



WACO REGIONAL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Family News

— FROM YOUR DIRECTOR —

Many exciting things are coming together for the Waco Regional Baptist Association this fall. Our Annual meeting is scheduled for 6:00pm on Tuesday, October 14 at Columbus Avenue Baptist Church. Joe Loughlin will bring the message that evening. (By the way, we will be giving away cool pocket calendars for 2015 again this year.) We are also excited about the different events that are being planned for City Reach, an evangelistic emphasis made possible through the BGCT Department of Evangelism. Here is what is planned so far:



- A series of school assemblies with the Christian BMX group “Real Encounters” concluding with a harvest night for youth.
- Block parties by approximately 10 of our WRBA Churches to develop relationships with unchurched neighbors.
- A Family Festival for our Latino neighbors including a soccer tournament and a fair atmosphere with food, games and music.
- A Bill Glass Champions for Life Crusade will give hundreds of our WRBA Church members a first time opportunity to minister to those incarcerated in our many jails and prisons in the region.
- I hope your church has something planned to intentionally share the good news of Jesus with your neighbors. Our world is in desperate need of Good News. Be sure to keep up to date with all of our events and opportunities by signing up for our email updates on our website (www.wacobaptists.org) in the footer) or by just calling the WRBA office at (254)753-2408.

Don't forget to sign up now for our September 3 Pastors Conference and Executive Board meeting. Executive Board starts at 11:15am and the conference starts at noon.

In His Service,
Tim

— Collegiate Ministry Spotlight —



The leisurely pace of summer is a great time to begin making plans to welcome the thousands of college students who will soon return to the Waco area. All of the local colleges have recruiters - both academic and athletic. Does your church have recruiters - spiritual recruiters that is? Are those recruiters both real and electronic? More about that in a moment.

Consider the factors that initially led these incoming students to a particular college. Why did they choose that college from among thousands of others? The factors that led to that choice may be the same principles that attract the students to your churches. What are college students looking for in a church? What styles of music, worship and fellowship are they hungry for?

Recently, a veteran collegiate ministry staffer noted several common needs among college students looking for a church. They want to:

- Actively participate in the mission of the church
- Minister and serve
- Be assured their energy and talents are recognized, utilized and valued
- Fellowship with other college students who are spiritually similar
- Connect with seasoned saints in mentoring relationships
- Seek guidance on relationships, careers, marriage and raising children

Your church may be just the spiritually welcoming place they are looking for! The network available through WRBA and campus faculty and staff is just one way for your church to connect with college students. To further identify and meet the needs of college students, consider inviting some of the very students you want to attract to help you get the word out about your church. Our role at WRBA is to assist you with making those critical connections. At a time when we find students hungry for meaningful opportunities to become involved, it is an important time for churches to offer uplifting ministry and outreach programs. The Collegiate Ministry is a prime source for future leaders. Today's students can help ensure the growth and sustainability of the Collegiate Ministry in your church.

Now back to those e-recruiters. The language of most college students is *electronic*. Kindergarten, middle school and high school students in your church are already fluent in "e-speak". Along with college students who may already be present in your church, enlist younger students to design an attractive informative site to market your church to the collegiate group. On an hourly basis, students use online resources to locate everything from supermarkets, to gyms, to a friend's house. It makes perfect sense to give your church a viable presence in the place college students are looking to have their spiritual needs met. Look out among other WRBA member churches to locate partners who are willing to collaborate with your collegiate ministry department in the development of your e-ministry.

Jewel Lockridge
Collegiate Ministry Coordinator, TSTC
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— Hunger Ministry Spotlight —

WRBA is sponsoring summer meals in an impoverished areas of Waco, the Kate Ross Housing Complex. Acts Church has provided volunteers at this site for two years. Acts and WRBA recruited VOICE, an organization that empowers children and families to lead healthy and productive lives by promoting success in education, nurturing wellness and developing skills for tomorrow's leaders. VOICE has conducted day camps since June in Acts' 'KidzJam' apartment, provided by the Waco Housing Authority.

Meals are open to the public Monday-Friday. Games and activities (see pictures below) allow the children to have fun with other kids who come for lunch. About 200 children eat the lunches each week, provided by City Square. The day camp includes a Book Club from 1-2 pm for children ages 6-12, coordinated each Monday-Thursday by about 20 Acts volunteers who spend 45 minutes reading books to children and building relationships. About 20 of the children from day camp, volunteers and VOICE staff had a field trip week to the Mayborn Museum, Baylor Library, Waco Mammoth Site, Homestead Heritage and Waco Wetlands. The children learned hands-on about the environment, recycling, insects, college and more.

On Fridays, children volunteer to weed, plant and mulch the Acts Community Garden while moms and grandmothers go to a class called "Hunger in God's World". The class empowers women to think from a place of 'have' rather than 'have not' and look at world hunger in a new way. The women learn how to prepare lunch using the 'Cooking Matters' formula, about \$1.50/person based on SNAP benefits. The menu has had tacos, veggie wraps, sherbet sundaes and barbeque chicken. Ladies see creative ways to spend their food budget dollars. Classes are open to the public but require reservations. Act Locally wrote about it at www.actlocallywaco.org/2014/07/20/staying-healthy-eating-affordably-cooking-matters.

Community collaboration is the reason this Summer Meals site has succeeded. With the help of many organizations, WRBA churches and volunteers, bringing God's kingdom to the community has never been easier!

Conway Del Conte
Hunger Ministry Coordinator
hunger@wacobaptists.org



LEFT: A volunteer reads to a child during the Day Camp's Book Club. RIGHT: Amistad Pastor Jesús Garnica plays with children during the Summer Meals program at Kate Ross.

— Upcoming Events —



**Willow Creek Global Leadership Summit
Waco Hall, Baylor University
August 14-15, 8:30am-5:00pm**

Baylor University will be serving as a satellite location for the 2014 Willow Creek Global Leadership Summit. You can make a reservation at www.baylor.edu/willowcreek.



Annual Church Profile have been mailed!

You can fill it out on paper or online using BGCT or SBDS.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact the WRBA office at 753-2408.

We'll be happy to help you finish the form by September 12.

This will allow us to place the ACP information in the Book of Reports for the WRBA Annual Meeting.

The recorded church information will establish a history of data that helps new pastors transition, supplies various foundations with useful information for grants, gives churches information about potential pastor candidates, and gives data that is valuable for future studies about the church and what the congregation can do.



September Pastors' Conference 12:00pm on September 3 at Truett Seminary

Speaker: Mark Newton,
Baylor University Director for Church Engagement

Please make a reservation by **August 28**.
Contact Katelyn at admin@wacobaptists.org
or 753-2408.

— Community News —

Continue to pray for WRBA churches seeking a Pastor:
Concord, Hilltop, Lake Shore, Lorena FBC, Mart FBC, Old Time,
Pleasant Olive MBC, Woodway FBC

— THE BODY OF BELIEVERS —

How do you minister in a church? Do you focus on what you have or on what you do not have? Stonegate Community Church is an older congregation, but they minister as God has called them to do.

Pastor Dick Wooten said, “My theory is you minister to those that are here, not those you wish you were here.... We’re going to minister to whoever comes.”

The church does not have many youth and children. The services are fairly traditional with old hymns.

Wooten has been a member since the church started in 1998. After taking on a few leadership positions, he became the pastor in 2008. The church has also transitioned. The congregation started meeting in people’s homes and then went to a school cafeteria. After a time in some rental facilities, the church moved to their current building in 2007.

“When we moved out here we took a leap of faith,” Wooten said.

The church grew a little, but not quite as much as anticipated. There are about 70 people in the congregation.

Wooten said, “It’s exciting that God’s blessed the ministry of this church even though we didn’t grow that much.... He’s got a reason for us to be here.”

Their main ministry is giving. The church tithes a portion of what is received every month. This contribution goes to support three missionary families (one local and two foreign) and three local organizations, including Friends for Life and the Church Under the Bridge.

Wooten asked for prayer “that we’ll continue to be a loving church, a caring church, a praying church. That we would continue to seek the Lord and be in his perfect will in terms of what we’re doing.”



- Associate Director Announcement -

This Saturday, August 1, WMU® will hold its WIFI/ South Leadership Training at the First Baptist Church of Midlothian near Waxahachie, Texas. *Free* Registration will start at 8:30am at the door and the training will begin at 9:00am and end at 1:00pm. Besides *Leadership* other topics will include *Balancing Work and Rest*, *How to Get Students Involved in Ministry*, and *Becoming a Mission-Minded Community Family*. A Spanish tract will be available.



-Evelyn Ofong, WRBA Associate Director
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Literacy Missions Training Event

Sponsored by Waco Regional Baptist Association's Networking and Missions Team

First Baptist Church, Hewitt (301 S. First Street)

Friday, September 12
5:30-9:00pm

Saturday, September 13
8:30am-4:30pm

Learn how to become a mentor, an ESL teacher, a literacy teacher and more.

Option 1: Basic Workshop
\$30 early registration, \$35 regular

Earn a certification in teaching
English as a Second Language.
(Must attend both days.)

Option 2: Teacher Training Updates
\$20 early registration, \$25 regular

Special Interest training in ESL, EFL,
Tutoring/Mentoring, Adult Reading/
Writing, and more.

Fee includes the materials for the classes, snacks and lunch.

Early registration ends on July 31.
Make a reservation with the WRBA Office by September 5
at admin@wacobaptists.org or 753-2408.

Other August Events

Saturday, August 2 — WIFI Conference. Midlothian. www.wmutx.org/wifi2014

Saturday, August 9 — WIFI Conference. San Antonio. www.wmutx.org/wifi2014

August 14-15, 8:30am-5:00pm — Willow Creek Global Leadership Summit. Waco Hall, Baylor. www.baylor.edu/willowcreek

Tuesday, August 19, 9:00am — Baylor Ministry Guidance Supervisors' Workshop. Ferrell Center, Baylor.

Tuesday, August 19, 4:00pm — Administrative Team. WRBA.

Thursday, August 28, 12:00pm — Networking & Missions. Waco FBC.

Sunday, August 31, 2:00pm — Leadership Development Team. WRBA.

Monday, September 1 — WRBA Office Closed. Labor Day.

Wednesday, September 3, 11:15am — Executive Board Meeting. Truett.

Wednesday, September 3, 12:00pm — Pastors' Conference. Truett.