



Richland Baptist Association Newsletter

October 2024

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

I want to thank the Woodlawn Baptist Church family for being such gracious hosts of our Richland Association's Annual Meeting. Even though it was storming, we had a wonderful business session and an awesome worship service. Brother Chris Crawford led our praise time and Brother Charles Ellzey preached an awesome sermon.

Our Simultaneous Revival will already be underway before this month's newsletter is posted; however, I want to continue to encourage all of our churches to participate as it is continuing through October 3, 2024. . 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

The following is the schedule for the Simultaneous Revival:

Tuesday October 1:	
First Baptist Rayville	First Baptist Archibald
Wednesday October 2:	
Woodlawn	Zebedee
Thursday October 3:	
Eastside	Mangham

The Worship Service will begin each evening at 6:30 PM. Once again, please make every effort to attend each of the services and bring someone with you. I assure you that you will be blessed.

As we have started another church year together, my prayer for each of you is that this will be the best year that you have ever experienced as you serve the Lord together. It is my greatest joy to serve you as your Director of Missions.

Yours in Christ,

Johnny

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
Oct 20: Zebedee Revival Brother Larry Russell Evangelist

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.

Upcoming Events for the month of November 2024

- Nov 03: Daylight Saving Time Ends
Nov. 09: VBS Fall Preview @ Baptist Building Alexandria
Nov 11: LBC Pastor's Conference @ Broadmoor Baptist Shreveport
Nov. 12: Louisiana Baptist Convention @ Broadmoor Baptist Shreveport
Nov 24: Youth Evangelism Conference (YEC) Rapides Coliseum Alexandria
Nov 25: Youth Evangelism Conference (YEC) Rapides Coliseum Alexandria
Nov 27: Office Closed for Thanksgiving
Nov 28: Thanksgiving

[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 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...

Lately, I have been dabbling into the world of 3d printing thanks to a gift from my loving wife for my birthday. This isn't my first excursion into that hobby/interest but by far has been my most successful outing of the two dabbings. The first time I bought an Amazon return that I knew would involve a lot of "elbow grease" to get working but my love for getting a deal or bargain had me trying nonetheless. That first excursion was full of headaches. I first had to secure all the parts to get the machine working in the first place. Then I had to acquire the right software to actually give the thing instructions. Even after all that, I found myself unable to just "set it and forget it" and wait hours to see my finished product later. Because of all the unknowns, I had to constantly be on guard to make sure everything was progressing well so I wouldn't end up with something going wrong and I return to a printer engulfed in a "flying spaghetti monster" of filament all around the extruder, nozzle, and build plate.

I had almost given up on being able to happily print things from the comforts of my home when I stumbled upon a video on a newer 3d printer that took a lot of the hassle out of 3d printing. In fact, in the video they described the user experience as more for those that want to just print things for their hobbies/interests rather than their hobby interest to wind up mostly tinkering on a 3d printer (a mechanic's special if you will). I immediately thought "that's what I want, a 3d printer that JUST PRINTS!" My wife surprised me with the very thing I had been contemplating after watching that video and I can say the comparative experience couldn't be more right on. All the time I was spending before in getting the printer to work right was now spent enjoying the fruits of my 3d printing efforts and not working on the machine to do it.

But you didn't come here to read about 3d printers, however, I can say my experience showed me some definite spiritual parallels and application points. If we think instead about the church and how many would be ministers, pastors, and teachers of the gospel there might be out there hidden in plain sight, I wonder how many of them have had the same experience when it comes to kingdom work. Instead of spending their years, days, and hours, working in the Father's vineyard harvesting fruit of righteousness and nurturing new disciples into becoming full-fledged disciplemakers of their own, they are continually mending fences, tending to sick and distraught vines, trying everything possible to get even the tiniest grape off this vine. Is it any wonder we see so many that are not necessarily called to the field of church planting that try their hand at it because they want to "3d print" fruit and not tirelessly tinker on a "printer that won't print".

Another couple of things I have learned from my 3d printing are the importance of three things in producing a successful print: successful solid first layer (foundation), external supports (for things that go out on a limb or overhang), and infill (providing support and structure internally for the object). The foundational layer we are told "Unless the Lord builds the house, its laborers labor in vain". We can lay no other foundation (1st base layer) than that which has already been laid or Jesus Christ. We need to support and be involved in efforts that are outside our typical "us four and no more" mentality. Things like our simultaneous revival are God's Kingdom efforts that extend beyond our own little-k kingdoms of domain and influence. Finally, infill (support and structure internally) relates to the ministry of encouragement, accountability, and upholding and exhorting one another within the body. We build each other up into Him which not only is the foundation and author of our faith but also is the goal and head of this body which we are to grow up into... Christ Jesus. Fellow laborers, in the hour that we find ourselves, we need more fruit and disciples being produced by these "printers" He has given us. The "printer" is not the goal, disciples and fruit-bearing are.

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