Richland Baptist Association Newsletter

April 2026

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

Spring is finally here! Please continue to pray for our Chainsaw Team as they are still cleaning up places from the winter ice storm that came through our area. We are so blessed to have such dedicated men. They have worked for such a long time and thankfully, the end is soon in sight for them. I want to encourage you to show your support for the team as they have served folks within our area, prayed with many, and have offered the Gospel to others.

We will celebrate Resurrection Sunday on April 5, 2026. What a joyous time to be a Born Again Believer. Our Lord is not dead but alive and sitting at the right hand of His Father and our Father. He is living proof that our eternity is secured with Him in His Father's House. I want to encourage you to invite as many people as you can to attend the various services that will celebrate Easter. There will be churches offering Good Friday, Easter Sunrise and regular Easter Sunday services; plan to attend and take others with you.

We once again held our Senior Saint Revival. I want to thank Mangham Baptist, First Baptist Delhi and Cedar Baptist for hosting our revival this year. I also want to thank the ladies for providing such wonderful and delicious desserts. We all also need to thank our Sheriff and his staff as they once again blessed us by preparing a fish fry for us each day. Finally, I want to thank Brother Caleb Cunningham, Brother Rick Aultman and Brother Bernard Duchesne for bringing such wonderful and encouraging sermons. We were blessed by the Word that our Lord gave you to share with us.

Please be in prayer for a Mission Team from Richland Baptist Association that will be traveling and ministering to people in Honduras. They will be gone from May 22, 2026 through May 29, 2026.

Please check out the calendar that is included in the monthly newsletter. You will be able to keep up with all that is happening within your Richland Baptist Association.

As always, thank you for the privilege and honor to be your Director of Missions.

Yours in Christ,

Johnny

Upcoming Events for the month of April 2026

Apr.	03:	Good Friday
Apr.	05:	Resurrection Sunday (Easter)
Apr.	09:	Pastors' Conference @ Big John's Rayville 11AM
Apr.	11:	Disaster Relief Training @ Temple Baptist Ruston
Apr.	12:	Baptism Sunday
Apr.	17-18:	Embrace Women's Conference @ First Baptist Zachary
Apr.	21:	State Bible Drill @ Temple Baptist Ruston
Apr.	22:	Administrative Professional's Day

Upcoming Events for the month of May 2026

May	03:	Seminary Sunday
May	07:	National Day of Prayer
May	14:	Pastors' Conference @ Big John's at 11AM
May	17:	Children's Ministry Sunday
May	22-29:	RBA Team Mission Trip to Honduras
May	25:	Memorial Day
May	31:	Disaster Relief Sunday (Chainsaw Ministry Offering)

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 Lone Cherry Westside
Part-Time Youth Minister:	First Baptist Archibald

**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...

As I finished reading one of my books that was gifted to me for Christmas last year, I ran across a thought that had never dawned on me before. A lot of times we read the Bible with our 20/20 hindsight and think how dumb were some of the Sadducees, Sanhedrin, scribes and Pharisees to not recognize Christ based on the scriptures in the old testament from the prophets and even the Torah itself. We know that Jesus spoke in parables so that the kingdom would be revealed to those "with eyes to see and ears to hear" and therefore it had been hidden from those religious leaders. However, this book I read brought out another interesting aspect.

We can make two mistakes when we come to scripture this way. First, we can make the mistake of thinking we are in some way better or farther developed in our understanding of prophecy and scriptures yet to be fulfilled within our lifetimes or the near future. We can presuppose an interpretation on signs and symbols then syncretize them with current events to where we become dogmatic about our understanding even to the point of unity and fellowship in the church suffering.

The second mistake we can make is to assume something closer to omniscience of the "rulers, … authorities, … cosmic powers over this present darkness, [and]... the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places." We tend to assume they knew as much as we do with 20/20 hindsight as when it was occurring in their midst. It is almost as if we see them as a helpless participant in the events leading up to and during the passion week of our Lord Jesus Christ. That is accurate that they are helpless in light of the omnipotence and providential plan of the One True God. However, they didn't think of themselves as such when the events were happening and it also reveals that they didn't understand what Christ came to do either.

Why do I bring this up when we approach Resurrection Sunday? It adds another aspect of why Jesus at points had his disciples keep quiet about him being Messiah, why Jesus would put demons on a NDA (non-disclosure agreement) when they would announce His identity. If they didn't know that the conquering king image of Messiah and suffering servant were one in the same, the spiritual forces of evil would never have worked towards killing Christ and crucifying Him on a cross. They would not have intentionally been a party to God's plan. Why did Satan tempt Jesus in the wilderness with offering to give the kingdoms of the world over to Jesus if he had known that Jesus' intent was to suffer and die? The spiritual forces of evil thought they were winning all the way up to the point of no return at the cross. That understanding draws an even sharper contrast between the events leading up to and during the passion week and the ultimate victory through the resurrection. Jesus' speaking of "on this rock I will build my church and the GATES of Hell will not prevail against it". Armies don't play offense with their GATES. Jesus was putting those forces on notice that His kingdom was coming for them. The transfiguration with Moses and Elijah who are usually assumed to just represent the Law and the Prophets but they also both came into direct conflict with those powers of spiritual darkness during their time related to mountaintop experiences.

The passion week of our Lord Jesus Christ was the climax of mounting tensions that erupted in spiritual warfare that week. When the adversary and their aligned powers had thought they quelled the onslaught of Jesus and his disciples, Jesus outflanked them at the cross.

- Jonathan C. Young

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