



Richland Baptist Association Newsletter

August 2025

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

Summer vacation for all of the students is rapidly coming to a close and school will be starting soon. We will begin a new Church Year next month. Exciting days lie ahead of us as we plan, schedule events and prepare for all the Blessings and Wonderful things that our Lord has planned for us.

As this church year comes to a close, let us pause and reflect on GOD'S Grace and Mercy that he has provided, as well as the many Blessings he has bestowed upon us as individuals and as a church family. We serve a Good Good Father that loves us in spite of ourselves. I pray that we have learned from the past and place those lessons in place as we move ahead in the coming year.

I want to thank all of you for your service to our Master and Father. There were good results from the various Vacation Bible Schools, Summer Camps and all other events that were conducted for our children and youth. Thank you for reaching out to our next generation and teaching them about the Lord. You have impacted their lives more than you will ever know.

There are several things that are going on within our churches. I want to encourage you to come together and support each other during these events. Ladies, there is an event especially planned for you at First Baptist Delhi on Saturday August 30, 2025 entitled, "Beautifully Bold", beginning at 10AM. The speaker will be Shellie Rushing Tomlinson and the MBC Ladies of Praise will be providing the music. As of the publishing of this, the registration is full (around 200 ladies signed up).. If you have any questions, please call (318) 282-1403 for information.

The META ministry is growing and we are developing some very important relationships with the supervisors and employees. They are really enjoying the meal that our church families are providing on a monthly basis. They look forward to what is prepared for them each time. I have heard wonderful comments from the companies thanking us for welcoming them into our area. Please pray for this ministry as our Lord has given us a once in a lifetime gift to reach so many people within our area for Him. Please support all of the efforts that we have planned to expand the ministry. Always remember that this ministry is not about us but all about our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

You are one of my greatest blessings. I am continuing to pray for all of you and your specific mission that our Lord has given you.

Yours in Christ,

Johnny

Upcoming Events for the month of August 2025

Aug	01 -02:	Eastside Baptist VBS
Aug.	03:	Send Relief Sunday
Aug.	11:	Dunn Baptist Feeds the META employees
Aug.	11-12:	Remind Pastor's Conference @ Redemption Church, Lecombe
Aug.	14:	Pastors' Conference @ Big John's 11 AM
Aug.	24:	Global Hunger Sunday
Aug.	30:	"Beautifully Bold" Women's Conference @ FBC Delhi 10AM

Upcoming Events for the month of September 2025

Sep.	01	Labor Day (Office Closed)
Sep.	05-06:	RA Survivor Man @ ABC Camp Eunice
Sep:	05-07:	Champion Camp @ Tall Timbers
Sep.	08:	Amazing Grace Feeds the META employees
Sep.	7-14:	Georgia Barnett Offering Week of Prayer
Sep.	11:	Pastors' Conference at Big John's / Rayville 11AM
Sep.	14:	Children's Baptism Sunday
Sep.	20:	Children's Mission Day
Sep.	26-27:	RA Camp-O-Ree @ Camp Harris

[READ MORE ON OUR WEBSITE](#)

Opportunities to Serve

Please join me in praying for our sister church that is 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: Lone Cherry

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...

I saw an interesting definition of a broad classification of how the current upcoming generations are having their values shaped. They called those values “algorithmic values”. Algorithmic values are values or expectations that “are shaped by systems and platforms that reward *perceived authenticity, viral content, and instant feedback.*” Before you get too bogged down in that mathy sounding term of algorithm, just know at its heart it is a word that means a set of steps or procedure for solving a problem. It can be mathematical in nature but it doesn’t have to be. Within our social media and tech-driven world, that definition has mutated into the “magical” things that happen behind the scenes to make _____ [Siri, Alexa, A.I., Google, etc.] give you the results you want.

Values are shaped by being rewarded (translate: happy brain chemical hit!) for certain inputs. For my prior generation scholars this is the digital reenvisioning of Skinner’s behaviorism. People are becoming little more than “Pavlov’s dog” salivating whenever the next buzz or notification comes across like so many bell rings! This is the enemy and antithesis of the meditation, slowing, and prayer aspects of a life of devotion and discipleship. We have to break the cycle of where this is headed if it is not already too late (Nothing is impossible with our God!). But let’s take a closer look at the rewarded inputs.

“Perceived authenticity” refers to how genuine or real something appears to be, even if it may not actually be so. This is an attack on knowledge and the very ability to know. Notice it is based on how something appears to be. This is the mutated outgrowth of postmodern elevation of the personal experience. What I think or perceive as a source for authenticity is pretty shaky ground these days with the ever more convincing deep fakes and AI generated fantasies. Scripture sufficiently spoke to this millenia prior: **The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it? Jeremiah 17:9**

“Viral content” gains rapid traction in a short time due to high engagement. Something is considered viral when it receives a significant number of views, likes, shares and comments. **Proverbs 14:12 and 16:25** bridge the space between the deceptiveness of our own heart in Jeremiah and Jesus’s words in **Matthew 7:13-14** **“Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.”**

“Instant feedback”, also known as immediate or real-time feedback, is providing feedback to someone right after they’ve completed a task or made a decision. A cursory search of the word “instant” in the ESV Bible reveals only three instances and they are all in reference to when a healing by Jesus occurred regarding a miracle. The word “immediate” is a little more complicated because it almost always refers to the timing of just actions as a connecting word like “then”. It is also used for the timing of a healing in Jesus’s miracles. But when it comes to feedback from a decision, or task, the principle of patient endurance is highlighted through analogies of growing a crop to harvest, building something that takes time, or even the concept of wages paid. None of which are instant.

This leads me to the closing thought of how much “algorithmic values” seem to sound like **2 Timothy 4:3-4** where it states, **“For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.”**

- Jonathan C. Young

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