

John Granger, Th.D.

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The Coffee Baptist Vision

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January 14, 2021

Rev. Bryan Simoneaux
 Moderator

Rev. John Gunter
 Hispanic Missionary
Steve Tipton
 Vineyard Manager

A Visit With Dr. John

We are in the new year! The Coronavirus is still with us. In many places, it is taking a tremendous toll. Even here, there are many new cases and some deaths. Just in the last few days a few pastors have told me that they have had to conduct multiple funerals caused by COVID 19.

Some churches have switched back to only virtual services on Facebook Live. I have canceled the January 2021 Executive Committee meeting, trying to be a good example in following Department of Public Health guidelines.

I have noted for several months the rise in Coronavirus cases, attempting to help our leaders and members understand that COVID is a real threat. As of today, there have been well over 21 million cases in the US and more than 357,000 people have died. My emphasis has been that we should try to protect one another and squash the virus by doing those things the CDC has asked us to do from the start.

Of course, I always would want us to understand that God will be with us, and help us, even in the midst of a pandemic. That does not mean we should not take personal responsibility.

I'm thankful that we now have different versions of a vaccine. This medicine is being distributed now, even though its progress is not nearly what was anticipated. It does provide us something of "a light at the end of the tunnel." We now can envision that life may be back more to normal in a few months.

Today, as I write this, is the certification day for Electoral College votes. This has been the most rocky election year I can remember in my 73 years. As my pastors and teachers taught me in my early days as a preacher, I have tried to steer clear of preaching politics. I would like to say that we truly need to pray for our country. May I add that we all ought to let our Christianity show during these days.

I'm sure some of you will share my concern that the Vineyard has had very little usage and therefore, little income, because people who use it are afraid to gather because of the virus. I believe you also will be grateful to know that the association is still in very good financial shape because of the generous gifts of the churches. We did enter this time at probably the strongest fiscal standing in the history of the association.

We can be thankful for Steve and Brad who work to make the Vineyard self-supporting and an outstanding ministry arm for evangelism and discipleship. We also can applaud Michele for conscientious and good work as Financial Secretary. Emily also helps guard the Lord's money here by carefully watching how we spend.

The Hispanic Ministry under John Gunter's leadership is going well. Volunteers did so many good things in the Hispanic community this past year. Especially during Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays did people excel. They taught the Gospel message and helped so many people! You can be proud you and your church are part of this ministry.

The Samford University Extension will begin the Spring semester January 25. I will teach 2 8-week semesters with a focus on the four Gospels. I taught this class in a college setting for many years under the title, "The Mission and Message of Jesus." I am thankful for a few people who want to learn more about this important section of the Bible. If you would like to join us in the study, please consider this your invitation. We only meet Monday nights from 6:00 until 8:00. If you have questions about it, please call our office or me personally.

Some of you may not be aware that a person who participates with the Alabama Baptist Disaster Relief effort must have training before he can deploy. The training taking place in March is for our entire district. So, let me encourage you to sign up and get involved. It seems like we have to respond to some sort of disaster every year.

Disaster Relief Training

Dates: March 12-13, 2021

Location: Vineyard Christian
 Retreat Center, Ariton, AL

Time: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Friday
 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM Saturday

Sign up at sbdr.org/events

Training offered: Chainsaw, Mudout/Cleanup,
 Shower*, Feeding*, Administration*
 *Tentative

For more information call Tim Folds at 850-326-1252.

**Samford Extension Class**

Study of the Four Gospels

Term A: January 25 - March 15

Term B: March 29 - May 17

Mondays at 6:00 PM

Coffee Baptist Association

Instructor: Dr. John Granger

Register online at
[www.samford.edu/programs/
 ministry-training-institute/
 extension-classes](http://www.samford.edu/programs/ministry-training-institute/extension-classes)

Call our office at 334-894-6411
 for more information

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. Our 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 also can call the Association Office or Louie Reynolds at 334-406-3095 for help in getting started. Bro. Louie Reynolds, Chair, History Committee

**Emmaus Road Quartet
Live in Concert**

Bethany Baptist Church
 1805 County Road 533, New Brockton, AL 36351

January 17, 2021 at 10:00 AM

www.bethanynewbrockton.org

www.emmausroadquartet.com

Counseling Offered

Our office offers counseling through the Alabama Baptist Children's Home. Alisha Lewis has been counseling in our office for over 20 years. You can contact Alisha at 334-677-7856.