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The Coffee Baptist Vision

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Rev. Bryan Simoneaux
 Moderator

Rev. John Gunter
 Hispanic Missionary
Steve Tipton
 Vineyard Manager

**A Visit With Dr. John**

If this were a normal year, this newsletter would feature reports about the Children's Camp and maybe some pictures to go along with it. But the camp and so many other association activities were canceled because of COVID-19. The Vineyard is open. Our office is open. Traffic in either of these is not what it

usually is.

For the Vineyard, some groups have canceled their reservations. Others have brought 1/3 to 1/2 of what they normally bring. This has been a most unusual summer for the Vineyard. Steve and Brad have hosted well whatever groups have come. Volunteers for the monthly workday help a lot with special needs. Cleaning a place like the big building is just about the same chore whether the group consists of 30 people or 100 people. And who knew the grass would grow if campers were not present? So, the "wee bit of grass" on the property still must be cut.

Summer is the time for many CCBA committee meetings. Both ministry and administrative committees need to nominate new people and to plan for the upcoming year. Some of these have to be done by the end of spring, but others linger throughout August. This spring and summer is not like usual. Most committees have not met.

We have had a few meetings. The ministers met on June 25. The Mobile Food Pantry has made its monthly food distributions. Alisha, the counselor connected with the Alabama Baptist Children's Homes, has kept some appointments in the office. Most of her appointments are virtual these days. They connect by means of a video conference. A few leaders met to discuss having a "Fire in the Field" evangelistic event next year.

Michele, Emily, and I have marveled at how much routine work has to be done in the CCBA office even when so many events have been canceled and so many committees are not meeting. Also, the nature of association mission work, brings unexpected things. People and church congregations have unusual challenges, even during a pandemic. It is fulfilling to be able to help a church or some of the churches in behalf of all the churches.

Let me encourage you to follow Bro. Louie Reynolds' suggestion to compile a history for the new history of Coffee Baptist Association. If your church does not have a historian, please consider appointing one for that purpose. You may even elect an entire committee.

I have started writing a history of the association for the last two decades. I am amazed at some of the things our people have done as I reflect on some of the early years of this century. We have had some of God's choice workers in our midst.

I hope to be able to chronicle some of the outstanding events and ministries of the association. Hopefully, the people who have been instrumental in these things will be recognized.

Ultimately, like the song says, to God be the glory. Great things He has done!

There's much chatter about the governor's new mandate that all Alabamians wear masks in public places. I have heard and read from several people that they see this as a matter of liberty. As I said before, in another newsletter, I do not see the issue of protecting people from COVID-19 as a breach of constitutional rights. Nor do I see it as an overstepping of the governor's authority. Nor do I see it as an issue of the state against the church.

I do see it as an effort on behalf of responsible people, of knowledgeable people, to protect the lives of people over whom they have authority. I already have tried to follow the guidelines of public health officers who suggested that people should wear a mask and observe social distancing. They have said that it is effective at helping other people not be infected by the germs that I may be carrying. I am in enough public meetings and around enough people that I never know if I have been exposed. Therefore, I do it to protect the people I'm around and to set an example as a Christian leader.

May our Lord bless you! May he bless your family, your church, and your work! I pray for your health and your well-being. I pray that you will walk closer to God than ever during these times of "sheltering."

Calendar of Events**August**

6 - Vineyard Work Day - 8:00 AM
 6 - Vineyard Meeting - 3:00 PM
 27 - Ministers' Meeting - 11:010 AM

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 Widows' Ministry Meeting has been cancelled due to COVID-19.

July Senior Adult Luncheon has been cancelled due to COVID-19.

CCBA July Ministers' Meeting has been cancelled due to COVID-19.