



WACO REGIONAL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Connect, Support, Train

August 2017



Volume 18, Issue 8

FROM YOUR DIRECTOR

You are interested in the health and growth of your church, or you would not be reading this newsletter! It is published each month to: 1) bring current news that affects your church 2) share opportunities for networking and training 3) help your church be healthy **and** growing.



Featured this month is a training event for **how to do effective BLOCK PARTIES** (see inside). There are a limited number of grants to member churches who will **attend the training** and **do the block party before November 10** and **give us some photos and a small report!**

I overheard a few church members complain that their church had done a **BLOCK PARTY** and 1) very few people came, and 2) those that did come did not come to church the next Sunday. There are a few misunderstandings floating around about how block parties work and what their purpose is. For this reason, you need to come to the training on **Saturday, August 12** (RSVP to the WRBA office).

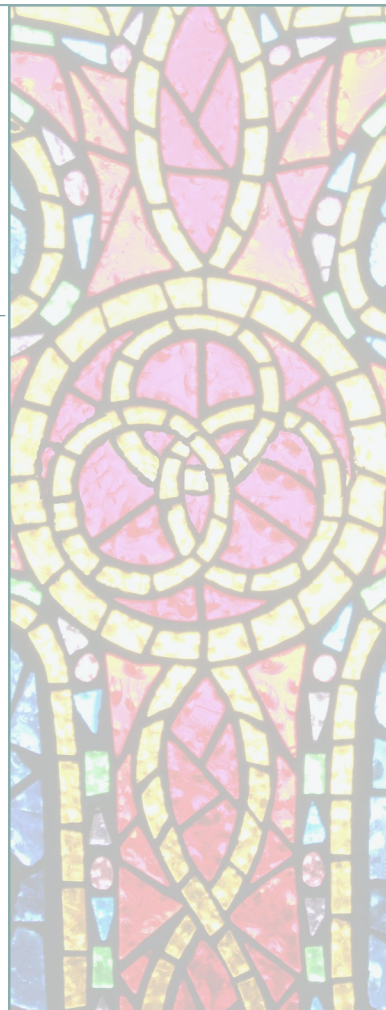
Rene Maciel and Tom Gutierrez will share **why** and **how** **BLOCK PARTIES** really are an effective evangelism tool.

I was meditating on Luke 15 earlier this week. To refresh your memory, this chapter contains the parables of *the lost sheep*; *the lost coin*; and *the lost son*. In all three stories Jesus emphasizes the tremendous effort God is currently making to find those far from God, struggling with life issues, and in need of a loving heavenly Father. They live in the neighborhood near your church.

Instead of seeing all “those people” as “candidates” to fill the pews in our church building, we should be seeing them as lost people for whom the Father is looking.

What does an energetic and earnest search for the lost look like? I can tell you what it does not look like: a door hanger that says “Y’all come!” and then years of silence afterwards. Eager to try again? I’ll see you on Saturday.

In His Service,
Tim Randolph



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Director’s Article.....1
- Upcoming Events2
- Annual Church Profile.....2
- Collegiate Ministry Update.....3
- Calendar of Events.....3
- WRBA is Hiring.....3
- Churches without Pastors.....4
- Bounce Spotlight4

UPCOMING EVENTS

September Ministers Round Table
12:00pm on September 6 at Truett Seminary

Topic: The Nones
Speaker: Dr. Byron Johnson, Baylor University
RSVP by **August 30** to admin@wacobaptists.org or 753-2408.

WRBA Annual Meeting
6:00-8:00pm on October 10 at Woodway FBC

Speaker: Dr. Don Fawcett, HOT Baptist Network
RSVP by **October 3** to admin@wacobaptists.org or 753-2408.

“But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.”
Luke 15:32

ANNUAL CHURCH PROFILE

It’s time for Annual Church Profiles (ACP). Each church will receive their ACP shortly. This information is vital to updating WRBA’s church directory and keeping record of historical data. It becomes very useful while churches are hiring church staff or applying for ministry grants.

Please submit ACPs by September 15.

BLOCK PARTY Training

August 12, 8:30-10:30am
WRBA (2911 Herring)

Speakers: Tom Gutierrez & Rene Maciel

A light Breakfast will be included. Churches that want to request the small grant for a block party need to attend the training, do a block party before November 10, and send WRBA a few photos with a small report.

RSVP to 753-2408 or admin@wacobaptists.org.

COLLEGIATE MINISTRY UPDATE

The start of a new semester is always exciting. Even as we sadly say goodbye to many of the TSTC students who have participated in the weekly Bible Study meetings, we anticipate the arrival of new students to campus. Thursday morning Collegiate Ministry (CM) gatherings for donuts, coffee, orange juice and fellowship have offered students a brief spiritual respite from the rigors of classroom and lab work.

We also say farewell to Chase Caldwell, pastor of Lakeview Baptist Church. Chase has been vital to our weekly discussions as he questions and challenges students to express their thoughts about verses. He encourages them to examine and express ways their faith has been challenged or strengthened. Our prayers go with Chase and his wife, Brittany, as they become co-pastors at a church in North Carolina.

In preparation for the start of the fall semester, CM accepted the TSTC invitation to participate in New Student Orientation. Each day for one week we sat alongside other campus organizations and shared information about CM with incoming students and their families. We invited them to join us and their fellow students this fall as we continue to prayerfully work through the Gospel of John. We provided “meeting notice cards” as reminders of CM meetings. Finally, we encouraged students to join us for planning sessions where we will explore ways to expand the ministry by serving others through technology.

God continues to bless this ministry. As always, we solicit your prayers, ideas and assistance as we respond to the ministry needs of TSTC students. We approach the fall semester with the need for volunteers to become members of the Community Ministries Team (CMT). This small group meets with the Coordinator 3-4 times per year to advise, plan and promote activities of CM. If you are interested in serving the ministry in this way, please call the WRBA office or email me for additional information. If you know students enrolling at TSTC this fall, please share my contact information with them and/or send me an email so that I can reach out to them.

Jewel Lockridge, Ph.D.
Collegiate Ministry Coordinator, TSTC
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TSTC student Ashton Briscoe poses at CM information table after assisting with set-up for New Student Orientation.

AUGUST EVENTS

August 12, 8:30am
Block Party Training
WRBA

August 15, 4:00pm
Board Meeting
WRBA

August 16, 12:00pm
Networking and Missions
Team Meeting
Waco FBC, Conference Rm

August 12, 8:30am
Church Protection Team
Meeting
WRBA Office

WRBA IS HIRING!

The WRBA office has a few positions available. We are currently looking for a part-time Collegiate Ministry Coordinator to work with McLennan Community College and a part-time Financial Secretary. If you are interested or know somebody who would be interested in either of these positions, please have them contact the WRBA office at admin@wacobaptists.org or 254-753-2408.

The WRBA office will also need some temporary, part-time secretarial help in the upcoming months. Contact admin@wacobaptists.org for more information.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Please continue to pray for WRBA churches seeking a Pastor:

Chalk Bluff
Elm Mott
Emmanuel
Faith Temple
Lakeview
Westwood

MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT: BOUNCE

Middle school and high school students from Texas Baptist churches spent a week of their summer vacations to help Waco residents bounce back from poor housing conditions through construction efforts.

The Waco area is one of five locations in TX, OK and LA to receive aid from BOUNCE Student Disaster Recovery this year. Columbus Avenue Baptist Church hosted the 60 students and student leaders during their stay.

During the day, students performed a variety of construction tasks on homes such as installing siding and painting, along with a few roof repairs. In the evenings, they cleaned up and had a time of worship at the church.

BOUNCE leaders value local

relationships and partnered with the Waco Community Development and WRBA churches.

“We are very excited to be mobilizing students for disaster recovery missions this summer. The people we are serving ... have experienced a disaster, and they may feel hopeless because of their home’s condition. It’s my hope that these students can help restore some hope through their service to residents this week,” said David Scott, director of BOUNCE.

This is a ministry of the Texas Baptists, affiliated with more than 5,300 Baptist churches and ministries. BOUNCE invites students to assist communities in their efforts to bounce back from various devastations.

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