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August 13, 2020**A Visit With Dr. John**

The annual Prayer Walk of Schools sponsored by Coffee Baptist WMU has been postponed. With all the changes in the schools at the beginning of this semester, the WMU leadership did not want to put any more stress on school administrators and workers than they already have. Also, with several hundred

people normally participating in a prayer walk, they were trying to follow the Alabama Department of Public Health and Governor Ivy's guidelines.

Believe me, it was not an easy decision for WMU to postpone something they have been doing all this century and reaching back into the 90s. They, and we, know there has never been a time when prayer was needed for schools more than today. Administrators have a heavy responsibility, perhaps holding the lives of people in their hands by the decisions they make. Moreover, they have to provide instruction for students who stay home and for those who come to class. They have to ensure new health guidelines are followed and more cleaning takes place.

The teachers have to teach students at school and those who remain home. Just imagine the extra responsibilities of their jobs. They will have to learn and use more technology. They will have to give more time. Many teachers are afraid they or their students may contract COVID-19.

Certainly, this is not the ideal situation to accomplish the educational process as we have known it. The students will deal with situations unknown to previous classes. It is likely that many will become ill with the virus.

With that perspective, I repeat, there never has been a time when prayer has been more needed for schools than now. So, WMU did not cancel the prayer walk, they simply postponed it.

You will note in their statement that they promised to be much in prayer for the schools even though they are not having the gathering. They also requested that everyone join them in special prayer. We should make this a special concern every single day.

We should be involved in special prayer for our nation and the larger world. As of today, 8/06/20, official reports of COVID-19 deaths in our country are 161,660. That is almost 3 times the amount of deaths from the United States in the Vietnam War! Worldwide, there have been 19,026,375 cases. 12,207,180 have recovered. 712,179 have died.

Let us pray, asking God for forgiveness, for strength to deal with whatever situations we must, and for wisdom to do things in the best possible way. Let us pray that He will curtail this devastating sickness. Let us ask him to give leaders and health professionals wisdom to make the best calls about what the population should do. Let us pray for health workers to have the strength and stamina they need to take care of all the people who come to them. Let us pray for people who have or will get the virus. Let us pray for the families and friends of those who are extremely ill or perhaps even die. Let us pray that those who do not have it would not get it. Let us pray for scientists and doctors who are working for a cure. Let us pray for the testing being done for vaccines. Let us pray for the success of their work and then for the work of making sure people across the world can have access to safe medicine for COVID-19.

Let us also pray that people would see in this pandemic a call to draw close to God. Let us ask the Lord to help them understand the great things in this life are about relationships to God and to fellowman.

Finally, isn't it great that you can pray to God no matter where you are and no matter what shape you're in? Isn't it wonderful that He has promised to hear us and answer prayer? Isn't it a great gift that we have fellowship with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. All we have to do is turn our hearts to Him through repentance and faith in Christ. We have access to the throne of God and He treats us as his own dear children. Let's talk to the Father about our needs and about those of the world!

The School Prayer Walk at Coffee County Schools has been an annual event for many years. It is usually held in August, a few weeks after school starts and is sponsored by the Coffee County Baptist Association Women on Mission.

Due to the COVID-19 Virus, the Women on Mission, after much prayer and consideration, believe that the challenges the schools face in reopening, they should postpone the Prayer Walk during the month of August this year. Hopefully, it can be rescheduled for sometime toward the end of September or first of October.

Please be assured that Women on Mission will continue to pray for our schools as they reopen and adjust to various changes this year. They ask every family to join them in praying as they begin a new school year.

An update as to when the Prayer Walk will be held this year will be sent out at later date.

Calendar of Events**September**

3 - Vineyard Work Day - 8:00 AM

7 - Labor Day - Office Closed

8 - Executive Committee Meeting - 7 PM

Request for Church History

A lot of years have passed since we all submitted information about our Church History. We did that for years 1998 thru 2002. We are past due in gathering the events that took place in Coffee Baptist Association for years 2003 thru 2020. Churches have experienced staff changes, built buildings, celebrated Homecomings, Anniversaries, had Revivals and the list goes on and on. We need to remember these and other important events that took place during this time. We start with selecting a Church Historian and a Committee who will work with the Historian. It is a lot of information to gather....17 years....but it can be done. It's important that the church and the Association have a record to preserve for future generations to know what happened in our churches.

Out target date for submitting this information is Jan 2021. If you should need help, try to find your church copy of the Association's History of Churches 1998 - 2003. This will give some ideas what to write about. We have these books available for free at our office. We also have 1981-1998 history books available. You can also call the Association Office or Louie Reynolds at 334-406-3095 for help in getting started.

Bro. Louie Reynolds, Chair
 History Committee

Update from the Nominating Committee Chair

Mike Thompson, Chair of the Nominating Committee, suggests that the present slate of workers, both chair and members, simply retain their positions for the next year. Dr. Granger concurs. We will expect to vote on that rather than a selection of new workers at the September Executive Committee. If you have reservations or comments, please call Dr. John.

August Ministers' Meeting has been cancelled.