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The Coffee Baptist Vision
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August 27, 2020

THE GRAPEVINE

Greetings from your Vineyard,

It seems the world is so full of negativity right now. I am in search of some positive news, and I have found a little beam of sunlight which I discovered as a result of COVID-19. I was reading an article the other day (mid August) that was explaining how Alabama ranked 48 out of 49 continental states on our ability to social distance. The article was obviously intended as a slap on our wrists for not staying apart (and maybe we deserve it). The jest was that Alabamians are still very likely to stop and talk to each other for at least 5 minutes at a time. Even throughout this pandemic, we are still friendly people. In fact, Alabamians appear to be more than 6 times as likely to stop and chat as some folks in other states. Wow, and shame on us! I'm not trying to downplay the importance of safety precautions, I am saying that I am glad our friendliness overcomes our fears. What a friendly place to be. Since I came to your Vineyard 17 ½ years ago I have been saying that Coffee County has some of the most giving, loving, friendly people in the world. Now I know that the whole state is covered with friendly people. I would rather be somewhere where people wave and say "hi" to one another than to be where you just walk past each other.

Sure, the virus has greatly hindered the work of the Vineyard since way back in mid March, but it hasn't completely stopped us. The good news is we know of 73 guests who have prayed to receive Christ and 115 who have made rededications to the Lord. Additionally, we have had 25 guests who say they answered God's call to go into full-time ministry during their stay here. We have even had one gentleman who has been set free from an alcohol addiction. God is great and His work continues regardless. Praise Him for making a way where and when there doesn't always seem to be a way. Every life and soul counts.

I heard someone say that the biggest waste of money he has experienced in his life was the purchase of a 2020 planner. What truth! I hope you didn't buy one. Because it has been a difficult year to plan and because the virus hasn't "gone away" yet, I'm not going to waste your time by telling you what's ahead on the calendar. Just know that we will continue to do as much as we can to draw people to the Lord. Please pray for your Vineyard ministry and for the health and safety of our guests, who try to observe the governor's guidelines.

Now allow me to conclude with Psalm 145:3 – "Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; and His greatness is unsearchable." He alone is worthy.

Soli Deo Gloria,

Steve



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 shone by this Godly servant so bless him on this milestone in his life and ministry! Blessings!

Dr. Sam E. Self

Prayer Walk Postponed

The School Prayer Walk at Coffee County Schools has been an annual event for many years. Due to the COVID-19 Virus, the Women on Mission, after much prayer and consideration, believe that the challenges the schools face in reopening, they should postpone the Prayer Walk during the month of August this year. Hopefully, it can be rescheduled for sometime toward the end of September or first of October. We are and will be praying for our schools and all people connected with them.

Calendar of Events

September

- 3 - Vineyard Work Day - 8:00 AM
- 7 - Labor Day - Office Closed
- 8 - Executive Committee Meeting - 7 PM

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.

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