

WMU NEWS by Alice Ann White, WMU Director, RRVBA

Unshakable Pursuit: We must stay steadfast in Unshakable Pursuit in this very different and unusual time in our lives. I've never experienced anything like this, and I'm sure you have not either. This did not catch our Father by surprise. He knew it was coming, and He was prepared. We are standing at a very new door of opportunity to know God more every day. Every step we take should lead us to a deeper relationship with Him. We just have to trust Him "Through It All" as the song says.

CIA Day: I gave a partial report in the last newsletter, but I do have more details now. As I said it was a wonderful time at Southside Baptist Church, Paris on March 7, 2020. Attending were 68 children and 69 adults from 14 different churches for a grand total of 137. The girls' offering (\$49.61) did out weigh the boys' (\$58.16) for a combined total of \$107.77. Boys must have had some "big money" (bills). The money was donated to the Operation Christmas Child ministry. We will look forward to CIA Day 2021 which will be Saturday, March 6th. Save the date!

Mission Study: Did you save the date for the Missions Study? It was to be Saturday, May 2, 2020, at Springlake Baptist Church, Paris, starting at 10:00 AM. We postponed the event until the Spring of 2021. We were unable to continue to meet as a planning team and felt this was our best option. Watch the Voice of the Valley for more detail next year.

I am trying to stay in contact with the ladies that are a vital part of Association WMU. I love and appreciate each one of them and miss getting to meet, fellowship, and plan our Savior's work. This too shall pass and we will be together soon! Pray for each other and for God's work to be bigger and better!



CIA Day 2020

Left: Workers from FBC Bogata help prepare the "assembly line" for the 650 OCC boxes the children filled.

Right: Big Daddy Billy, the Rappin' Baptist (AKA Bro. Billy Norris of Southside) performs at the opening of CIA Day



JOY ON THE JOURNEY WITH "SEASONED" SAINTS by Gloria Parker, Senior Adults Director, RRVBA

IN TIMES LIKE THESE, WE NEED A SAVIOR - WOW, do we ever! This is just one of our RRV Old Fashioned Hymn Singers' favorites, and the LORD willing, we'll sing it again together for JESUS and to our Special Friends.

Also, the LORD willing, our 16th year of Senior Adults VBS will happen in August 2020. Host Churches, FBC Bogata, His Place Fellowship, Immanuel, Southside, and FBC Paris, please pick up your materials at the RRVBA Office. Call ahead 903-785-2890 and pick them up at the door. Thank You!

What are you doing as we "shelter in place" in our homes trying to be safe from this Corona Virus? Have you thought about writing YOUR STORY with so much time now? Journaling how God has brought you and yours through during this "season of fear" for many can be a Blessing as part of your Legacy for your family. Just writing a note or calling someone is encouraging to them and yourself! Emailing and texting kind thoughts and "Funny stories" are great! "Share a roll or 2" or some food to a neighbor's door. Some younger folks have grocery shopped and delivered homemade food to some Seniors' doors. All these and more from Creative Christians make such a difference to many lonely Seniors these days. How can we help others make it through?

When this "Scare" is over, may we see MANY NEW CHRISTIANS, and never again take for granted = getting to Worship God at our Church, a warm handshake or hug, a good deep breath, conversations with neighbors while taking a walk, visiting shut-ins at Nursing/Retirement Homes, getting children off to school or ourselves and family to work, lunch with a friend or Friday Night Out with family or friends, full grocery store shelves, a full theatre or ballgame stadium, a routine check-up, and even washing our hands while singing "Happy Birthday" (20 seconds), and so much more! Keep looking UP! Jesus - Our Prince of Peace's Return is Closer NOW than it's ever been, and Israel needs Our Prayers more than ever!

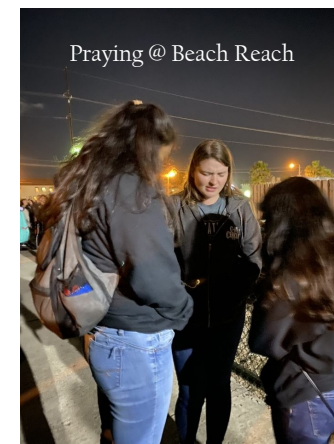
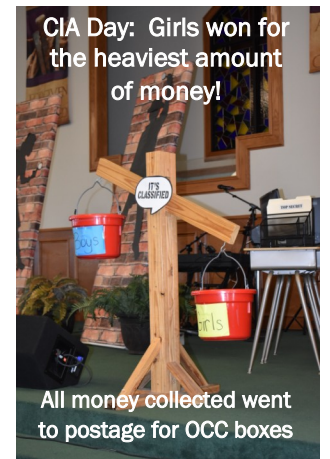
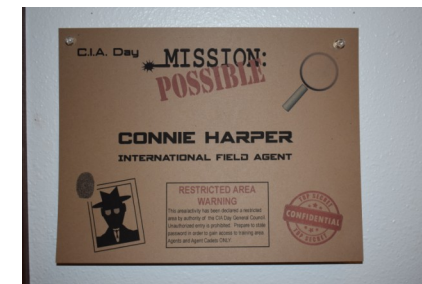
March 2020 Donations: \$16,341.64

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUING SUPPORT OF RRVBA MISSIONS & MINISTRY!

<i>Bagwell</i>	50.00	<i>FBC Clarksville</i>	100.00	<i>Leesville</i>	324.75	<i>Springlake</i>	401.30		
<i>Bounds</i>	186.00	<i>FBC Cooper</i>	175.33	<i>Mt. Olive</i>	193.00				
<i>Chicota</i>	135.64	<i>FBC Detroit</i>	51.58	<i>Novice</i>	511.00				
<i>Direct</i>	302.38	<i>FBC Paris</i>	983.43	<i>Petty</i>	275.00				
<i>East Delta</i>	529.90	<i>Friendship</i>	92.00	<i>Providence</i>	89.04				
<i>FBC Annona</i>	50.00	<i>Howland</i>	51.08	<i>Salem</i>	100.00				
<i>FBC Bogata</i>	1,038.30	<i>Immanuel/WMU</i>	10,075.00	<i>Southside</i>	626.91				



CIA DAY THEME: Mission Possible



BSM NEWS...

Hello from the Baptist Student Ministry!

The BSM has decided to cancel all remaining lunches and bible studies for the remaining semester after the stay at home order was extended until May 4 and PJC's decision to cancel in-person classes until the fall. I'll be in contact with churches to schedule our fall lunches as soon as I can determine when things will be back to normal.

This has indeed been a trying time for everyone and I pray when things get back to normal our churches can come together more unified than ever in our desire to take the Gospel to the nations! We can do more together than we can apart.

Pray up! Preach out! Plug in!

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Red River Valley Baptist Association

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

May Birthdays

1	Ross Eason, spouse	Leesville
2	Denise Harbison, secretary	East Paris
11	Velva Dean Aubrey, pastor's wife	Trinity
14	Denise Vaughan, pastor's wife	East Delta
14	Bobby Ray, spouse	Leesville
15	Shauna Mercaldo, children	Immanuel
15	Becky Semple, spouse	Howland
22	Billy Norris, pastor	Southside
24	Bill Dickey, pastor	Salem
27	Carol VanDeaver, pastor's wife	Bethel
30	Brandon Bell, pastor	Fulbright

May Wedding Anniversaries

9	Tim & Deann Reger, 39 yrs	Mt. Olive
18	Bill & Linda Kay Dickey, 49 yrs	Salem
19	Tim & Krystal Mills, 2 yrs	FBC Bogata
20	James & Kay Kennedy	Bethel
21	Tommy & DeAnne Turner, 37 yrs	FBC Paris
23	Neil & Jan Barnes, 40 yrs	Providence
23	Tony & Leslie Cunningham, 33 yrs	Friendship
24	Jason & Cara Besteman, 12 yrs	His Place
30	Billy & Melisa Norris, 22 yrs	Southside
30	Neal & Jana Seaborn, 34 yrs	Leesville

May Church Anniversaries

1	Darlene Shouse, secretary, 2 yrs	Mt. Olive
1	Angela Cunningham, children, 1 yr	FBC Paris
2	Mavis Miller, secretary,	Springlake
6	Tim Mills, youth, 1 yr	FBC Bogata
15	Mike Jones, pastor, 9 yrs	Powderly
20	Steve Gunter, education, 18 yrs	Immanuel

Happy Anniversary- 50 years or more!

Ollie & Ruth Lee (Southside)

62 years on May 24

Bobby & Shelby Kennedy (Cunningham)

61 years on May 30

Said a very foolish man: *This Corona virus has really been a blessing! My wife doesn't want to travel; she doesn't shop online since most everything comes from China; to avoid crowds she doesn't go to the mall; she spends all her time in a mask with her mouth closed. Best thing that ever happened to me!*

All events scheduled for May have been
CANCELLED due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Voice of the Valley

The Mission is the Message

The monthly publication of the Red River Valley Baptist Association Volume 16, Issue 5 (May 2020)

OPPORTUNITIES BEFORE US

We are living in a time that is both stressful and yet filled with opportunities for the Christian. The COVID-19 virus has changed how we do church and our ability to assemble together. It's not the same watching preaching on a small device or on big screen TV, but it will have to do until this crisis passes.

Some see this a difficult and impossible time in history. I would encourage you to see it as an opportunity for growth and service. First, it is a great time to delve deeper into God's word and discover its riches. Listen for the Holy Spirit to speak to your spirit and give you insights to the Scripture.

Second, it's a time to show the grace and love of Christ to those you meet wherever you are. People are afraid of the virus, and their attitudes reflect that fear. Let your response be like Christ's: full of grace and love. How we respond in this crisis will have a lasting impact on others.

Third, share your faith whenever you can and wherever you are. So many need the grace of Jesus to be saved, and God will use you if you yield yourself to Him.

Last thing, check on each other in your church family and circle of friends. Ask if there is a need you can help with. Pray for each other and especially your pastor and his family. This is a difficult time for them also.

This crisis will pass, let us trust in God and make the most of every opportunity that comes our way. It is both a difficult time and yet an exciting time for spreading the Gospel.

I have spoken to the majority of our pastors and they have been creative in their preaching methods to keep their congregations connected and inspired. Many are using YouTube, Facebook live and other internet options. Some are employing the Drive-in or Parking Lot meeting on Sundays, weather permitting. Some are broadcasting over short- range FM transmitters, while others are simply being loud speakers over loud speakers. A few of our older congregations have decided to stop meeting until the present threat is over and that is understandable.

Dear ones, we will be able to meet again and when we do, it will be a wonderful reunion to worship and praise our God!

Blessing to you all,

Bro. Guille

LET'S DO CHURCH- A LITTLE DIFFERENTLY!

EAST PARIS: Live streaming Sundays @ 9:00 am; daily video @ 5:00 pm; eastparis.org & facebook.com/eastparis

FBC BLOSSOM: Facebook live streaming Sunday School @ 10:00 am & Sunday Service @ 11:00 am

FBC PARIS: Live streaming fbcparis.com; Suddenlink channel 16 & facebook.com/fbcparis

HOWLAND: YouTube with Tim Parker available anytime

IMMANUEL: Facebook live streaming Sunday @ 10:45 am or on vimeo—vimeo.com/ibcparis

LEESVILLE: YouTube live stream Sunday @ 10:45 am

NOVICE: @ Facebook; www.nbcparistx.org

PROVIDENCE: @ Facebook Sunday @ 11:00 am

SOUTHSIDE: Facebook live stream Sunday @ 11:00 am & 6:00 pm; Wednesday @ 7:00 pm

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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Wash Your Hands!!!

Use soap and water

Scrub while singing *Happy Birthday* - **twice**
Rinse & dry—use towel to turn off the faucet!

Be Safe!!!

Wear a face mask when out in public

Cover your cough or sneeze

Keep your distance

I really need to practice that social distancing—especially from my refrigerator!

Yipee! It's time to take out the garbage!

What to wear, what to wear??

What's happening?
Why are all the humans
wearing muzzles?



... Also highly contagious are kindness, patience, love, enthusiasm and a positive attitude. Don't wait to catch it from others. Be the carrier.