



Richland Baptist Association Newsletter

February 2025

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

February is known as the month of love. I must admit that there is one Love that amazes me and that I do not understand. That is the Love of God! I don't know why He loved me enough to send His Son, our Lord Jesus, to die for me but I am certainly glad that He did. God's Word says that we love Him because He first Loved us. Imagine the Creator of the universe and all things loving us enough that He chose us to be part of His Eternal Family. Praise God! that is all I can say. Let me ask you a question, Do you know the One that Loves you the most?

Several things will be taking place at your churches this month. Perhaps you will have a banquet celebrating each other but don't lose sight of the One who created you as you are and loves what He created.

Men, please remember the DRY BONES MEN'S CONFERENCE to be held at the Civic Center in Monroe, Jack Howard Center. It will be Friday February 7, 2025 and will begin at 6PM. It will continue on Saturday morning February 8, 2025 at 9AM. You can still order tickets. You can go to drybonesmensconference.org and join over 1,000 men Praising and Worshipping our Lord! It is going to be an awesome experience.

We have planned our Senior Saint Revival for our association. The dates are Monday March 24, 2025 through Wednesday March 26, 2025. Please begin now praying for the revival. There will be more forthcoming information as we finalize all of the logistics. This is always such a blessing for our Senior Saints from all of our churches.

I am so glad that our Lord has given me the privilege to serve as your Director of Missions. Serving and loving you is my greatest joy. I am praying that our Lord blesses each of you with all of the blessings from His storehouse.

Yours in Christ,

Johnny

Upcoming Events for the month of February 2025

- Feb. 03: Kid Min Retreat
Feb. 04: Kid Min Retreat
Feb. 07: DRY BONES MEN'S CONFERENCE 6PM @ Monroe Civic Center
Feb. 08: DRY BONES MEN'S CONFERENCE 6PM @ Monroe Civic Center
Feb. 07-08: Pause Retreat @ Tall Timbers, Woodworth
Feb. 13: Pastor's Conference 11AM @ Big John's Rayville
Feb. 20: The Forum @ Baptist Building, Alexandria

Upcoming Events for the month of March 2025

- Mar. 02-09: Week of Prayer Annie Armstrong Offering
Mar. 06: Kid's Min Expo @ FBC Pineville
Mar. 09: Church Bible Drill
Mar. 09: Daylight Savings Time Begins
Mar. 14-15: Teen Girl Retreat @ Clara Springs Pelican
Mar. 15: LCU (Louisiana Christian University) Preview Day
Mar. 22: The New Testament Deacon @ Baptist Building Alexandria
Mar. 24-26: Richland Association Senior Saint Revival
Mar. 28-29: EMBRACE WOMEN'S CONFERENCE @ FBC Haughton

[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
West New Home

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...

Remember back in grade school elementary days, when this time of the year would roll around, the teacher would ask you to bring in a shoebox or a large envelope. Then perhaps during a craft or art time you would take the opportunity to painstakingly decorate the outside of that box or envelope. Perhaps you would cover it in red or pink construction paper and then put little paper doilies or hearts all over the outside. Finally, you would have your name on it somewhere so people would know whose “mailbox” it was.

In the days thereafter, you would proceed to either make little individual cards or buy one of the store bought packs with a variety of the childhood characters and if you were a big spender perhaps even a red lollipop. After compiling your numerous messages and greetings and writing one out for each person in your class (because it wasn't right to leave anybody out), you would hopefully find an opportunity to spread the love and joy of those valentines by sticking them in your various classmates' boxes or envelopes.

When Valentine's Day finally came around, you were all abuzz with excitement not only for what you would find in your container, but also to see the reactions of your friends to the messages you had chosen for them whether sincere, serious, or silly. That anticipation of that reaction and the great surprise at what others may have given and delivered to you was almost too much. However, scripture reminds us of an even greater box of “valentines” that awaits some of us:

“But as it is written:

‘Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man

*The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.’ ” **1 Corinthians 2:9***

God has “valentines” in the form of blessings with which He wants to fill our hearts and minds. However, just like in my grade school example, we have to prepare our “mailbox” to receive them. I was reminded recently of The Parable of the Ten Virgins. We are told that 5 were wise and prepared themselves for it, possibly being late into the night when the bridegroom arrived to take their betrothed into their household. However, the other 5 were foolish and didn't prepare or plan ahead and they missed the whole blessed event. So first, we need to make sure we are prepared. *Give me oil in my lamp, keep me burning...*

Unlike the wise virgins, we have the opportunity to share what we have so that others are prepared when that great day comes. Just like with those valentines of old, we need to be about the mission of delivering God's message of love and forgiveness for sin that is available to everyone in this class called life with us. We need to make sure other classrooms in our school and children in neighboring and far off schools are also getting the message of God's great invitation to be loved by Him. That's a rough analogy for evangelism and discipleship. Keith Green said it well in *When I Hear the Praises Start*, how God “wrote him a song”:

*“For when I hear the praises start, I want to rain upon you
Blessings that will fill your heart, I see no stain upon you
Because you are my child and you know me, To Me you're only holy
Nothing that you've done remains, Only what you do for Me”*

- Jonathan C. Young

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