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The Coffee Baptist Vision

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September 10, 2020**Rev. Bryan Simoneaux**

Moderator

Rev. John Gunter

Hispanic Missionary

Steve Tipton

Vineyard Manager

**A Visit With Dr. John**

About this time of year, people generally are excited about the new school year and all the possibilities that come along with it. There is some excitement this year, but the return to school is so different. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, many students and some teachers did not return to school. Some have chosen to do virtual classes. Others have decided to do homeschool. The ones who are at school find a much different environment than they are used to. There is necessary social distancing and mask wearing. There is a lot of cleaning and disinfecting.

Quite a few churches and church leaders suggest that since schools have children back, churches should do the same. We need to remember that the "in person" school during the pandemic is still very much an experiment. Some schools thus far have not had very much of a problem. Others have had big setbacks. We may not know how it is going to work for a few weeks yet.

I respect the counsel of doctors who give us instructions about how to best deal with the Corona Virus. The very least we should do, if people are coming back in near normal numbers are to stagger services, have more services, provide for social distancing, and require mask wearing. Most of our churches are having a fraction of regular attendance and are providing online services so their members can at least take part in a virtual service of their church.

The truth is, the COVID-19 pandemic is far from over. The reported statistics as of this morning for the United States revealed that we have had 6,294,226 reported cases. There have been 190,049 deaths. For Alabama there have been 128,239 cases with 2217 deaths. To bring this right down to where we are, let me talk about the church prayer list for the Church on Boll Weevil Circle.

Not including requests that lump people together, like victims of Hurricane Laura, about 1/3 of our list are people who have COVID-19. Some have had the virus and have gotten over it. Right now we are praying for 18 people connected to our church members who have COVID-19. Only one of our members is listed, but the relationships for the others are as close as mother, brother, sister, etc. Also, all but four of these people with the virus are in the Wiregrass.

When the Committee responsible for the Annual Meeting met, the Chair suggested to the Committee that we cancel the 2020 Annual Meeting. The Committee agreed. By the time you read this, the Executive Committee will have voted on that motion. This action is allowed in our Constitution and Bylaws. The host church this year suggested the same thing. They felt we would not be able to have comfortable distance.

If the Annual Meeting does not happen this year, I will post a brief report about the status of the association at this time. You will be happy to know that we are not having to worry about making payroll or any of those issues. Our problems are those regarding not being able to do things that promote fellowship, training, or missions.

Our trained Disaster Relief team is on standby. Mark Wakefield, State Director for Disaster Relief, provides guidance about what teams need to go, where to go, and when to go. We try to be team players in this regard. Alabama Baptists are in the midst of the recovery process. Please pray for our D.R. Director, Mike Dickerson, the DR Team and the DR Committee.

20 Years! Notice to all our Sister Churches in Coffee County!

Milestones come in many shapes, forms, and persons . . .ours comes in the person of Dr. John Granger. As Chairman of our Personnel Committee, along with the other members, ask each Church to recognize Dr. John's 20th Anniversary this coming October. If your Church can give a gift, mark it for Dr. John's Anniversary and mail to CCBA. I know that your church appreciates the Man, the Work, and the Love shown by this Godly servant so bless him on this milestone in his life and ministry! Blessings! If you would like to send a letter or card with kind words for Dr. Granger, you can mail them to the association office.

Dr. Sam E. Self

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

Samford Extension Class

Introduction to the New Testament

August 31 - December 14
 6:00 PM

Coffee Baptist Association
 Professor: Dr. John Granger

Dr. Granger wants to help pastors and church members have a better understanding of the New Testament.

Call our office to register or
 for more information.

**September Ministers' Meeting
 has been cancelled.**