Vol. 12 August No. 8

WACO REGIONAL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Family News

FROM YOUR DIRECTOR

I hope you have already marked October 18, 2011 with a big highlighter on your church and personal calendar. The WRBA will come together for a time of celebration of what the Lord is doing in our communities at 6:00 p.m. at FBC Woodway. The evening will include a dessert extravaganza (at the conclusion), a big combined choir, a dinner, and a time of worship with music and Dr. David Garland as our speaker. We will also be celebrating what the Lord is doing all across this region through the WRBA. The theme for this year is a "Tapestry of Faith"

Here are two important details that you will want to begin to share with other leaders and members of your congregation.

- Each church is asked to send **at least two** (they can send more) singers to sing in the combined choir. We are requesting that each church group wear the same color of outfits so that together it will really make a "tapestry" of color. Chris Wommack will lead this choir as they rehearse and then sing that evening.
- Each church is requested to name the appropriate number of messengers for their church. Here is the formula to figure that out: Each member church shall be entitled to three (3) messengers and an additional one (1) messenger for every two hundred fifty (250) resident members or one (1) additional messenger for every $1,000 given to the budget of the Association during the previous year; except that, the maximum number of messengers from any one (1) member church shall not exceed twenty (20).

The Lord has done some wonderful things here this year including the launching of a new church in Bellmead, World Changers, the beginning of a new Networking & Missions Team, launching a Church Strengthening Process, and embracing a new vision for the Community Ministries in the region. Plan to come and celebrate. Reservations will be requested in order to prepare the appropriate number of dinners.

In His Service,
Tim

— Wrestling with a Dilemma —

How may we explain the undeniable imbalance between evangelistic efforts by the average Baptist church and the equally unavoidable lack of involvement in efforts to alleviate poverty, abolish crime, restore ex-offenders, minister to children of offenders, etc.? I've given a lot of thought to this and wonder if we might resolve the dilemma by acknowledging the existence of an artificial distinction in practice between "redemptive grace" and "transformative grace." What in the world am I talking about? Allow me to briefly explain. I have seldom met anyone who denies the fact that no one is outside the reach of grace and that Christ will save anyone, regardless of their sinful past. Certainly, we include ourselves in that redemptive reality. We expound Romans 3:23, "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God," and in the next breath we hasten to Romans 6:23, "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." We read those statements with an "of course" on the tips of our tongues. This is what I'm terming redemptive grace: Romans 5:8,-9, "But God demonstrates his love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him." As before mentioned, rarely have I encountered anyone, especially among Baptists, who would deny this saving reality. However, it seems that while we joyously proclaim the possibility of salvation regardless of past sin, we hesitate and falter at the point of helping those who receive new life to implement it, especially those who need a lot of help at the point of practicing it. We mean well and often are convinced that we've completed our task by proclaiming the good news of Christ. But when measured against the standards declared in Scripture in places like Isaiah 58, Amos 5:14-15, Micah 6:8, Matthew 25:31-46 and James 1:22-27, the actual application of our belief system is called into question. Stated simply, we readily believe in redemptive grace (God will save anyone), but do we correspondingly believe in and practice transformative grace (God is willing and able to transform everyone)? Clearly, if we truly believe that God is not only willing to save anyone but also able to transform everyone, we will passionately engage hunger, poverty, homelessness, crime, substance abuse, unemployment, the restoration and reintegration of ex-offenders, and anything else required to ensure that every believer experiences what Jesus declares in John 10:10, a life that is full and meaningful in every possible way.

For help and encouragement in seeing lives transformed in your church and community, please consider participating in the following:
No Need Among You: Including the Excluded, September 15-18, 2011 (www.noneedamongyou.net)

In Him,
Dane Fowlkes, Ph.D.
Associate Director
associate@wacoregionalbaptistassociation.org

The Body of Believers

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

Sleeping on floors, working on a roof in the middle of the hot summer, manual labor during a school break. This may not be the ideal summer vacation, but youth across America have paid to be a part with World Changers.

Brennan Stevens from Camden, S.C. is serving as a missions communications specialist this summer after four years experience as a participant. She was with the 244 students in the group that came to Waco July 18-23.

Stevens said, "Thank you, Waco, for hosting us. This really has been one of the most welcoming cities I've ever been in for World Changers. We appreciate all the support."

Local churches have been praying for the group and preparing their lunches. A few even made care packages for the summer staff.

Stevens said, "We're really grateful for churches stepping in and delivering lunches when it's hot outside.... It's just cool to see the body at work."

Anyone interested in participating in the projects next year may go to www.world-changers.net to find the 2012 projects list.

Tandy Riley from Eula, Texas came to Waco as an adult supervisor with youth from her church.

"It's amazing how they're just so compassionate and how they've reached out to people sitting on their porches — just really serving Christ."

She described how tired but eager each of the students were.

Tammy said, "There is nothing that blesses your heart more than serving other people, and we need to do that more in our community."

Meghan Alexander from Kingwood, Texas said, "We're here in the name of Jesus Christ. We feel like we need to serve Him because He loves us."

Caleb Curtis came down from Hugo, OK to work with the team. He started participating in World Changers three years ago. He enjoyed the time of worship the students had on Thursday night.

"(At) the concert of prayer, they had this giant map up where they had points of light wherever there were evangelicals and Christians. I could see America all lit up with lights, but then I looked over at Africa and Asia and I could see darkness all over. It convicted me of my call to spread the Word."

This was the first time Madeline Edwards from Kingwood, Texas joined.

She said, "You don't know what to expect at first. The experience has just been amazing because we didn't know (the other youth), but ... there was an instant connection. It couldn't be anything other than God, honestly. We're almost as close with our crew as we are with our own youth group."

Brian Miller is associational coordinator for World Changers in Waco. Churches wanting to be involved in the Waco project July 16-21 may contact Brian at mchriste91@gmail.com.

He said, "Without the help of the local churches World Changers would be impossible to do."

The biggest need for next year is a larger lodging facility. They are thankful for Texas Christian Academy for hosting this year, but the group would like to add more participants for more projects in the years to come.

This is a chance to work with youth from across America as well as minister to the community. There were about 30 presentations of the Gospel and 7 decisions made this year, including with one of participants.

Miller said, "Just begin praying for next year's projects in south Waco and for the city of Waco. It's a blessing and very humbling to be a part of what God's doing here."

Upcoming Events

Prayer Gathering

7:00-9:00pm on August 6, 2011
Antioch Community Church

Governor Perry has called a prayer gathering in Houston on August 6. Cities around the country are holding coinciding events, including Waco. You and your church body are invited to join other believers at Antioch Community Church, 510 N. 20th St. Please announce this or put it in your church bulletin for Saturday, August 6. Childcare for children up to age 5 will be available with registration through our website at www.antiochcc.net.

Willow Creek Global Leadership Summit

9:00am-5:30pm, August 11-12
Waco Hall, Baylor University
This internationally acclaimed conference will reinvigorate you as an individual leader, and provide an invaluable, affordable opportunity to fellowship with peers and build relationships. When registering, use the host church code of 2011GLS and identify Baylor University as your organization. For more information visit www.willowcreek.com/summit or call Denise Corley at 710-6274.

Childhood Ministry Summit

August 12-13
Dallas Baptist University
Cost: $35 for one day, $60 for both days (no returns after July 30).
Register at http://texasbaptists.org/events/childhood-ministry-summit/.

Operation School Zone

August 14-21
Pray for students, teachers and school personnel as school starts.
Letters have been mailed to each church. For more information, visit www.wacoregionalbaptistassociation.org.

Pastor's Conference

12:00 noon on September 7
Truett Seminary
$7.00 for the meal

Speaker: Barry Camp
Former Pastor of Highland Baptist Church

Please make a reservation by September 1. Contact Katelyn at 753-2408 or admin@wacoregionalbaptistassociation.org. **-OR-** Avoid a long line by pre-paying at www.wacoregionalbaptistassociation.org.

Online Community

To receive this newsletter only by email, contact Katelyn at 753-2408 or admin@wacoregionalbaptistassociation.org.

Find us on Twitter, Facebook and YouTube.

Other August Events

August 3-6 — RA Camp. Latham Springs.
Tuesday, August 16 — Ministry Guidance Supervisors Workshop. Baylor University.
Tuesday, August 16, 4:00pm — Administrative Team Meeting. WRBA - HBMC Room 502.
August 5-7 — Mission Arlington Ministry Training. Call 817-704-6145.
September 7, 11:15am — Executive Board Meeting. Truett Seminary.

GLORIETA ON THE BRAZOS

PRESENTS

Renew, Refresh, Revive

Making Sure Your Sunday School / Small Group Ministry is Spiritually Fit

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2011
BEGINNING AT 8:30AM
CONCLUDING AT 12:00 NOON

PRESCHOOL LEADERS:
DR. TOMMY SANDERS [Childhood Ministry Director, DBU, Dallas, TX]
MARY ANN BRADBERRY [Preschool Presenter, Writer & Consultant, Austin, TX]

CHILDREN'S LEADERS:
NANCY CONLIN [Minister of Childhood Education, FBC, Bryan, TX]
BRONWYN STANLEY [Minister to Children, FBC, College Station, TX]

YOUTH LEADERS:
JANE WILSON [Youth Ministry Specialist, Baptist General Convention of Texas, Dallas, TX]
CHUCK GARTMAN [Associate Pastor for Leadership Development, FBC, Lubbock, TX]

ADULT LEADERS:
CARTER SHOTWELL [Executive Pastor of Ministries, Lake Pointe Church, Rockwall, TX]
DENNIS PARROTT [Retired Congregational Strategist, Baptist General Convention of Texas, Dallas, TX]
DR. LYNNE COX [Curriculum Coordinator – Arts, A/V Technology & Communications Cluster, University of North Texas, Denton, TX]
KEITH LOWRY [Singles Ministry Specialist, Baptist General Convention of Texas, Dallas, TX]

PASTORS:
RAY STILL [Senior Pastor, Oakwood Baptist Church, New Braunfels, TX]

Columbus Avenue Baptist Church
1300 Columbus Avenue - Waco Texas

ADMISSION IS FREE

Community News

Continue to pray for WRBA churches seeking a Pastor:
Emmanuel, FBC McGregor, FBC Riesel, Highland, Shiloh, West Robinson

Congratulations to FBC China Spring and new Music Minister Steve Woods!

The *Discover! Waco* packets are ready for pick up!
The church/community information packets are available to be picked up at the WRBA office. For more information, contact Katelyn at 753-2408.