



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 2015



Volume 16, Issue 1

FROM YOUR DIRECTOR

Where is God headed with this world? Where are we headed? As the old year expires and the New Year awaits, these are questions that naturally pop into my head. Unfortunately (in my opinion), we tend to passively absorb the answers to these big questions from the media that constantly surrounds us and bombards us with images and sounds. Because of this, our answers to these two questions might depend more upon which network we tend to watch than upon what God has said in His Eternal Word.



As this new year begins, I am looking forward to working with our staff and a small group of leaders from our WRBA congregations to prayerfully discern where we as an Association of churches need to head in the next five years. This year we will be concluding a strategic plan that we drew up in 2010. In that simple and humble document we spelled out our aspirations in five simple goals. We have made great progress on those goals! Thank the Lord! I do not imagine that we have the power to write a strategic plan and then magically make it happen. But I do want to be able to say at the end of the course of my life that "I did not run or labor in vain." (Philippians 2:16)

I do believe that having a strategic plan is better than not having a plan. I also believe that it can be a very useful tool to keep us all walking the same direction. Further, I believe that the only way we can articulate a good strategic plan is for us to listen long and hard to God and to one another about what we perceive Him doing in our world, and in our region. So with this simple article, could I encourage you to add the Waco Regional Baptist Association to your prayer list? Maybe even add it to your prayer list at church? My request is that we will hear God's voice clearly enough to respond with a humble "yes" and then follow in concrete obedience.

In His Service,
Tim



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FROM YOUR ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

We have said farewell to a Restorative Justice/Jail coordinator who has performed wonderfully while with us. Before her departure, we took an opportunity to reflect on the ministry and evaluate the work done. Our greatest achievement has been providing Sunday services to the inmates through dedicated volunteers at the McLennan County Jail for more than 15 years. However, is this enough? Is this the area in which WRBA churches feel we are maximizing resources? Should we be adding to or refocusing our attention on other areas within RJM? To help us answer these

questions, we will be hiring a research intern. If you are interested in this position, go to www.wacobaptist.org for an employee application (available in January 2015).

We will identify which churches currently have jail ministries, the level of involvement, and if/where WRBA's assistance is needed. Then we'll seek feedback. Please pray for the WRBA Restorative Justice/Jail Ministry. We will keep you informed throughout this process. *Stay tuned.*

Evelyn Ofong
Associate Director
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"The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in His love He will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing."
Zephaniah 3:17

JANUARY D-NOW WEEKENDS

- January 15-18**
Woodway FBC
- January 16-18**
Columbus Avenue Baptist Church
- January 30-February 1**
Meadowbrook Baptist Church

UPCOMING EVENTS

January Ministers Round Table
12:00pm on January 14 at Truett

Topic: Missions When Helping Hurts
Speaker: Jim Coston, Calvary Baptist

Please make a reservation by **January 8**.
Contact Katelyn at admin@wacobaptists.org or 753-2408.



February Ministers Round Table
12:00pm on February 4 at Truett

Topic: Homosexuality and the Church
Speaker: Ferrell Foster, BGCT

Please make a reservation by **January 29**.
Contact Katelyn at admin@wacobaptists.org or 753-2408.

COLLEGIATE MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT

MCC—This has been a very active week for ministry at McLennan Community College. We had the first Encounter Worship Night where 21 people came to worship with the MCC Contemporary Christian Band and a message from Ecclesia Baptist Church Pastor Joshua Rieff. We passed out 150 fliers to invite students to the worship night and talk to them about Christ.

Three Bible studies are offered throughout the week for the MCC college students and will continue next semester. One, led by Park Lake Drive Baptist Church, went caroling with songs proclaiming Christ to the world. Contact us to get involved in Collegiate Ministry



First Encounter Worship Night at MCC.

or learn about other events. Pray that the MCC ministry will continue flourishing and more students will know Christ.

Steven Galarza
Collegiate Ministry Coordinator, MCC
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TSTC—The Christmas and New Year's holidays usually mean college students return home for extended visits with family, friends and church family. While they're home for the holidays is a great time to plan a get-together to catch up. It is also a good time to update contact information for former collegiate ministry students. Have them complete cards with phone, home, and email address. Ask students to share meaningful and challenging experiences from the fall semester as they have transitioned to new collegiate ministry groups. Listen for ideas to make your Collegiate Ministry more viable in meeting student

spiritual needs. Make a note to assist any students who have not connected with a collegiate ministry since moving away to school or work. If they have not already done so, encourage them to create a Facebook page to ensure that they can find spiritual and practical support as they return for the spring semester.

Jewel Lockridge, Ph. D.
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JANUARY EVENTS

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

January 14, 12:00pm
Ministers Roundtable
Truett Seminary
Topic: Missions When Helping Hurts
Reservations: by January 8

January 15, 8:30am
50+ Senior Day
Latham Springs

January 15, 12:00pm
Networking and Missions
Team Meeting
FBC Waco, Conference Rm

January 19
WRBA Office Closed
MLK Day

January 20, 4:00pm
Administrative Team
Meeting
WRBA

January 20-21
Preschool & Children's
Ministers Retreat
The Baptist Building, Dallas
www.texasbaptists.org/
childhood

January 23-24
Children's Worship
University
Lewisville FBC
www.texasbaptists.org/cwu

February 4, 12:00pm
Ministers Roundtable
Truett Seminary
Topic: Homosexuality and
the Church
Reservations: by January 29

February 8, 1:00pm
RA Pinewood Derby
Columbus Avenue

COMMUNITY NEWS

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

Amistad
Downsville
Hilltop
Lake Shore
Lorena FBC
Old Time
Pleasant Olive MBC
Woodway FBC

CHURCH SPOTLIGHT: WACO FBC

Waco FBC is busy with holiday events like a Christmas Eve service and a Community Christmas Outreach at Delta Inn Motel. But they stay busy all year, like with Community Kids Basketball League.

Pastor Matt Snowden said, "I am excited that our church family is embracing the call to love God, one another and the world in the Spirit of Jesus."

The congregation displays God's love in community efforts and international outreach. Snowden went to Lebanon last summer with a BGCT ministry to refugees (www.texasbaptists.org/lebanon). Other church outreaches include church plant-

ing in Nicaragua and L.I.F.T. Snowden said, "I love our people, and I love it that God has demonstrated a stubborn love for us over the years. He quite obviously believes in our future."

Snowden has watched the multi-generational church go through many life transitions and become more diverse.

He said, "Our family has been here long enough to see the texture and tone change yet we have maintained a consistent set of values."

Snowden said, "Pray that we grow in grace and practice forgiveness. Pray that we prioritize that which is truly important. Pray for us to grow."

Waco Regional Baptist Association

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