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WMU NEWS

by Alice Ann White, WMU Director, RRVBA

Well, I'm back in the saddle again! That might seem a strange statement for me to make, but if you had know me in "my other life," you would know that I was a cowgirl in my younger days. We are back to having meetings and planning God's events. The different Association WMU Teams are actively exercising **Unshakable Pursuit**, standing firm and are not being shaken by the recent happenings in our world of change! We are following our watchword: "My dear friends, stand firm and don't be shaken. Always keep busy working for the Lord. You know that everything you do for him is worthwhile" (1 Cor. 15:58 CEV)

The **Ladies Retreat** Team met recently with 15 members present. We decided to go forward with the retreat on Saturday, September 12, 2020, at the Love Civic Center. They assure me they are following the guidelines for being safe in the center. We will follow what they ask us to do. So, ladies, mark your calendars, get your mask if you feel the need, and come on! We are collecting **new or gently used coats of all sizes** for the Native Americans in New Mexico. We decided to also collect **dried beans** for them, thinking it might be easier for you to purchase those than coats. You can get beans w/curbside pickup if you are using that, like I am. It is either/or, you do not have to bring both.

The Association WMU Leadership Team is meeting Saturday, July 18, 2020, at 10:00 AM in the RRVBA office. I had the date wrong in last month's newsletter. Sorry, what can I say, I am an old woman? We will be serving lunch. If you are not a part of **this** team and would like to come join us to see what is happening, come on!

Thanks for allowing me to serve as your Association WMU Director! God is blessing!

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JOY ON THE JOURNEY WITH "SEASONED" SAINTS

by Gloria Parker, Senior Adults Director, RRVBA

Can you believe June is 1/2 gone and we anticipate getting together again for the 16th year of Senior Adults VBS in 7 weeks! Host Churches, IF you've NOT picked up your materials from Nancy, please do so to get the schedule, etc. It's going to be soooo GOOD to be back together with some precautions taken. If you need to wear your mask, feel free to do so! It was exciting to be back inside the Church building again! I've gone to Church 9 months BEFORE I was BORN, and have loved it and did NOT want to miss - so this has been a real challenge for me and many others! Thank YOU, LORD, we're BACK!!!

We rejoice, with sadness for us, as we say "See you later" to some of our precious Seniors more often these days. Even with precautions taken, 17 of our RRV Old Fashioned Hymn Singers sang joyfully at a dear member's Homegoing Celebration this week. We plan to get together to sing and encourage each other as often as possible as God leads. We don't expect to be able to sing at Nursing and Retirement Homes again. It's been such a BLESSING to us and them. We Praise God for the privilege of this ministry for so many years. It's always exciting to see what God has in store for us NEXT!

That also covers our feeling comfortable getting out more and eating together "safely" at Denny's Banquet Room 5-7pm on Friday nights. They have been so gracious to us with good food, very clean, NO alcohol, by ourselves in our own room unless a large group needs to share it. We're praying to be able soon to enjoy God's BEST in ALL these opportunities again!

KEEP LOOKING UP FOR JESUS' RETURN; PRAY FOR THE PEACE OF JERUSALEM & OUR U.S.A. (Psalm 122:6)

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BSM NEWS...

Hello from the Baptist Student Ministry!

As the year 2020 trudges along, we find the world getting more divided by the minute. At the time of this writing we have seen the death of George Floyd spark a chain of events that has included riots, vandalism, protests, and even several police officers being killed in the line of duty. When you turn on the evening news you will see some point fingers at one side of the aisle, while others point their fingers right back at them with blaming accusations. It is enough to make us angry enough to say and do things that aren't Christ-like, and the Bible calls that sin. One of the ways we can be lured into sin is when the issue of race is brought up. Whether we want to admit it or not, each of us were raised with our own worldviews and cultures, and those things do effect the way we view the world. It is in these differing worldviews that racism can rear its ugly head.

When it comes to race relations, what is the response for born-again believers? Racism is defined as "a belief or doctrine that inherent differences among the various human racial groups determine cultural or individual achievement, usually involving the idea that one's own race is superior and has the right to dominate others or that a particular racial group is inferior to the others." Racism, at its root, is based in being a respecter of persons, viewing one group as less than another group. But how does God view racism? Acts 10:34 tells us, "Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is **no respecter of persons**." James 2:1 tells us that we should not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ... with partiality (or by being a respecter of persons). Genesis 1:26 tells us that mankind was made in God's own image. Therefore, all colors of skin were created by God in His image.

The only conclusion that I can come to as a believer in the Bible as God's Word and the standard by which we live, is that there is NO PLACE for racism inside the church or on the lips of professing Christians. We look around and say, "This world needs Jesus!" Yes, it does. But you and I are the vessels by which God has chosen to take His message to the world. What message is the world hearing you proclaim? Are your words seasoned with salt (love) or are they bland and tasteless? The world doesn't have a SKIN problem—it has a SIN problem. We know the only answer to the sin problem is Jesus, and we must take the Gospel to everyone. The world doesn't have a RACE problem—it has a GRACE problem. Church member: we need to extend the same grace to others as Jesus extended to us. If we want to see real change, it must start with us. May our churches cease to be inwardly focused and focus on fulfilling the Great Commission to every tribe, tongue, and nation.

Pray up! Preach out! Plug in!

Mike Clark 903-905-1336 mikeclark42@yahoo.com

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We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness



Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD.

Psalm 33:12

CALLING ALL YOUTH: COME AND WORSHIP!!

Saturday, July 18, 2020 Love Civic Center @ 7:00 PM

with Worship Leader Shane Pruitt

Contact Phil Spann @ 903-491-6993 for more information

Let's come together and praise the Lord!

MAY 2020 Donations: \$5,829.47				Thank you for your continuing support of RRVBA missions & ministry!!					
<i>Bagwell</i>	50.00	<i>FBC Blossom</i>	400.00	<i>Howland</i>	27.00				
<i>Bounds</i>	169.75	<i>FBC Bogata</i>	1,093.02	<i>Mt. Olive</i>	274.00				
<i>Chicota</i>	135.36	<i>FBC Clarksville</i>	100.00	<i>Novice</i>	213.00				
<i>Direct</i>	588.28	<i>FBC Cooper</i>	183.78	<i>Providence</i>	119.59				
<i>East Delta</i>	277.93	<i>FBC Detroit</i>	36.66	<i>Salem</i>	100.00				
<i>East Paris</i>	208.33	<i>FBC Paris</i>	959.35	<i>Southside</i>	771.42				
<i>FBC Annona</i>	50.00	<i>Friendship</i>	72.00						

JULY EVENTS

Saturday, July 4: **INDEPENDENCE DAY!**

Tuesday, July 7: Finance Committee meeting, 5:30 pm, RRVBA

Tuesday, July 14: Executive Board meeting, 6:30 pm, FBC Paris **NO MEAL!**

Saturday, July 18: WMU Leadership Team meeting, 10:00 am, RRVBA
(Lunch will be served; please RSVP to Alice Ann White)

Saturday, July 18: Youth Worship with Shane Pruitt, 7:00 pm, Love Civic Center

Red River Valley Baptist Association

2320 Clarksville St., Paris TX 75460
903-785-2890

Regular Office Hours: Monday—Thursday, 8:00 am to 2:00 pm

E-Mail Address: redrivervalleybaptist@gmail.com

Web Address: www.redriverbaptist.com

Birthdays and Anniversaries

<u>July Birthdays</u>		
3	Steve Gunter, interim pastor	Immanuel
5	Dennis Pearson, music	Pacio
7	DeAnne Turner, pastor's wife	FBC Paris
7	Carolyn Fletcher, clerk	Direct
8	Connie Miles, children	Novice
11	Kay Kennedy, clerk	Bethel
20	Alice Ann White, WMU Director	RRVBA
22	David Harbison, spouse	East Paris
22	Cindy McLeod, pastor's wife/music	Chisum Trail
23	Mary Jones, pastor's wife	Powderly
23	Linda Kay Dickey, pastor's wife	Salem
25	Lori Kelley, spouse	Direct
27	Fred Blessingame, spouse	Maxey

<u>July Wedding Anniversaries</u>		
2	Rocky & Kay Burrow, 44 yrs	Chicota
20	Jim & Becky Semple, 47 yrs	Howland
26	Bobby & Cindy Ray	Leesville

<u>July Church Anniversaries</u>		
1	Norma Kelley, treasurer/clerk, 10 yrs	Glory
7	Bill Dickey, pastor, 1 yr	Salem
10	Fred Fangio, music, 7 yrs	Springlake
17	Cara Besteman, children, 4 yrs	His Place
19	Mark Gossett, pastor, 22 yrs	FBC Clarksville
24	Anne French, secretary, 4 yrs	His Place



MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Youth Minister @ Leesville— Permanent, temporary (intern), or part-time. Contact *Leesville Baptist Church* @ 903-674-5782, or nwseaborn@leesvillebc.org

Part-Time Youth Minister @ FBC Blossom—Call 903-982-5212 or Pastor Mike Shupp at 903-491-5103.

Volunteer Youth Minister for Aspire Ministry. Call Tim Sullivan at *East Paris* 903-784-3258 or tim@eastparis.org

Pastor @ Springlake Mail resume to Pulpit Committee, 3500 Clarksville, Paris TX 75460.

Worship Leader @ FBC Bogata Call 903-632-5218 or email fbcbogata@gmail.com.

Music/Youth Leader @ Novice Contact Pastor Duane Falk at 903-732-7711.

Song Leader @ FBC Deport Contact Pastor Michael Flatt at 903-703-9347

Voice of the Valley

The Mission is the Message

The monthly publication of the Red River Valley Baptist Association Volume 16, Issue 7 (July 2020)

WHAT'S NEXT?

Riots, pestilence, and the economy out of control in a downward spiral; we seem to be standing on the brink of catastrophe as a nation. With all the bad news assaulting us through the media, it would be easy to become discouraged, disillusioned and depressed. The world and our nation seem to be going down an irreversible path to self-destruction with no hope or help. Many are bewildered and ask "If only there was someone to help pull us back to the right path." There is! And His name is Jesus and He has not changed and will never surrender His sovereignty over His creation.

I would encourage each of you to read 2 Chronicles 7:13-14. God is still sovereign and sitting on His throne. He is still in control of world events and nothing happens without His approval; nothing catches Him by surprise. If we, as His people, will humble ourselves and turn back to Him with sincere hearts He might just fix this mess we are in.

I had the opportunity to fill in for Bro. Glenn Michael at Glory Baptist Church on June 7th. They have a warm and friendly group of folks and some really good music. They blessed me greatly.



On June 28th I am to preach for Bro. Mike Schupp at FBC Blossom that morning. They have a sweet, friendly fellowship there.

The Red River Valley Baptist Association will meet at FBC Paris @ 6:30 PM for a quarterly meeting on Tuesday, July 14th. We canceled our meeting in April because of Covid-19. We will meet in the Sanctuary, and there will be NO meal served. Hope to see you there.

Blessings to you all and stay safe.

Bro. Guille

RRVBA Mission Statement: *Help each other become healthy "Great Commission" churches.*

RRVBA Vision Statement: *We are a family of churches who are committed to sharing ourselves, resources, and expertise with one another for the purpose of fulfilling the "Great Commission."*

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to these new RRVBA Pastors!

Maxey: Wade White

Providence: Allen Hubbard