

July 2024

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

We as Americans celebrate our independence during the month of July. In spite of all that we hear on the news and read on our computer sites, America is still the greatest nation in the world. As Lee Greenwood says,"I am proud to be an American!" As you gather together with your family and friends, thank God that He has allowed us the privilege of being a free people. However, true freedom comes from knowing our Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord. "He who the Son sets free, is free indeed." Free from the bondage and penalty of sin. Free to be God's children! Praise God I am free indeed!

June was the month that we recognize as Disaster Relief Sunday and month 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. If you did not receive an offering, I urge you to do so as the hurricane season is now on going. Our only funding source is you. We desperately need your assistance. Please pray and give as our Lord leads you to give to this our association's ministry.

I would love to come visit with your church family and share all that is taking place within our association and state convention. If you will contact me, we can set up a time at your convenience.

Many of you have completed Vacation Bible School and some are preparing to host yours soon. If you would send us a report, we would love to post it in our monthly newsletter.

The Nelons will be in concert at Mangham Baptist Church on Sunday evening July 7, 2024 at 6 PM. There is no charge for the event. Everyone is invited to come join them!

As always, thank you for allowing me the privilege and honor to serve you as your Director of Missions.

Johnny

## Upcoming Events for the month of July 2024

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July	01-05:	Breakaway Youth Camp 3 @ Tall Timbers
July	04:	Independence Day (Office Closed)
July	07:	Nelon's Concert @Mangham Baptist 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

READ MORE ON OUR WEBSITE

## **Opportunities to Serve**

Pastor:	Bethel Baptist Cedar Baptist Lone Cherry Baptist New Light Newton Baptist Westside Baptist
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...

Recent events have brought me back around to Ecclesiastes 12:1-7 which infamously starts "*Remember your Creator in the days of your youth:*" and then proceeds poetically to express days of adversity and trouble near the end of one's life. Many times the national stage of politics and society echo or mimic what is going on within our Southern Baptist life (or maybe it's the other way around where we mimic them). At what point do the days of adversity overwhelm the days of our youth for remembering our Creator? We have a God that can do the impossible and use broken and cracked pots even in spite of the vessel itself. However, when the majority of days that remain are adverse (whether physically or mentally), our perseverance will depend upon our submission and reliance on that Creator since youth.

**Richland Baptist Association** 

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