



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.

July 2015



Volume 16, Issue 7

FROM YOUR DIRECTOR

Vacation Bible School Season is here! On top of that, we have church groups traveling on **mission trips**, and **summer camps** for children and youth.



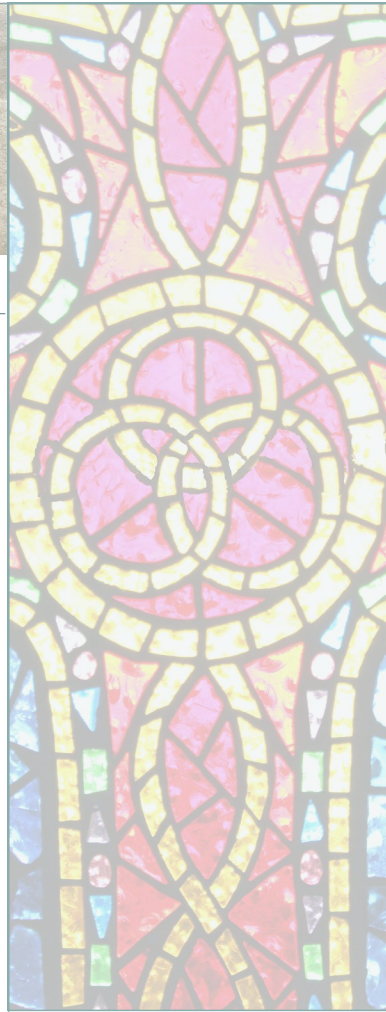
All of these provide opportunities for the church family to build closer relationships, deepen discipleship and become more focused on ministry. If you are participating in these things, it is easy to get “really worn out” and become exhausted. Our physical exhaustion can then, ironically, lead to words or attitudes that actually destroy relationships, weaken our discipleship and confuse our ministries. Isn’t that funny? By trying really hard sometimes we accomplish just the opposite of what we wanted.

So here are two recommendations: Don’t forget your daily quiet time, and don’t forget your weekly Sabbath. No, you are not strong and resilient enough to run past these routines without paying some negative consequences. Maybe we need to tell ourselves that the world will continue spinning even if we take an hour off in the morning to just be still with the Lord, and that the world will survive if we take a day of rest.

Isaiah 30:15 - “This is what the Sovereign Lord, the Holy One of Israel, says: ‘In repentance and **rest** is your salvation, in **quietness** and trust is your strength, but you would have none of it.’”

So, yes! Let’s make this a great summer of terrific ministry, AND let’s make this a great summer of rest and reflection. Everyone around us will be glad that we did.

Blessings and Peace,
Tim



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UPCOMING SUMMER CAMPS

Columbus Avenue	Youth	July 1-6	West FBC	Youth	July 20-24
Meadowbrook	Youth	July 7-10	Brazos Meadows	Youth	July 20-25
Harris Creek	Preteen	July 7-11	Robinson FBC	Youth	July 21-25
FBC Woodway	Youth	July 12-17	Lorena FBC	Youth	July 22-26
Highland	Youth	July 13-17	Lorena FBC	Preteen	July 27-31
Meadowbrook	Children	July 13-17	Calvary	Children	August 4-7
Waco FBC	Youth	July 13-18			
Bosqueville	Children	July 16-20			
Crossroads Fellow.	Children	July 16-20			
Oak Grove	Children	July 16-20			
Robinson FBC	Children	July 16-20			
Waco FBC	Children	July 16-20			
Crawford FBC	Preteen	July 18-21			
Hewitt FBC	Youth	July 20-24			

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOLS

Western Heights	July 6-10
Columbus Avenue	July 20-24
Bosqueville	July 26-30
Hewitt FBC	July 26-30

“The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”
Acts 2:39

ACTS CHURCH

The time after a mission trip is filled with reflection and praise what God has done. Acts Church just had 51 members return from partnering with Rancho Dos Countries ministry in Zaragoza, Mexico. They bagged and distributed food, prayed with families, held vision screenings and worship services, and more.

Member Leslie Moore said, “I knew that God was working through us and that we were serving a great purpose by being there.”

Among several memories, Moore recalled a 10-year-old girl coming in

2 Story continued on page 3

HUNGER MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT

Matthew 25:35 “For when I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me....”

About five years ago our church organized a back to school giveaway with school supplies for neighborhood children, most of whom rode the church van to church and did not have parents coming with them. We were to fill a backpack with the items and then on an upcoming Sunday, we would get to meet a child and present the backpack. Our child was an 8-year-old girl. I began a relationship with her of mentoring and teaching, loving and sharing the gospel. I soon learned that she never missed a day of school; however, she

was failing every subject. As our relationship grew, I met her family and learned that poverty kept them bound in ways I may never understand. Seldom did she get dinner at night. If she did, it would be a small bag of chips and a soda – just enough to stave off hunger. Over the years (she’s 14 now) we became more involved and made sure that she never went hungry again. However, the effects of hunger on her early developing years



Story continued on page 4

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR: HOPE

Wednesday, June 17, 2015 in Charleston, NC, a 21 year-old white man, Dylann Roof, deliberately walked into a historic African-American church, the Emmanuel AME Church, attended a Bible study class, and 30 minutes later, nine people were dead, including the pastor, Rev. Clementa Pinckney. That same week in East Waco, a thirty-something white pastor of Park Lake Baptist Church, Amos Humphries, along with adults and children from his congregation, delightfully walked into the Greater Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church, pastored by Rev. James Snow, and joined hands with his African-American congregation for VBS. At the end of the week, approximately 120 children, from different ethnic and cultural backgrounds, ages 2 to 18, graduated from VBS together. The murder of the Charleston nine, took me back to the racially-motivated bombing on a Sunday in 1963 when four black girls were killed (and 22 others injured) at the African-American 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, AL. Both events had an emotional impact because they happened in a church, a place thought to be out of bounds. However, watching the children in VBS gave me hope for the future. Do activities like these totally solve this multidimensional problem? No. But it is certainly a step in the right direction. John Steinbeck, author of the *Grapes of Wrath*, once observed, "If you understand each other you will be kind to each other. Knowing a man well never leads to hate and almost always leads to love." Understanding someone directs you towards love and propels you with kindness. The comments and actions of Dylann Roof revealed someone with a deep misunderstanding of the human race that was propelled by an immense hatred towards black people. But the partnership between Park Lake Drive and Greater Shiloh planted the seeds of love for all of God's people, and gives hope for the dawn of a new day.



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A picture of tragedy - Dylann Roof.



Vision of hope, VBS. Photo by Ashley Dawn.

JULY EVENTS

July 3
WRBA Office Closed
Fourth of July

July 7-10
Bounce Youth Evangelism
Waco, TX

July 14-16
African American Fellowship
& Evangelism Conference
Truett Seminary
www.texasbaptists.org/
events/AAFC

July 21-24
Alleluia
Truett Seminary
www.baylor.edu/alleluia

August 6-7
Global Leadership Summit
FBC Temple
www.willowcreek.com/
events/leadership

JULY MISSION TRIPS

Calvary - Lebanon
July 2-11

Waco FBC - Shaw, MS
July 12-17

Crawford FBC - Romania
July 22-31

West FBC—Honduras
Mid-July

ACTS CHURCH CONT.

tears, asking for prayer for her family. The varied demographic group of members helped minister to all ages.

Moore said, "Everyone was so supportive and encouraging... Seeing the youth in our ministry praying for others and serving allowed me to see how impactful cross-generational missions can be. I look forward to the next one!"

COMMUNITY NEWS

Please continue to pray for WRBA churches seeking a Pastor:

Downsville
Lorena FBC
Marlin MBC
Old Time
Primera Iglesia
Riesel FBC
Robinson FBC
Woodway FBC

Church News:

Congrats to Maranatha and their future endeavors with church campuses in Waco and Bellmead!

HUNGER SPOTLIGHT CONT.

still have not been overcome. She still struggles in many ways with decision making and judgement, and although she now has a good system of support, she still has trouble using all the many gifts God gave her for the advancement of the Kingdom. Her mind can be renewed, but it will take time.

Waco has twice the national poverty rate. We have enough food for the world to end hunger on every continent. In America there is enough food to go around, but sometimes the ones who need it are not getting it, and that affects their childhood development and outlooks on life. As God's people, we are chosen and set aside to be the ones to lead others with our

light. Let's shine a light on hunger and end it. It will be easier if we all do something. One of the most harmful outlooks is for us to become so complacent that we just do nothing. Love can change others' perspectives so they can be whole in Christ.

Current pending legislation (www.frac.org/leg-act-center) will help "the least of them". Please consider doing something. Write a letter to members of Congress; volunteer at a food pantry; deliver groceries to a home-bound resident; help grow a community garden.

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