



FROM YOUR DIRECTOR

“Mission creep” is a term known and used among organizational leaders. I learned during the past month as we were remodeling out kitchen, that construction workers and contractors also suffer from this phenomenon.



While someone has hired a contractor to do a specific job, usually outlined in the contract, the customers frequently think of new things they would like these capable people to do. After all, they are so handy and skilled and helpful, they would not mind just changing out another light fixture while they are there...right?

Churches suffer ‘mission creep’ all the time. They get enlisted to help with community events, maybe support certain political causes, use their building for some organization, and then to host the next meeting. Churches are great organizations with helpful and kind people. But very soon, the church can be very busy with everything under the sun except what the church was born to do: *make disciples for Jesus*.

This does involve building community relationships. But a church must regularly review its *mission statement* and ask itself in a disciplined manner, *“Does this activity, request, or commitment help us achieve our mission?”*

Otherwise, the church will soon be lost doing good things for all kinds of other organizations and not have energy or time to pursue what she was created to do. Think about it!

In His Service,
Tim Randolph



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TEAM MEMBER HELP WANTED!

Wanted: New Members for Hunger Ministry Team (can be a pastor, church staff or member passionate about food insecurity within our community).

Things we are working on:

- Collaborating with the Texas Hunger Initiative to integrate a Congregation/Church Health Track with their upcoming Hunger Summit in November.
- Providing a resource list and educational materials for area churches on what other churches, non-profits and organizations are doing to combat hunger.
- Creating a “Best Practices in Churches” document for addressing community food insecurity.
- Developing health education materials on healthy eating.
- ...and much more!

We meet the 4th Thursday of the month from 5:30-7:00pm at the WRBA offices. Dinner is provided. If you are interested please contact Community Wellness Coordinator Jen Martinsen at 717-2997 or wellness@wacobaptistst.org.

Wanted: New Members for Church Health Ministry Team

(can be a pastor, church staff or member passionate about the health of your church).

Things we are working on:

- Church Health Asset Mapping Project with the Baylor School of Social Work
- Congregational Health Assessment (in English & Spanish)
- Health Resources Toolkit for churches
- Building a Congregational Health Network of churches and health care providers.
- ...and much more!

We meet the 3rd Friday of the month from 8:30-10:00am at Baylor University. Breakfast is provided. If interested please contact Community Wellness Coordinator Jen Martinsen at 717-2997 or wellness@wacobaptistst.org.

“I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die.” John 11:25-26

WRBA IS HIRING

The WRBA office is seeking a full-time Office and Communications Administrator. This person will need to be available to work in the office 8:30am-5:00pm on Monday-Friday. Call the office at 254-753-2408 for more information.

Resumes can be sent to admin@wacobaptists.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Association Bible Drill
1:00pm on March 25 at Woodway FBC
Contact Barbra Smith at 254-772-9696 for information.

April Ministers Round Table
12:00pm on April 4 at Truett Seminary
Topic: Changes in Evangelism
Speaker: Ross Chandler, Marble Falls FBC
RSVP by **March 28** to admin@wacobaptists.org or 753-2408.

Spring 50+ Senior Day
8:30am on April 5 at Latham Springs
Contact 254-694-3689 for more information.

COLLEGIATE MINISTRY UPDATE

While the WRBA Collegiate Ministry at the TSTC is vibrant and growing, we continue to solicit your prayers for the ministry. In addition, you are invited to come alongside us to support and expand opportunities for students to share meaningful, challenging spiritual experiences with each other and with members of the community. Currently, we meet each Thursday morning in the atrium of the Provence Building on the TSTC Campus. Students are stepping up to provide leadership for dynamic discussions of scripture, Q&A sessions, to offer personal insights and testimonies. We also offer prayers as requested by students.



In addition to your prayers, paramount to the continued success of this ministry is the participation and support of WRBA churches. You can help to meet student ministry needs in some specific ways. At this time, we are focusing on WRBA member churches by inviting congregations, Sunday school classes, Bible study groups, and yes, individual members to join us in offering Bible study, outreach, community service and worship events. We encourage you to consider serving on the Collegiate Ministry Team (CMT). This small group of individuals meets a minimal number of times each year to make recommendations, review, and provide input on the funds received and activities implemented in the field by the Coordinator. The CMT is also responsible to ensure that the work of the ministry is on track in fulfilling the WRBA churches' expectations.

In the all-too-brief two years that students are typically enrolled at TSTC, our goal continues to be that of sharing with students the Good News of Jesus Christ. Again, please give prayerful consideration to volunteering as a class, small group or individually to help meet the ministry needs of TSTC students. To volunteer, contact:

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



MARCH EVENTS

March 2-3
African American Leadership Workshop
Truett Seminary

March 4-11
Week of Prayer and Mission Study—North American Missions & Annie Armstrong Easter Offering

March 7, 10:00am
Ministry Guidance Conf.
Truett Seminary
Topic: Pastoral Care and Serious Illness
Speaker: Dr. Kate Bowler
RSVP by February 28 to 254-710-3739

March 7, 12:00pm
Ministers Roundtable
Truett Seminary
Topic: Pastoral Care and Serious Illness
Speaker: Dr. Kate Bowler
RSVP by February 28 to 254-710-3739

March 11
Day Light Saving Time
Clocks "Spring" Forward

March 20, 4:00pm
Board Meeting
WRBA

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

March 25, 1:00pm
Association Bible Drill
Woodway FBC

March 30
Good Friday
WRBA Office Closed

April 1
Easter

COMMUNITY NEWS

Please continue to pray for WRBA churches seeking a Pastor:

Chalk Bluff
Emmanuel
Faith Temple
Greater Zion MBC
Lakeview

CHURCH SPOTLIGHT: MARANATHA

After visiting Maranatha Baptist Church 13 years ago, Monica Arechiga found a connection she was missing while growing up in a culturally Catholic family.

"When I pray, it's a connection. It doesn't feel like a ritual," she said. "I've learned how to have a relationship with God being there."

Arechiga found this connection because of friends who invited her and her husband to come. She said the people have always been inviting and loving.

The congregation has changed buildings a few times due to growth, and is now in Bellmead. They are even looking at a possible expansion since they are running out of classrooms.

"God's favor has been with our church," Arechiga said. "I'm ex-

cited about what is to come and what God is going to bring us."

As children's ministry director, Arechiga is happy with how the community has welcomed the Maranatha congregation and participated in events like their Block Party on Halloween. There were more than 200 children in attendance. Arechiga was happy so many neighbors came.

"We want them to know that we're there to help them."

The church's women's ministry tries to support women as they reach out to their families.

Arechiga asked for prayer "that God will continue to have His favor and grace with us. In everything we do we want to make sure that God's first. (We) want to make sure that it's all from God and in His timing."

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