



WACO REGIONAL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
Connect, Support, Train

May 2018



Volume 19, Issue 5

FROM YOUR DIRECTOR

**WEEK OF PRAYER FOR WACO REGIONAL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
May 20-27**



Do you remember the “Weeks of Prayer” that were used to promote different missions’ emphases? It has been quite some time since many churches have actively promoted a week of prayer.

I would like to invite *you* to pray for the *local ministries* of the Waco Regional Baptist Association during the week of May 20 – 27. There will be a brochure that you can download from our website which will give suggestions for specific prayer each day.

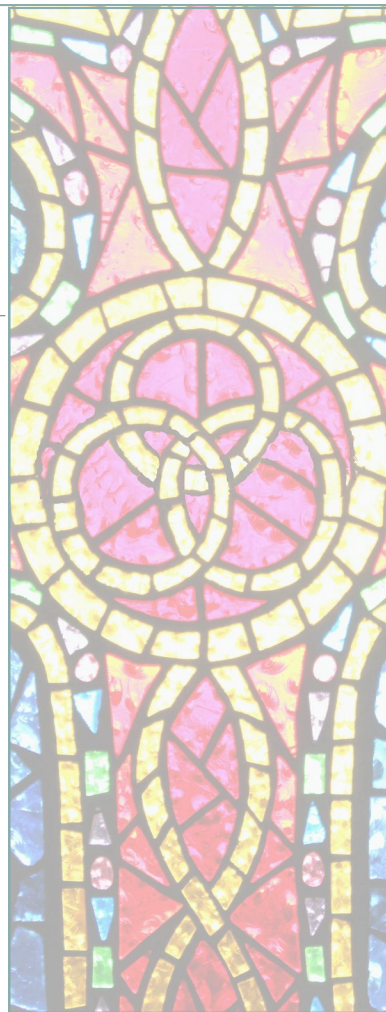
Why do we do this? We pray because God has taught us to do this. As you will see on the suggested prayer list, we have a ton of spiritual needs here in Central Texas. We need some new churches to reach unreached populations (a Biker Church; new Latino Churches; new Cowboy churches).

Our communities have enormous challenges related to Hunger, Health, Poverty, and our Public Schools. Our region has approximately 20,000 students in TSTC and MCC. We have approximately 1500 people incarcerated in the County Jail. The list goes on and on.

The Waco Regional Baptist Association is certainly not the only organization making focused efforts in these areas of ministry. We are blessed with many sister organizations and partners who do amazing ministry every day. ***But the Association is the only organization primarily focused on helping the churches in the region to be healthy, strong, and fully on mission engaged in the community.***

Healthy churches are a key factor in transforming the communities around them. A weak or unhealthy church has very little impact. A vibrant and robust church sees lives and families and institutions transformed through the love of Christ. ***Let’s begin with prayer!*** Please, ***download the prayer guide, and use it for one week.***

In His Service,
Tim



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Director’s Article.....1
Upcoming Events2
Restorative Justice/Jail Update3
Calendar of Events.....3
Churches without Pastors.....4
Church Spotlight.....4

The WRBA welcomes these three new churches to the membership:

- Greater Bosqueville Baptist Church
- FBC, Golinda
- Willow Grove Baptist Church

UPCOMING EVENTS

Join us for a Hamburger and Hot Dog Lunch in conjunction with

CROSS TRAINING

‘How to Reach the Latino Community’

May 5th at 11:00am

Paleteria Azteca Parking Lot

This is a family friendly evangelism event, also featuring pony rides, piñatas, face painting, music, raffle and inflatables.

For more information contact Elizabeth Gutierrez, (254) 405-5491 or pastoravf@yahoo.com




UNITY PRAY FOR AMERICA

You are invited to unite in Prayer!

Thursday, May 3, 12-1 pm
FUMC Family Life Center
4901 Cobbs Drive

Join in this non-partisan/non-political opportunity to unite in prayer for our country, state and city.

Light lunch provided. ALL are welcome!
Questions? Contact Sara @ 772.5630x218 or sholmes@fumcwaco.org



NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

Co-sponsored by First Methodist Waco & Columbia Avenue Baptist Churches


May Ministers Round Table
12:00pm on May 2 at Truett Seminary

Speaker: Charles Ramsey, Baylor BSM
Topic: Everything We Need

This month is hosted by the Baylor University Office of the President

Happy Mother’s Day

She is clothed with strength and dignity, and she laughs without fear of the future.
~ Proverbs 31:25



Special Needs Ministry Round Table Workshop

Saturday, May 5, 2018
9:30am - 2:00pm

at FBC, Woodway (101 Ritchie Rd., Waco, TX 76712)

Cost: \$20/person

Please pre-register at firstwoodway.aware3.net/form/K6sC2FL



MICHAEL W SMITH
SURROUNDED BY A MILLION LIGHTS WORLD TOUR

first woodway BAPTIST CHURCH

PURCHASE AT ITICKETS.COM OR AT FIRST WOODWAY

LIVE IN CONCERT, 7:00 PM

FIRST WOODWAY SATURDAY, MAY 12

WITH SPECIAL GUEST NATHAN TASKER

FIRSTWOODWAY.ORG
254.772.9494




RESTORATIVE JUSTICE/JAIL MINISTRY UPDATE

Seeking A Place To Worship

A few weeks ago, WRBA received a call from an offender who had just been released from the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. The gentleman wanted to speak with the RJJM Coordinator.

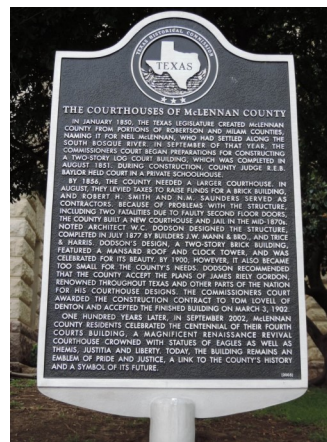


I learned the gentleman had been incarcerated for over ten years. During that time he tried the Muslim faith, but when the Prestonwood Baptist Church Prison Ministry Team from Plano came in ministering Jesus Christ, his heart was changed. He subsequently received Jesus into his life as his Lord and Savior.

The gentleman went on to say that after receiving his release date he was extremely apprehensive about all the challenges ahead in staying connected with Jesus. Since he was being released into Waco, where would he go to worship and feel welcomed? He expressed this concern to other inmates in the faith-based dorm where he was being housed.

A gentleman who had been incarcerated at the MCCJ in Waco, told him about the WRBA Restorative Justice Jail Ministry and how they had ministered to him. RJJM could help him find a place to worship. Several churches in the WRBA have expressed their willingness to welcome and help ex-offenders grow in their relationship with Christ and walk out their new-found faith. I am pleased to report that the gentleman has related to several churches and is excited about joining the church that best meets his and his family's needs.

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



MAY EVENTS

May 2, 12:00pm
Ministers Roundtable
Truett Seminary
Speaker: Charles Ramsey
Topic: Everything We Need

May 3, 12:00pm
National Day of Prayer
FUMC Family Life Center

May 5
Special Needs Ministry Round Table
Workshop 9:30am
FBC, Woodway

CRASE Training 9:30am-12:30pm
Hewitt Police Department
RSVP-lbartlett@cityofhewitt.com

CRASE Training 10:00am
Pleasant Olive MBC
RSVP-admin@wacobaptists.org

Cross Training Evangelism Event
11:00am
Paleteria Azteca Parking Lot
More info at 405-5491

May 12, 7:00pm
Michael W. Smith Concert
FBC, Woodway
Purchase tickets @
itickets.com

May 13
Mother's Day

BGCT Mother's Day Hunger Offer-
ing

May 15, 4:00pm
Board Meeting
WRBA

May 16, 12:00pm
Networking and Missions Team
Meeting
Waco FBC, Conference Room

May 19, 10:00am-12:00pm
FREE Training Event
More info visit ready.gov/help-test
RSVP-admin@wacobaptists.org

May 20-27
Baptist Association Emphasis Week

May 26
VBS Training
Western Heights Baptist
More info at 776-2524

May 28
Memorial Day
WRBA Office Closed

COMMUNITY NEWS

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

Chalk Bluff
Emmanuel BC
Faith Temple
Greater Zion MBC
Lakeview

passion to make Him known. I love that our older generation desires to reach a younger generation. I love that we can see yesterday as a teacher, but tomorrow as an opportunity.'

A lot is happening at FBC, Hewitt! Local and international mission involvements are growing. Small groups and Sunday school classes are expanding and the growing focus to love of the community compels this church to move forward. One ministry in particular, Kid's Hope USA, has been a wonderful opportunity for FBC, Hewitt. Volunteers partner with a local

CHURCH SPOTLIGHT: FBC, HEWITT

The rich history with wonderful people and an incredible opportunity to reach a growing city attracted Pastor Chris Sammons to FBC, Hewitt in September 2017. With the love of the Hewitt, Waco and Woodway community, Pastor Sammons believes that God wants to do amazing things through this family of faith. **'First Hewitt is a body of believers with a hunger for God and growing**

elementary school and provide mentoring for students once a week during the school year. This summer FBC, Hewitt will once again host VBS at the Hewitt Park. **'It is an incredible opportunity to love and encourage kids in our community,'** Pastor Sammons said.

With current plans underway, FBC, Hewitt is still looking to the future. Last month, a short-term group went to East Asia. This was the first international trip the church has taken in 10 years! They are hoping to use this trip to continue shaping their hearts for the unreached world. Summer is also a season that is different. The staff of FBC, Hewitt is wrestling with how to leverage the summer environment to grow spiritually, reach out, reach in and train new leaders.

With this said, Pastor Sammons states, **'We are in the early stages of revitalization at First Hewitt.'** He asks for the body of believers to pray that God would give them wisdom in decisions, courage in obedience, depth in spiritual growth, grace in change and fruitfulness in labor.

**'I love that we can see yesterday as a teacher,
but tomorrow as an opportunity.'** - Pastor Chris Sammons

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