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*The Coffee Baptist Vision*  
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**November 12, 2015**

**Dr. Danny Wiggins**  
 Moderator  
**Rev. John Gunter**  
 Hispanic Missionary  
**Steve Tipton**  
 Vineyard Manager



### A Visit With Dr. John

When the association adopted the following statement at the annual meeting, it required that the DOM publish it in the newsletter. It may be helpful to give a little context and clarification.

The pastors had several reasons for the statement. One has to do with what is happening in our convention nationwide. It also was sparked by some local incidents over the past few years, both in churches and in Association activities.

Notice first, the broad support of the essence of this motion by our pastors and retired/interim pastors. They sense their churches believe as they do. In fact, Dr. Paul Kendrick says he never served a congregation that felt differently in all his 65 years of service as pastor or Director of Missions.

The primary thing the statement is meant to be is a declaration of what the vast majority of people in Coffee Baptist Association believe. It is not meant as a strike against anyone who thinks differently. It simply is meant to say who we are. It is not an attempt to keep anyone from studying other points of view. When they talked about this in the pastors conference meetings, they felt it would help people, especially newcomers, to know the theological climate in Southern Baptist life here.

Stating what one believes does not mean he cannot love or respect someone who thinks differently. We should respect the conviction of others and they should respect our stance.

The second thing the statement is meant to accomplish is to give guidance to people who serve the association in cooperative endeavors. The pastors wanted to guard against having a youth camp or mission trip curriculum or a special event that promoted something the majority would not accept.

Please observe that this part of the statement gives no directives for the local church. It is about the association. It says nothing about what is appropriate in the local church. Each church is autonomous and may call whomever they will as pastor, embrace whatever members they choose, and teach what they are convinced is right. It says nothing about what people can do individually or as a church.

The pastors conference members intended for the statement to minimize or avoid problems that might be generated without such a declaration.

### This statement was approved at the 2015 Annual Meeting 2015 Pastors' Conference Motion

The sentiment of this motion was endorsed by our pastors conference in two meetings, and has verbal support of about 50 pastors, retired pastors, and supply/interim pastors. The motion also was passed at the September 08, 2015 Executive Committee Meeting.

The Southern Baptist Convention is facing a challenge unlike any in the memory of our oldest members. There is a new emphasis upon Calvinistic or Reformed Theology. It is not yet strong in our county, but it has made much headway in other areas of the country. There are significant differences in this theology and what is embraced in the churches here, which we will term traditional Southern Baptist theology.

We believe that every individual and every church has the right to interpret the Bible according to the Holy Spirit's leadership. We also believe we have the right and the responsibility to publish the commonly held views in our fellowship.

Our pastors conference thought it would be wise for our group and for the association to adopt a statement regarding the general beliefs held among us. By doing this, we are not fussing at anyone. We simply are attempting to avoid future problems and /or conflict.

We believe in the eternal plan of God to redeem lost mankind through the sacrifice of his son, Jesus Christ. We believe God saves us when we repent of sin and trust Jesus as our personal Savior and Lord. We believe it is God's desire to see all men repent and come to a knowledge of the truth.

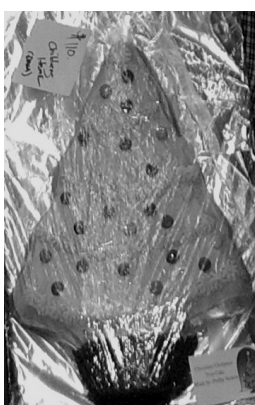
We reject the Calvinistic notions as developed in the TULIP acrostic, such as limited atonement and irresistible grace. We believe that Christ died for all, and that all people, when presented with the Gospel, have an opportunity to believe and be saved.

Making this proclamation of our beliefs will help newcomers identify with us. It will help individuals and member churches know they stand with others in their beliefs. It will give guidance to our committees in their work.

Therefore, let us instruct the Director of Missions, and all committees who serve our association, to use program personnel and develop programs in accordance with the general views of this body.

Let us urge search committees to be aware of these concerns.

We move that the association adopt this statement and request that the Director of Missions publish it in the annual directory and in the newsletter.



**Coffee Cakes**  
 for The  
 AL Baptist Children's Home  
 will be collected  
 at CCBA office  
 Monday, Dec. 7th  
 8:30 a.m. until 12 Noon



### November 16 - 23 Operation Christmas Shoebox Collection CCBA Center

If you have a last minute need for boxes, you may purchase them from the WMU by calling Melonee at 894-0004.

At this printing, an opening for your WMU to serve at the collection site (CCBA Office) is available Sunday, Nov. 22 from 1 to 4 p.m. Call Debra at 565-3970 to sign up.

### Calendar of Events

#### November

- 12 -Vineyard Appreciation Banquet - 6:30 p.m.
- 16 - AL Pastor's Conference
- 16-18 State Convention- Eastern Shore Daphne
- 16-22- Christmas Shoe Box Collection at CCBA
- 26- THANKSGIVING —OFFICE CLOSED
- 29-12/06- Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions  
 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

#### December

- 03 - Vineyard Work Day - 8 a.m./Mtg. 3 pm
- 07 - Coffee Cakes - 8:30 until Noon
- 07 - Samford Extension Fall Term Ends
- 24 & 25 - Christmas Eve - Christmas  
**Office Closed**