



# WACO REGIONAL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Connect, Support, Train

May 2017



Volume 18, Issue 5

## FROM YOUR DIRECTOR

We are kicking off an effort to formally express our appreciation to Dr. Paul and Roberta Stripling for their years of continued service and support for the Association. There is no other person so well known in Central Texas as an ambassador for the Waco Regional Baptist Association. After 23 years as the Director of Missions, he authored a book about our history, and continues to support the work of the association in every way possible.

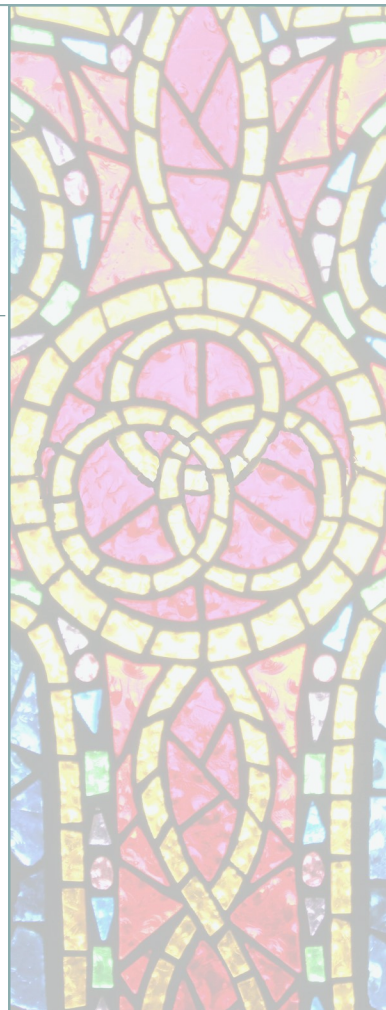


Many of you know and love Paul and Roberta and would want to collectively recognize them at our annual meeting this year. Our WRBA Board has voted to sponsor an endowment campaign in their honor. Between now and the annual meeting we are hoping to collect \$31,450 in their honor. These funds will be deposited in the Ministry and Mission Endowment Fund at the Waco Foundation, and will perpetually help fund ministries of the Association in their honor.

At the annual meeting, on Tuesday, October 10 at 6:00pm at FBC Woodway, we will present them with a plaque and a listing of all of the people who have donated in their honor. If you would like to contribute to this campaign, you may use the enclosed envelope. Checks should be made out to the Waco Regional Baptist Association. Please indicate whom you would like to be listed as the donors for the annual meeting.

It is hard to fathom the impact of one life. But certainly Dr. Paul has touched many thousands through his kindness and concern.

In His Service,  
Tim



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## RESTORATIVE JUSTICE/JAIL MINISTRY UPDATE

An exciting development is occurring at the McLennan County Jail. Due to an increasing number of new volunteers and enhanced commitment of present volunteers, we have been able to minister in two's. This is exciting in that the ministry moment is enhanced. We can actually have a full service with a worship experience through song, prayer, testimonials and the preaching of God's Word. This is important because the ability to usher in the presence of the Lord removes the stronghold of the enemy who is busy trying to keep the Gospel of Jesus Christ from being heard. While one person is preaching or teaching, the other is praying.



Come and join us in demonstrating God's love so that others can find true freedom in Jesus Christ. Email me or call 254-753-2408 to learn more.

Larry Turner  
Restorative Justice/Jail Ministry Coordinator  
rjm@wacobaptists.org

*"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."*

*Romans 15:13*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### MAY MISSION TRIPS

Please pray for these churches as they minister and witness to others:

#### Highland

Location: North Africa  
Dates: May 8-18

#### University

Location: Chile  
Dates: May 14-28

#### Woodway FBC (College)

Location: East Asia  
Dates: May 15-28

#### Highland

Location: Ukraine  
Dates: May 19-28

#### DaySpring

Location: Honduras  
Dates: May 28-June 2

### Senior Hunger Forum

May 20, 11:00am-1:00pm  
Seventh and James Baptist Church

During this time we will be discussing ways your church can reach hungry seniors in your community and how to utilize your already existing ministries to do so.

RSVP by **May 12** to [seniorhelp@wacobaptists.org](mailto:seniorhelp@wacobaptists.org).

### Coaching Clinic

May 22-23, 8:30am-4:00pm  
WRBA Office (2911 Herring, Suite 212)

Come learn how to empower others, guiding them through a problem to a solution they can own and accomplish. The cost is \$75. This includes supplies, lunch, training and three months of follow-up coaching with a private coach.

RSVP by **May 17** to [director@wacobaptists.org](mailto:director@wacobaptists.org).

## MINISTRY & MISSIONS ENDOWMENT FUND

One of the WRBA's most effective ways of supporting ministry is the "Ministry + Missions" endowment fund. Through a unique partnership with the Waco Foundation, every \$10 donated to the endowment will be matched with a \$1 donation from the Waco Foundation. With over \$700,000 currently invested in the M+M Endowment Fund, the WRBA aspires to glean more contributions towards the endowment in order to further benefit Waco's local ministries. Several ministries benefit from the fund's interest.

The Church Health Ministry Team received a \$1,000 grant from the M+M fund. The purpose is to engage and encourage at least 10 member churches to form some type of church health ministry within their congregations. This is designed for the health needs of the congregation and their local communities. The health ministry created plans to utilize the funds in three distinct ways: promotion, purchasing blood pressure cuffs and supplying Bible study materials for interested churches.

The Church Strengthening Ministry Team uses M+M funds to provide training and education resources for churches trying to strengthen and grow their congregation. The team used portions of the grant to purchase copies of Tim Randolph's book, *So You Want to Change Your Church*. Approximately 100 copies have been distributed to WRBA's pastors and leaders. Calvary Baptist Church purchased copies for all of their ministerial staff and worked through the book for two months. They made significant decisions impacting their church based on discussions from answering end of chapter questions. The Church Strengthening Team also used the grant to pay for facilitation of strategic planning at Cornerstone Baptist Church. The pastor received six months of coaching and the congregation worked through strategic planning for a five-year growth plan.

The Hunger Ministry received a grant to fund half of the Senior Hunger Specialist's salary. This role focuses on increasing participation in Texas's SNAP program for qualifying senior citizens. Several local nonprofits identified Waco's senior population as a community at risk for "food insecurity." Many senior citizens don't realize they qualify for SNAP. By doing in home applications with senior citizens, the Senior Hunger Specialist creates a relationship while connecting them with a WRBA church in their area.

It's stories like these that inspire WRBA to raise more money for the endowment fund. Consider making a donation today at [www.wacofoundation.org/BecomeaDonor/MakeaDonation.aspx](http://www.wacofoundation.org/BecomeaDonor/MakeaDonation.aspx).

The WRBA pours into churches in order to help them better lead and shepherd their community. These churches are strengthened by the resources the WRBA has to offer them.

Baylor Nonprofit Marketing Class  
Anna Beth Mann, Avery Wyatt, Angie Ng, Karry Liu and Courtney PicKell

## MAY EVENTS

**May 3, 12:00pm**  
Ministers Roundtable  
Truett Seminary, Great Hall  
Speaker: Matt Homeyer,  
Truett Seminary  
RSVP by April 26 to  
Katelyn at 753-2408.

**May 14**  
Hunger Offering  
(Mother's Day Offering)

**May 14**  
Mother's Day

**May 16, 4:00pm**  
Board Meeting  
WRBA (2911 Herring)

**May 17, 12:15pm**  
Networking and Missions  
Team Meeting  
Waco FBC, Conference Rm

**May 20, 11:00am**  
Senior Hunger Forum  
Seventh & James

**May 21-28**  
Baptist Association  
Emphasis Week

**May 22-23, 8:30a-4:00p**  
Coaching Clinic  
WRBA (2911 Herring)  
Reserve your place at  
[director@wacobaptists.org](mailto:director@wacobaptists.org)

**May 27, 10:00am**  
VBS Training  
Western Heights Baptist  
RSVP to 254-776-2524

**May 29**  
Memorial Day  
WRBA Office Closed

**June 4, 3:00pm**  
VBS Training  
Western Heights Baptist  
RSVP to 254-776-2524

## COMMUNITY NEWS

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

Emmanuel  
Faith Temple  
Hewitt FBC

### New Church Staff

Congratulations to Calvary  
and their new pastor, Mary  
Alice Birdwhistell!

Congrats to Meadowbrook  
and their new Youth/  
College Pastor, Ty Gist!

## CHURCH SPOTLIGHT: HIGHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH

Focusing on their neighborhood, Highland Baptist Church has almost finished raising funds to build a Wellness Center.

"It will house a health clinic, development classes for our neighborhood (getting out of poverty, exercise, parenting, cooking classes, etc.), our after school mentoring program, a food distribution center, a mentoring for young moms ministry, a Mission Training Center and offices for our local and international missions," said Pastor John Durham. "We believe that the Lord will use this Wellness Center to help us engage our community and build bridges for us to share the Gospel."

The church has often cared for their neighbors. Partnering with Dean Highland Elementary, dozens of students are in the church

daily for after-school mentoring. Durham said, "We feed them daily, we help them with homework, give them some recreation time and we share Gospel stories with them daily. We have seen several come to faith in Christ. Our partnership with Dean Highland Elementary is an amazing gift; weekly we have reading volunteers, tutors, teacher's aides and church members in the school helping."

They also have a prayer box for teachers and staff.

Having grown up in Waco, Durham loved following God's call to return to the area.

His prayer is "that we would be authentic, that we would grow in grace and abound in love. Pray that the Lord would give us the courage to obey Him and serve others."

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