



# Richland Baptist Association Newsletter

February 2022

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

The world recognizes the month of February as the “Month of Love.” Valentine's Day will be celebrated by school children and adults. There is a lot to be said about love. God’s Word tells us that the world will know that we are His people by the way that we love one another. Do you truly love your Brother or Sister in Christ? We aren’t asked if we want to love them but we are commanded to love them. We should love each other deeply because we are an eternal family. We will be together forever so we must truly love one another.

It is easy to love those that are in our family. Do you love the lost souls of the world? Do you see them as Jesus does, a people without a shepherd; someone that loves them wherever in life they are. Jesus loved us enough that when we were lost and had no hope, He died for us. I guess that we should see every month as a month of love. Ask yourself this question: Do I love like my Father and Master love? If not, the world will not know that you are a child of God. They will know that we are Christians by our love!

There are several things that are coming up. Please make sure to look at the calendar of events. Especially set aside time for the Senior Adult Revival March 21-23. Also check out the dates of the Disaster Relief Training at Temple Baptist, Ruston.

As always, I thank God for allowing me the privilege and honor of serving you. I love you all and pray God’s greatest blessing upon each of you.

Johnny

## Upcoming Events for the Month of February

- February 06: Church Planting, Evangelism, and Missions Sunday
- February 08: Pastors' Conference (lunch at Big John's at 11AM)
- February 18: The FORUM - TBD
- February 20: Focus on WMU
- February 21-22: Kid Minister Retreat - TBD
- February 25-26: Disaster Relief Training @ Temple Baptist Church, Ruston
- Friday: Chaplain 8:30 - 5 PM (You do not have to be a pastor to be a Chaplain)
- Saturday: Chainsaw/Blue tarp, Mudout/Ashout, Shower/Laundry Assessor (Must have 2 deployments in mudout or chainsaw) OSFA (8:30 - 4PM)

**I encourage each of you to be involved in Disaster Relief. You will receive great blessings while you bless others.**

## Upcoming Events for the Month of March

- March 05: KIDMIN EXPO (VBS Preview @ First Baptist Haughton)
- March 06-13: Week of Prayer for Annie Armstrong Easter Offering
- March 08: Pastor's Conference 11AM @ Big John's
- March 21-23: Senior Saint Revival 10:30 AM: FOR ALL SENIOR ADULTS  
Evangelist: Tim Post  
Monday: Dunn Baptist Church  
Tuesday: First Baptist Rayville  
Wednesday: Mangham Baptist Church

Lunch will be provided each day by our Sheriff and his staff. They have graciously agreed to serve fried fish and all of the trimmings each day. If you see Sheriff Gilley, let him know how much you appreciate him and his staff. They are a blessing to us all.

[READ MORE ON OUR WEBSITE](#)

# Opportunities to Serve

Pastor: Calvary Baptist Church  
Cedar Baptist Church  
Newton Baptist Church

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.*

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## Something to Think About...

*"...You strain out a gnat but swallow a camel."*

- **Matthew 23:24b**

Friends, how often do we find ourselves getting bogged down in the weeds and hyperfocusing on a detail to the exclusion or missing of the big picture. It is such a common thing in our day and age and culture that we have a ton of sayings and colloquialisms for it:

- Can't see the forest for the trees
- Making a mountain out of a molehill
- Missing the big picture
- Majoring on the minors and Minor on the Majors
- Too busy chopping wood to sharpen the ax

Our Lord accused the Pharisees and Teachers of the Law of the same thing in the above-referenced verse. Unfortunately, more times than not we are more akin to those religious ancestors than we like to admit. Just for example, everyone reading this has probably either been through, heard about another church, or may currently be experiencing some variant of "worship wars". When these conflicts flare up, doctrines and positions are taken up with all the dogmatic fervor of a historical church council. However, when we look at scripture, our Lord Jesus had **tons** to say regarding "worship" and its various related words in scripture. But most "worship wars" are about musical styles and words for "music" in relation to Jesus only pop-up twice:

- The older brother notices that the prodigal has returned due to the sound of "music" and celebration.
- Jesus and the disciples sang a hymn before departing from the Last Supper (NOTE: this hymn was probably from one of the Psalms 113-118 or 136 (a group of Psalms the Jews call "The Great Hallel" or Praise to the Lord psalms/songs/hymns).

Let's make sure that we are continuing to "MAKE THE MAIN THING THE MAIN THING"

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