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The Coffee Baptist Vision

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June 11, 2020

Rev. Bryan Simoneaux
 Moderator

Rev. John Gunter
 Hispanic Missionary
Steve Tipton
 Vineyard Manager

**A Visit With Dr. John**

My job has difficult moments at times. Probably yours does as well. People who really are in the hot seat now are mayors of cities where protests have gotten out of hand. Governors and national leaders are in the same spot. I would not want to change places with them.

Most of them seem to understand how crucial it is that they understand and sympathize with what the protesters are saying. They also are charged with keeping order and protecting the citizens and property from harm.

It is a challenge to keep any kind of balance between those two. If those in charge seem insensitive and come down with an iron fist, they may put a cap on the problem for a short while, but can expect it to come back with more intensity the next time.

On the other hand, they cannot allow rioting with the stealing, arson, damaging property, and even killings. Protecting the population against harm is one of their essential responsibilities.

It is important that they, and we, hear what the protesters are saying and commit to making some changes in our own lives about how we think about and treat other people. We must provide justice in our land for George Floyd and the many people who have been harmed, disenfranchised, and even killed. We must make sure every American has a fair shake.

I personally am praying for our nation and its diverse peoples. For well over two decades, along with other leaders, we have provided an annual gathering of people from different races and ethnic backgrounds to share a meal while we build friendships and overcome prejudice. We urge friendship building over the year. We celebrate who each person is.

I stand ready to share whatever influence I may have to foster progress along these lines. Though I am by no means a perfect Christian, as a follower of Christ, I am committed to loving all people, even as he does.

We still need to be conscious of our responsibility to others during this pandemic of COVID-19. Most of our churches are open to some degree. Most have adopted distancing measures and other efforts not to spread the virus.

Because of the reopening of society, I had anticipated that we would know about how active our summer would be by the first of June. Last night, June 2, the Children's Committee for CCBA canceled the summer children's camp. They have worked hard to prepare for it. They have prayed about what to do. My hat is off to this group. They are a superb committee. All of these people are dedicated to the Lord and have a heart for children. It was not an easy decision for them, but they felt it was the thing to do.

Also, it became obvious during the last few days that we must cancel the summer Mission Trip to Southwest Alabama. The Mobile area is one of the new hotspots for the virus. Our host church, Georgetown Baptist Church, had reservations about us being there. These Folk have been so generous to us and have been helpful in many ways. The people in the places where we had worked last year almost begged us to be back this year. Now, they are anxious about gathering people in their churches like we normally do.

We had hoped that the trend for the Corona Virus would be diminishing by now. We must make decisions, based at least in part, on helping people stay safe.

Please pray for our nation and world in the grip of a pandemic. Please pray for and work for fairness for all people. Please pray that our good Lord will use these unsettling times to draw people to Himself so that great numbers of people would trust Him as Savior and begin following Christ. Pray for one another and encourage one another as you are able.

I close with brief lyrics from a song usually played around Christmas time:
 "let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me."

Calendar of Events**June**

25 - Ministers' Meeting - 11:00 AM

July

2 - Vineyard Work Day - 8:00 AM

14 - Executive Committee Meeting - 7:00 PM

23 - Ministers' Meeting - 11:00 AM

Our office is open. Call our office if we can help you in any way.

CCBA Ministers' Meeting

June 25 at 11:00 AM

Annie's Restaurant

IncrediCamp 2020 cancelled

In light the current situation here in Alabama it is with saddened hearts we are canceling IncrediCamp 2020 at the Vineyard Christian Retreat. We want to say that we love our families that entrust their children to us each year and we love our volunteers who donate their time and efforts to help make IncrediCamp as amazing as it has been. We are also letting you know that IncrediCamp 2021 will be July 19-21. Please be in prayer for next year's camp!

Southwest Alabama Mission Trip cancelled.

Enterprise Military Support Group meetings have been cancelled until further notice.

We know many churches will not have VBS this year and for others it will be a lot different from the normal VBS. Please let us know what your church plans to do for VBS this summer. You can call our office or email emily@ccbacenter.com.