



WACO REGIONAL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Family News

— FROM YOUR DIRECTOR —

If you are reading this newsletter today, then you already have some of the most powerful and effective tools you need to make disciples and bring others to faith in Jesus: You are literate, and you speak English. Here in McLennan County, as well as across the world, teaching others how to speak English and how to read and write are coveted skills that serve as effective platforms to share the good news of Jesus. We call these ministries by various names: English as a Second Language (ESL), Literacy, English as a Foreign Language, and Adult Literacy. By learning how to use your *existing language skills*, you can go on mission trips anywhere in the world or teach in ESL and literacy programs right here in Waco!





Our Networking and Mission Team is offering a first-rate training in all of these ministries on Friday and Saturday, September 12-13 at FBC Hewitt. Training will be available for beginning teachers as well as those with years of experience. Because of a grant from our WRBA Missions and Ministry Fund, we are able to offer this training for a very small fee of \$30 for early registrants. See the enclosed brochure for more information. This is by far one of the easiest and most effective ways to get on Mission with God in today's world.

Speaking of being "on mission," I would like to encourage you to consider going on a mission trip with folks from all across the Association. From July 19-24, FBC Waco will lead a group to Shaw, Mississippi to renovate an Elementary School and to work with children in the community. We particularly need some plumbers, electricians and people with other building skills to go. Thanks to a gift from an individual, the expenses for this mission trip are already largely paid. For more information, call Randall Perry at FBC Waco at (254)752-3000.

In His Service,
Tim

— Upcoming Events —

  Camp Dates  	Church	Date	Location
	Crawford FBC (Preteen)	June 29-July 5	
	Crawford FBC (Youth)	June 29-July 5	
	China Spring (Youth)	June 30-July 4	
	Highland (Preteen)	June 30-July 4	Mt. Lebanon
	Highland (Children)	July 7-11	Highland
	Harris Creek (Preteen)	July 8-11	Austin, TX
	Waco FBC (Youth)	July 8-13	Camp Eagle
	Highland (Youth)	July 13-18	Mt. Lebanon
	Woodway FBC (Youth)	July 13-18	Mt. Lebanon
	Columbus Avenue (Youth)	July 13-19	Glorieta
	Meadowbrook (Children)	July 14-18	Meadowbrook
	RA Camp	July 17-20	Latham Springs
	Oak Grove (Children)	July 17-21	Latham Springs
	Meadowbrook (Youth)	July 21-25	UNT
	Dayspring (Children)	July 31-August 3	
	Dayspring (Family)	August 12-14	Laity Lodge

 Mission Trip Dates 	Church	Date	Location
	Highland (Youth)	June 23-July 3	Uganda
	Columbus Ave. (Youth)	June 26-July 5	Washington DC
	Waco FBC	July 16-25	Shaw, Miss.
	Woodway FBC	July 19-26	Ireland
	Dayspring	July 19-26	Honduras
	Woodway FBC (Youth)	July 26-August 1	Belize
	Hewitt FBC (Youth)	July 27-August 2	Oregon
	Waco FBC (Youth)	July 28-August 1	Arlington, TX
	Hewitt FBC	August 2-4	Minneapolis, MN

VBS Dates

Church	Date	Time
West FBC	July 7-11	9:00-12:00
Western Heights	July 7-11	9:00-12:00
Downsville	July 12	
Hewitt FBC	July 12-17	6:15-8:45
Concord	July 14-18	6:30-8:30
Brazos Meadows	July 20-24	6:30-8:45
Columbus Avenue	July 21-25	9:00-12:00



— Jail Ministry Spotlight —

One WRBA Community Ministry is providing Sunday Services and Bible study at the McLennan County Jail. Through this ministry, churches can send members on a trip that will change lives.

It can be intimidating to go to jail. The very thought of it has kept many from responding to Jesus' words "when I was in prison you visited me." Going on your own without the support of your church can be very lonely. Who do you share your victories with? To whom do you share your struggles?

The "Passport to Jail" is designed for your church to appoint and send a two-three person team — as many teams as you like (*each team will be either male or female*) to share the Gospel of Jesus at the McLennan County Jail. Each person will complete a volunteer application. Upon their church's recommendation the team will be sent out by to serve one Sunday a month at the McLennan County Jail for a one year term. They will report back to their church about the things the Lord does in their own hearts and lives and in the hearts of "those they are visiting."

The jail houses approximately 1,000 inmates, about 200 are women. On average 11 volunteers come on Sundays to share the Good News of Jesus Christ to those who are incarcerated there. A little over half of the volunteers are women. So six to seven women share the gospel to 200 female offenders and four to five men share the gospel to 800 male inmates.



This month, "Passport to Jail" goes into effect. Here's the Good News, there's room for you! Go to www.wacobaptists.org, click on Community Ministries, then click on Jail Ministry. For information on how your church can send people to jail (*as missionaries*) using "Passport to Jail" contact me.

Audrey Wauson
Jail Ministry Coordinator
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Other July Events

Friday, July 4 — WRBA Office Closed. Independence Day.

Saturday, July 12, 10:00am — Waco Habitat Interest Meeting. Waco Habitat Office (220 N. 11 St).

Tuesday, July 15, 4:00pm — Administrative Team Meeting. WRBA.

Thursday, July 17, 2:00pm — Leadership Development Team. WRBA.

Thursday, July 24, 12:00pm — Networking & Missions. FBC Waco.

Saturday, August 2 — WIFI Conference. Midlothian. www.wmutx.org/wifi2014

Saturday, August 9 — WIFI Conference. San Antonio. www.wmutx.org/wifi2014

— Hunger Ministry Spotlight —

God created us equal in His love. Nobody in America should be hungry. The world has enough food to feed everyone. Why do we still have hunger, even death from hunger in some countries?

Before turning a few fish and five loaves of bread into a meal that served thousands, Christ was “moved with compassion toward them, and He healed their sick” (Matt. 14:14). “He delivered a message of hope and salvation and then ... He took the five loaves and the two fish, and he blessed, broke and served...” (Matt. 14:19). All ate and were filled. The disciples collaborated in this by distributing food and gathering fragments.



This summer, numerous groups have come together to bring a message of hope and compassion to the Kate Ross housing complex where more than 1,000 children live in poverty. The WRBA provides leadership with organization and resources; City Square (Dallas) provides free summer meals and snacks; Texas Hunger Initiative supports with research, information and volunteers; Acts Church members read with children; VOICE employees provide healthy, safe activities; Waco Housing Authority offers a facility for moms and children to have classes and meals; “Cooking Matters” gives guidelines and information on meals. God is doing an amazing work in this place – all because of collaboration!

The class discussed their blessings with true hunger vs. food insecurity. Mothers are grateful the church came alongside to strengthen and lift them with “Cooking Matters” and book club buddies. They are learning the importance of collaboration and how what they can do makes a difference in local hunger. They’ve established a complex “share” table that anyone can add to or take from. They cook for the elderly, share with those in need and help others sign up for home food delivery. They are being filled with God’s love and are helping others be filled.

WRBA exists to lift up the work of churches that are voluntarily affiliated. When we have this kind of interest in fellowship, God moves in mighty ways. I think God loves us worshipping Him publicly, especially in a place as unlikely as a public housing complex! “Hunger in God’s World” takes place every Friday until Aug. 8. Call 644-6933 to join. We’d love to hear how you collaborate with others in your hunger ministry.



Top: Children at Kate Ross enjoy free summer lunches. **Bottom:** Mothers take notes and have a discussion at a “Cooking Matters” class.



Conway Del Conte
Jail Ministry Coordinator
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— THE BODY OF BELIEVERS —

Celebrating Crossroads Fellowship's 11th anniversary, the church members did what they do each year — they had a large baptism service with a barbecue at the North Bosque River. This time they baptized 42 people.

Pastor Steve Abbe said, "About 70 percent of the church congregation has been baptized in the last seven years.... This is their church experience."

The church staff have carefully tried to lead by example. The church has not been getting Christians who moved their membership. It's mostly people who have become new believers that make up the 400-500 people in attendance each week. Members come from as far as Whitney and Gatesville to take part in the lively worship and in the life groups held during the week.

The church was started with a missional focus and has continued to pursue opportunities to minister to the lost. Members tutor in their inner-city center at 12th and Ross, visit the Gatesville jail each week, have built 10 churches in Brazil and have just returned from a mission trip to Guatemala. They usually take six to nine months to plan an international mission trip, but one member coordinated this trip to South America in a few months for 15 people.

Abbe said, "It's really all membership coordinated and membership driven. Our people literally go and do to be the hands and feet of Christ."

While the congregation is laid back and have fun during worship, they're very intentional in reaching out to the community.

Abbe said, "We really try to focus on the needs of the people and the needs of the community."

Elder Keith Vaughan has been pleasantly surprised by the success of the tutoring outreach in downtown Waco. As a police officer, he's seen people minister to rough areas of town. While the ministries may be professional and needed, they are not always accepted. Crossroads' is thriving.

He said, "It's amazing to see the work and how the people are accepted in the community."

Traci Waldschmidt has been an active member and says "the minute I walked into Crossroads I was home." She loves the environment, the compassionate pastors and the missional standpoint.

"If we can change one life, our job is done ... for that day anyway," she said.

The church meet and minister to people from little league games, work and anywhere else that is a part of their lives.

He asked for prayer that "God continues to put us in front of folks who don't know him."



— Community News —

Continue to pray for WRBA churches seeking a Pastor:
Concord, Hilltop, Lake Shore, Lorena FBC, Mart FBC, Old Time,
Pleasant Olive MBC, Woodway FBC