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The Coffee Baptist Vision

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June 25, 2020

Rev. Bryan Simoneaux
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A Visit With Dr. John

We are three months into the social changes brought about by the Corona Virus. We are in the midst of phases of reopening the economy and society. Still, the Alabama Department of Public Health urges people to stay home if they can, to continue to wear masks, wash hands frequently, and to social distance if they have to be in public.

Lots of people totally disregard the directives from ADPH. Some are convinced there is nothing to the COVID-19 scare. Most understand that this virus is a serious threat to life and health. I saw a news report two days ago that said over 50% of the population would not leave home without a mask.

Although the governor's stay at home order has been lifted with the admonitions to be cautious as stated above, we must remember that this new phase it is not a signal to forget that danger is still there.

In fact, last week new COVID-19 infections were up by 20% in our state. When I spoke with friends in Mobile County, they expressed more concern than people here in Coffee County because the infection rate there has spiked. The number of infections and the death count at Crowne Nursing Home in Mobile made the news here.

With that said, I turn to a look at what our churches are doing. A few are not having services of any kind. Most are having online services. For the last month, the majority of churches have offered services back at church but have urged the elderly or sick not to attend. Reports to me are that most churches have 1/4 to 1/2 their normal attendance during these days. Two or three say their attendance is about what it was before we started the stay at home efforts.

Many of our members have voiced their longing to return to normal worship. They look forward to the time when the church can regather in force. It does not look like that time will be in the next few weeks.

Some church leaders have expressed their fears to me that church attendance may not be all that great when we are able to return to normal gatherings. That is something we just do not know.

We do know that some churches are experiencing financial difficulties because offerings are not as good as when people can be at church. We do know that person to person ministry and hospital visits cannot be done as we would like.

A few of our churches, who are searching for pastors, have found that this is a terrible time to do that. There are many good things churches do and good programs they have, that we cannot do right now.

This was reflected in the association meetings of the Children's Committee about the camp and in leadership discussions about the Mission Trip to Mobile. The Children's Committee truly struggled before finally making the call to cancel children's camp for this summer. They know that it is a rich experience for many children. They knew that the numbers would be down this year, but they still would have good attendance. What finally brought about their decision was the thought that someone at the camp might have COVID-19 and spread it to the group. They did not want to be responsible for that.

Pretty much the same thing was true for leaders of the mission trip. One thing helping them and their decision was the conversation they had with leaders in Mobile County. Those people feared spreading the contagion and felt we should err, if we do, on the side of caution.

One great thing for us to remember is that the church goes on being the church whether we are able to meet or not. There is no doubt our faith is enhanced by being part of worship with the gathered church. But we can meet with God on our own. We can connect with others in small groups and by phone. We can continue to worship with our church family online. Our faith and our walk with God is not absolutely dependent upon the helpful habit of gathering to worship. We also are not locked down regarding sharing our faith. You might find some innovative ways to do it, but we can still keep faith with the Great Commission.

May the Lord bless you and your church during this time!

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.

Vacation Bible School

New Home Baptist Church – Drive In/Take Home VBS. 5 Wednesday nights beginning June 17 at 6:00 PM.

Church on Boll Weevil Circle – VBS In a Bag – July 12-14. Drive In and Facebook Live July 12. Facebook Live July 13-14. 7:00 PM.

Lee Street Baptist Church – July 20-22 6:00-8:00 PM – 4 years old – 2nd grade. July 23-25 6:00-8:00 PM – 3rd grade – youth. Adult classes available July 20-25.

For we walk by
Faith,
 not by Sight.
 2 corinthians 5:7