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# The Coffee Baptist Vision

Coffee Baptist Association, 603 E. McKinnon Street, P.O. Box 127 New Brockton, AL 36351  
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## May 28, 2020

**Rev. Bryan Simoneaux**  
 Moderator

**Rev. John Gunter**  
 Hispanic Missionary  
**Steve Tipton**  
 Vineyard Manager



### A Visit With Dr. John

I saw the picture shown on this page in a Facebook post this morning, May 20. It is a picture of leaders and children who were at GA Camp in 2017. It is a good example of many wonderful experiences our children, youth, and adults are not having because of the present situation.

Almost everything on the calendar is postponed or canceled. I'm speaking about the association calendar, but this is true for churches, as well. Normally, in this newsletter and in the announcements we have for church, I constantly am promoting some good program that some of our people are providing. Not so much right now.

The lack of all that we are doing helps me to see afresh something of the real blessings in these activities which our people provide. They are filled with precious fellowship, helpful training, and wonderful outreach.

I have been part of a couple of Zoom meetings each week for the last two months. These meetings and this technology is good. Still, I long for the time when we are able to have face-to-face group meetings again.

We should know by the end of the month or perhaps the first week in June what sort of effect the efforts to restart the economy will have. The experts are not predicting a very good report. Even if it is good, we know there will be a lot of apprehension on the part of many people about being in crowds or near people.

Many of our churches started back having people to worship in their buildings this past Sunday. Some plan on beginning this Sunday. Others will start later. We are able to make these choices, unlike some of the churches from other denominations. That has its benefits and drawbacks.

The point I'm getting to is, although we opened the church for meetings, we did so urging our elderly, weak, and apprehensive to stay home. Because of this and the social distancing requirements, the attendance likely was one quarter to one half of what normal attendance would be.

It is good to be able to see one another in today's small group church. It's good even though we aren't able to be as close as we were. It's good to be able to see each other at a distance at drive up church. And it gives some sense of normalcy just to see your pastor and maybe music leaders on Facebook live stream.

We have not been able to do the Military Support Group for the last couple months. This is due to the possible numbers that may be there. Now, with the opportunity to meet with larger groups, there still is concern with this group, because some have medical conditions, some stemming from their military service. I have messaged all participants to call me or another member of the group if they have need to talk.

For a while now, I have led a weekly study for bi-vocational pastors. Some of this we do through the Samford Extension.

Because of the low numbers of people who take part, we will be continuing this. During the next few months, most of the study will be learning from home and discussions on either a conference call or Zoom meeting.

Right now, we will be looking at a few things regarding biblical backgrounds. In September, we will begin a study of the New Testament, especially the gospels. These will go through both Fall and Spring semesters. I taught these classes for about 20 years either in college or seminary settings.

After we look at these, we plan to introduce these preachers to Elementary Greek. That will be at least a year out. If any other of our bi-vocational pastors are interested, please contact me.

Be safe.  
 Be patient.  
 Be faithful.



GA Camp 2017

**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](mailto:emily@ccbacenter.com).**

### Calendar of Events

#### June

4 - Vineyard Work Day - 8:00 AM  
 4 - Vineyard Meeting - 3:00 PM  
 21-26 - Southwest AL Mission Trip  
 25 - Ministers' Meeting - 11:00 AM

#### July

2 - Vineyard Work Day - 8:00 AM  
 6-8 - Children's Camp at Vineyard  
 14 - Executive Committee Meeting - 7:00 PM  
 23 - Ministers' Meeting - 11:00 AM

**CCBA Ministers' Meetings will be cancelled until further notice.**

**Our office is now open. We resumed regular office hours on May 13. Call our office if we can help you in any way.**

**Widows' Ministry Meeting scheduled for June 8, 2020 has been cancelled.**

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

**Stay tuned for updates on the status of these events.**

### Southwest Alabama Mission Trip

June 21-26

Please call our office if you would like to be a part of the mission trip or for more info.



### Incredicamp 2020

July 6 - 8

F.A.R.M

Finding a Relationship with the Master

Vineyard Christian Retreat Center

Registration forms can be found at [www.vineyardretreat.org](http://www.vineyardretreat.org)

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.  
 Philippians 4:6-7