

**John Granger, Th.D.**  
 Director of Missions  
**Kaye Clark**  
 Public Relations Coordinator  
**Cynthia Whittaker**  
 Treasurer

## The Coffee Baptist Vision

Coffee Baptist Association, 603 E. McKinnon Street, P.O. Box 127 New Brockton, AL 36351  
 (334) 894-6411/5166 Email: info@ccbacenter.com/ Web: www.ccbacenter.com

**May 25, 2017**

**Rev. Nathan Sims**  
 Moderator  
**Rev. John Gunter**  
 Hispanic Missionary  
**Steve Tipton**  
 Vineyard Manager



### A Visit With Dr. Granger

May 21-28 is Association Missions Week.

A hallmark of our churches in Southern Baptist life is the emphasis on missions. We spend a lot of time making sure our members know of our connection with the mission programs through The North American Mission Board and the International Mission Board. We urge them to pray for and support the missionaries connected with these two entities. We talk a little bit about our State Board of Missions and many of our churches emphasize the missionary value of our local association. Not many churches tout the connection with the county association enough.

Let me talk to you a little bit about the work of our Coffee Baptist Association. For one thing, if a church loses its pastor, the first thing most churches do is connect with this office. We help them find supply and interim preachers. The DOM offers training for pastor search committees and gives training to about two thirds of the churches in need, to all who request it. We then supply resumes of pastors seeking to relocate. We offer help and guidance to any of our churches along the way. We also help churches beyond our association. In fact, I trained two pastor search committees and preached in a church in another association three weeks ago.

Along those same lines, the DOM is a great resource and pastor to paid church personnel. Not all pastors and staff take advantage of this, but many seek the DOM's counsel when problems arise in church. Often, pastors who have little connection with the association will seek out the DOM if they face difficulty.

At times, the DOM is called into difficult church situations to help arbitrate solutions or to be an objective moderator in dicey business meetings. This is not something anyone would want to do, but given our church polity, it always will be a necessary part of the work of associations.

The association is the churches working in concert. Together, the churches authorize various persons and committees to do things they see as needful. An example of this comes from the formation of our association (Pea River Association) in 1877. Three churches formed this new body. One of the churches, Shiloh, was started by a Judson Association missionary named Middleton Brooks in the mid-1850s. Later, during the 1920 and 40's, Shiloh stopped having meetings because of a lack of men in the area. Association missionaries Clem Johnson and A.L. Strozier helped the church restart each time. Today, we still are about the same business. We have kept churches from closing their doors and we have helped new churches start. Helping weak churches is something that happens often, but usually is below the radar. We want to help weak churches "save face," as well as grow and be strengthened.

Other denominations give authority for a district superintendent or bishop to make appointments or to make decisions that affect churches. In Southern Baptist life, the only authority we have is that of influence. All we can do is come alongside the people in our churches and admonish, encourage, urge, and exhort. The Lord has used this system with surprising success.

These things I have mentioned are so basic to the work of an association that we often overlook them altogether. But it is good to know that we, together, have kept many churches from closing over the years. We have helped churches and pastors connect. We have befriended and uplifted those bruised in church conflicts, as well as those tempted by worldliness.

These things are enough to justify our churches coming together as an association. And we have not yet even talked about all of the training, mission trips, evangelistic events, and ministry opportunities we are able to do together. We have not talked about the value of the disaster relief organization, of the inter-racial/intercultural work, of the various chaplaincy programs, of the organizations for men, women, boys and girls, of the camps, or of our retreat center, the Vineyard, and the many professions of faith and rededications of life made there every year. Neither have we talked about the training available for pastors or the various groups that get together for fellowship and worship.

We ought to help our churches appreciate our association. We should talk up the value of it!

### Calendar of Events

#### May

29 - Memorial Day - Office Closed

#### June

01 - Vineyard Work day- 8 a.m.

01 - Vineyard Meeting - 3 p.m.

13- 14 - Southern Baptist Convention

17-23 - Southwest AL Mission Trip

18 - Father's Day / Baptist Men's Day

22- Ministers' Meeting- 10 a.m.

26- 28 - S.E. AL Boys Camp

29-7/1- S.E. AL Lad/ Dad/Mom Camp

### Monthly Ministers' Meetings

**May 25, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.**

This meeting will be a time of fellowship and dutch treat lunch.



Dr. John Granger was recognized at the May Executive Committee meeting for celebrating his 70th birthday and also he and his wife Kathy celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary. His birthday is June 13th. His anniversary was May 4. Congratulations!

**Custodian Position Available**  
**First Baptist Church New Brockton**  
 Interested persons need to call  
 Rev. Nathan Sims at  
 334-406-1087.

**Check the webpage "VBS" for Vacation Bible School dates and time or call our office at 894-6411 for VBS information.**  
 If we don't have your VBS date, please call the office and give us the information.  
We will need the date and time.

**Mark your calendars for Southeast Adventure Camp at The Vineyard July 6 - 8, 2017**  
**Camps will be for boys in grades 3rd-6th and Lad and Dad or Mom for boys grades 1st - 3rd.**

### The Southwest Alabama Mission Trip is June 17-23, 2017

This is a great opportunity to do mission work in our own state. A time for getting to know other people in our churches throughout the area.

If you are interested in going on this trip, please call Dr. Danny Wiggins at 389-0073



**Memorial Day**  
**May 29, 2017**  
 Office Closed