



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.

March 2016



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FROM YOUR DIRECTOR



How important is it for a group to articulate what they are trying to accomplish? Maybe I can change that question to, "If a group isn't planning to get anything specific done in the next few months, is it any surprise that they don't get anything done?"

As I visit with church leaders every week, many times I find no expression of what they are actually working on.

That is one of the reasons a one-evening (two-hour) event that I created and facilitate called "**Kick Start Your Church**" may be very helpful for your situation.

I recently conducted one such event with a congregation, and everyone present (about 150 people) ended the evening with a written specific goal that they and their small group/committee/ministry team were committed to completing in the next six months. Among the goals they themselves dreamed up were:

- To visit every home of all their preschoolers, and to pray with and encourage the parents.
- To bring as many churches together as possible in the city to jointly produce a musical-evangelistic event for the entire city.
- To interview every college student involved with the college ministry; to ask them of their gifts and interests; and to see how they could get involved and participate in the life of the church.
- A young adult Sunday school decided to have a big fellowship party with the condition that every active couple commit to bringing another couple who was not currently involved in a church.

In all, there were about 15 groups that made goals for themselves for the next six months. No one but the Holy Spirit told them what they needed to do. And yet, as the evening concluded with prayer, it was obvious how all of the pieces fit together for the body to do what it was designed to do – to reach the city for Christ and teach them how to obey Jesus. Now almost everyone can answer the question, "What is your group trying to do this year?"

I believe this may also make a powerful difference in your church. If you want more information on how to "**Kick Start Your Church**," give me a holler.

In His Service,
Tim



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UPCOMING EVENTS

"Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe in this?'"
John 11:25-26

SPRING BREAK MISSION TRIPS

Please be in prayer for the many people on mission trips during Spring break, including:

Columbus Ave — Spain

Crawford FBC — Mexico Border

Woodway FBC — Middle East

Woodway FBC — North Africa

Woodway FBC — Manchester

April Ministers Round Table 12:00pm on April 6 at Truett

Topic: Human Trafficking
Speaker: Kathy Hillman, Baylor University

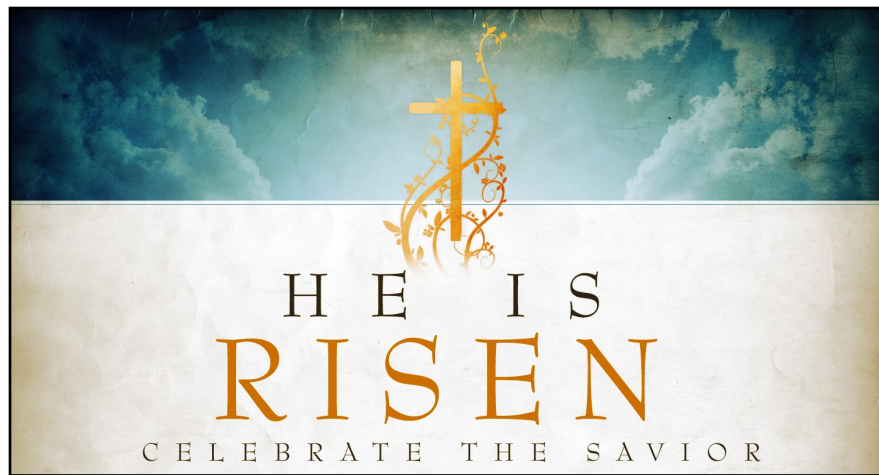
Please make a reservation by **March 31**. Contact the WRBA office at 254-753-2408 or admin@wacobaptists.org.



Spring 50+ Adult Day 8:30am-3:00pm on April 7, 2016 Latham Springs

Lunch is \$8.00. Please RSVP for the meal to 254-694-3689.

Learn more at www.texasbaptists.org/events/african-american-leadership-workshop-2016.



RESTORATIVE JUSTICE/JAIL MINISTRY

Upon arriving at WRBA in December, I was extremely excited about becoming a part of an organization that has a Mission Statement of “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.” I was and still am particularly excited about the Restorative Justice approach to Jail Ministry, for it is within that entire process in which this ministry can make a difference in our community.



It is under the direction of God’s word, in Gal (6:1) “Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such a one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted,” that my team and I govern ourselves. I’m pleased to report that the Restorative Justice Jail Ministry is undergoing a revival and restorative process as well, through team building, church involvement, network expansion, Christian Men’s Job Corp, Christian Women’s Job Corp, Mercy House, Grace House and House Where Jesus Shines, just to name a few. The Ministry is also experiencing a rapid growth in our volunteer base, the returning of some and the beginning for others. I have met with committee members and we are all excited about where God is leading this ministry. We are actively recruiting volunteers and committee members who are passionate about demonstrating God’s love so that others can find true freedom in Jesus Christ. You are invited to join us in this endeavor. Call our office or email me for more information. May God Bless You. “To the one which is, which was, and which is to come, the Almighty!”

Larry Turner
Restorative Justice/Jail
Ministry Coordinator
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MARCH EVENTS

March 2, 10:00am
Ministry Guidance
Conference
Topic: Missions
Reservations: by Feb. 25

March 2, 12:00pm
Ministers Roundtable
Truett Seminary
(Part of Ministry Guidance
Conference)
Topic: Missional Churches
Reservations: by Feb. 25

March 3, 4:15pm
Missions Development
Team Meeting
WRBA, Garden Room

March 4-5
Living Proof Live with
Beth Moore
Extraco Event Center

March 4-5
African American
Leadership Workshop
Truett Seminary

March 6-13
Week of Prayer — North
American Missions and
Annie Armstrong Easter
Offering

March 13
Begin Daylight Saving Time

March 15, 4:00pm
Board Meeting
WRBA, Room 502

March 20
Associational Bible Drill
Woodway FBC

March 25
Office Closed – Good Friday

March 25-27
Congresso
Baylor University

March 27
Easter

March 31, 12:00pm
Networking and Missions
Team Meeting

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:

Congrats to Hewitt FBC
and their new Intentional
Interim Pastor, Don Smarto!

CHURCH SPOTLIGHT: CHINA SPRING FBC

China Spring FBC’s Outreach Team has done some great work. On the Saturday before Easter the church will have an Easter Egg Hunt.

Not knowing how many will attend, the church has 1500 eggs ready for four hunts, or what Pastor Mike Copeland called “hunting leases,” appropriate for varying age groups. A story will be told before the hunts and families will be invited to stay and use a photo area with three different Easter backdrops.

“I’m very excited about what our outreach team is brainstorming, some different ideas.” The church can be difficult to find, and the goal is to create awareness. They’ve considered buying land, but that won’t stop them from reaching out now. “We’re not going to use that as an excuse to not be effective.” The church has held a county fair with music, crafts, games, giveaways and food trucks. They also held a yard sale, inviting people to sell used or crafted items. China Spring FBC paid for the advertising and provided two tables for each group. Some church members are reaching out in creative ways. Steve Woods, former missionary to Argentina, is prayer walking in a new community where 95 percent of construction workers are Hispanic. He has talked with them during lunch breaks and is now taking them Spanish Evangelistic Bible Studies from the WRBA office. They’re surprised and curious with the interaction. He said, “It’s just a way to get the Gospel out there to a lot of Hispanic people.”

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