



# Richland Baptist Association Newsletter

January 2025

From Your Director of Missions (D.O.M.):

In the beginning God! As we begin a new year, we will experience life with its ups and downs; however, one thing is certain and that is God's Grace and Mercy will be with us no matter what we experience. How comforting to know that we have a Father that has billions of children; yet he knows each one of us individually and personally. What an awesome Father we have!

I want to challenge each one of us to seek out one person that needs our Lord and share the Gospel with them. Often I am asked, "How can we grow our church?" It really is simple, if each person would build a relationship with one unchurched or lost person, love them into the family of God, we would instantly double the attendance of our church. You see, contrary to what most church members think, it is not the pastor's job to grow the church but each Born Again Believer's command from our Lord. If you will become a Great Commission Church, you will experience Spiritual Growth as well as Numerical Growth. Let us all determine that we will evangelize our community around us.

Let us determine within our hearts and souls because Jesus died for us, we will live for him. Why is that so difficult? It shouldn't be difficult but a JOY! Will you accept the challenge that has been issued? I pray that each of us do.

Men, please remember the DRY BONES MEN'S CONFERENCE to be held at the Civic Center in Monroe, Jack Howard Theater, on February 7-8, 2025 at 6PM. Purchase your ticket and someone else one. Invite a man that needs to connect with Christ and other Godly Men.

I am excited about what lies ahead of us all in the coming year of 2025. My greatest prayer is that each of us will draw closer to our Lord and make a difference within His Kingdom.

I am so blessed and thankful to be your Director of Missions. Love you all.

Yours in Christ,

Johnny

## Upcoming Events for the month of January 2025

- Jan. 01: New Years Day (Office Closed)
- Jan. 10: Pastor's Prayer Time 10AM @ Richland Baptist Mission Office
- Jan. 10: Pastor's Conference 11AM @ Big John's Rayville
- Jan. 19: Sanctity of Life Sunday
- Jan. 27: Evangelism Conference @ First Baptist Covington, LA
- Jan. 28: Evangelism Conference @ First Baptist Covington, LA
- Jan. 28: Discipleship Collaborative Winter Meeting @ First Baptist Covington

## Upcoming Events for the month of February 2025

- Feb. 03: Kid Min Retreat
- Feb. 04: Kid Min Retreat
- Feb. 07: DRY BONES MEN'S CONFERENCE 6PM @ Monroe Civic Center
- Feb. 08: DRY BONES MEN'S CONFERENCE 6PM @ Monroe Civic Center
- Feb. 07-08: Pause Retreat @ Tall Timbers, Woodworth
- Feb. 13: Pastor's Conference 11AM @ Big John's Rayville
- Feb. 20: The Forum @ Baptist Building, Alexandria

[READ MORE ON OUR WEBSITE](#)

## Opportunities to Serve

Please join me in praying for our sister churches that are without a pastor. Also pray for those with other needs. If you know of someone that would serve in any of these capacities, please contact me.

Pastor: Bethel Baptist  
Cedar Baptist  
Lone Cherry Baptist  
Newton Baptist  
West New Home

Part-Time Youth Minister: First Baptist Archibald

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*\*If you have a need in your church, please let us know and we will post it in the Monthly Newsletter.*

# Something to Think About...

Whether we are the excited “New Year, New You” type or are a sort of New Year’s Scrooge grumbling “BAH HUMBUG!” at the very idea of new year’s resolutions, there is something about the start of a fresh calendar year that moves our thoughts to new beginnings, hitting the reset button, or starting over. Of those that do make some form of plan or intention for the New Year they can take a lot of forms: physical (losing weight and getting in shape), mental (pursue that education, read more), emotional (sort out feelings, see a counselor), spiritual (read scripture daily, get serious about your faith). Many times these “best laid plans of mice and men” still do as the adage leads and “often go awry”.

I had one friend on social media who literally felt like they had been gullible for buying into that goals for the next year stuff because this year had passed with so many obstacles that were revealed in the course of broken bones, health problems, and just life in general. So they are foregoing the entirety of 2025 to be ready to try again for some goals physically in 2026. A literal “kicking the can down the street” approach as it were.

In the realm of physical weight training there is this concept of “training to failure” and it means to continue to do repetitions of a certain weight until you can just physically do no more. It is a pretty popular concept in some fitness circles and definitely has its place. However, I tend to wonder if many people around this year kind of get that mixed up and misunderstood and determine to train UNTIL failure. Perfectionism is a dangerous beast to try and wrestle down. Just as soon as you think you have it under control and caught by the tail, it contorts around and bites or claws you when you least expect it. That is where a lot of our New Year’s goals and resolutions fall short because they are based on perfection and when you slip up, it becomes “oh well, it was a good ride while it lasted” and the give up returns at the end of motivation.

That may also be the origin of a lot of the Scrooge-esque hate towards even the idea of setting goals and making plans at the start of a new year. The burden is too great from seeing those plans crash and burn so many times prior that they feel that by keeping a low profile and not committing they will avoid the disappointment that comes with failure. They are half right in that they do avoid the pain of failure but they will pay a much heavier lump sum payment later down the road in the pain of regret for things undone.

Might I offer a third path from an unusual place in scripture. Instead of trying to train UNTIL failure, maybe our commitment should be training until success. Define what success looks like and “press on toward that mark”. When you inevitably have a setback and fail, you don’t have to wait for a new year. That’s where you flip the script on that old demon of perfectionism. “WE’RE NOT PERFECT, BUT WE SERVE THE PERFECT ONE!” In our pride, we are sometimes harder on ourselves than the Lord of whom it is written in Lamentations 3:22-23 (I told you an unusual place for inspiration on this topic):

22 The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases;  
His mercies never come to an end;  
23 they are new every morning;  
great is Your faithfulness.

In other words, His mercy and love are new every morning, so we do not have to wait around for some arbitrary date for a manmade calendar to flip around. Each day is another chance to get up, dust off from our latest fall or stumble, and continue training until success.

- Jonathan C. Young

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