

Richland Baptist Association Newsletter

March 2021

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

Last month we received a double whammy. Not only did we still face the continuing pandemic but then came the storm and what a storm it was. It reminds me of the storm on the sea of Galilee when the winds and the waves came crashing into the boat. They were afraid that they would perish. They had forgotten one important factor, the Master of the wind and the sea was in the boat with them. Did you forget about your Master?

Even though the storm was crashing in on us, our Master was still in control. I thank God that His word is true. Our Father is always with us no matter the circumstances.

As we look forward to Spring, take time to celebrate our Lord's creation. Look at the wonder of new birth and the greening of the landscape. God's handiwork is marvelous.

I pray God's greatest blessings upon each of you.

Yours in Christ,

Johnny

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Disaster Relief

Our Association now has a Chainsaw Ministry Team. WE are excited about how God is going to use this ministry as we serve people with a great need. If you would like to be a part of this ministry, contact the DOM at (318) 355-4114 or at the office. Men and women are welcome as there are jobs for everyone.

We have been blessed to be able to purchase a trailer, saws and protective gear for the teams that will be deployed in an emergency. The following is a list of items that are still needed for the ministry:

- Air Mattress: (6)
- Extension Ladder: (2)
- Hatchet: (2)
- Sledge Hammer: (1)

If any of your church families would like to provide any of the above listed needed items, it would be a wonderful blessing.

We need someone with carpentry skills to build shelving and other items inside the trailer.

Sunday, May 23, 2021 is designated Chainsaw Ministry Sunday. We ask that you place this date and event on your church calendar. We also ask that you take up a special offering to help fund this ministry on that day. The offering will be to help provide the various needs of the ministry and the teams during the upcoming hurricane season.

Disaster Relief Training will be offered by the Louisiana Baptist Convention on Friday 12 March 2021 and Saturday 13 March 2021 at Temple Baptist Church in Ruston, Louisiana. Several ministry trainings will take place. If you have ever felt led to serve in this area of ministry, please plan to attend the training. You can not serve or be insured unless you have undergone training for your chosen area of ministry.

The areas of Ministry of Disaster Relief include:

- Chaplaincy: (Do not have to be a pastor to be a Chaplain!)
- Cooking/Food
- Shower
- Chainsaw
- Mudout

Please pray about joining one of these ministry groups.

Upcoming Events for March

March 7-14:	Annie Armstrong Offering Week of Prayer
March 11:	Pastor's Lunch with the DOM 11 AM @ Big John's Rayville
March 14:	Daylight Savings Time Begins
March 14:	Church Bible Drills
March 19-20:	EMBRACE Women's Conference @ First Baptist Pineville
March 20:	First Day of Spring
March 21:	Church Planting Emphasis Sunday
March 28:	Substance Abuse Prevention Sunday

[READ MORE ON OUR WEBSITE](#)

Opportunities to Serve

Pastor: Cedar Baptist Church

Pianist: Cedar Baptist Church

Pastor: New Light

**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...

We all have heard the classic children's bible school rhyme:

"Here is the church, here is the steeple, open it up...",

and we all know that

"The Church is the people not the building/facility!"

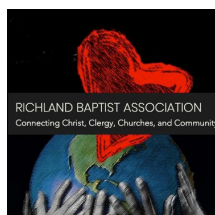
But what does the past year's experience and our response really communicate?

- Does being kept away from the physical building take away from what the Church is?
- Does the Church know how to "be the church" even when the under-shepherd is unavailable?

And the tough hard-to-chew food for thought:

- If the church building was closed permanently, would your local Church remain?
- If not, would and how would people remember it?

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Richland Baptist Association

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