



Richland Baptist Association Newsletter

September 2024

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

As we begin a new church year, I pray our Lord's greatest blessings on each of you. It is always exciting to enter a new year with anticipation of what the Lord has planned for us. New leadership, new programs, new Bible Studies, new outreach efforts are all good things; however, let us not lose focus on our main purpose as outlined by Christ's Great Commission in Matthew 28:19-20. Let us give this year wholly to Christ and strive to work together, as well as individually as churches, to advance our Lord's Kingdom throughout our mission field of the Richland Association, our state, our country and the world.

I would like to invite each church to participate in our Simultaneous Revival this month. It is a wonderful opportunity for all of our churches to come together for a time of worship. The revival will once again be held in the northern and southern parts of the association. We will have two evangelists which will alternate between the areas throughout the revival. Invite the unchurched and lost to join you as you attend. Go by and pick them up and give them a ride to ensure that they attend with you

There are a few major events coming up that I ask you to place on your church calendar and announce to your church family frequently, (Check the Upcoming Events Calendar).

1. Richland Baptist Annual Meeting, It will be held on Thursday September 5, 2024. Woodlawn Baptist will host the meeting this year. It is for all of our churches within the Richland Baptist Association.
Please come and conduct the business of your association. We will have a time of worship following the meeting. Brother Charles Ellzey will preach the Annual Sermon.
2. DRY BONES MENS' CONFERENCE ON Sunday evening, September 22, 2024. It will be held at the Monroe Civic Center and will begin at 6:00PM. The doors will open at 5:00PM.
3. Our 2nd annual Simultaneous Revival will be Monday September 30, 2024 through Thursday October 3, 2024. Please begin now praying for the evangelists and plan to attend each night. Please check out the information within this newsletter.

Yours in Christ,

Johnny

Upcoming Events for the month of September 2024

- Sep 02: Labor Day
- Sep 05: Richland Association Annual Meeting at Woodlawn Baptist
5:00PM: Executive Board
6:00PM: Meal
6:30PM: Meeting
- Sep 06-07: RA Survivor Man @ ABC Eunice
- Sep 06-08: Champion Camp @ Tall Timbers
- Sep 08-15: Georgia Barnett Week of Prayer and Offering
- Sep 15-18: REVIVAL @ Calvary Baptist: Rodney Ratcliff (Evangelist)
- Sep 18: First Baptist Delhi will host a meal and worship service for First Responders.
Meal at 5:00 PM.
- Sep 19: Pastor/Staff Conference @ Big John's Rayville 11AM
- Sep 22: DRY BONES MEN'S CONFERENCE @ Monroe Civic Center 6PM
Children's Mission Sunday
- Sep 28: Caring Well Sunday
- Sep 30-Oct 03: Richland Association Simultaneous Revival: Rubin Weaver and
Jeff Thomas Evangelists:

The following evening services locations:

Monday September 30:	First Delhi	First Archibald
Tuesday October 01:	First Rayville	First Archibald
Wednesday October 02:	Woodlawn	Zebedee
Thursday October 03:	Eastside	Mangham

The services will begin each evening at 7PM. Please consider canceling any other event that would hinder your church family from attending each evening of the Simultaneous Revival Service. A Love Offering will be received each evening for the evangelists.

Upcoming Events for the month of October 2024

- Oct 04-05: Camp O-REE @ Camp Harris
- Oct 06: Cooperative Program Sunday
- Oct 11: Pastors/Staff Conference @ Big John's Rayville 11AM
- Oct 18-19: Minister's Wives Retreat @ Tall Timbers

October is Pastor and Staff Appreciation Month. I encourage each church to do something special for your pastor and his wife. If you have staff members, do something special for them and their wives or husbands.

[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
New Light
Newton Baptist
Westside Baptist

Part-Time Youth Minister: First Baptist Archibald

Pianist: Westside

**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...

Life of late seems to be a jumble of BIG things and little things. Lots of big things are happening everywhere you turn and yet there are the little frustrations that must continue to be given attention on a daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly, or even annual basis. Scripture is not silent on this ebb and flow of the high tides and low tides of life.

We are told that *"if [we] have the faith of a grain of a mustard seed, [we] can say to the mountain, 'go be thrown into the sea' and it will be done for [us]"*. In part, this shows the immense potency of faith. However, how often does that faith go unrealized for big things in the life of the believer? How often do we succumb to fears and insecurities about our unworthiness and inability to do what Jesus has called and commanded us to (as if it was us doing it in the first place)? We settle for a life of mediocrity instead of the abundant life that Christ came to give.

Sometimes, we are hampered and hamstrung by our pride that keeps wickedly whispering in our ear, "You deserve better" and "Why does so and so see God working and moving in their life in such a powerful way? Why has He forsaken you?". These are lies that keep us laying on our mat by the temple pool instead of just trusting in Christ and following. He tells us that if we are faithful in the little things, we will be given more. So why do we sit sulking over big things while the little things remain incomplete and undone?

We can also see this tension of the big and little stuff played out in a kind of legalism. Feeling like unless we get everything perfect, we won't see the movement of God in our lives. If in leadership, we can tend to build up these "death by a thousand cuts" piles of straw to break the camel's back to place on the shoulders of the flock entrusted to us. Jesus had harsh words for the Pharisees in this regard and said, *"You strain out a gnat, only to swallow a camel"*. In the southern vernacular, we make "mountains out of molehills" only to be surprised when our faith is then unable to move the mountain we have created.

So wherever we find ourselves on this spectrum, let's be faithful in the little things until He calls us to greater things and then continue to walk in His Spirit's power to move real mountains!

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