

COVINGTON BAPTIST ASSOCIATION NEWS

Director of Missions

Otis Corbitt

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Proclaiming Jesus And Serving Churches Since 1856

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CCM Team Leader

Leroy Cole

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CORBITT'S COMMENTS

Dear Friends,

One of the chronic issues that we face in the CBA is the number of churches without a pastor. Over the past 11 years there has not been one day during my ministry in this association where every church had a called pastor. We often find that churches have long-term interim pastors, or they have a strong lay leader and so rely on pulpit supply for every Sunday service. The Biblical record, however, is that the sheep need a shepherd. Sadly, it seems like only 42 to 45 of our 52 churches can have a permanently called a pastor on a regular basis.

For the past several years I personally have been praying, and I have asked our churches to pray also, that God would call out more men to be pastors of our churches. particularly our bi-vocational churches. I have no doubt that God has been calling out men but the number who have answered are few. In addition, it's important for God's under-shepherds to study to show themselves approved. I will not denigrate individual study, but I find that a more formal course of study usually works out better for most people.

That's why I would like to reintroduce our association to one of our oldest continuing ministries: the Sanford Ministry Training Institute (SMTI). Our Association has been participating with this means of providing Bible college classes on a local level since the SMTI began 70 years ago. I'm sad to say that in recent years, few of our young pastors in the CBA have taken advantage of this course of study that can provide education here in our own county. It was also disappointing to know that the SMTI was one of the associations least known ministries as reflected in our recent ministry strategy survey.

The sheep need a shepherd, and the shepherd needs to study to show himself approved. The Sanford Ministry Training Institute is an excellent way of doing that and I highly recommend it. I'll be glad to answer any questions anyone has on this excellent Bible training program.

Every blessing,

Director of Missions Otis Corbitt

ASSOCIATIONAL NEWS

November Food Bank Donors

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

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, . . ." This month, please join us in praying for a different member church each week:

*November 5: Liberty Home
November 12: Southside, Andalusia
November 19: FBC Andalusia
November 26: Adellum*

Prayer Rallies in 2024

As we follow the theme of *Seasons in the Son* for our ministry in 2024, one season we will experience will be a season of prayer. Not only will we continue to pray for a different church each week, but we will also pray around our county by holding prayer rallies in different communities. **Save the date now for our first prayer rally which is scheduled for 6:30pm January 30, 2024, at Westview Baptist Church in Opp.** We hope to see you there!

Alabama Baptist Convention

Annual Meeting and 200th Anniversary

The 200th Annual Meeting of the Alabama Baptist Convention is scheduled for November 14-15 at First Baptist Church, Montgomery. The annual meeting of the Alabama Baptist State Convention is really a family reunion for all Alabama Baptists. Woven throughout our time together will be a commemoration of our convention's 200th anniversary, with a focus on the theme "Unfinished" based on Philippians 3:13-14. You won't want to miss this glorious time of celebrating God's wonderful faithfulness while also stepping into a bright future of missions and ministry for the Lord! For more information see:

<https://alsbom.org/convention/>

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

Special Prayer Request

Pray for these churches who are searching for pastors: Bethany, Brooks, East Highland, Fairmount, Lockhart, Rawls, Salem, and Victory.

Brooks Baptist Pastor Search

Brooks Baptist Church, Red Level, AL, is prayerfully seeking a pastor to serve our congregation and community. The candidate must be called by God to minister, counsel and lead His people forward in righteousness living, dedicated service, and continued spiritual growth. Please direct resumes to:

dgorum8@gmail.com

Rawls Baptist Pastor Search

Rawls Baptist Church is prayerfully searching for a pastor to lead our congregation. Those seeking to apply should contact Ronnie Taylor at 334-804-5426 or email him at:

Ronnielet3547@gmail.com

Operation Christmas Child

November 13th-20th is the drop off collection week for Operation Christmas Child at the Andalusia Full Gospel Church Family Life Center:

Monday, November 13: 10am to Noon

Tuesday, November 14: 2pm-4pm

Wednesday, November 15: Noon-2pm

Thursday, November 16: 10am to Noon and 5pm to 7pm

Friday, November 17: 5pm to 7pm

Saturday, November 18: 2pm to 4pm

Sunday, November 19: 2pm to 5pm

Monday, November 20: 7am to 9am

