Richland Baptist Association Newsletter

May 2026

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

May is the designated month that we receive our Association Chainsaw Ministry Offering. Due to the extensive damage caused by the winter ice storm throughout our area, we have expended our budget. I personally ask that you pray and contribute whatever the Lord has laid on your heart. Our men worked tirelessly and spent many hours assisting folks throughout our area and beyond in their hour of need. Even as I write this newsletter, we are still actively working to complete the many work requests that we received from the storm damage.

This is the month of celebration as our high school and college seniors will be graduating their prospective schools. I want to send out a well done and a hearty congratulations to them all. Please continue to pray for them and their families as they pursue whatever future our Lord leads them toward.

May is also the month where Vacation Bible Schools will be kicking off. I want to thank all of you that will be conducting VBS this year. It truly is the most evangelistic event that you will hold as it will minister to the children that attend and their families. Let us all be in prayer for and support one another's Vacation Bible Schools.

Because of all of the different activities that will be taking place with summer camps, church trips and the like, we will minimize the association events to allow everyone to focus on their church family and their individual families. However, if we can assist you in any way, please do not hesitate to call on us.

Please be in prayer for a Mission Team from Richland Baptist Association that will be traveling and ministering to people in Honduras. They will be gone from May 22, 2026 through May 29, 2026.

All of us at your Missions Office want to wish a very Happy Mother's Day to all of our ladies. Even though you may not have given birth to a child, our Lord has blessed you in that all of your church children are yours to love and guide toward Christ. Thank all of you for your faithfulness.

As always, thank you for the privilege and honor to be your Director of Missions.

Yours in Christ,

Johnny

Upcoming Events for the month of May 2026

May	03:	Seminary Sunday
May	07:	National Day of Prayer
May	14:	Pastors' Conference @ Big John's at 11AM
May	17:	Children's Ministry Sunday
May	22-29:	RBA Team Mission Trip to Honduras
May	25:	Memorial Day
May	31:	Disaster Relief Sunday (Chainsaw Ministry Offering)

Upcoming Events for the month of June 2026

Jun	1-6:	Breakaway Camp 1 @ Tall Timbers
Jun	8-12:	BreakawayCamp 2 @ Tall Timbers
Jun	15-19:	Breakaway Camp 3 @ Tall Timbers
Jun	21:	Father's Day
Jun	25-27:	Breakaway Camp 4 @ Tall Timbers
Jun	28:	Mission Dignity Sunday
Jun	29-Jul 02:	Kid's Camp 1 @ Tall Timbers

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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

**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...

"Some fights are lost even though we win. A bulldog can whip a skunk, but it just isn't worth it."

- Vance Havner

I have always gotten a chuckle when I think about that old quote from Vance Havner. It is one of those quotes that makes you grin and think “yep” and not give it a second thought. However, I wonder how many times in my stubborn, selfish, sinful will, I have won a lot of these “skunk matchups”. Times when you are so headstrong that you have to be right and it has to be done your way that the collateral damage makes the victory meaningless in the end. I think the temperature of our social world (whether digital or not) recently has made a lot more of these fights recurring.

For example, perhaps you spent a good bit of your time advocating for someone or something that you felt was aligned with your core beliefs and ideals. You fight the uphill battle and even become a key player when it comes to that particular moment or movement. But once the election is over, the contract is signed, the idea is resisted or received, you find out that you were sold a false bill of goods. It is almost as if that person or thing saw you coming and now you are stuck being known for advocating for a fraud or worse something that begins to align virtuous things with things profane. You find yourself defending something you are disillusioned with because you don’t want to lose credibility with your circle of friends, peers, and acquaintances. It’s then you smell the reward for your victory.

Beyond the personal level, how often do we do things as a church, christian organization, or align ourselves with what we assume is well-meaning only to find we are in a no win situation of bringing tarnish to the name of Jesus through our associations? Our adversary just loves to get us in that place because at best we lose a bit of integrity by saying we backed the wrong horse and at worst we turn folks away from Christ by continuing to stay true to things that are not true to what they told us.

Here are a few warnings from scripture to help us in this regard:

Proverbs 26:17: Compares interfering in others' quarrels to grabbing a dog by the ears, trapping us in conflict.

1 Timothy 5:22: Advises caution in public endorsement to avoid sharing in sin.

1 Corinthians 15:33: “bad company corrupts good character”

Romans 12:18: "If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone".

Titus 3:9: "But avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and arguments and quarrels about the law, because these are unprofitable and useless"

"When the Lord's white sheep become dirty gray, all black sheep feel more comfortable."

-Vance Havner

- Jonathan C. Young

Richland Baptist Association

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