



# Richland Baptist Association Newsletter

July 2026

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

HAPPY 250TH BIRTHDAY UNITED STATES OF AMERICA! What a great milestone in our history as a nation. Our Lord has greatly blessed us to be the Greatest Nation in the World. Throughout my many travels while serving in the military and serving on mission trips as a pastor, I have witnessed first hand just how great and wonderful our nation really is and how much our Lord has blessed us. Yes we have many different trials and threats that we have faced and are still facing but God has raised up a nation of people that have been a shining light to those that have left their country to come to ours because of seeking a better life for their family and freedoms that they did not have in their country. I pray that all of us celebrate the gift that GOD has given us by being an American.

I want to thank everyone that received our Association's Disaster Relief Annual Offering. Your faithfulness in giving to this offering has allowed us to expand our ability to serve those in need at a moment when it seems no one cares for them. Each of you are a part of this wonderful God commissioned ministry. Because of your blessing, we started this ministry and because of your faithfulness, this ministry will continue.

As you continue your summer activities within your church, if you will let us know what you have planned and you would like for us to inform your sister churches of the activity, we will be more than happy to share the information.

The Vacation Bible Schools that have already been conducted were very successful in reaching the children and families within each church's mission field. We are continuing to pray for those of you that have yet to conduct your VBS. I pray that our Lord will open the hearts of the children that attend and the parents that send them to the life changing Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. Do not forget that the most important thing to do is follow up on the children that attended your VBS and make contact with the parents. You have planted the seed and that is what our Lord expected of you; however, follow up to see what kind of soil the seed fell upon. I pray the Lord increases your family and that you see great things happen in your future of serving our Lord.

On the first day of June, I began my eighth year of serving as your DOM. What a joy and privilege you and our Lord has given me. I look forward to what Christ has in store for His Bride and our Association. From the bottom of my heart, thank you for allowing me to be your DOM.

Yours in Christ,

Johnny

## Upcoming Events for the month of July 2026

- Jul 04: America's 250th Birthday
- Jul 07-10: Kid's Camp 2 @ Tall Timbers
- Jul 09: Pastor's Conference @ Big John's Rayville 11AM
- Jul 13-14: School Chaplain Training @ First Delhi 8:00AM - 4:30PM
- Jul 14-17: Kid's Camp 3 @ Tall Timbers
- Jul 20-23: Children's Mission Camp @ Tall Timbers
- Jul 20-24: Start Baptist VBS 8:AM-12:00PM Pre-K4-6th Grade
- Jul 24-26: Children's Mission Adventure Camp @ Tall Timbers

## Upcoming Events for the month of August 2026

- Aug 02: Dry Bones Men's Conference @ North Monroe Baptist Church
- Aug 02: Send Relief Sunday
- Aug 08: REGROUP, North @ Temple Baptist Ruston
- Aug 09: Serve Sunday
- Aug 13: Pastor's Conference @ Big John's Rayville 11AM
- Aug 21-22: Serve Tour Monroe, LA
- Aug 23: Global Hunger Sunday

[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  
Lone Cherry  
Westside (We welcome Brother Steven Lee, Interim Pastor)

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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...

With the start of July, we tend to start to think of the summer as “half” over. It got me to thinking about that word half. Of course, there is the classic seeing a glass as half full (optimist) or half empty (pessimist) or take your pick of numerous humorous ways of finishing out the statement (I was always partial to “Who drank half my glass!?!”). However, it made me wonder how the word “half” is used in scripture and how that could inform our perspective at the midpoint of the summer.

Half is used both literally and symbolically throughout the scriptures a meager just over 100 times depending on what concordance and translation version you are using. When used, “half” can signify division (ahh, math in summertime), sharing, and a portion of something larger in the noun sense. Even among those usages the general tone can be a negative, a positive, or just somewhere in the middle. The positivity or negativity of a half can also be a matter of your perspective.

Let’s start with the last usage first or “a portion of something larger”. So many times without fail, this is referring to what a person thinks they are owed or due to receive like an inheritance. I think of one particular instance in Luke 15 (although the word “half” never appears here) when the younger son asks his portion of the larger estate starting with his request in verse 12. Technically, since the older or firstborn of two was entitled to a double portion by Jewish law, the younger brother would have only received a third. While we are talking math, if the younger brother received another third of the 2/3rds that was left after squandering the first third, the younger brother would have received more than HALF at 5/9ths of the estate. Kinda makes me wonder if this was not part of the concern of the older brother when the younger was welcomed back so graciously by the Father.

That flows right into the second usage of “sharing”. Those that have already gone through VBS earlier in the summer and worked with the children know the constant struggle to encourage children to share. Here’s a not-so-grand revelation: People don’t get any better about sharing when they are older either (and I am not just talking about children). The objects we refuse to share may change but that selfish old sinful nature remains hanging around. One of the things that “grown-ups” are reluctant or unwilling to share is THEIR FAITH. We are down right selfish about our witness or testimony. NUNH-UNH, Gonna keep all that Jesus gave me to myself. God forgive us and stir us to SHARE.

When it comes to division, we tend to think of this negatively. Some of that is because of the large amount of division we find in our world. However, the day is coming when the last division will occur. The dividing of sheep from goats following the division of the last days into a time, times, and half a time. We will never be satisfied with a HALF-hearted discipleship.

- Jonathan C. Young

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Richland Baptist Association

(318) 303-7626

102 Horn Rd,

Rayville, LA 71269, USA

