



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.

October 2015

Volume 16, Issue 10



FROM YOUR DIRECTOR

Our theme this year for the 156th Annual Meeting of the Waco Regional Baptist Association is *“Healthy Churches, Healing Communities.”*

During Jesus’ ministry here on earth, he spoke wholeness to many of those who desperately sought him out. To the paralytic, he said, “Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven.” Then he told him, “Get up, take your mat and go home.” Ever since then, churches have responded, taking healing and wholeness into broken communities.



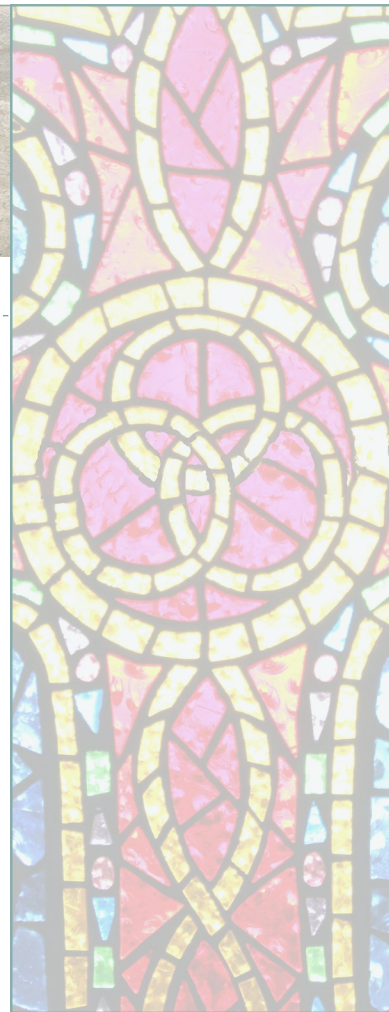
During the Middle Ages, the church was the one entity that stayed with those dying from the black death (the plague). In modern times, churches have banded together to start hospitals and health systems (e.g. Hillcrest and Baylor Health Systems).

A strong, healthy church can and should positively impact the health of its congregants as well as the community that surrounds it. We have seen some new expressions of this in the last few years with exercise classes and the Daniel Plan by Rick Warren. I read about Pastor Julius R. Scruggs of the First Missionary Baptist Church in Huntsville, AL, who determined to lead his congregation to care for their health through fitness, exercise and healthy eating. His leadership changed the *shape* of that congregation and beyond.

Is health and wellness an integral part of the Good News of Jesus? Is that included in Jesus’ declaration, “I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full?” Should belonging to the community of a local church have a positive impact on your physical well-being? If so, how? What can a church do in the course of its normal discipleship, fellowship, worship, missions and evangelism programs that supports a vibrant disease-free life? Many of our African-American Congregations have had the practice of employing volunteer Parish Nurses to assist with the health care needs of their community. Baylor Scott & White Health system has rolled out a pilot project to train Community Health Care Volunteers to check on patients at risk because they live alone. Isn’t that another expression of Christian love and concern for one another?

Come celebrate *“Healthy Churches, Healing Communities”* with us on Tuesday, October 13 at 6:00pm at Calvary Baptist Church.

Blessings and Peace,
Tim



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HUNGER MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT

When the federal government’s annual hunger report came out recently, it showed that 17.4 million U.S. households, one in seven, were “food insecure” in 2014. The report, issued by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, showed little progress from the previous year. Anti-hunger groups emphasize food as the leading remedy for food insecurity. Feeding America, the umbrella organization for the nation’s charitable food banks, estimates a national “Meal Gap” by multiplying the cost of additional food that a food-insecure person would need (\$16.28 per week) times the number of food insecure persons in the U.S., to conclude that all we need to do is fill a \$24.2 billion shortfall—far less than one percent of the federal budget. In other words, the U.S. could easily afford to solve the problem simply by providing enough food.

But is more food really going to do it? Though little noticed in the news coverage, the detailed tabulations in USDA’s annual hunger report suggest that the problem is a deeper one,

and perhaps harder to talk about politically. As Christians, we speak another “language” — “Kingdom Talk”.

WRBA’s newest hunger ministry, born from assisting the elderly home-bound reach a higher level of food security, is called *“Let’s Love Seniors.”* We make sure the seniors we meet have enough food, but beyond that, we help them connect to a WRBA family. Vital resources like home weatherization repairs and other great information are shared.

If your family is looking for an opportunity to serve together, call us to connect to a senior. Your lives will be richly blessed as you make a visit. Our desire to answer Jesus as he beckons us to “love one another” is the solution to ending hunger. Won’t you join us?

Conway Del Conte, Hunger Ministry Coordinator
hunger@wacobaptists.org



“I have set the Lord always before me. Because He is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.”
Psalm 16:8

UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER EVENTS

November 4, 12:00pm
Ministers Roundtable
Truett Seminary

November 6-7
BGCT Hispanic Leadership
Conference
Dallas, TX

November 8-11
BGCT Annual Meeting
Frisco, TX

November 13-15
RA Campout/Missions Mania
Latham Springs

November 17, 9:30am
Baptist Women’s World Day
of Prayer
12 Spanish Oak, Waco

November 17, 4:00pm
Board Meeting
WRBA

DIY Missions:
From Vision to Follow-Up

Columbus Avenue Baptist Church, Fellowship Hall
(1300 Columbus Avenue, Waco)
6:00-9:00pm on October 8, 2015
Optional Dinner at 5:30pm

Local leaders will talk about what goes into a vision trip as well as preparing for, participating on and following up on a mission trip. There will be roundtable discussions, a Q&A panel discussion and information packets.

Make a reservation by October 6 at www.wacobaptists.org.
The event is free. Dinner (optional) is \$4.00.

November Ministers Round Table
12:00pm on November 4 at Truett Seminary

Topic: Divorce & Church Leadership
Speaker: Van Christian, FBC Comanche

RSVP by **Oct. 29** at admin@wacobaptists.org or 753-2408.

WACO REGIONAL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

OCTOBER 13, 2015 AT 6:00PM
CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH
MIKE FRITSCHER, SPEAKER

HEALTHY CONGREGATIONS



HEALING COMMUNITIES

“HE HIMSELF BORE OUR SINS” IN HIS BODY ON THE CROSS,
SO THAT WE MIGHT DIE TO SINS AND LIVE FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS;
“BY HIS WOUNDS YOU HAVE BEEN HEALED.”
2 PETER 2:24

MAKE A RESERVATION BY OCTOBER 5. DINNER IS \$8.
CONTACT THE WRBA OFFICE AT 254-753-2408
OR AT ADMIN@WACOBAPTISTS.ORG.

BGCT Annual Meeting
November 8-10, 2015
Dr. Pepper Arena, Frisco, TX

For more information, please visit
www.texasbaptists.org/annual-meeting.

DEEP ROOTS
LIVING LEGACY

Colossians 2:6-7

OCTOBER EVENTS

October 6, 6:30pm
CWJC Baskets Of Hope
Fundraiser
Woodway FBC

October 7, 12:00pm
Ministers Roundtable
Truett Seminary

October 8, 6:00pm
DIY Missions: From Vision to
Follow-Up
Columbus Avenue

October 12-14
Conclave, Youth Ministers
Arlington Convention Center

October 13, 6:00pm
WRBA Annual Meeting
RSVP by October 5
Calvary Baptist Church

October 15, 12:00pm
Networking & Missions Team
Waco FBC, Conference Room

October 15-17
No Need Among You Conf.
Austin, TX

Annual Church Profiles are due. They help your congregation in many ways, including pastor research, future planning and historical data. ACPs also updates the WRBA Directory so we can connect leaders to resources that are relevant to their ministry. If you have questions, call Katelyn Kasper or our ACP Intern Justin Downey at 753-2408.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Please continue to pray for WRBA churches seeking a Pastor:

Downsville
Liberty Hill
Lorena FBC
Marlin MBC
Old Time
Primera Iglesia
Robinson FBC
Woodway FBC

CHURCH SPOTLIGHT: RIESEL FBC AND PASTOR

Riesel FBC got a new pastor mid-June, Adam Chaney, who is also attending Truett Seminary. “(FBC Riesel) has felt like family since the first day. They’ve embraced us and loved us,” he said. “It feels like home.” Chaney was raised in Houston, TX. He accepted God at age five at Baptist Temple Church, where he was later ordained to the gospel ministry and served as the Associate Pastor. Chaney said, “While on staff there I completed my undergraduate degree in Christian Theology at Houston Baptist University. In the same 4 year period I co-founded a Houston based Christian non-profit ministry combating human trafficking named Elijah Rising.” He has a passion for the Lord’s church as a whole.

“My heart's desire is to see unity and charity amongst the Body of Christ, which transcends denominational lines and cultivates effective social justice reform across the globe,” he said. “I am convinced of my calling to preach, teach and spread the message of truth found only in the testimony of scripture and activity of Christ’s church.” He married Christa in April 2011. They have a 3-year-old daughter, Eliyah Grace. Chaney asked for prayer as they transition to and embrace the new role. The church is growing rapidly, which is wonderful and stressful. Chaney asked people to pray “that we would steward well what the Lord has given us and is giving us. That we would grow in spiritual maturity first and physical growth second.”

Waco Regional Baptist Association

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