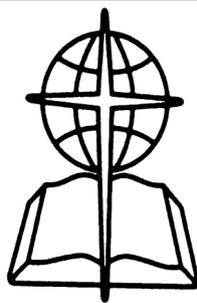


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Thursday, February 11, 2021
 Local Edition of the Alabama Baptist



BIBB BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

"I have the daily burden of how the churches are getting along."

2 Cor. 11: 28b

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A Word About Benny Corley

Let me say a word about Ben Corley. I heard about Ben Corley a long time before I met him. He performed a marriage service for a kinsman of mine. When he heard I was moving to Bibb County, he informed me that Ben Corley was someone I should get acquainted with. One of the deacons in a church I served in North Alabama was from Bibb County and he told me the same thing. So, I finally got to FBC Woodstock on the last Sunday in October of 2008. Ben was the pastor there. When he greeted me, he told me that I would be preaching the message that day. (The service was to start in five minutes!) I was delighted that Bro Ben gave me the opportunity. We went out for lunch afterwards. He was courteous, congenial, and contrite. We were of kindred Spirit and fast friends.

I would soon learn that the verse he lived by was John 3:30, "He (Jesus) must increase, but I must decrease." Brother Benny knew that verse by heart, and Benny's heart was to make that principle a reality in his life. I got to visit with and listen to Bro. Benny many times over the last 13 years. I believe he knew the whole KJV Bible by heart. I would ask him the address of a passage and he always knew it. I would ask him to give the full quote from a word or two that I remembered, and he was always able to give the correct rendering of the passage with the address.

The last sermon I heard Benny preach was at Schultz Creek Baptist December 13th 2020. He was weak and incredibly soft spoken. But the power of the LORD spoke through him as he quoted from memory the verses that have to do with the Light of the World. "God said, "Let there be **light** and there was **light**!" The people that walked in darkness have seen a great **light**: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the **light** shined. Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the **light** of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the **light** of life." (There were other verses that Benny quoted.) Brother Benny ended with a quote from the song "Then Came the Morning", *Then came the morning, Night turned into day; The stone was rolled away; Hope rose with the dawn: Then came the morning; Shadows vanished before the sun; Death had lost and life had won; For morning had come!* This was a powerful moment for which Ben gave all the glory to God; for THE LIGHT of the WORLD who conquered death, promised victory to everyone who will believe in Jesus. The challenge was for all of us to let our light shine to glorify The Light of the World!

I talked with Benny about life, ministry, the Bible, and family and friends. Benny had, and still has, a multitude of friends. We grieve because our friend Ben Corley has passed from this side of eternity. But we do not have to grieve like those who have no hope! We have a confidence that we have not seen the last of Benny Corley because Benny Corley had a confession of a personal relationship with The Light of the World! That relationship began as Benny repented from his sin and trusted the work of Jesus to give him life eternal and abundant. We have confidence based on Benny's life with the LORD in the 'nasty now and now', that Benny is NOW in the "Sweet by and by"! We have confidence that Benny sees Jesus now with perfect vision. We have confidence that Benny is kicking up gold dust on the corner of Glory Street and Hallelujah Boulevard. We have confidence that Benny has heard "Well done, faithful servant" from the LORD and has placed all his heavenly treasures at the feet of Jesus! Giving Jesus the glory for his salvation, his service, his sanctification, and his satisfaction of letting his light shine as it did. I pray all of us have confidence that we will see Benny again on the other side of eternity because we have done what Ben did when he turned from sin and turned to Jesus.

"HE must increase, but I must decrease" John 3: 30



STATE EVANGELISM CONFERENCE

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2021

@ 5:30PM @ VALLEYDALE BAPTIST CHURCH,
 HOOVER

You will be able to attend in person. There will be limited seating, social distancing will be observed, and masks will be required upon entry to this event.

Out of an abundance of caution for the health and safety of Alabama Baptist, we have made the decision to forego all activities scheduled for Monday, February 22nd of the conference.

For those unable to attend the event in person on February 21st, there will be an online option. You can watch the full session live at live.alsbom.org

2020-2021 Church Contributions	Jan.	Yearly Total
Antioch	89.25	626.95
Ashby	430.85	2,701.98
Bethel	100.00	500.00
Bethlehem	78.75	430.25
Bibbville	235.74	1,297.89
Blocton Third		300.00
Brent	1,414.88	3,905.15
Cahaba Valley		
Calvary		300.00
Camp Branch		
Centreville	1,745.28	6,191.67
Community		
Eoline		100.00
FBC Woodstock	957.50	5,459.38
Four Points	737.28	3,212.05
Haysop	597.43	1,344.67
Johntown	82.45	534.35
Lowerytown		1,345.86
Lucile	31.00	682.00
Marvel		
Mt. Carmel	272.16	1,821.63
Mt. Moriah		
Mt. Zion		
New Hebron	96.55	553.11
Old Union		
Pineview		2,810.00
Pondville	422.03	1,181.88
Randolph	646.65	3,405.40
Rehobeth	127.05	676.56
Schultz Creek	348.81	2,176.23
Shady Grove	244.00	1,198.00
Shady Grove 2		
Six Mile	244.86	1,419.90
Smith Hill		
Thomas Mill	80.57	475.02
West Blocton 1st	100.00	600.00
Church Plant-Braehed	72.75	695.05
Anonymous	120.00	630.00
TOTALS	\$ 9,275.84	\$ 46,574.98
ALS BOM	361.08	1,805.40
OTHER		21,842.77
TOTAL	\$ 9,636.92	\$ 70,223.15