



# 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.

January 2016

Volume 17, Issue 1

## FROM YOUR DIRECTOR

It is hard to think about what the Baptist work might look like in Central Texas in 20 years, but we are actually making plans to lay a solid foundation for the Waco Regional Baptist Association to ensure that Baptist Churches will be a vital part of the community into the future. Our board has established an endowment fund with the Waco Foundation called the "Ministry and Missions Endowment Fund." By this means we are opening up an opportunity for Baptist supporters and leaders like yourself to perpetually contribute to the ongoing work of Baptists in this region. By a generous grant from the Waco Foundation, they have opened a one-year window of opportunity where they will match donated funds with one dollar added for each 10 dollars raised in this endowment up to a maximum of \$10,000. That means that a \$1,000 donation will automatically receive a \$100 match immediately! The proceeds from this endowment will be made available annually to our WRBA ministry teams to give the ministries additional resources to transform their community and strengthen churches. All contributions also are tax deductible. In some cases, (depending upon your tax needs), the choice to give to this endowment can be simply a question of whether you would rather give you money to the IRS or to the Lord's work. The Waco Foundation website is [www.wacofoundation.org](http://www.wacofoundation.org).



I know that this is a long-term investment that is hard to imagine, but suppose we were able to raise \$100,000 over the next twelve months. With the additional grant of \$10,000 from the Waco Foundation, that would make approximately \$5,000 available every year from here on out for ministry in the community! For more information you can either call us or the Waco Foundation and we'll be glad to visit with you about how this might bless you, bless the community and bless Baptist work for years to come.

In His Service,  
Tim

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## FROM YOUR ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR



We are celebrating hiring Larry Turner as the new Restorative Justice/Jail Ministry Coordinator with WRBA Community Ministries. He was the younger of two boys born to Robert and Frankie Turner in Austin, TX. As a teenager, he appreciated R&B and his favorite song was *Isn't She Lovely* by Stevie Wonder. He is married to his wife, Shelia, and they have four children, three boys and one girl, ranging from 17 to 34 years of age. Before retiring, he worked in construction as a welder and as a professional CDL truck driver. He knew that God had called him to preach at age 15, but did not respond until 15 years ago. He was introduced to the prison ministry three years ago after serving as a volunteer with the

*Overcomers Support* program (a twelve-step, faith-based recovery initiative) at the House Where Jesus Shines, an after-care residence in Waco, exclusively designed for men being released from TX prisons. Most of his work with prison inmates has been at the Alfred D. Hughes Unit in Gatesville, TX. He is currently an associate pastor at Bold Springs Baptist Church in West, TX. His favorite scripture is Romans 12:1-2. He thanks God every day for renewing his mind and transforming his life in Christ Jesus.



Evelyn Ofong  
Associate Director/Community Ministries  
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*"The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps."  
Proverbs 16:9*

### JANUARY D-NOW WEEKENDS

- January 14-17**  
Highland Baptist Church
- January 14-17**  
Woodway FBC
- January 15-17**  
Columbus Avenue Baptist Church
- January 29-31**  
Meadowbrook Baptist Church

### UPCOMING EVENTS



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

**Topic:** Future of Missions  
**Speaker:** Dr. Dennis Horton,  
Baylor University

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

**February Ministers Round Table  
12:00pm on February 3 at Truett**

**Topic:** Race Relations  
**Speaker:** Dr. Michael Evans,  
Bethlehem Baptist Church



Please make a reservation by **January 28**.  
Contact Katelyn at [admin@wacobaptists.org](mailto:admin@wacobaptists.org) or 753-2408.

## COLLEGIATE MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT

In November, we rejoiced as a BSM was officially launched on the TSTC campus. Now WRBA/BSM, representing more than 95 churches, stands tall as one of the growing number of Christ-centered, student-led, church-supported ministries for college students on TX campuses. The aim of WRBA/BSM is to serve students by providing a setting where they can pursue Christ and share the Word with other believers and nonbelievers during their time in college. The launch was preceded by months of prayer, student participation, the building of intentional relationships and tremendous support of faculty and staff.

Student leaders began preparations at the start of the fall semester to launch the 2015 WRBA/BSM Bible study group. The initial step was to participate in the Student Leadership Conference hosted by the Waco TSTC campus and attended by students from other campuses across the state. The tedious process, not unlike tilling neglected ground, also included working with the Collegiate Ministry Committee to develop the organization's bylaws and bringing those in line with the bylaws governing student organizations at TSTC. We did not have balloons or banners to mark the long awaited launch of WRBA/BSM. Instead, there were shouts of "Hallelujah and Praise the Lord!" The student leaders were pleasantly surprised and grateful for the harvest of the November meetings. An unexpected blessing was the fifty percent discount given by

Domino's for the pizza served at that first meeting.

Your fervent prayers were answered as we ignited the BSM spark on campus. The diligent work is paying off. Praise the Lord for the committed student leaders. The group meets each Friday from 12:15-1:15pm in the TSTC Student Recreation Center. Our prayers of thanksgiving are now mingled with prayers asking God to show us the pathway that leads to greater member-church participation with this student group. Our prayer and heart's desire is for more laborers to yield an even greater harvest.

The students need you! We invite you to join us in walking alongside these students. Organize a Bible study, host a free lunch or any other activity to which God may lead as we encourage these students to develop a closer relationship with Jesus Christ. If you would like to know how to pray for the ministry or desire more information, please call or email me at the WRBA office.

Jewel Lockridge, Ph. D.  
Collegiate Ministry Coordinator, TSTC  
tstc@wacobaptists.org



TSTC student leaders gather.

## JANUARY EVENTS

**December 31-January 1**  
WRBA Office Closed  
New Year's

**January 13, 12:00pm**  
Ministers Roundtable  
Truett Seminary  
Topic: Future of Missions  
Reservations: by January 7

**January 14, 8:30am**  
50+ Senior Day  
Latham Springs

**January 18**  
WRBA Office Closed  
MLK Day

**January 19, 4:00pm**  
Board Meeting  
WRBA

**January 21, 12:00pm**  
Networking and Missions  
Team Meeting  
FBC Waco, Conference Rm

**January 18-19**  
Preschool & Children's  
Ministers Retreat  
Granbury Resort Convention  
Center  
www.texasbaptists.org/  
childhood

**January 31**  
BGCT Hunger Offering  
hungeroffering.texasbaptists.org

**February 3, 12:00pm**  
Ministers Roundtable  
Truett Seminary  
Topic: Race Relations  
Reservations: by January 28

**February 7, 1:00pm**  
RA Pinewood Derby  
Columbus Avenue

**February 8-14**  
Focus on WMU  
www.wmu.com

## 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  
Amistad and their new  
pastor, Reuben Marin Jr.!

## NEW BEGINNINGS HOUSE OF WORSHIP

It's exciting to hear about churches who started with only a few people in a home and have grown to a congregation of 38 people with a church building, like with New Beginnings House of Worship.

"It started in September of 2012 in my living room," said Pastor Bradley Thompson. "It was the leading of the Spirit of God. It was not an easy decision leading an unestablished church."

They moved to the East Waco Multi-purpose Center for a year, then bought and renovated a building at 125 Carter. They moved in January 2014.

After a few discussions and prayer, the church decided to work with WRBA's Missions Development Ministry Team

and a sponsoring church, Harris Creek Baptist, for support.

"They've been more than a team — they've been friends," Thompson said, "I've gained a lot of wisdom and knowledge that I'm still digesting. They've become a part of our church in so many ways."

Thompson loves the church's "close-knit, family atmosphere." He said, "I love the family. I love the unity that we have, and it spills over from the church."

Thompson is excited about the potential youth ministry growth and creating different avenues to give them something to do outside of school.

He asked for prayer "for our leadership," for their strength and longevity, especially in youth and music ministry.

Waco Regional Baptist Association

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