

COVINGTON BAPTIST ASSOCIATION NEWS

Director of Missions

Otis Corbitt

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Proclaiming Jesus And Serving Churches Since 1856

December 2023

CCM Team Leader

Leroy Cole

CSC Director

Katie Cooper

CORBITT'S COMMENTS

Dear Friends,

Some years ago, when I was still serving as a National Guard chaplain, a military lawyer briefed my unit about the Uniform Code of Military Justice. This JAG officer kept referring to something that she called the "big chicken dinner special." This was quite confusing until she revealed that she was talking about a special court martial that had the authority to award a bad conduct discharge to a soldier for a crime committed while in the Army. It was one of those "oh, that's what you mean" moments that we have from time to time when people use inside language that is perfectly clear to them but which we don't understand.

The Army is not the only organization that has its own special language, because Baptists do also. Recently, I was talking to someone who told me that during the budget discussions at their church that some church members were unaware of who Annie Armstrong and Lottie Moon were. Of course, our two major missions offerings are named for these ladies who were champions of missions for Southern Baptist. They are as close to being saints as Southern Baptists will ever name. Yet, apparently, many people in our churches have no idea who they were. This is an untenable situation.

At one time, Southern Baptist churches had a solution to this problem. It was called training union, or church training, or discipleship training, and it normally took place on a Sunday evening before the evening worship service at most Southern Baptist churches. Of course, fewer and fewer churches are having Sunday evening worship, with even fewer churches are having a discipleship hour prior to that Sunday evening service. Even churches that have Sunday evening small groups, or who have home groups at other times of the week, rarely teach about Baptist history and heritage or about Annie Armstrong and Lottie Moon and the others who were pioneers in our cooperative missions effort.

Just as the local church is only one generation away from extinction so it is true that our Southern Baptist cooperative missions effort is also only one generation away from extinction. It is imperative that we teach our Southern Baptist distinctives to our church members. If we fail to do so, then the deterioration of our cooperation as Southern Baptists is our own fault.

Every blessing,

Director of Missions Otis Corbitt

ASSOCIATIONAL NEWS

Book and Gift Christmas Hours

In addition to our normal hours of Monday-Friday 9-5pm, we will be open on these Saturdays from 9-2pm: December 9th, 16th, and 23rd. All Christmas items are on sale 25% off!

December Food Bank Donors

FBC Andalusia, FBC Opp, Zion Hill, Mt Pisgah, West Highland, Oakley Ridge, Northern Heights, Brooks, East Highland, New Hope, Pigeon Creek, Fairmount, Beda

Praying For Each Other In 2023

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

December 3: West Highland

December 10: Northside

December 17: Victory

December 24: East Highland

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!

Retirement Celebration

As you probably know, both Byram Lambert and Leroy Cole are retiring at the end of December this year. In honor of their combined 40-plus years of service to our churches and the people of Covington County, we will be hosting a retirement celebration for them at Southside Baptist Church, Andalusia on January 28th from 2pm to 4pm. Refreshments will be served. Please come and express your appreciation to them!

COMMUNITY NEWS

Lower Alabama Community Choir

The Lower Alabama Community Choir will present Sounds of the Season: A Christmas Concert at the LWB Dixon Center for Performing Arts on December 12th at 7pm. Admission is free.

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

Congratulations to First Baptist Church, Andalusia

FBC Andalusia will be dedicating their new building on Sunday, December 10th beginning with a worship service at 10:30am, followed by an open house, tours, and refreshments. The dedication will begin at 1:00pm. Call FBC at 222-5151 to confirm you will be attending.

Special Prayer Request

Pray for these churches who are searching for pastors: Beulah, 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 righteous 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

Youth Sunday School Material

Bethany Baptist church has extra copies of youth Sunday School material from the Explore the Bible Series that they would like to donate to a church that can use it:

Winter 2021-2022 (Ezekiel & Daniel)

Spring 2022 (1&2 Thessalonians)

Summer 2022 (1 & 2 Kings)

Fall 2022 (Amos, Jonah, Hosea, & Micah)

Winter 22-23 (Gospel of John part 1)

Spring 23 (Gospel of John part 2)

Summer 2023 (Jeremiah & Lamentations)

The number of copies per issue may vary. If interested, contact Phillip Shelley:

phillip@bethanyandalusia.com