



# WACO REGIONAL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

## Family News

### FROM YOUR DIRECTOR



On Wednesday, April 6 at 11:15am at the Truett Seminary, three members of each of our member churches will have an opportunity to influence some big decisions that will touch hundreds of lives in the years to come. Our Community Ministries Team will present their recommendations concerning Collegiate Ministries at MCC and TSTC campuses, the Restorative Justice Ministry, and the WRBA Hunger Ministries to the Executive Board of the Association.

These recommendations will shape the way we answer the following questions as a network of churches who are committed to extending and embodying the good news of Jesus Christ here in Central Texas:

1. How can we reach the 19,000+ students who attend two of our college campuses? How will we demonstrate the love of Christ to them? How will we explain that love? How will we engage with them so that they have an opportunity to respond by faith to the person of Jesus?
2. How will we respond to the overwhelming need produced by the giant flow of people through our local criminal justice system? What will churches do cooperatively to redeem those who are victims of crime? How will we proclaim Jesus to the more than 10,000 offenders who are incarcerated in McLennan County Jail, Gatesville TDCJ units, and Mart Correctional facilities? Who and how will we help those hundreds of offenders to find a better road when they are released back into our communities? What impact will our churches have on the trafficking of drugs and humans and destruction of property?
3. What will our cooperative response be to the hungry children of our own community? How will we engage with those who are in need of such a basic item such as food in a way that helps them to be self-sustaining and provide for their own children?

These are the questions that our Community Ministries Team has been wrestling with over the past 12 months. You can hear their answers and respond to them if you are part of the Executive Board meeting on April 6. You can view their recommendations on our website. I hope to see you there.

Tim

## — From the Associate Director —

*"Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' 'The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'"*  
(Matthew 25:37-40)



It would be difficult, if not impossible, to avoid or evade Christ's meaning here in Matthew 25. Although set in the context of end-time reckoning, the focus is on examining our action here and now and causes us to rethink every relationship and even every "chance" encounter. Essentially, Jesus tells us that what we do to or for any other person is, in reality, done to him. Thinking like this prevents me from dismissing any individual or category of individual, and relegating them to disregarded. Offenders and ex-offenders are certainly included in this, although they may be the very ones we would most like to exclude. We might be able to excuse neglect if dealing with mere inference, but Christ speaks unequivocally about the significance of compassion toward offenders.

Under direction from the churches that come together as Waco Regional Baptist Association, our Community Ministries Team takes seriously and literally the words of Jesus in Matthew 25 and the statement found in Micah 6:8. As a result, we are moving forward in an expanded and intentional effort to address hunger and poverty in McLennan County, to minister to offenders & ex-offenders and their families, as well as 19,000 students attending McLennan Community College and Texas State Technical College. One of our first efforts in addressing Restorative Justice will be to conduct a conference on May 7 for the purpose of raising awareness of the significant role and amazing potential of individuals and faith-based communities in addressing crime and justice issues in our area. This will encourage greater mobilization and coordination of new and existing faith-based resources to implement more effectively all aspects of Restorative Justice. The conference is free of charge and will take place at Baylor's Mayborn Museum 9:00am-noon, with a free box lunch for registered participants. Registration is available online at the following link: <http://www.isreligion.org/events/symposium-on-restorative-justice/>. You may also call our office to register. The program consists of three presenters followed by a panel of respondents. The presenters are as follows:

Session I: "More God, Less Crime", Dr. Byron Johnson

Session II: A Success Story, Belinda Honey

Session III: A Model To Consider, Mike Doyle

We hope to have close to 200 participants in this inaugural symposium on Restorative Justice. Please let me know if you have any questions about the event or any of our other efforts to follow Christ's command toward community ministry.

In Him,  
Dane Fowlkes, Ph.D.  
Associate Director  
[associate@wacoregionalbaptistassociation.org](mailto:associate@wacoregionalbaptistassociation.org)

# ———— The Body of Believers ————

A glimpse of how God is at work in the Waco area.

Harris Creek Baptist Church has a young staff and a focused vision. With the help and wisdom of the church elders, Lead Teaching Pastor Brady Herbert wants to continue pursuing the church mission statement: "Seeking the welfare of the city." The verse for this goal is Jeremiah 29:7.

Herbert said, "It's not just social services, it's an integration of the gospel into your entire life."

Chairman of the Board of Elders Jim Underwood said, "We are a bible-believing church that understands that we worship best when we use our hands and feet to share God's love in the community. This is the message of Romans 12:1-2 — to offer our entire being as a living sacrifice to God as our spiritual act of worship."

He said hopes to transform lives by meeting outside of church walls.

"The outreach to the community is the absolute core of our mission statement. We desire to be a church that sends people out into the community to help transform lives and share God's love rather than a church whose focus is upon attracting the world to its location."

Herbert called the church social-minded, not for the sake of social service, but for sharing the gospel. It centers on transformation and discipleship.

He sees the church's Kaleo Arts Academy as one way to "pass on giftings to the next generation." The church hopes to give people opportunities to explore creative outlets at reduced rates, and eventually at no cost.

Music and Arts Pastor Drew Greenway said, "The main goal when we started (Kaleo) was taking the arts and seeing how that applies with seeking the welfare of the city."

The youth group has also grown. Youth Minister Landon Collins remembers when six people came and did not know what to do. He expects they will be able to serve better in the life groups now that community has formed.

"Our life groups are starting to go to nursing homes and do service projects throughout the city," Collins said. "We are working towards being a community and a witness."

While the average age of the church staff is 28-29, Herbert wants to reach every age and pass on teachings to younger generations.

One noticeable thing about the young staff is that, along with traditional methods, they use the website, Facebook, Twitter, blogs and online videos to distribute information and announcements. Herbert said it expressed the staff's personalities and was a "byproduct of our age."

The church does not want to redo what other churches are already doing successfully. Herbert asked for prayer in pursuing what God has called them to be and do without comparing themselves to other churches.

"Always pray for wisdom and discernment as we grow — that we'd be faithful to what our calling is and not try to be ... like another church."

Herbert finished with, "(Pray) that we'd use the resources, down to the breathe in our lungs, to enhance the kingdom."

Visit the church website ([www.harris creek.org](http://www.harris creek.org)) for more information.

## Upcoming Events

### **King James Bible's 400th Anniversary, 1611-2011 Symposium and Display at Baylor University**

A display of 100 rare Bibles, scrolls, and medieval manuscripts from the Green Collection will be in the Armstrong Browning Library Hankamer Treasure Room Apr. 7-8, 9:00am-5:00pm; and Apr. 9, 10:00am-2:00pm. Apr. 8 at 4:00pm, Dr. Joshua King will give an introduction on the impact of the KJV on the poetry of Robert and Elizabeth Barrett Browning and will be followed by a concert in ABL's McLean Foyer of Meditation. For more information, contact Kathy Hillman at 710-6684 or 749-5347.

### **WMU Annual Meeting and Missions Celebration**

"Unhindered" — Heb. 12:1-2

April 8-9

FBC Georgetown

For more information, please contact WMU at 1-888-968-6389.



### **Facilitator Training — For Cross-Cultural Service**

April 13-14, FBC Woodway

Registration Fee: \$200

Dr. Mike Stroope at Truett Seminary will lead the training session.



MEN AT THE CROSS

### **Men's Conference — Leap of Faith**

April 30, 8:00am-12:45pm

Midway ISD-Performing Arts Center

Tickets are \$39.00, students are free with registration

Register at [www.menatthecross.org](http://www.menatthecross.org).

### **Pastors' Conference May 4, 2011**

Great Hall at Truett Seminary, 12:00noon

The cost for the meal is \$5.00.

**Guest Speaker: Ken Starr, BU President**

Please RSVP by **April 28th** with the WRBA office at 753-2408 or [admin@wacoregionalbaptistassociation.org](mailto:admin@wacoregionalbaptistassociation.org).



### **Restorative Justice Seminar**

May 7, 9:00am at the Mayborn Museum

To register online, go to

<http://www.isreligion.org/events/symposium-on-restorative-justice/>.

### **World Changers in Waco July 18-23**

Local churches can help with prayer, feeding lunch to the crews, acting as runner or construction supervisor, providing refreshments for students, or following up on decisions of faith. Contact Brian Miller at 417-631-8717 or [mchriste91@gmail.com](mailto:mchriste91@gmail.com) for information.

## Other April Events

**Sunday, April 3, 2:00pm** — **Association Bible Drill**. Columbus Avenue Baptist Church.

**Monday, April 4, 8:30am** — **“Are Christians Called to Change the World” Symposium**. Baylor University.

**Tuesday, April 5, 4:00pm** — **Northcutt Lecture with Carl P. Daw, Jr.** McCrary Music Building, Meadows Lecture Hall.

**Wednesday, April 6, 11:15am** — **WRBA Executive Board**. Truett Seminary Powell Chapel.

**Wednesday, April 6, 12:00noon** — **April Pastors’ Conference**. Speaker: Baylor University Football Head Coach Art Briles. Truett Seminary.

**Saturday, April 9, 9:00am** — **Lower Income Families in Transition (L.I.F.T)**. Waco FBC.

**Sunday, April 10, 4:00pm** — **VBS Training Session**. Columbus Avenue Baptist Church.

**Tuesday, April 12, 4:30pm** — **Summer Meals Summit**. City of Waco Multipurpose Center.

**April 13-14** — **Facilitator Training** Cross Cultural Service. Woodway FBC.

**Friday, April 15, 5:00pm** — **Restorative Justice Planning Meeting**. WRBA-HBMC Green and Gold Room.

**Tuesday, April 19, 4:00pm** — **WRBA Administrative Team Meeting**. WRBA-HBMC.

**Friday, April 22** — **WRBA Office Closed for Good Friday**.

**Sunday, April 24** — **Easter**.

**Thursday, April 28, 11:30am** — **Retired Ministers and Missionaries Luncheon**. Waco FBC.

**Saturday, April 30, 8:30am** — **Science & Religion Seminar**. Waco FBC.

### HELP SAVE A LIFE IN CENTRAL TEXAS

If your church is interested in facilitating a mobile blood drive or want to partner with Carter BloodCare’s Donor Center, contact Kristin McGinty at 254-297-4004 or [kmcginty@carterbloodcare.org](mailto:kmcginty@carterbloodcare.org).



## Community News

**Continue to pray for WRBA churches seeking a Pastor:**

Seventh and James, Emmanuel, FBC McGregor

Congratulations to Third Street Baptist Church and their new pastor David Dover! Messages can be sent to [davidldover@yahoo.com](mailto:davidldover@yahoo.com).

## Online Community



To receive this newsletter only by e-mail contact 753-2408 or [admin@wacoregionalbaptistassociation.org](mailto:admin@wacoregionalbaptistassociation.org).

WRBA is on Twitter (WRBACHurches) and Facebook.