



WACO REGIONAL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Connect, Support, Train

July 2017



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FROM YOUR DIRECTOR



The things we invest in over a long period of time are usually the things from which we reap the most satisfying fruits.

Our children are a good example. Although they are taxing and exasperating at times, we don't give up on investing in them because we know that they are worth it.

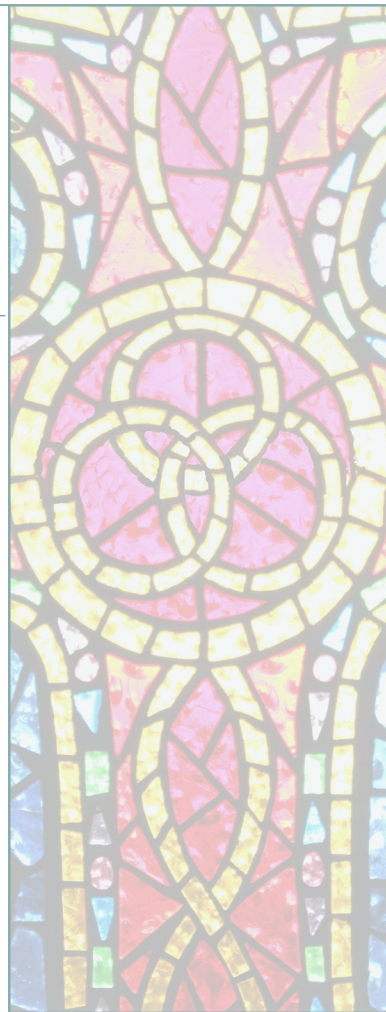
Fruit trees are another example. We plant, and water, and prune, and spray and protect them for years before we enjoy the first peach or the first apricot from their thin little branches.

Friendships between churches are another example of this phenomenon. We invest in fellowship with other churches through the years by sharing meals, celebrations and ministries together. Only in retrospect do we see the profit in this. So we continue to invest in the lives of our sister churches and invite them into our lives because we know that in the end these relationships are worth it.

We need each other and we are connected to each other whether we recognize the value of that today or not. When a church transition or a conflict occurs, we are glad for some friends outside of our own fellowship. We enrich one another through sharing of resources and viewpoints. We also make a larger impact on our community when we work together to address common issues such as the **Bounce Project** this next month. Through a creative partnership between Waco Community Development, Texas Baptists Bounce Ministries and the WRBA, we are going to help approximately 20 families have safe, dry and affordable housing.

It does seem taxing and even boring at times to participate in planning meetings, and board meetings and fellowship meals. But in the end, **the relationships that are nurtured and flourish are (to borrow a term from a credit card marketing), Priceless!**

In His Service,
Tim Randolph



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VACATION BIBLE SCHOOLS

Church	Date	Time
Ecclesia	July 9-13	6:00-8:30pm
Carver Park	July 10-15	
Columbus Ave	July 10-14	
Cornerstone	July 10-14	6:00-8:00pm
West FBC	July 10-14	
Western Heights	July 10-14	9:00am-noon
Bosqueville	Jul 30-Aug 3	5:30-7:00pm
Chalk Bluff	Aug 3-6	

CHURCH CAMPS

Church	Type	Date
Waco FBC	Children	July 6-10
Woodway FBC	Youth	July 9-14
Crawford FBC	Youth	July 10-14
Seventh & James	Children	July 10-16
Hewitt FBC	Youth	July 11-15
Crawford FBC	Preteen	July 15-18
Bosqueville	Youth	July 17-21
Brazos Meadows	Children	July 20-24
Highland	Preteen	July 24-28
Calvary	Children	July 28-31
DaySpring	Preteen	July 28-31

"Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble."

1 Peter 3:8

COLLEGIATE MINISTRY UPDATE

It has been a blessing working for the Waco Regional Baptist Association and helping in leading the Baptist Student Ministry (BSM), which is the only Christian organization at McLennan Community College (MCC). I have been able to interact with more than 300 students through various activities such as free lunches and Bible study. I have had the blessing of being involved in the lives of 24 student leaders, and have seen how God has developed them and used them. Together with member churches and the Colligate Ministry Team, we have successfully shined the light of Christ in our Local Community College. Now, God has called me to enter another season in my life. On June 11, I was called to be the Associate Pastor at Park Lake Drive Baptist Church. I will continue being involved with the Collegiate Ministry, but not in the same capacity as before. To continue this ministry, we are in need of a part-time Collegiate Ministry Coordinator that will help continue the ministry at MCC. I ask that you keep this ministry in your prayers as it is going through this transition. If you would like to know more information about this position you may email admin@wacobaptists.org.



Stephen Galarza
Collegiate Ministry Coordinator, MCC
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HUNGER MINISTRY UPDATE

In the last year, two member congregations who separately operated hunger ministries have joined together to serve the community. Lake Shore Baptist Church has thoughtfully considered how to continue to engage in hunger ministry through the transition of closing their onsite food pantry by now providing volunteers to support the Carver Park Baptist Church Food Pantry. The members who helped to operate the food pantry at Lake Shore were committed to continue to serve the hunger needs of Waco, and it is beautiful to see how those faithful servants were not discouraged by changing circumstances but rather saw an opportunity before them to continue to serve outside their walls. Carver Park has had the opportunity to expand their pantry from within their fellowship hall to a separate, new building dedicated specifically to the purpose of providing food to the community. On Friday, I was privileged to visit and serve alongside volunteers from Carver Park and Lake Shore in the new facility. Praise be to God for gifting each of us and using our many congregations together to meet hunger needs in our community.



Megan Byrd
Hunger Ministry Coordinator
hunger@wacobaptists.org



Helen Lewis, CPBC and Annette Brister, LSBC

MISSION TRIPS

Church	Location	Date	Type
Woodway FBC	Pecos, NM	July 1-7	Family
Crossroads Fell.	Brazil	July 6-16	
Lorena FBC		July 9-15	Youth
Meadowbrook	Mission, TX	July 9-14	Family
Woodway FBC	Buena Vista, CO	July 21-29	Family
Top Hand	Montana	July 15-23	
Woodway FBC	Taos, NM	July 15-21	Family
Columbus Ave	Denia, Spain	July 21-29	Youth
Woodway FBC	Palmetto, GA	July 21-29	Family
Tree Lake	Kentucky	July 22-28	Youth
Woodway FBC	Belize	July 22-29	Youth
West FBC	Honduras	July 24-28	
Highland	Ghana	July 28-Aug 6	
Woodway FBC	Manchester, UK	July 28-Aug 4	
Hewitt FBC	Pendleton, OR	Aug 5-11	Youth

JULY EVENTS

July 4
Independence Day
WRBA Office Closed

July 13, 3:30pm
Evangelism Ministry Team
Meeting
WRBA Office

July 17-21
Bounce
Waco area

July 19, 12:00pm
Networking and Missions
Team Meeting
Waco FBC, Conference Rm

July 21, 1:00pm
Church Protection Team
Meeting
WRBA Office

July 30
5th Sunday Hunger Offering

July 31, 11:30am
Church Technology Team
Meeting
WRBA Office

COMMUNITY NEWS

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

Emmanuel
Faith Temple
Hewitt FBC

CHURCH SPOTLIGHT: BRAZOS MEADOWS

Pastor Billy Edwards came to Brazos Meadows Baptist Church 25 years ago, shortly after it was planted by Woodway FBC.

“These people have always been very loving and gracious.... They love one another, they love people, they love to minister, they love to reach out.”

Edwards said they've kept the same purpose — to reach the people nobody else is reaching.

“It’s messy when you reach people who are broken ... but that’s where we want to be.”

Many have been hurt in life.

“There’s so much healing that has taken place. And that has made them so very gracious.”

Edwards said the church tries to reach out, like with their hunger ministry that was redesigned after the Discover! process.

“That was an eye-opener on so many levels.... We know our community because we’re out in the community. What we didn’t know, and were totally shocked by, was the level of hunger in Hewitt,” he said.

In the past couple of years they’ve gotten involved in “Hunger Free MISD,” hunger initiatives at Castleman Creek, etc. They also found a lot of homeless people in the ISD.

“We learned that the City of Hewitt, particularly the library, was kind of the meeting place for those things.... So we began a really intensive effort.”

He asked for prayer “not only that we would be faithful to what God has called us to do, but that we would continue to reach the people nobody else is reaching.”

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4TH OF JULY

Happy

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