



# 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 2015



Volume 16, Issue 3

## FROM YOUR DIRECTOR

*What are you assuming about the future of your church?* That it will continue to be a vibrant and powerful force for the Gospel in your community? That it will continue just “as is” perpetually?



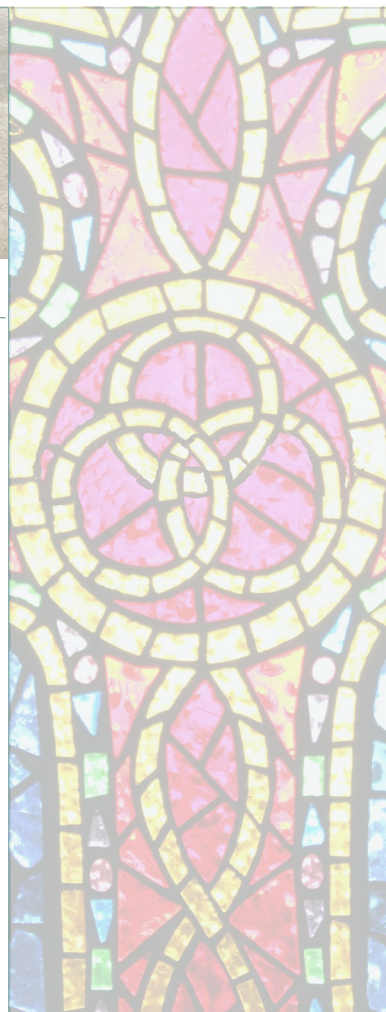
If you are reading this newsletter, you care a lot about your church and have invested much of your life into making it a healthy part of the body of Christ in your community. You are probably hoping your church will continue to be a vital force for good in the world by making disciples and announcing the good news of Jesus far into the future.

The reality of churches across the world, however, should teach us that *every church* will encounter seasons of challenge and difficulty. Some churches decline and eventually close. Others experience years of cultural transition along with their neighborhoods and eventually become a very different kind of church.

The Association is a network of churches across a region that is able to channel help and resources to those congregations passing through a difficult time. The Baptist Association is the closest source of help for all of our member churches and is capable of responding within one day to a phone call asking for help.

If you were to take a map of McLennan County and place a pin for each WRBA church, you would see that there are culturally relevant, ministering churches in almost every neighborhood. Through church planting, assistance with church closures and re-openings, guidance through major transitions, the Gospel is still being proclaimed throughout the region - thanks to our organizing ourselves into an autonomous Baptist Association. Our Waco Regional Baptist Association wants to be there when your church enters into a challenging time. I am grateful to be a part of this wonderful ministry that has done just that for more than 155 years.

In His Service,  
Tim



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Director's Article.....1
- Missions Opportunities.....2
- Upcoming Events.....2
- Ministry Spotlight.....3
- Calendar of Events.....3
- Ministry Spotlight.....4
- Churches without Pastors.....4
- New Church Staff.....4

## UPCOMING EVENTS



### Annie Armstrong Easter Offering Week of Prayer & Mission Study March 1-8, 2015

NAMB gets 49% of its funding from this offering. \$5000 was donated in 1895 when the offering started. This year's goal is \$60 million. Visit [www.anniearmstrong.com](http://www.anniearmstrong.com) for more information.

### April Ministers Round Table 12:00pm on April 1 at Truett Seminary

**Topic:** Creativity in Worship  
**Speaker:** Ryan Richardson,

Baylor University Spiritual Life Director of Worship

Please make a reservation by **March 26** at [admin@wacobaptists.org](mailto:admin@wacobaptists.org) or 753-2408.



“Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread branches they had cut in the fields. Those who went ahead and those who followed shouted, ‘Hosanna!’ ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!’ ‘Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!’ ‘Hosanna in the highest heaven!’”  
Mark 11:8-10

### UPCOMING SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

March 14—Second Saturday  
At Shepherd's Heart. Contact Conway Del Conte at [hunger@wacobaptists.org](mailto:hunger@wacobaptists.org)

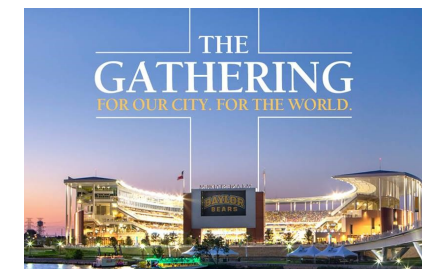
March 29—The Gathering Choir (up to 800 people)  
Contact Gary Rhodes at [gary\\_rhodes@woodwayfbc.org](mailto:gary_rhodes@woodwayfbc.org).

April 25—Congreso  
They need projects for our churches and community. Contact Angie Carter at 214-828-5119.

### THE GATHERING WACO

5:00-7:00pm on Sunday, March 29  
Baylor's McLane Stadium  
*Admission is free, but seating is limited*

Keynote Speaker is Dr. Tony Evans.  
Visit [www.thegatheringwaco.com](http://www.thegatheringwaco.com).



The WMU of Texas Annual Meeting and Missions Celebration will be held at Woodway FBC (101 Ritchie Rd.) on April 17-18. Visit [www.wmu.texasbaptists.org/annualmtg](http://www.wmu.texasbaptists.org/annualmtg) for more information.

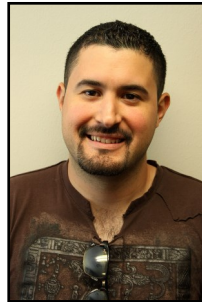


## COLLEGIATE MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT

This spring semester the WRBA Collegiate Ministry at McLennan Community College (MCC) has been very active. We currently have three Bible Studies around the campus, led by four churches (China Spring FBC, Ecclesia Community Church, Park Lake Drive Baptist Church and Columbus Avenue Baptist Church). We had a meeting in the beginning of the semester to discuss the direction the ministry is taking and strategies of how to reach the campus for Christ. We also had our monthly Worship

Night on MCC campus where we had the honor of having the Contemporary Christian Class from MCC play and one of the church leaders give a message. About 25 people attended the worship gathering this past month. We are having more and more students become interested in the community that is being built on MCC. Come together with us to reach the 9,500 students that attend MCC and 4,000 students at TSTC for Christ and make an impact in our community. Contact us at [mcc@wacobaptists.org](mailto:mcc@wacobaptists.org) or [tstc@wacobaptists.org](mailto:tstc@wacobaptists.org) to get more information about how your church can reach others.

Stephen Galarza  
Collegiate Ministry Coordinator-MCC  
[mcc@wacobaptists.org](mailto:mcc@wacobaptists.org)



Top: MCC Worship Night. Bottom: Ecclesia Pastor Joshua Rieff leads MCC Bible study.



## MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT: THE GATHERING

Churches across Waco are anticipating one of the largest worship events in the area. The Gathering will take place on Sunday, March 29 from 5:00-7:00pm at Baylor's McLane Stadium. Admission is free, but seating is limited

to the first 45,000 people. Chairman Ramiro Peña was approached last year by Drayton McLane Jr. to start planning this event. "Drayton's strong desire is that the McLane Stadium...

Continued on Page 4

## MARCH EVENTS

**March 1-8**  
Week of Prayer and Mission Study—Annie Armstrong Easter Offering  
[www.namb.net/annie-armstrong](http://www.namb.net/annie-armstrong)

**March 4, 10:00am**  
Baylor Ministry Guidance Conference  
Truett Seminary  
Reservations: 254-710-3739

**March 4, 12:00pm**  
Ministers Roundtable (with Ministry Guidance Conf.)  
Truett Seminary  
Topic: Church & State  
Reservations: by Feb. 26

**March 6-7**  
BGCT African American Leadership Workshop  
Truett Seminary  
[www.texasbaptists.org/events/AALW](http://www.texasbaptists.org/events/AALW)

**March 17, 4:00pm**  
Admin Team Meeting  
WRBA—HBMC

**March 19, 12:00pm**  
Networking & Missions Mtg  
Waco FBC, Conference Rm.

**March 29**  
BGCT Hunger Sunday

**March 29, 5:00pm**  
The Gathering  
McLane Stadium, Baylor

**March 29**  
Associational Bible Drill  
Woodway FBC

**April 1, 11:15am**  
Executive Board Meeting  
Truett Seminary

**April 1, 12:00pm**  
Ministers Roundtable  
Truett Seminary  
Topic: Creativity in Worship  
Reservations: by Mar. 26

**April 2-4**  
Congreso, BGCT  
Baylor University

## COMMUNITY NEWS

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

Amistad  
Downsville  
Hilltop  
Lake Shore  
Lorena FBC  
Marlin MBC  
Old Time  
Riesel FBC  
Robinson FBC  
Woodway FBC

**Welcome and congrats to:**

- John Hill, Speegleville Associate Pastor
- James McGregor, UBC Worship & Arts Pastor
- Ron Durham, Robinson FBC Interim Pastor

Waco Regional Baptist Association

P.O. Box 1848  
Waco, TX 76703

Phone: 254-753-2408  
Fax: 254-755-6365  
E-mail: [admin@wacobaptists.org](mailto:admin@wacobaptists.org)

## MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT: THE GATHERING CONT.

will be used for more than just football... He asked me to coordinate the effort." Peña's prayer is that our community will be united. This is represented in the theme scripture, John 17:20-21, "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also believe that you have sent me." Everybody is asked to bring a can of food. All the contributions will be divided between Caritas and Shepherd's Heart. The gates will open at 3:00pm, music starts at 4:30pm and the program at 5:00pm. Peña said, "Our local ABC affiliate ... will do a live simulcast from 5:00-7:00pm and will override the main programming." Israel Houghton will lead worship with a huge combined choir of up to 800 voices, led by Gary Rhodes of Woodway FBC. Dr. Tony Evans will preach. Baylor University President Judge Ken Starr will also speak, along with multiple testimonies from people like Joanna Gaines of the popular HGTV show Fixer Upper. Peña said, "We're going to preach the gospel first and foremost.... People will be blessed by a great worship experience."

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Permit No. 235  
Waco, TX