



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.

May 2015



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FROM YOUR DIRECTOR

There seems to be increasingly harsh bias against Christianity. At the same time, churches continue quietly loving, ministering, giving, serving, and teaching the word of God.



In several recent meetings locally, an interesting trend has emerged. Nonprofits and for-profit entities are suddenly looking at our churches with renewed interest. Why? Because church people give. Church people care. Church people make great volunteers. Church people are reliable and trustworthy. Is the positive public image of church coming back?

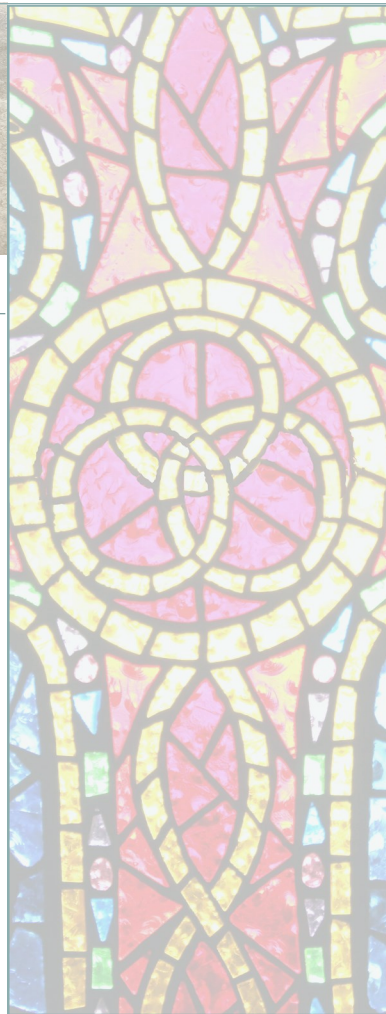
I don't think we have really changed that much. In fact, as I pray over our WRBA congregations day by day, I see us *collectively transforming communities* here and worldwide. I see it happening as we open up our hearts and work together on the BOUNCE project July 6-11 to put roofs on homes. I see it as we take mission trips together to Mississippi or to Honduras or Mexico.

Maybe that is what Paul meant when he said "Preach the word; be prepared *in season and out of season*".

Sometimes it is popular to be the church. At other times we are disparaged for being the church.

I have always seen the church as the best place to learn how to live, the best place to make great friends and find people who care, and the best place to grow in love, service and generosity. I am very proud to be a member of a Baptist church and a part of the **WRBA**.

In His Service,
Tim



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UPCOMING SUMMER CAMPS

Hewitt FBC	Preteen	June 8-12
West FBC	Youth	June 15-19
Brazos Meadows	Youth	June 21-25
Crossroads Fellow.	Youth	June 20-24
Calvary	Children	June 21-25
Park Lake Drive	Youth	June 21-25
Oak Grove	Youth	June 21-27
Bosqueville	Youth	June 21-28
Columbus Avenue	Children	June 22-26
Day Spring	Youth	June 22-28



Woodway FBC	Preteen	June 24-27
Crawford FBC	Youth	June 24-30
Speegleville	Youth	June 28-July 2

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOLS

Robinson FBC	June 7-10	Waco FBC	June 15-19
Grace Temple	June 7-11	Woodway FBC	June 15-19
Lorena FBC	June 7-11	Chalk Bluff	June 15-20
Meadowbrook	June 7-11	Western Heights	July 6-10
Calvary	June 8-12	Columbus Avenue	July 20-24
Oak Grove	June 10-13	Bosqueville	July 26-30
Highland	June 15-19	Hewitt FBC	July 26-30
Speegleville	June 15-19		

"Whether then you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all to the glory of God."

I Corinthians 10:31

MISSION TRIPS

- Crossroads Fellowship - Guatemala
May 29-June 8
- Acts Church - Mexico
June 12-16
- Hewitt FBC - Minnesota
June 20-27
- Hewitt FBC - Oregon
June 20-27
- Calvary - Asia
June 25-July 12

UPCOMING EVENTS



Bike Out Hunger - Texas

May 11-16, 2015
Boerne to Dallas

Donation information and other details can be found on <https://fundraising.active.com/fundraiser/TimRandolph2>.

outhunger.org

The Hilltop Experience: For the living of these Days

June 3-5 at East Texas Baptist University

A spiritually renewing conference for senior adults.

Contact 903-923-2042 or ptapp@etbu.edu for more information.

NEW SENIOR SNAP OUTREACH

Hello! My name is Rachel Tate, the newest WRBA staff member. I'm thrilled for the opportunity to help churches make disciples by loving their communities well. WRBA created a new branch of Hunger Ministry focuses on helping seniors apply for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).



Senior adults experiencing food insecurity are an often overlooked and unspoken for group in America, but statistics speak on their behalf. Feeding America reports that in 2012, 5.3 million people over 60 experienced food insecurity (9% of all seniors). 1.1 million seniors living alone experienced food insecurity. Food insecure seniors run a greater risk for depression, heart attack, asthma and congestive heart failure. Addressing senior health, SNAP gives them access to fresh produce from grocery stores (items which are difficult for food pantries to store), boosting nutritional intake. The SNAP program benefits clients and whole communities. It may alleviate the burden on food pantries and boost the economy by supporting grocery stores and farmers.

Research on community transformation shows organizations accomplish change in their communities more effectively and with longer-lasting impact, when they collaborate. Based on this understanding, WRBA operates as a Community Partner in the Texas Community Partner Program of Texas Health and Human Services Commission. Our new status as a Community Partner is exciting news for all member churches. Now churches can assist their community members in applying for Texas Benefits as a site under WRBA's Community Partnership. Helping community members to apply for SNAP and other benefits will provide a tremendous addition to existing community hunger ministries.

I am excited to assist seniors with food insecurity issues and hope your church will consider serving your community as a site under WRBA's Community Partnership. I will depend on our member churches for referrals of seniors in need. We hope that the churches can work together to steward the good gifts God has given us—the food on our own tables and the skills and kindness to care for those without such. The strategic approach to addressing hunger in our communities may not look quite like Jesus' miraculous multiplication of fish and bread, but we hope to follow Jesus' example of bold faith and constant thankfulness. Let me know how I can help you and please contact me to find out how your church can be involved.

Rachel Tate, Senior SNAP Outreach Intern
seniorhelp@wacobaptists.org

MAY EVENTS

May 6, 12:00pm
Ministers Roundtable—Free
Truett Seminary
Reservations: by Apr. 30

May 10
Mother's Day

May 10
BGCT Hunger Sunday
(Mother's Day Offering)

May 11-16
Bike Out Hunger—BGCT
Boerne-Dallas

May 17-23
Baptist Associational
Emphasis Week
WRBA Staff are available for
speaking engagements

May 19, 4:00pm
Admin Team Meeting
WRBA

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

May 25
WRBA Office Closed
Memorial Day

May 31
BGCT Hunger Sunday

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

CHURCH SPOTLIGHT: VIENTO FUERTE

Feeling a call to minister to people needing Spanish worship services, Tom and Elizabeth Gutierrez founded Viento Fuerte Centro de Adoracion in 2003. On June 6 the church will move to their own building, former North Waco Baptist Church, in a neighborhood that is in need of their services and love.

Pastor Tom Gutierrez said, "The church isn't closed, the church is open. It's going to proceed with the same vision it had before."

He has been reading about the history of the church. It was vibrant and full at one point. It ministered to Waco and even planted Western Heights Baptist Church when it was just a field with tent revivals. While the

church building has a new name, it still holds a body of believers with the desire to serve the area.

"We're coming in with that vision," Gutierrez said.

The building needs repair, like the AC system. But people have offered assistance and help to the pastor and congregation.

"God's just been supplying, supplying, supplying," he said.

While it started as a Spanish speaking church, the congregation is mixture of cultures and is now bi-lingual. The children's and youth groups are active, and the church is still growing.

Gutierrez said, "Be praying for us that the people would stay focused, stay passionate for reaching the lost, reaching the people around us."

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