School will be at 10 and worship at 11. There will be a covered dish lunch after the worship service.

Pigeon Creek Baptist Homecoming

Pigeon Creek Baptist Church will be observing Homecoming at 10:30 A.M. on Sunday, August 6th. Pastor Hunter Greathouse will bring the Morning Message. Everyone is invited to attend!

Special Prayer Request

Pray for these churches who are searching for pastors: Adellum, Brooks, Lockhart, Mt. Gilead, Sweet Home, and Victory.

Alabama Baptist Convention

REACH Evangelism Training

The State Board of Missions is hosting training in REACH (Relational Evangelism & Cultivational Hospitality) from 10am - noon at the State Board of Missions facility on Tuesday, August 15th. Lunch will be provided and the book and workbook will be given to every participant. Cost is \$5 per person, and you can register at:

<https://evangelizeal.org/event/reach-evangelism-training/>

Annual Church Profiles

It's that time again! Pastors and church clerks, please note that the Annual Church Profiles have been mailed to each church clerk. Profiles will be due in the Association Office no later than September 15, 2023. Help us celebrate what God is doing in our midst by completing an ACP!

Myers Mallory State Missions Offering

The Myers Mallory State Missions Offering and Week of Prayer for State Missions will be observed the week of September 10-17, 2023:

www.Myers-Mallory.org