



# 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.

December 2015

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## GUEST COLUMN BY CHRIS JOHNSON

The last few months I have had the privilege of serving on the WRBA Strategic Planning Team. Tim asked us to prayerfully come together and consider the next five years of associational life. We are not quite finished, but we have made good progress reviewing what has been accomplished and hoping for what's to come. We have heard exciting stories how previous emphases have started churches, strengthened churches, developed leaders, encouraged mission, and produced new community ministries. There is no doubt God has used WRBA churches to transform Waco, but there is still great opportunity in front of us.



As we hope for the future, the Association needs to be proactive about a number of things, starting with evangelism. Beyond that the Strategic Planning Team is also examining the role of the church in an individual's physical health, how to protect churches both legally and physically, the ever expanding potential of technology, as well as a number of other ways the WRBA can faithfully support churches.

In this conversation we have seen how these important challenges can only be met as long as the churches faithfully support the association. While we have recently reaped the benefits of a few churches increasing their giving there is still a need. Chalk Bluff (where I pastor) has also agreed to increase giving to the association from two percent to three percent to further support the spiritual vitality of Waco, and I hope that you will consider doing the same for the sake of our future.

Chris Johnson  
Pastor of Chalk Bluff Baptist Church and  
Moderator of the Waco Regional Baptist Association



*Tim Stephen  
Hayley Katelyn  
Rachel Evelyn Jewel*

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Moderator's Article.....	1
Collegiate Ministry Spotlight...	2
Upcoming Events .....	2
Financial Update .....	2
Christmas Events.....	3
Calendar of Events.....	3
Churches without Pastors.....	4
New Church Staff.....	4
Church Spotlight .....	4

## COLLEGIATE MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT

It has been an amazing privilege to work alongside Columbus Avenue Baptist Church, Park Lake Baptist Church, Calvary Baptist Church, Waco FBC and Ecclesia Community Church in serving and outreaching at McLennan Community College. Together, we have been able to impact the students by sharing with them the Word of God and having events to build relationships with them. We have had 15-30 students join us every week for our free lunch events. We have also been able to provide several Bible studies throughout the week, where these students are able to connect with some of the many churches that are around them

and learn more about the Bible. As the semester comes to a close, we are making preparations for next semester by getting together with college ministers and MCC faculty and staff and reflecting upon the semester. We want to be intentional and continue building the Christian community on campus. Please continue praying for the students in the Waco region and for there to be more laborers for this harvest that the Lord has given us. If you know of any college student that would be interested in joining us or if you would like to volunteer with the college ministry, please contact us at [mcc@wacobaptists.org](mailto:mcc@wacobaptists.org) or [tstc@wacobaptists.org](mailto:tstc@wacobaptists.org).



Stephen Galarza  
MCC Collegiate Ministry Coordinator

“For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; and the government will rest on His shoulders; and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.”  
Isaiah 9:6

### FINANCIAL REPORT

2015 Budget: \$279,228.00

Budget needs as of Oct. 31:  
\$232,690.00

Budget receipts as of Oct. 31:  
\$206,946.55

The association is running a deficit of \$25,743.45 as of Oct. 31, and we anticipate an approximate \$30,000 deficit by the end of this year. We rely on consistent contributions from member churches to support the costs of running the association in order to better serve our churches and the community ministries.

### 2015 LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING® WEEK OF PRAYER FOR INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS • NOV. 29 – DEC. 6



# BECAUSE OF WHO HE IS

... AND **BECAUSE YOU GIVE**, IMB HELPS CHURCHES SEND MISSIONARIES TO THE BILLIONS WHO HAVE YET TO HEAR.

**January Ministers Round Table**  
12:00pm on January 13 at Truett Seminary

**Topic:** Future of Missions  
**Speaker:** Dennis Horton, Baylor University Religion Department

Please make a reservation by **January 7**.  
Contact Katelyn at [admin@wacobaptists.org](mailto:admin@wacobaptists.org) or (254) 753-2408.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Christmas Celebrations		
Church	Celebration	Date/Time
Bosqueville	Men's Fellowship Breakfast	Dec. 5, 7:00am
Meadowbrook	Advent Experience	Dec. 6, 4:00pm
Columbus Ave.	Christmas and Keyboards	Dec. 6, 5:00pm
Calvary	Baylor Singing Seniors	Dec. 6, 6:00pm
Lorena FBC	Choir Cantata	Dec. 6, 6:00pm
Meadowbrook	Christmas Musical	Dec. 11, 7:00pm
Calvary	Christmas Coffeehouse	Dec. 12, 12:00pm
Chalk Bluff	Community Christmas Fair	Dec. 12, 4:00pm
Chalk Bluff	Christmas Cantata	Dec. 12, 6:30pm
Woodway FBC	Point of Grace Concert	Dec. 12, 7:00pm
Meadowbrook	Christmas Musical	Dec. 13, 8:30/9:45/11:00am
Robinson FBC	Christmas Cantata	Dec. 13, 10:30am
Chalk Bluff	Christmas Cantata	Dec. 13, 11:00am
Hewitt FBC	Christmas Musical Presentation	Dec. 13, 11:00am
Lakeshore	Light in the Darkness Service	Dec. 13, 3:00pm
Columbus Ave.	Christmas at Columbus	Dec. 13, 5:00pm
Bosqueville	Children's Christmas Play	Dec. 13, 6:00pm
Seventh&James	Messiah Sing-Along	Dec. 13, 6:00pm
Waco FBC	Appalachian Christmas	Dec. 13, 7:00pm
Seventh&James	Cookies, Carols & Christmas	Dec. 16, 6:00pm
Columbus Ave.	Service of Consolation	Dec. 20, 5:00pm
Cornerstone	Surprising Christmas Pageant	Dec. 20, 6:00pm
Robinson FBC	Candlelight Service	Dec. 20, 6:00pm
Columbus Ave.	Christmas Eve Service	Dec. 24, 5:00pm
Bosqueville	Christmas Eve Service	Dec. 24, 6:00pm
Calvary	Christmas Eve Service	Dec. 24, 6:00pm
Hewitt FBC	Christmas Eve Service	Dec. 24, 6:00pm
Meadowbrook	Christmas Eve Service	Dec. 24, 6:00pm
Oak Grove	Christmas Eve Service	Dec. 24, 6:00pm
Seventh&James	Christmas Eve Service	Dec. 24, 6:00pm
Western Heights	Christmas Eve Service	Dec. 24, 6:00pm
Lorena FBC	Christmas Eve Service	Dec. 24, 6:30pm
Bosqueville	New Year's Eve Cook-Off	Dec. 31, 6:00pm

**Merry Christmas**

well & shining

DECEMBER EVENTS

**November 29-December 6**  
Week of Prayer-International  
Missions & Lottie Moon  
Christmas Offering

**December 3, 4:00pm**  
Ministry Assistants Party  
WRBA, Garden Room

**December 23-25**  
WRBA Office Closed  
(Half day on Dec. 23)  
Christmas

**December 31-January 1**  
WRBA Office Closed  
New Years

**January 4-6**  
Collegiate Leadership Summit  
Truett Seminary  
For info, contact Joyce at  
joyce.ashcraft@texasaptists.org

**January 13, 12:00pm**  
Ministers Roundtable  
Truett Seminary  
Topic: Future of Missions  
Speaker: Dennis Horton,  
Baylor University  
RSVP by January 7

ADVENT CALENDAR

- Nov. 29—First Advent
- Dec. 6—Second Advent
- Dec. 13—Third Advent
- Dec. 20—Fourth Advent

We anticipate celebrating Jesus' coming to earth on Christmas, but let us remember this purpose during the weeks leading up to this special day. We have an opportunity to reflect on our relationship with God with thanksgiving and to share our joy with others.

COMMUNITY NEWS

**Please continue to pray for WRBA churches seeking a Pastor:**

- Downsville
- Lorena FBC
- Marlin MBC
- Old Time
- Primera Iglesia
- Robinson FBC

**New church staff:**

Congratulations to Woodway FBC and their new pastor, Dr. Paul Sands!

Waco Regional Baptist Association

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CHURCHES AND PAY DAY LENDING

Payday Lending, or payday loans, affect our community. Several WRBA church members have joined a local branch of the group called "Citizens for Responsible Lending," that educates and gives micro-financing

Calvary Baptist Church Pastor Jim Coston said, "We have a number of members who are on the committees."

Payday lending is a small, unsecure loan that is given regardless of likelihood or timeframe of repayment. The loans can be rolled over and have large interest rates. Most of the people who get these loans have a sudden emergency, cannot wait until the next pay day, borrow money from one of these companies and then have trouble getting out of the debt loop to repay the loan and the large incurred interest.

Coston and at least one other local pastor spoke at a Waco City Council Meeting about the need for the city to restrict the interest rate, debt-to-pay percentage and times a loan can roll over.

For information about how to support these efforts, visit citizensforresponsiblelending.org.

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