



Richland Baptist Association Newsletter

June 2024

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

This is a busy time with summer camps and Vacation Bible School being attended and held at many churches throughout our association. Please pray for all of the Vacation Bible Schools being conducted. This is one of the most evangelistic opportunities of the year for most churches. It is my favorite event in that each year we would witness our Lord saving many young people which in turn gave us the opportunity to meet and minister to their entire family.

June is the month that we set aside to recognize our Fathers. I praise God for Christian Fathers. The role of the man in the family is to be the Spiritual Leader. Gentlemen, men of the Lord, thank you for being the Christian fathers to your children and the children of your church family. You will never know this side of Heaven how you have touched the lives of the children that our Lord has placed in your path.

Please check out the calendar of events. I encourage you to participate alongside us as we serve our Lord together.

Sunday June 2, 2024 is Disaster Relief Sunday throughout our Southern Baptist Convention. Each year at this time we ask our churches to receive an offering for our Richland Baptist Association Chainsaw Ministry Team. Our team serves churches no matter where they are located when we are called upon to do so by the Louisiana Baptist Disaster Relief Center. We also serve our local churches and their members as we are able to do so. Our men are volunteers and they work so hard to complete every task that has been asked of them to complete. I am so proud of these Godly Men that serve so willingly. This offering is used strictly for the chainsaw team and the needs of the ministry.

I ask that you please join me in prayer as we endeavor to begin a Hispanic Mission in our association. There is a great need for this mission work. Pray that our Lord will open doors in the days ahead to provide all the needs. Also please pray about your church becoming a supporting partner in this worthy Mission Work!

I completed my fifth year as your Director of Missions on May 31, 2024. As I begin my sixth year, I want to thank you for the Joy of serving you as your Director of Missions and for the support that I have received from each of the churches and many individuals.. I love you all.

Johnny

Upcoming Events for the month of June 2024

June 02:	Disaster Relief Sunday: Chainsaw Ministry Offering
June 06:	Pastor and Staff Conference 11AM @ Big John's
June 03-06:	Kid's Camp 1 - Tall Timbers
June 10-13:	Kid's Camp 2 - Tall Timbers
June 11-12:	Southern Baptist Convention, Indianapolis, IN
June 16:	Father's Day
June 20-22	Breakaway Youth Camp 1 - Tall Timbers
June 24-28	Breakaway Youth Camp 2 - Tall Timbers

Upcoming Events for the month of July 2024

July 01-05:	Breakaway Youth Camp 3 @ Tall Timbers
July 04:	Independence Day (Office Closed)
July 07:	Religious Liberty Sunday
July 08-12	First Archibald Vacation Bible School
July 08-12	Breakaway Youth Camp 4 @ Tall Timbers
July 09	Pastor/Staff Conference 11AM @ Big John's
July 15-18	Kid Camp 3 @ Tall Timbers
July 22-23	Children's Education Workshop South TBA
July 22-25	Children's Mission Camp @ Tall Timbers
July 25-26	Children's Education Workshop North TBA
July 26-27	Mini MAC Camp @ Tall Timbers

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Opportunities to Serve

Pastor:	Bethel Baptist Cedar Baptist Lone Cherry Baptist Newton Baptist Westside Baptist
Music Minister/Leader:	Westside Baptist Zebedee Baptist
Pianist:	Westside Baptist Zebedee Baptist

**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...

I apologize for the delay in this month's associational newsletter but until early Saturday morning of the 1st of June, I was on a short-term mission trip to Honduras. It was a powerful week with around 150 souls that began a relationship with Christ. It was an awesome week of hard work for the kingdom of God. We had ample opportunity to live outside our comfort zone so God could shape and mold each team member into something more conformed to the image of Christ.

For the old me, I would have gotten down on myself, possibly even doubted my calling or even worse doubted my salvation because I didn't see one soul directly brought to Christ by my hand whether it was through my presentation of the gospel through door-to-door outreach or through preaching and teaching small "sermonettes" at the gospel presentation tent during the days of ministry. The old me would have said, "I must be doing something wrong." and "Why isn't the Spirit working through me?" and "Maybe I deceived myself like the goats versus the sheep in Jesus's parable." That was the old me.

The old me was messed up by an all too common tale of an undershepherd who had been bit, rammed, and trampled by sheep of a previous flock and then blamed by a supposedly fellow "hired hand" for why the flock had not grown as much as those rebellious sheep and hired hand thought they should have grown under my ministry. It took traveling over 1,000 miles to Honduras for God to teach and show me that numbers and results are not what He expects of me. He simply expects me to be available, obedient, and faithful to the tasks and sharing of the message He has uniquely given me in my testimony. That's it! Why do we overcomplicate this?

The gospel should be the simplest thing to understand. So simple a child just over the threshold of the age of accountability can grasp it. But just like folks of old and recent that try to "add to" the gospel or scriptures conditions, we "add to" how one must effectively share the gospel for people to be a true convert or for God's Holy Spirit to bless the proclamation of His Word. We load up burdens on the evangelistic activity until a person is so wracked by fear of saying the wrong thing that might ruin a person's eternal destiny that we freeze at the moment of truth. I've got good news for you that I at around thirty years of ministry give or take just had to relearn: "You are not that powerful or important!" If God is sovereign and knows us better than we do in our own self-deceptions, do you really think that you can derail how He intends to impart His story into the life of one of His creations that He desires to make His child?

We do the same thing when it comes to the will of God. We bind ourselves up in a tight little ball of decision paralysis because we feel like if we don't make the perfect choice, God's plan for our life will be ruined. "YOU ARE NOT THAT POWERFUL!" We do not have that kind of authority or control over God's sovereign will. In a twisted way, it is arrogantly prideful to think so. If God used a donkey to get His message across to Balaam, what makes us think He can't accomplish His will in spite of our stubborn selfish choices.

There really is only one choice in which we can impact God's sovereign will, and that is the choice of whether or not we will follow Christ and trust Him with our lives. I mentioned I didn't directly bring anyone to Christ this past week during the mission trip but I didn't "get an assist" there. A young lady that was on our mission team was struggling with a work's righteousness and fighting so hard under the yoke of perfectionism for peace with God. I simply identified with her in her suffering as one who had struggled under perfectionism as well and the tears began to flow and she committed her life to the Lord. Why do we make it harder than sharing our testimony and the well-worn Roman Road?

- Jonathan Young

Richland Baptist Association

(318) 303-7626
102 Horn Rd,
Rayville, LA 71269, USA

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