



# Richland Baptist Association Newsletter

March 2023

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

Winter has passed and Spring is upon us. There is a newness of life in the air. God's wonderful creation is on full display for all to see. For the Born Again Believer, it is confirmation that we serve an awesome God that created all things. For the atheist or skeptic that wonders if there is a God, it is evidence that not only is there a God but nature itself is a witness that can bring a non believer to belief in Christ. Is our witness one that will bring a non believer to the Saving Grace of our Lord? If not, let us repent and begin anew for our God is a God of new beginnings. Want evidence? Look at the dullness of winter burst into the beauty of the new beginning that Spring brings.

We are celebrating the coming of Spring with our Senior Saint Revival. It is going to be a time of singing, hearing the Word and fellowship. I want all of you Senior Saints to know that you are important and that you serve a vital role in our Lord's Kingdom. Please come gather with us as we celebrate you and your contributions to the Kingdom. The following dates and churches where we will come together are:

- Monday 20th of March at 10:30 First Delhi
- Tuesday 21st of March at 10:30 First Rayville
- Wednesday the 22nd of March at 10:30 First Archibald

We hold the revival in different areas so that it will not be too far to travel for those Senior Saints that don't drive far from home. However, you are welcome to attend all three days. My sincere gratitude to the church families that are hosting the revival.

We are in the process of planning an area wide Crusade. Please begin praying with us now that the Holy Spirit's Fire of Revival will come upon us as individuals, our church families and our communities within Richland Parish.

Next to my Lord, my wife and family, you are my greatest blessing. Thank you for allowing me to serve you as your Director of Missions.

Johnny

## Upcoming Events for the Month of March 2023

- Mar 4: KIDS MIN EXPO (VBS), FBC Haughton 8AM-3PM,  
**registration deadline February 28**
- Mar 5-12: Week of prayer for Annie Armstrong Offering
- Mar 12: Daylight Savings Time begins
- Mar 14: Pastor's Conference 11AM @ Big John's Rayville
- Mar 19: Church Planters Emphasis Day
- Mar 20: Senior Saint Revival @ First Delhi 10:30 AM
- Mar 21: Senior Saint Revival @ First Rayville 10:30 AM
- Mar 22: Senior Saint Revival @ First Archibald 10:30 AM
- Mar 25: Disaster Relief Training @ Temple Baptist Ruston
- Mar 26: Pulpit Exchange Sunday (for participating churches)
- Mar 31-Apr 1: RA Congress @ Tall Timbers Grades 1-6

## Upcoming Events for the Month of April 2023

- Apr 02: Personal Evangelism Commitment Sunday; District Bible Drill
- Apr 07: Good Friday
- Apr 09: Easter Sunday
- Apr 11: Pastor's Conference:  
Prayer at 10 @ Eastside; Lunch at 11 @ Big John's in Rayville
- Apr 16: Baptism Sunday
- Apr 21-22: Embrace Women's Conference @ First Baptist Natchitoches
- Apr 25: State Bible Drill @ Temple Baptist Ruston
- Apr 26: Administrative Professionals Day

[READ MORE ON OUR WEBSITE](#)

## Opportunities to Serve

- Pastor: Calvary Baptist Church  
First Baptist Archibald  
First Baptist Rayville
- Youth Minister: Alto Baptist  
First Baptist Archibald  
First Baptist Delhi
- Pianist: Zebedee Baptist (Volunteer)

*\*If you have a need in your church, please let us know and we will post it in the Monthly Newsletter.*

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# Something to Think About...

Last weekend I saw a film I had anticipated seeing called *Jesus Revolution*. The story is an adaptation of the book which is sort of Greg Laurie's testimony. His story is sort of a side plot though to the event that was happening culturally at the time.

In the early 70s, in their pursuit of truth and identity, the hippies' avenues for discovery were starting to leave them empty and dry and still wanting and yearning for something. A significant portion of these hippies started coming to Christ in droves and launched what was ultimately called the Jesus Movement. It marked one of the largest spiritual awakenings of the twentieth century. As we see the news and our social media feeds blow up with reports of the stirrings of another spiritual awakening on college campuses, it seems such a film and reflection are timely.

I was both amused and convicted by a scene in the movie. In the film, Kelsey Grammer plays the role of Chuck Smith as pastor of the then small and dying Calvary Chapel in Costa Mesa, California. He and his family are sitting watching the evening news as it speaks about the hippies and his character says I wish I could meet a hippie. However, he says this in a tone that suggests he would give them a piece of his mind and set them straight. The daughter, hearing this, sees a hitchhiking hippie the following day with Jesus painted on the back of his cape/poncho and sees this as an opportunity to grant her dad's wish.

Of course, the father is taken aback when he comes home and this strange man is in their house. He finds out his daughter brought the hippie there because of his mention of wanting to meet one. In an aside conversation, the father/pastor tells the daughter, "I didn't mean it."

I wonder how often that is true of us. We get on our ideological crusades of "somebody needs to do something and set them folks straight". Or perhaps our intentions are more noble and we think, "Those poor souls need the gospel or to get saved or to start living right." But when the rubber meets the road, do we actually mean it to the point that we would let God use us to be the instrument by which he does it.

James goes on to say it this way in **James 2:15-17**

*Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.*

Some of us may even go beyond just words and start to take action. Back when I was in seminary, I got to hear a person speak who dealt with a lot of the data and reporting from one of the major church management software providers and he spoke about life cycles of living organisms in a larger sense like churches and communities that churches find themselves in. He spoke of the tragedy of when the particular population of a community starts to decline and die off. The church in that community has spent decades pouring into that particular type of community but now it is changing. At some point, a new community is on the rise within the same geographical locale. The church must then decide whether they are going to relocate to where the community they are geared to reach is now or are they going to reconfigure to reach the community they now find themselves in the midst of. Sadly, after reviewing scores of data on churches, he said that less than 10% actually attempt to reach the new community. Of that small percentage even a smaller subset are actually successful for what amounts to the same "I didn't mean it." that the pastor in the movie gives voice to.

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