



Richland Baptist Association Newsletter

March 2024

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

I love the poem "It's Friday but Sunday's Coming". What a powerful message. It's Friday and all hope is lost, hearts are broken and there is doubt and fear in the minds of His followers. OH BUT PRAISE GOD! Sunday is coming!

Several years ago, my church family in Epps gave me a gift that impacted my life and ministry forever. They paid for me to go on a twelve (12) day mission trip to Israel. While I was there, I walked where our Master walked, was baptized in the Jordan River, followed the footsteps of Jesus on the Thursday evening and Friday that he was tried and crucified. Praise God that was not the end of the story. I entered the tomb where they laid our Lord and it was empty! As I turned to leave the tomb, there was an inscription; He is not here for He has risen! He's ALIVE! He's ALIVE! Praise God He arose to prove the promise that if we accepted him as our Savior, believed in the only Begotten Son, that we would have eternal life. Our Lord is ALIVE and WELL! Because He Lives, we LIVE! Go and tell those around you about our Living Lord and Savior!

I ask you to pray for and share the word about our Senior Saint revival in March. It will be held on Monday March 18 at Dunn Baptist, Tuesday March 19 at Woodlawn Baptist and conclude on Wednesday March 20 at Cedar Baptist. We will start our services each day at 10:30 AM. We are blessed to have our Sheriff and his staff provide fish for us each day for lunch. Please be certain to thank Sheriff Gilley, Chief Deputy Neal Harwell and any of the Deputy Sheriffs that you meet for all that they do for us.

Begin praying now for our Simultaneous Revival in October. Pray also for our churches without pastors that God will send someone to love, lead and pastor them. Presently we have four (4) churches without pastors.

God has blessed me beyond measure by allowing me the privilege to serve you as your Director of Missions. Each of you have been such an asset to our Lord's Kingdom and His work in the Richland Association. I look forward to all the things that our Lord has in store for each church family and our association in the future. I love all of you!

Yours in Christ,

Johnny

Upcoming Events for the month of March 2024

- Mar. 01-02 Richland's Men's Retreat @ Ranch Place
- Mar. 02: KidMin EXPO
- Mar. 03-10: Week of Prayer for Annie Armstrong Offering
- Mar. 07: Pastor/Staff Conference @ Big John's 11AM
- Mar. 10: Church Bible Drill
- Mar. 15-16: Teen Girl Retreat @ Clara Springs Encampment
- Mar. 18-20: Richland Association Senior Saint Revival
- Mar. 22-23: RA Congress @ Tall Timbers
- Mar. 23: The New Testament Deacon @ LBC Building
- Mar. 24: Palm Sunday
- Mar. 29: Nailing Service @ First Delhi 6PM (Special Service)
Good Friday
- Mar. 31: Sunrise Service at the Cross 7:30AM
Easter Sunday HE AROSE!

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

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Opportunities to Serve

Pastor: Bethel Baptist
Lone Cherry Baptist
Newton Baptist
Westside Baptist

Pianist: Westside Baptist
Zebedee Baptist

**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...

Sometimes “Just the Facts” (as Joe Friday used to say) are more compelling and powerful than the legend and myth and superstition that rises around figures and events in the past. I say this in reference to a particular minor holiday that comes in March or that of St. Patrick’s Day. The actual historical figure’s writings never make mention of shamrocks, snakes, or druids. He never mentions founding or building church sites (modern day vernacular: church-planting). In fact, he only ever mentions one place name and it is associated with the western coast on the Atlantic Ocean rather than the typically ascribed later Ulster Irish (Scotch-Irish) provinces of the Northeast.

What do we truly know about this historical figure that is compelling? Pádraig (Patrick) was a man of Roman British lineage who was captured and taken as a slave to the western part of Ireland in and around the 5th century AD. He spent 6 years enslaved before he escaped and made his way back home. He then went on to be trained in the work of church ministry. After many years, he left Britain and returned to Ireland as a missionary. HE RETURNED AS A MISSIONARY TO THE PEOPLE THAT ENSLAVED HIM!

That is some powerful stuff. The deeper you go, the better it gets. These people he felt compelled to minister to were considered pagan barbarians by the norms of society during the times in which he lived. It was very unorthodox to wish to minister to these people. They were considered outside the fringes of the Roman Empire so if a 5th century typical “Christian” even thought of them, they would have considered it incomprehensible to want to take the gospel to these barbarians across the sea. Beyond that, Patrick had already been enslaved and treated badly by these people so he should have had even less desire than most.

Isn’t that just the way with Christ’s love? It seems against the flow and out of step with the “logic” of this world. And it is because the flow and common thinking of this world has been bent, twisted, and broken by sin. But the power of God’s love in a person’s life can make a Joseph endure great injustices and atrocities and even when they would have what most would consider the “upper hand” of vengeance on his enslavers, choose to extend mercy and grace from a heart of compassion. We need more Josephs and Patricks in a world where the increase of wickedness is making the love of most grow cold.

- Jonathan Young

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