



# Richland Baptist Association Newsletter

April 2024

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

I want to thank our Sheriff Gary Gilley, Chief Deputy Neal Harwell and their wonderful staff for providing a great meal each day of the Senior Saint Revival. If you get an opportunity to thank them individually, I ask that you please let them know what a wonderful blessing they are to us. Along those lines, the Senior Day At The Lake will be May 3, 2024 at Poverty Point Reservoir. The hours will be from 10AM through 1PM. There will be Music, Food and Door Prizes. This is for all Seniors. Invite your friends and enjoy the Day At The Lake.

I also want to thank Brother Bernard Duchesne, the church family of Duun Baptist Church, Brother Charles Ellzey, the church family of Woodlawn Baptist Church and Brother Caleb Parks and the church family of Cedar Baptist church for their gracious hospitality as they hosted our Senior Saint Revival. I pray that all of you were blessed and are already looking forward to next year when we once again will have our Senior Saint Revival.

April is the month of Disaster Relief Training. On Friday April 12, 2024 and Saturday April 13, 2024 at Temple Baptist Church in Ruston, many areas of Disaster Relief Training will be offered. You may contact me or the association office and we can share with you the different training that will be offered and what is required for you to attend the training. There is something for everyone to do. I encourage you to pray about serving in this much needed group. Seniors, this is an ideal opportunity for you to serve.

Please check out the calendar of events. I encourage you to participate alongside us as we serve our Lord together.

Pray for our Mission Team as they prepare to travel to Honduras to share the Love of Christ to people that really need to experience Christ in their lives.

My Lord blessed me beyond measure when He allowed me to serve you. What a joy and privilege it is to be your Director of Missions. I love you all and pray continuously for each of you.

Yours in Christ,

Johnny

## Upcoming Events for the month of April 2024

- Apr. 07: Baptism Sunday  
District Bible Drill
- Apr. 11: Pastor/Staff Conference and Lunch @ Big John's
- Apr. 12-13: Disaster Relief Training @ Temple Baptist Ruston
- Apr. 13: Seminary Day @ Deer Creek Missions Office Winnsboro
- Apr. 19-20: Embrace Women's Conference @ First Baptist New Orleans
- Apr. 22-25: Affirmed and Encouraged Regional Conference
- Apr. 20: Greenhouse Workshop for Church Planting
- Apr. 23: State Bible Drill
- Apr. 24: Administrative Professionals Day
- Apr. 25: State Bible Drill
- Apr. 27: State Bible Drill

## Upcoming Events for the month of May 2024

- May 02: National Day of Prayer
- May 03: Senior Adult Day at the Lake (Hosted by the Sheriff's Dept)
- May 09: Pastor/Staff Conference @ Big John's 11AM
- May 12: Mother's Day
- May 18: M-Jam @ First Community Antioch, Lucher
- May 27: Memorial Day

## Upcoming Events for the month of June 2024

- June 02: Disaster Relief Sunday: Chainsaw Ministry Offering
- June 03-06: Kid's Camp 1 - Tall Timbers
- June 10-13: Kid's Camp 2 - Tall Timbers
- June 11-12: Southern Baptist Convention, Indianapolis, IN
- June 16: Father's Day
- June 20-22: Breakaway Youth Camp 1 - Tall Timbers
- June 24-28: Breakaway Youth Camp 2 - Tall Timbers

*Due to the Summer Camps and the Southern Baptist Convention, there will not be a Pastor/Staff Conference this month.\**

[READ MORE ON OUR WEBSITE](#)

# Opportunities to Serve

Pastor: Bethel Baptist  
Lone Cherry Baptist  
Newton Baptist  
Westside Baptist

Pianist: Westside Baptist  
Zebedee Baptist

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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...

For this month, my mind has been “abuzz” with three different “bees in my bonnet” so this month’s article may come across as a little scattered but here goes.

Earlier in the month I actually heard a name given to the 80/20 concept (The principle that 80% of your outcomes come from 20% of your inputs.) We typically give this a negative bent when it comes to church life by saying “20% of the church does 80% of the work” but that is not entirely a fair application of this observation of a distribution within a group or organization. We like to think that the world is gonna be even and equal but even a “normal” distribution (think the old schoolhouse Bell curve) admits that only the majority is average and still acknowledges outliers and exceptions on the well-below and well-above average ends of the distribution. Just a few spots from scripture to consider of whether they lean towards the idea of an 80/20 or a “normal” bell curve:

- Jesus’ special three (Peter, James, and John) of the 12 apostles
- The multiple parables of talents/denarii/sower (1/5/10; 1/2/5; good seed produces 100x/60x/30x sown)
- The calling of the first deacons because of the burden of ministry

Too often we take a shotgun scatter approach of casting the net super wide but missing out on the aspect of Jesus’ ministry where He went deep with only a smaller subset of his disciples. Pastor, you may be responsible for the whole flock but there are not enough hours in the day to wait hand & foot on every sheep or lamb entrusted to you.

The second thing that wouldn’t let me go lately is the difference between being disciplined in pursuit of a goal and being consistent in following a path. Too often discipline is seen as being your own taskmaster, hard on yourself, and unforgiving for the slightest shortcoming because you have to be disciplined and exercise that strong willpower to achieve. We have all felt the guilt and shame of failed resolutions and ambitious goals left in the dust thinking that we “just didn’t have what it takes”. I am not sure that is the picture of sanctification and discipleship we see pictured in the Bible. Instead, we come across words like steadfast, longsuffering, patient endurance, and how they blend and interact with the concept of grace and mercy. Consistency seems a better fit. Finding steps in the path of obedience we can regularly and repeatedly take in following Jesus and as we keep on keeping on, those steps can become larger, stronger, and swifter. I seem to remember something about the faith of a mustard seed moving a mountain.

Parting thought: “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Pray that the Lord of the harvest will send workers.” I know many are praying but are we doing things to train and prepare those workers or are we just assuming they will know what to do when they get there? Case in point: many pastors out there first cut their teeth in sermon preparation and delivery by preaching at a Sunday evening service as a youth. If there aren’t any Sunday PM services, where are potential preachers learning to preach?

- Jonathan Young

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Richland Baptist Association

(318) 303-7626  
102 Horn Rd,  
Rayville, LA 71269, USA

