



Covenant Baptist Church

Reformed and Refreshing

April 19th, 2020

Welcome to Covenant Baptist Church. We are a Reformed church committed to three things:

- **The Exaltation of God**

We desire that the people at Covenant truly understand who God is and His rightful place in their lives as their Lord and sovereign Savior.

- **The Edification of the Saints**

We consider it extremely important to correctly teach the Bible, verse by verse, so we can properly have the Holy Spirit apply it to our lives.

- **The Evangelization of the Sinner**

We understand that God has given us the responsibility to be stewards of the Gospel and that means sharing it exactly like God gave it to us with those who need Jesus.

<https://covenantbaptistsc.org>

Service Times:

Bible Education Hour (Puritans)
~ 9:30 A.M.

Sunday Worship ~ 10:30 A.M.

Wednesday Prayer Service ~ 7:00 P.M.

*(We are not interested in traditional worship
or contemporary worship. We are only
interested in true worship.)*

Order of Worship

(April 19th, 2020)

Service cancelled; live-stream at
9:30 am (Matt Watson)
and 7:00 pm (Charles Swann)

<https://covenantbaptistsc.org/live-stream/>

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Church Bookstore:

Purchases (cash only) can be made by seeing Annsley or Cristan Smoak,
or following the instructions left near the bookstore entrance.

Announcements

We are aware of the situation with the coronavirus and are asking that everyone take the necessary precautions (i.e. wash hands, use hand sanitizer, etc.) and monitor the church website and the texting service for announcements regarding our services. Things can change overnight as we have seen, so there may be a time when we cancel all services. If you have any questions, you can ask any of the elders or deacons. If anyone needs help knowing how to livestream the service, please see one of the elders or deacons. Also, if you need to stay home for health reasons and need anything brought to you, please let us know. We would be glad to serve you in this way.

A special time of prayer in the overflow room/fellowship area will begin soon, taking place on Wednesdays at 6:15 PM. In an effort to have more prayer and to improve our Wednesday evening service, we are adding a time and place for men and women to pray for general needs. This is modeled after the men and women gathered together for prayer in the upper room in Acts 1. During the Wednesday evening service at 7 PM, we will have 2 or 3 men lead in a more directed prayer for specific topics or needs. Start date to be announced soon.

The Mission Team for India has postponed their trip to June due to the spread and uncertainty of the coronavirus. Meanwhile, they are still preparing for the upcoming trip. The team will consist of Alton Crapps, Pastor Swann, Luke Swann, Spencer Allen, Andy Shumpert, and Andrew Shumpert. Each individual is responsible to raise their own funds for air tickets, hotel room, and meals. If you would like to help in this ministry please earmark checks or label the missions envelope either for the individual you wish to help or if you wish to help with the ministry cost, label checks or envelope India Ministry. Funds are also needed to provide Telegu bibles. Your prayers and your support are much appreciated.

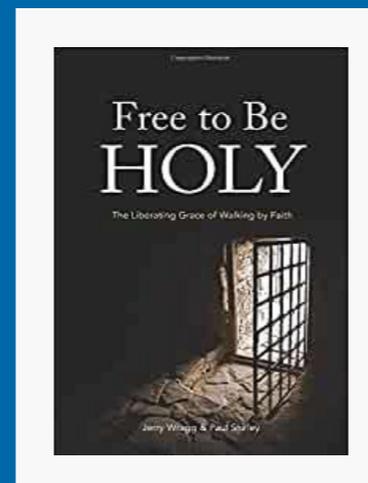
Book of the Week: Free to Be Holy, by Jerry Wragg and Paul Shirley

Reformed theology has made a welcome return to the church. With its resurgent emphasis on justification, unfortunately, has come confusion over the biblical pattern of sanctification. Rather than turning to the plain biblical language of faith, humility, and obedience, many are turning inward and measuring genuine love and obedience by their emotional experiences...

Because of grace, we are under obligation to the Word of God and how have resurrection power flowing through our spiritual veins, strengthening every discipline of grace and growing fruit that remains forever. Through faith-filled submission of our will to the Word of God, we “work out [our] salvation” knowing “it is God who is at work in [us], both to will and to work for his good pleasure” (Phil 2:13).

(From back cover)

<https://www.amazon.com/Free-Be-Holy-Liberating-Walking/dp/0578447266>



Covenant Baptist Church Events

Greek Class—*On hold*

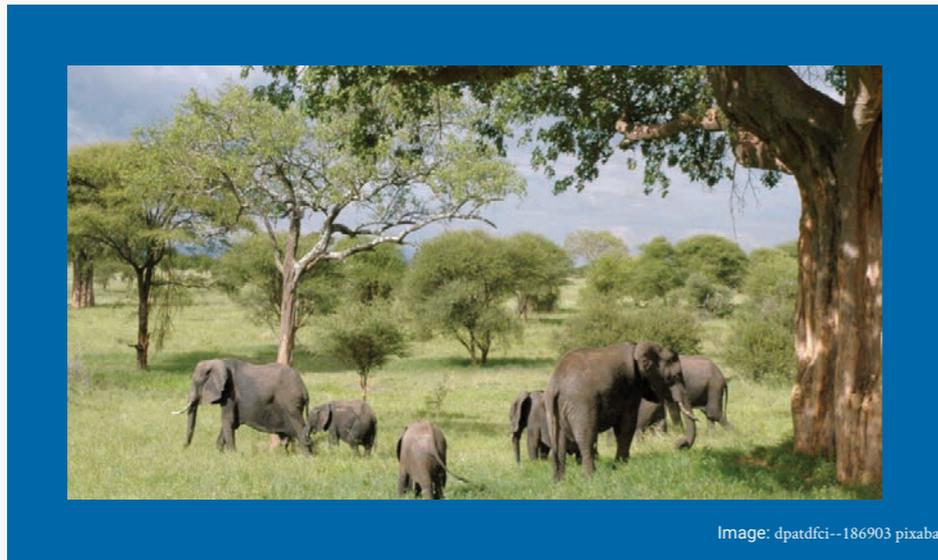
Other Events:

Truth: Answers for Women, March 27-28 2020—(Williamstown, KY)

DELAYED UNTIL 2021

More at: <https://answersingenesis.org/outreach/event/answers-for-women-2020/>

NCFIC Singles Conference—*NCFIC is offering a Singles Conference: Holiness to the Lord October 28-29. More details can be found at: <https://ncfic.org/events/216400/overview>*



A New Field in Africa

—by S. R., Coordinator for Africa and Middle East

This is one of those weeks where my heart particularly aches for Africa. Monday morning I read a heartbreaking story from Tanzania on BBC Africa. Self-proclaimed ‘apostle’ Boniface Mwamposa held a large ‘healing meeting’ in a stadium in northern Tanzania. At one point, the false teacher poured ‘holy oil’ on the ground and said that whoever touched the oil would be healed. In the chaos that ensued, 20 people were crushed to death, including 5 children. Was the ‘apostle’ devastated or horrified by the tragedy? Cold-blooded and unmoved, he was later arrested for questioning as he was preaching at another branch of his ‘church’!

This is the degree of evil false teaching that must be confronted everywhere in Sub-Saharan Africa. This is what is considered orthodox Christianity. This is the immense value of one man boldly preaching the true Gospel. This is the immense value of one church living out biblical truth in midst of such wicked darkness.

And this is why I am thrilled to introduce you to our new missionary pastor in Tanzania. Simon Patilo first completed a pastoral internship with Kabwata Baptist Church in Zambia, and later spent several months with Lusaka Baptist Church in Zambia. Lusaka Baptist Church sent Simon to plant a church in Dodoma, Tanzania in 2018, under the oversight of Pastor Ronald Kalifungwa and the other elders

of LBC.

Simon Patilo, Church Planter

—Tanzania, Africa

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Testimony of Conversion

After listening to the preaching, which convinced me and answered my questions about salvation, I was so convinced that I needed Christ sooner than ever. I went to respond to the altar call according to their tradition. I had a terrible time from there, thinking I had done nothing yet. The same night as I was retiring to bed, I cried to Jesus Christ to save me, to be my personal Savior.

From that time, I have experienced a lot of changes day by day. It’s this experience that I do not hesitate to share, about becoming a son of God, because it works greatly within me. I am growing in experiencing tremendous joy and the fellowship of Christ as I learn to walk daily with Him. Knowing that I have peace with God through His accepting me in Jesus Christ, and living a life of total dependence on Him brings joy every day in my life.

The Call to Ministry

Nothing disturbed me more than the thought of being God’s minister, especially a pastor. This shade started to disappear when I got saved and started serving as a youth leader. I did the work but without a complete desire.

In 2013 I went to Kenya to Mid East Reformed Fellowship (MERF) where I met Pastor Chipita Sibale (Pastor at Kabwata Baptist Church) and Andrew Alsop, teaching on systematic theology and Biblical survey. One day I shared a devotion on unity (I Corinthians 1:10). Andrew told me he saw something in me and asked if I had ever thought about pastoral ministry. My answer was ‘No!’ because I had no sense of what it actually is, especially in Africa where pastors are looked down

upon like people who have nothing left in their lives.

I never liked the thought of being a pastor. However, this conversation helped to change my mind. Later, I applied for the internship program with Kabwata Baptist Church, recommended by Chipita and Andrew, my new friends. I spent a couple of months praying about it and it was clear that this was God's call.

I joined Kabwata Baptist Church for Internship in January 2015, and after a few months, I started to have this desire of serving God, especially when I remembered my friends and family who are bathing in sins back in Tanzania. Our country is eaten by all the false teachers and teachings: mostly Islam and Charismatic/Pentecostal theology. I feel burdened in my heart for those who live and die before the true Gospel is preached for them to hear even though they can sing and dance in false religious dance. My life's dream changed to serving God and fulfilling His will; this is what gives me peace now.

I am from Tanzania where the Gospel is being compromised, where the Islamic movement increases, and where the Charismatic movement with the Prosperity gospel spreads like bush fire. Sensing the call started after the desire to serve God and seeing the demand of the true Gospel among my fellow Tanzanians, I have been praying for years now and I have given myself to God to use me as he wants for the expansion of His kingdom in Tanzania. What I have been exhorted and exposed to during my internships with Kabwata and Lusaka Baptist Churches causes my heart to cry whenever I think about my country. I feel God has planted this desire for His purpose in Tanzania and I am joyous to serve Him.

Article 1: <https://heartcrymissionary.com/mission-updates/a-new-field-in-africa/>

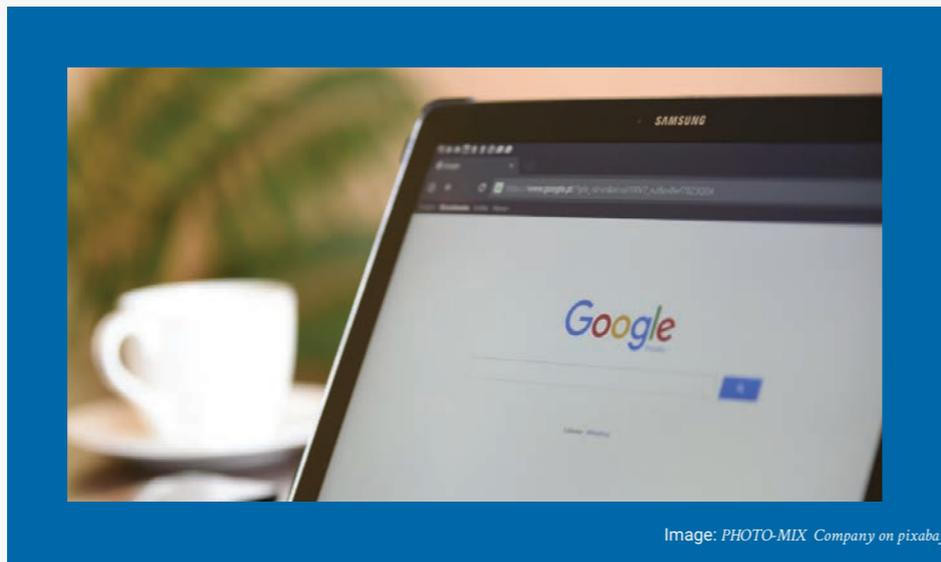
Article 2: <https://heartcrymissionary.com/testimony/simon-patilo/>

Extra!

Tweet from Paul Washer: HeartCry Curriculum

Brothers & sisters, we know many are having to spend much time at home right now; we want to help. So @HeartCryMission has decided to launch a 3rd YouTube channel where I'll be teaching in a classroom-style setting (1st vid on Mon). Subscribe below!

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYf36z2T08qKBTJNj05bjlQ/>



Google Play suspends evangelical church's app over COVID-19 "sensitive events" policy

—by Samuel Smith

Google has suspended a mobile app launched by an evangelical church in Idaho, claiming that the app violates the tech giant's "sensitive events" policy related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Last Friday, Christ Church of Moscow, Idaho, alerted its followers that Google Play had suspended its "ChristKirk" app from the Play Store. "Google Play suspended our ChristKirk app today," a Facebook post reads.

The post includes a screenshot of the notification Google sent to administrators of the app stating that Google Play prohibits apps that "lack reasonable sensitivity towards" or try to "capitalize on a natural disaster, atrocity, conflict, death, or other tragic event." "

We presume they're talking about Pastor Douglas Wilson's short lessons on responding faithfully to the COVID-19 crisis," the church added in its post. "Or maybe Pastor Toby J. Sumpter's sermon calling God's people to humble repentance. Regardless — What gives, Google?"

According to Google Play's "sensitive events" policy, examples of violations include apps that are "appearing to profit from a tragic event with no discernible benefit to the victims," apps that "deny a major tragic event" or apps that lack sensitivity to deaths of people or groups.

On Tuesday, the church provided an update on Facebook explaining that it had appealed the suspension.

"We do not believe we were in violation of their rules," the update reads. "Google Play suspended essentially *all* apps that referred to COVID-19."

Over the last few weeks, Facebook, Google and other tech giants began using algorithms and new rules to scrub their platforms of coronavirus-related misinformation, The Associated Press reports.

In early April, Google Play updated the Play Store listing guidelines. In an explainer piece, Google Play Business Development Manager Sam Tolomei said that the company is only approving apps that reference COVID-19 in their store listing if the app is "published, commissioned, or authorized by an official government entity or public health organization."

Additionally, apps will only be published if they do not "contain any monetization mechanisms." Such mechanisms include "in-app products or in-app donations." "This includes references in places such as the app title, description, release notes, or screenshots," Tolomei added.

Other apps that have been removed by Google Play during the COVID-19 pandemic include the website Info Wars. The app was removed in late March after its founder Alex Jones disputed the need for social distancing amid the outbreak, according to WIRED.

According to The Washington Examiner, Christ Church received a response to its appeal on Thursday. However, Google restated its belief that the app is in violation of the sensitive events policy.

The church was told that the app would not be reinstated until all references to COVID-19 were removed. A screenshot of correspondence with a Google employee published by The Washington Examiner suggests Google asked the church to remove references to COVID-19 in its listing and the in-app experience.

Pastor Doug Wilson, an outspoken Calvinist, wrote in a blog post that he believes Google is “censoring things on such a massive scale now that no one individual can claim he is being picked on.”

“If they were singling us out, and removed our content because I had said, for example, that this whole thing was a summoning of Americans to repentance, that would have been obnoxious enough,” Wilson wrote. “But if they say that no American using their platform can talk about COVID-19 at all, and they are going to axe your content simply because COVID appears in the title of your video clip, then how is that a much bigger offense?”

“How is this not like T-Mobile saying they are happy to have you as a customer, but they would like you to be aware of the fact that according to their terms of service, if you start talking about the upcoming 2020 election with your friend across the country, your call will be dropped?” he added.

“A lot of misinformation is flying around during the course of elections, you know. And if they did this by means of an algorithm, affecting tens of thousands of people, it would not be an even-handed lack of censorship, but rather censorship at a staggering level.”

Christ Church Executive Pastor Ben Zornes told The Washington Examiner that the church is evaluating the best way forward. He said the purpose of the app was to provide the congregation with “sermons and a couple podcasts helping our people think biblically about the coronavirus,”

“[W]e believe this is censorship and wrong-headed,” Zornes was quoted as saying. “We are not purporting to present any medical advice or information on the virus, we are simply presenting what we believe Scripture teaches in regards to how to face such crises in faith and love to our neighbor.”

Google’s suspension of the Christ Church app drew the ire of conservative evangelical commentator Rod Dreher. Dreher argued in an op-ed that what probably got the app in trouble was a sermon from late March in which Wilson condemned abortion and gay marriage as sins that require repentance.

“My point is this: whatever my conflicts, theological and otherwise, with Doug Wilson and his circle, I profited from hearing these sermons. I was challenged by them, in a good way,” Dreher wrote. “Did I agree 100 percent with them? No, I

did not. Do I believe that these sermons ought to be freely available on Google’s platform for people to hear? Absolutely.”

“We don’t know precisely why Google booted Wilson’s church’s app, but listening to Wilson’s sermon, it’s not hard to guess why,” Dreher continued.

Christ Church, which held a drive-in service on Easter, is part of the Communion of Reformed Evangelical Churches. The CREC is an association of over 100 churches worldwide.

The network’s leader stated in an April 14 letter that the association may no longer comply with government social distancing orders.

CREC Presiding Minister of Council, Virgil Hurt, wrote in the letter to governing authorities that it is “now apparent that our initial information was incomplete.

“The pandemic is not what we all thought it was going to be,” Hurt wrote. “It is now clear that the stated rationale for these temporary, emergency actions, ‘to flatten the curve,’ has been achieved, and that these temporary measures are no longer necessary.”

Hurt warned that if society continues with the course of action “things may get much worse.”

“The citizens of the United States and our congregants are already beginning to strongly feel the need to get back to regular living,” Hurt stressed.

“While we do not currently have a date at which we will no longer comply with the extreme restrictions, we believe the time is now at hand for our leaders to stand down from the extreme isolation efforts, and the date at which we will no longer comply is soon approaching, in days or weeks, not months.”

“While we despise death, we do not fear death, because for us, to live is Christ and to die is gain,” Hurt added. “May God grant us repentance, and as we confess and repent of our many sins, we trust that He will be gracious to us and heal our land.”

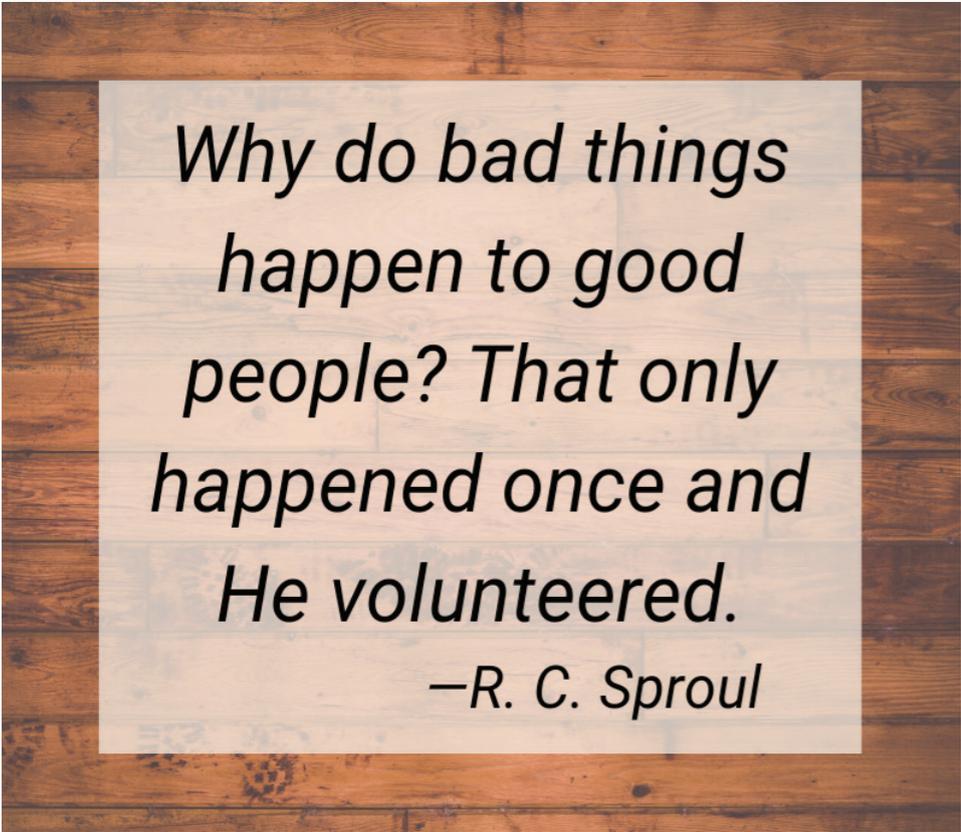
Other News:

NWS: 20 tornadoes hit SC on Monday, at least 5 were EF3— <https://www.wistv.com/2020/04/17/nws-tornadoes-hit-sc-monday-least-were-ef/>

Woman says she survived tornadoes that killed 9 in SC by ‘calling on Jesus’— <https://www.christianpost.com/news/woman-says-she-survived-tornadoes-that-killed-9-in-sc-by-calling-on-jesus.html>

As part of quarantine enforcement, California officials fill skate park with 74,000 pounds of sand— <https://disrn.com/news/as-part-of-quarantine-enforcement-california-officials-fill-skate-park-with-74000-pounds-of-sand>

Quote of the Week:

A quote on a wooden background. The text is centered and reads: "Why do bad things happen to good people? That only happened once and He volunteered." Below the quote is the attribution "—R. C. Sproul".

*Why do bad things
happen to good
people? That only
happened once and
He volunteered.*

—R. C. Sproul

Biblical Counseling Resources

Strategies for Fighting Depression Well—by Jim Newheiser
<https://biblicalcounseling.com/fighting-depression-well/>

Identity Language in Counseling—by Martha Peace
<https://biblicalcounseling.com/identity-language-in-counseling/>

The Pursuit of Peace—by Sam Stephens
<https://biblicalcounseling.com/the-pursuit-of-peace/>

Covenant Baptist Biblical Counseling Class:

A Biblical Counseling class started February 13th at 7 PM here at the church. If you would be interested in participating, please let the pastor know. We are going to livestream the class. Just go to the website at <https://covenantbaptistsc.org> and click the livestream button on home page at 7pm Thursdays.

Biblical counseling class on hold while teacher recovers from surgery. See page 2 for more info.



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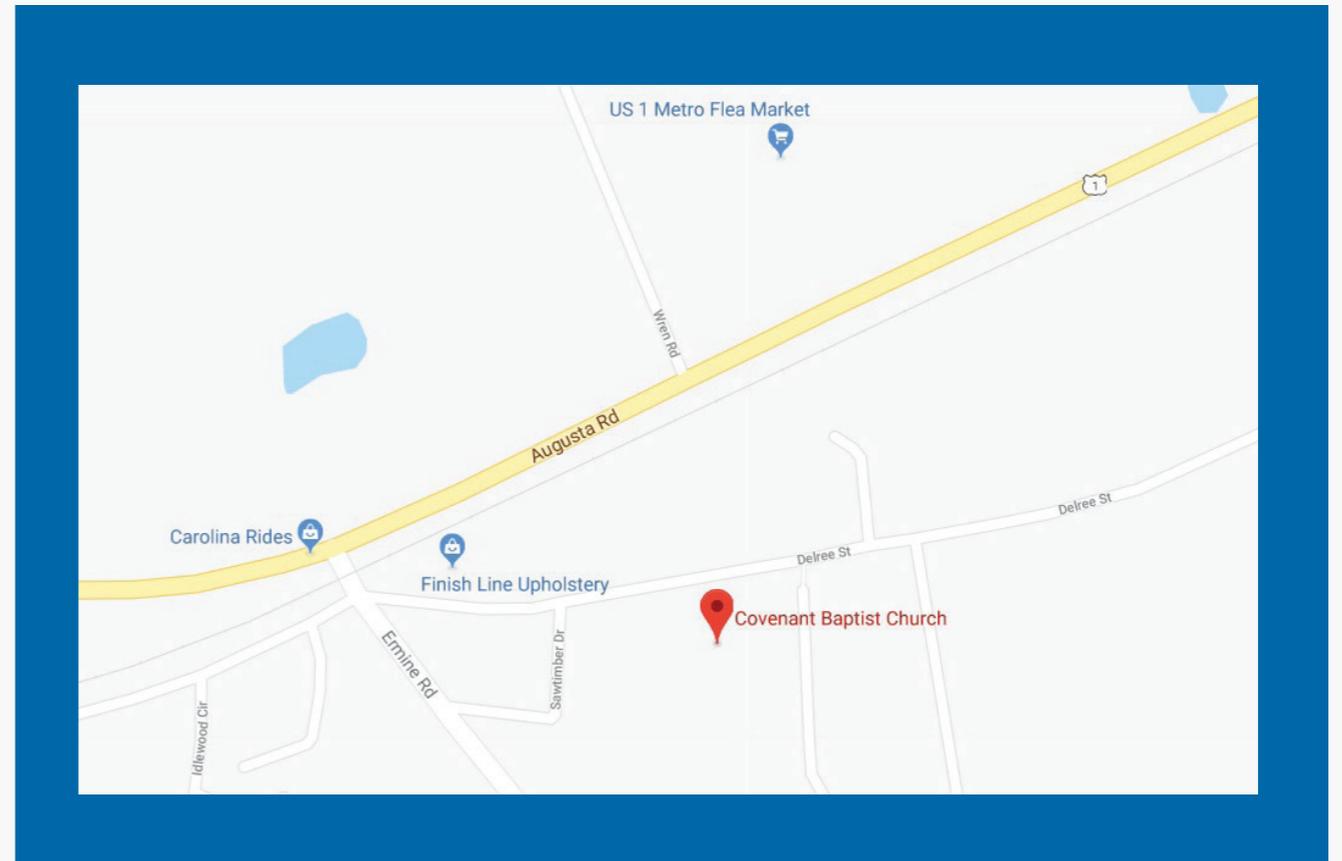
Reformed and Refreshing

3535 Delree Street

West Columbia, SC 29170

<https://covenantbaptistsc.org>

Location:



*If you are interested in joining our church, please speak to one of our elders or deacons.
They will be happy to give you the information you need.*