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The Coffee Baptist Vision

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Rev. Bryan Simoneaux

Moderator

Rev. John Gunter

Hispanic Missionary

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A Visit With Dr. John

Life during a pandemic has its challenges. Most people are afraid of getting sick and possibly dying. Those who are younger and stronger often fear that they may pass along the virus to their parents or grandparents, who are more vulnerable. Just about every area of life is affected. Businesses had to start having half the numbers for fear of spreading the contagion. Many of them require masks in order to enter.

Schools allow students to do remote learning at home. For those who come to school, there has to be social distance and mask wearing. Students are often sent home who have COVID or who have been around an infected person. One teacher said that her largest class in high school last week had three students.

Lots of people have run out of money and are not able to work as usual. Some have lost jobs. Some businesses have closed.

Even the churches have to make hard decisions about what they do during these days. There is the obvious need to evangelize and to teach. There is the strong desire for fellowship. Some local churches have tried to return to normal, only to have a case or two in the church family and then have to shut down for two or three weeks.

The statistics from today do not tend to ease one's mind. Presently, 11,887,172 Americans have contracted COVID-19. Over a quarter million (256,479) have died. The daily death total for one recent day was well over 1700.

In spite of all of this, we who love the Lord are instructed to be joyful and to give thanks! We are not told to give thanks for the problems around us, but to give thanks in the midst of and in spite of the problems. The apostle Paul wrote the Thessalonian Christians, enjoining them to "rejoice always, pray without ceasing, and give thanks in all circumstances..."

Sometimes, we think that joy comes when we have no problems. It may be that our joy is stronger than in other times. We may be able to think of all the other blessings in our lives when a tough time arises. Also, we can rejoice because we know that we belong to the Lord who loves us, who is with us in our times of distress, and ultimately will receive us to himself in victory.

Praying during these times helps us to keep the proper focus. We see the problem, but we also see the Lord and recognize that we have an opportunity to honor him during the difficult times. Often, God will remove the problem and difficulty.

Giving thanks in the midst of hardship can be a challenge for anyone. If your focus is on your problems, that makes it even harder. What we must remember, is that at every time and in every circumstance, you still can find things for which you can be thankful. This is more than just being an optimist rather than a pessimist. It is recognizing that our lives truly are blessed. It also reminds us that God is with us to comfort, to sustain, to bless, and ultimately take us to heaven.

Regarding COVID, we now know that two vaccines will be available before long. They are touted as being 95% effective. We can be thankful for that. Of course, health officials still remind us to be careful, keep social distance, and wear masks. Let us be thoughtful of how our lives affect the lives of others around us.

In the middle of all this, remember that God wants you to be joyful, to pray, and to give thanks.

May our Lord richly bless you!

Happy Thanksgiving!

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

Coffee Cakes

**December 7, 2020****8:00-11:00 AM****CCBA Office**

This year please send boxed cake mixes and frosting instead of baked cakes.



CCBA Disaster Relief Team went to the Gulf Shores area to help those affected by Hurricane Sally. In dealing with some of the big trees, they discovered a real need for a bucket truck. We would like to thank everyone who donated money to help our Disaster Relief Team purchase equipment needed to help others and help keep our team safe.

Let us come
 before him with
 thanksgiving.

Psalm 95:2, NIV