



WACO REGIONAL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

WRBA is a voluntary network of Baptist churches in Central Texas who have chosen to cooperate in order to extend and embody the good news of Jesus Christ.

April 2016

Volume 17, Issue 4

FROM YOUR DIRECTOR



I have been attending Baptist churches all of my life. That's almost 56 years that I have either been listening to Bible studies and sermons or delivering them. I have seen a lot of trends over those years and promoted some of them myself. Needless to say, things are different in 2016 than they were in the 1960's. Many of you have participated in the same journey. Some things we lament, and some things we gladly leave behind.

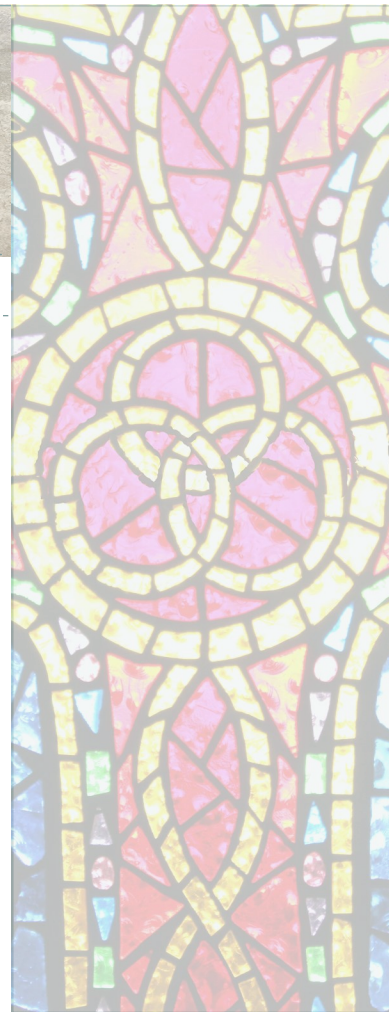
I vividly recall sitting in the sanctuary of the Fountain Valley Baptist Church in Colorado Springs near Easter time with the windows of the sanctuary wide open. I enjoyed listening to the meadowlarks singing their hearts out while my dad tried to preach through a microphone that only worked "sometimes." I know dad's sermons shaped my life and my view of the world. And I know that the meadowlarks also shaped my thoughts about God and His creation.

Today, the windows don't even open in many church buildings, and the sound systems usually work a little better. But the question that still nags at me is, "Are we more like Jesus today or less?"

I would assume the answer is somewhat mixed. In some ways, we are probably hearing His voice better, and in other ways, we have probably grown deaf. Some programs have shriveled and almost disappeared, while mission trips, retreats and media-driven teachings have exploded.

It might be easy to make grand sweeps of negative observations about the changes in our churches. Instead, let's choose to be optimistic. Have the basics changed? The Church is still Christ's bride. He is still preparing her through the work of the Holy Spirit and His Word for that day of reunion. He will come back to claim His beloved and take her home for eternity. She is still precious. She is still destined for glory. *She is still worthy of my best efforts.*

In His Service,
Tim



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SENIOR SNAP OUTREACH SPOTLIGHT

"If among you, one of your brothers should become poor, in any of your towns within your land that the LORD your God is giving you, you shall not harden your heart or shut your hand against your poor brother, but you shall open your hand to him and lend him sufficient for his need, whatever it may be. You shall give to him freely, and your heart shall not be grudging when you give to him, because for this the LORD your God will bless you in all your work and in all that you undertake. For there will never cease to be poor in the land. Therefore I command you, 'You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in your land.'" Deut. 15:8, 10-11



Through Senior SNAP Outreach, WRBA has extended a generous hand to seniors in need in our communities. We have served widows, widowers, grandparents raising grandchildren, seniors with disabilities and illnesses, and those who needed a little boost to make ends meet. I believe caring for the poor is in the heart of God and when we do so we get to share in God's heart.

I am finishing my time with WRBA and will be moving to Kenya to minister there. I am thankful for the opportunity to serve at WRBA and know that Senior SNAP Outreach will continue to bless many seniors in McLennan and surrounding counties. If you know of a senior in need, please call our office 254-753-2408.

Rachel Tate
Senior SNAP Outreach Intern

*"Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it."
Proverb 4:23*

NEED SUMMER HOST CHURCHES!

Bounce is coming back to Waco July 18-23. Teenagers from all over Texas will be in town to repair homes and reflect Christ. Lots of host churches are needed to feed the students lunch. You can learn more about Bounce at www.texasbaptists.org.

Churches, life groups, Sunday school classes, WMU groups and youth groups can volunteer to feed a crew for four days. Contact Scott at:

scott@brazosmeadows.org

UPCOMING EVENTS



May Ministers Round Table
12:00pm on May 4 at Truett Seminary

Topic: Church Evangelism
Speaker: Joshua del Risco, BGCT

Hosted by the Baylor University Office of the President. Please make a reservation by **April 28**. Call 753-2408 or email admin@wacobaptists.org.



In Concert

SINGING MEN OF TEXAS

NORTH CENTRAL



**Thursday Apr. 7, 2016
at 7:00 p.m.**

WWW.SMONCT.ORG

★ TEXAS BAPTISTS
BAPTIST GENERAL CONVENTION OF TEXAS

These ministers of music, Baptist professors, and church staff members find great joy in lifting each other in prayer, and singing together at eight concerts annually. On most Sundays, you can find the Singing Men in churches across Texas leading worship in a diversity of styles. Their music has been heard around the world, inspiring audiences and encouraging churches in England, China, Australia, Brazil, Spain, Romania, Czech Republic Austria and Ukraine. *The concert is free.* An offering will be taken to offset the expenses of their mission and recording projects. Don't miss this exciting night of worship.



**101 RITCHIE RD
WOODWAY, TX 76712
(254) 772-9696
FBCWOODWAY.ORG**

Take Me Out to the Ball Game!

GA/Acteen/RA Softball Rally for All Youth Grades 1-12
Along with Their Families and Friends
Part of Baylor's Faith and Family Day

**See the Baylor Bears Softball Team
vs. Kansas Jayhawks**

Saturday, April 23 at 5:00pm
Baylor University, Gettman Stadium
Cost: \$5 (includes a ticket and snack)

Fore more information call Edna Wood at 759-8183 or 715-9800.

APRIL EVENTS

April 6, 12:00pm
Ministers Roundtable
Truett Seminary
Topic: Human Trafficking
Reservations: by Mar. 31

April 7, 8:30am
Spring 50+ Adult Day
Latham Springs

April 7, 7:00pm
Singing Men of Texas
Woodway FBC

April 8-9
Texas WMU Annual Meeting
Austin, TX

April 14, 12:00pm
Networking and Missions Team Meeting

April 19, 4:00pm
Board Meeting
WRBA, Room 502

April 22-23
State Bible Drill
Arlington FBC

April 22-24
Congresso
Baylor University

April 23, 5:00pm
Take Me Out to the Ball Game: GA/RA/Acteen Rally
Baylor, Gettman Stadium

April 27
Administrative Professional's Day

April 30
RA State Derby Race
Belton, TX

May 4, 12:00pm
Ministers Roundtable
Truett Seminary
Topic: Church Evangelism
Reservations: by Apr. 28

COMMUNITY NEWS

Please continue to pray for WRBA churches seeking a Pastor:

Downsville
Lorena FBC
Marlin MBC
Old Time
Primera Iglesia
Robinson FBC

CHURCH SPOTLIGHT: DON SMARTO, HEWITT FBC

"The most interesting thing about being a baptist preacher was that I started as a Roman Catholic Cleric," said Hewitt FBC Intentional Interim Pastor Don Smarto. He spent seven years at a monastery in Missouri. There were things he purposefully left behind, but he finds value in some of the spiritual disciplines. From monastery walls to prison cells, Billy Graham events to international photography excursions, classrooms to pulpits, Smarto has learned to share his faith in everything he does. He worked with Billy Graham from 1984-1997. The popular evangelist wrote the forward for Smarto's first book, one of 14. Smarto started Youth Direct (www.youthdirect.org), juvenile

prison ministry, about 20 years ago. The group has worked in 500 youth facilities in 18 states and will have a training in Waco on Apr. 16. He's enjoyed working with Hewitt FBC these past months. "I took the intentional training with BGCT about six or seven years ago. I liked the idea of helping a church through a transitional period."

Smarto liked the church's sincerity, warmth and desire for an intentional interim.

"My job is to help the church grow and stabilize it so that when I hand it off to a new pastor I'm giving him a healthy church."

Pray for the church to grow in diversity and for Smarto's split schedule in Hewitt and DFW.

Waco Regional Baptist Association

P.O. Box 1848
Waco, TX 76703

Phone: 254-753-2408
Fax: 254-755-6365
E-mail: admin@wacobaptists.org

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Waco, TX