



# Richland Baptist Association Newsletter

November 2024

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

The month of November is a month of three important events in the life of our nation. On November 5, 2024 we have the right and the privilege to vote for many political positions and various amendments or things that pertain to our specific area. I want to encourage each of you to pray prior to voting and to cast your ballot as our Lord instructed you.

Secondly, we have the joy of honoring our veterans that served our country. We thank God for the ladies and men that sacrificed their time away from their families and even their country to keep us safe and to defend freedom wherever they were ordered to go. Remember them and tell them thank you on Monday November 11, 2024.

Finally, there is the day that we as a country have set aside for a national day of thanksgiving. When you and your family come together on this special day, take time out to count your blessings and thank our Heavenly Father for His Mercy and Grace towards us. I pray that you and your family have a wonderful day together.

May I make a suggestion to you? If you know a widow or widower that is alone, think about asking them to join you for your Thanksgiving meal. If you know of a single mom that is experiencing a difficult time making ends meet, help her out by providing a meal for her and her family. Part of being thankful is being Jesus to someone else. It will certainly bless them but you will receive the greatest blessing.

About a Special Blessing; you are mine. I thank our Lord for giving me the privilege and joy of serving you as your Director of Missions.

I pray our Lord's greatest blessing upon each of you, your families and your church families.

Yours in Christ,

Johnny

## Upcoming Events for the month of November 2024

- Nov 03: Daylight Saving Time Ends (Fall Back)
- Nov. 03-09: Richland Association Chainsaw Team to Swainsboro, Georgia
- 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

## Upcoming Events for the month of December 2024

- Dec. 01-08: Lottie Moon Christmas and International Missions Offering
- Dec. 06: Pastor/Wives and Staff/Wives or Husbands Christmas Party  
6:00 PM at Eastside Baptist Church Fellowship Hall
- Dec. 23-26 Office Closed
- Dec. 25: Christmas Day (Merry Christmas)

[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  
West New Home

Part-Time Youth Minister: First Baptist Archibald

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*\*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...

I had a dream the other night that got me thinking and the Lord had some things running through my head related to it. I couldn't quite figure out why but in the early hours of the morning I woke up and the many disparate thoughts started to come together into what you are now reading.

In this dream, I was preaching with urgency and fervor in what to the best I can recall was one of our local association's churches. (No, I ain't gonna name names, because that isn't pertinent to the story and it isn't important to the rest.) I could tell it was a dream because I was really laying it down heavily and bringing the fire. (You pastors know what you sometimes are wont to do but are concerned with how it would be received/"biting the hand that feeds" in a manner of speaking.) In the dream, I had the expected reaction of anger and vitriol from the congregation to where they nearly ran me out on a rail almost like that scene from *O Brother, Where Art Thou* at the political rally.

I awoke from that dream wondering "Lord, do I need to preach that sermon?" and instead of being plugged in at my local church in the praise team and Sunday School do I need to go back on the local circuit of supplying. In a somewhat Gideon's fleece moment, I wondered if I would end up with that particular church as first on the docket and thought "What passage of scripture would You have me preach from?". I was led to **Jeremiah 2:13**:

*"For My people have committed a double evil:  
They have abandoned Me, the fountain of living water,  
and dug cisterns for themselves, cracked cisterns that cannot hold water."*

Well, now I know why the folks in my dream had been in an uproar! However, I just set these thoughts on the warming eye on the stove of ideas in my head to let it simmer down and see whether there was more to this. In the meantime, I was watching a YouTuber that I watch from time to time that brings scripture to bear on current events in a podcast sort of format and he was reacting to a video of a musician on the fringes of "Christian" that was in an interview talking about the abortion issue. The YouTuber had one of the more fired-up and upset reactions to the interview that I have ever seen. Why? Because this musician being interviewed tried to equate his wife having a procedure following a miscarriage with the types of procedures that wouldn't be allowed if the "pro-lifers" had their way. The YouTuber then went into a whole dialogue about how things keep being misrepresented with overreaction and exaggeration to misconstrue and miscategorize the truth as far as Christians. It ultimately culminated for me in the sharing of the verse in **Isaiah 5:20** where it states, "*Woe to those who call evil good and good evil,*" and I also thought of that familiar part starting in **Romans 1:18** where it says, "*For God's wrath is revealed from heaven against all godlessness and unrighteousness of people who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth,*".

We are at a pivotal point in our history, a winnowing of sorts, to where the true **disciples** of Christ are going to get it from both sides: from the heathen that are just pawns of the powers and principalities and rulers of this present darkness, and from the lukewarm "Christians" that fill portions of our churches that have been serenaded into "*calling evil good and good evil*" from years upon years of drawing their own substandard version of the water of life from "*cracked cisterns that cannot hold water*". Paul warned us of this in his letter to the young apprentice in ministry, Timothy when he said, "*For the time will come when they will not tolerate sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, will multiply teachers for themselves because they have an itch to hear something new.*"

Apologies for such a harsh word just before the holidays but if we aren't careful we do a little of that flip-flopping good for evil in the manners in which we observe some of the upcoming "holy-days" too.

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Richland Baptist Association

(318) 303-7626

102 Horn Rd,

Rayville, LA 71269, USA

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