

FREEDOM FROM RELIGION *foundation*

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May 5, 2011

SENT VIA FAX & U.S. MAIL
(770) 528-4010

Dorothy Bishop
County Attorney
Cobb County
1000 Cherokee St Ste 300
Marietta GA 30090

Re: Cobb County Prayer Breakfast

Dear Ms. Bishop:

Our national organization, which works to protect the constitutional principle of separation between state and church, contacted Cobb County Manager David Hankerson on April 28, 2011, regarding inappropriate use of Cobb County resources to organize and promote the Cobb County Prayer Breakfast. We understand this matter has been referred to your office. We write again to forward further information our complainant has uncovered.

As mentioned in our letter to Mr. Hankerson, we understand that Mr. Moon, Director of Cobb County's Support Services Agency, is managing an "information line" about the prayer breakfast using a Cobb County government office line – (770) 528-3328. Upon further research we understand that the message on that information line is as follows:

"The 2011 Cobb County prayer breakfast will be held on the National Day of Prayer, Thursday, May 5th at the Cobb Galleria Centre. The program begins at 7AM. Our keynote speaker this year is Shan Cooper, Vice President of Lockheed Martin Aeronautics. Ticket price is \$20 per person or \$200 for a table of ten. Please leave your name and phone number if you would like more information or a reservation form. Thank you. Record your message at the tone. When you are finished, hang up or hold for more options."

Our complainant informs us that upon leaving a name and number Ms. Denise Sawyer, presumably a Cobb County employee, returned the call and e-mailed a reservation form. Please find attached a copy of the e-mail, from a Cobb County e-mail address, from Ms. Sawyer and the flyer.

The use of the County line coupled with employees returning phone calls and e-mailing reservation forms through the County e-mail system demonstrate the County's apparent coordination of the event and poses serious constitutional separation of state and church concerns. Once again, we ask that you inform us, in writing, of the steps the County is taking to remedy these concerns.

Thank you in advance for your time and attention to this matter. We look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'RSM', written in a cursive style.

Rebecca S. Markert
Staff Attorney

Enclosures

cc: David Hankerson, County Manager
J. Virgil Moon, Director, Cobb County Support Services Agency

From: Sawyer, Denise [<mailto:Denise.Sawyer@cobbcounty.org>]

Sent: Tuesday, May 03, 2011 10:48 AM

Subject: Prayer Breakfast flyer

Thank you for inquiring about the Cobb County Prayer Breakfast.

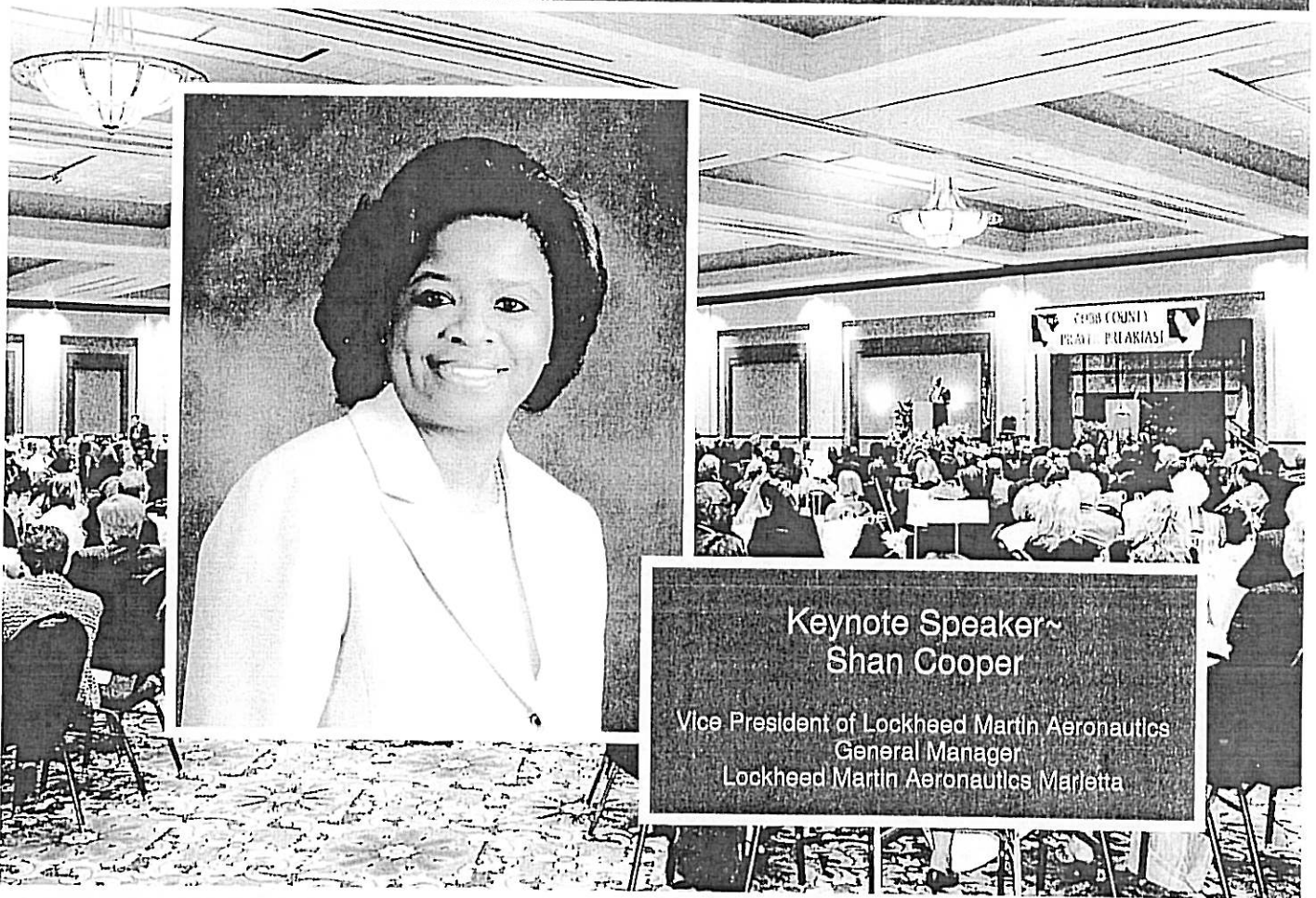
Attached you will find the flyer/registration information.

Since we are fast approaching the day of the event, it is too late to mail tickets. Therefore, if you plan on attending, please call to verify the number of tickets you want and we can have them available for you at the door the day of the event. Tickets are \$20.00 each.

Denise Sawyer

(770) 528-2619

Join us for the 27th Annual Cobb County Prayer Breakfast



Keynote Speaker
Shan Cooper

Vice President of Lockheed Martin Aeronautics
General Manager
Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Marietta

Cobb Galleria Centre · Two Galleria Parkway
Atlanta, Georgia

Coffee/Social: 6:30 a.m.
Breakfast/Program: 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

For more information, call
770.528.3328

COBB COUNTY PRAYER BREAKFAST RESERVATION FORM

Advance Reservation Deadline April 19
Tickets will be mailed April 26



Please reserve _____ seats @ \$20.00 per person, or _____ table(s) @ \$200.00 per table of ten

Name _____ Company _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone (office or home) _____ Email _____

Return this form with a check made payable to the Cobb County Prayer Breakfast Committee, Inc.
Mail to: P.O. Box 4264, Marietta, Georgia 30061

THURSDAY, MAY 5, 2011 · NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER