



WACO REGIONAL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Family News

Vol. 11

August 2010

No. 7

FROM YOUR DIRECTOR

I am not a church historian. I am grateful for those who spend their lifetime collecting and organizing church history so that the rest of us can learn valuable lessons from the past. As far as I can tell, from the beginning of the history of the Christian church, relationships between churches have been important. The ways churches have related, and the purposes of those relationships have evolved over time. But historically, Texas Baptist churches have been concerned about each other and banded together in association.



This year, the Waco Regional Baptist Association is celebrating its 150th year of missions and ministry. Even as you read this newsletter, a great team of our brothers and sisters are planning a beautiful celebration to honor that history on Tuesday, October 26.

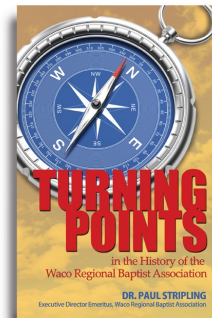
Our beloved friend and Executive Director Emeritus, Dr. Paul Stripling is putting the final touches on his new book, **Turning Points in the History of the Waco Regional Baptist Association**. This book will help outline some of the major changes

in our association over these years. I can't wait to read it. This book will be available at our annual meeting celebration at First Baptist Church, Waco.

Even though the means and the purposes of the church-to-church relationships have shifted significantly throughout these 150 years, the churches are still 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." (This is a phrase taken from our newly approved mission statement.) In other words, although the strategies are different, the central purpose remains the same as when those nine original churches decided at the First Baptist Church, Waco, "Hey we ought to do something together."

I figure it must just be in our DNA. In spite of new technologies and major shifts in our culture, churches still want to have a relationship with each other!

Thanks for permitting me to be a part of that.
Tim



Fall Pastors' Conferences Begin September 1st!

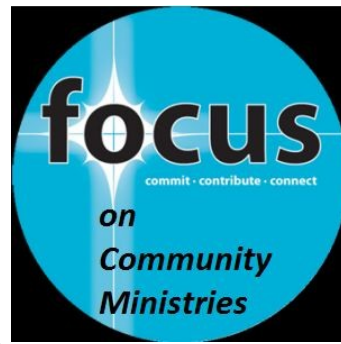
Great Hall at Truett Seminary.
The cost for the meal is \$5.00.

Please RSVP by **August 25th**.

To register contact the WRBA office at
admin@wacoregionalbaptistassociation.org or call 753-2408

****The Pastors' Conference will be preceded by an Executive Board Meeting at 11:15 a.m. in the Truett Chapel ****

FROM THE ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR:



Most of you have heard by now that Operation Assist was closed June 14 due to circumstances beyond our control. Our Community Ministries Team is currently in the process of considering options as to how to best respond and transition our involvement in hunger ministry. In the meantime, many have asked what to do with donations of food, money, etc. First, we will not be able to accept donations of any kind at the former Operation Assist location. Second, financial contributions are continuing to be accepted in the WRBA office and all monies received will be used to benefit hunger ministry through WRBA churches engaged in feeding the hungry. Finally, churches and individuals wanting to donate food items are encouraged to consider taking these to The Shepherd's Heart, an independent food pantry operating at 34th and Bosque. Donations are received on Thursdays from 10 am to 3 pm. For more information, please contact the director, Bob Gager, at (254) 722-9517. In addition, churches may like to know that a 'donation of \$100 secures enough food to feed six families. If arrangements are made ahead of time, the staff of volunteers at The Shepherd's Heart will box the food for the individual families and have them ready for someone from the church to collect them. The food can then be distributed by the church as its own hunger ministry in its own community. In this way, many smaller congregations may be engaged in hunger ministry without having the ability to operate a food pantry of their own. For more information on either the closing of Operation Assist or ways to be involved in hunger ministry in the greater Waco region, please contact me at associate@wacoregionalbaptistassociation.org. I will respond to each inquiry as quickly as possible.

In Him,
Dane Fowlkes
(254) 753-2408

Waco Community Hymn Sing 2010

Sunday, September 19 – 7:00 p.m. Ferrell Center at Baylor University

Choir Rehearsal – Saturday, September 18
9:00-10:45 a.m. at 7th & James Baptist Church

Sunday, September 19
Rehearsal – 3:00-5:30 p.m. at the Ferrell Center
Dinner at Ferrell Center – 5:30 p.m.
Waco Community Hymn Sing – 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Special Guests:

Steve Green – Singer and Song Writer (Emcee)
David Crowder – Contemporary Worship Leader
Melinda Doolittle – Singer, 2007 American Idol finalist
Kurt Kaiser – Pianist/Composer/Arranger
David Hamilton – Conductor/Composer/Arranger

Also:

500-voice Choir from Waco area churches & Baylor choirs
Baylor Symphony Orchestra

HOW TO PARTICIPATE AS A CHURCH

To Sign up – Just let Chuck Bridwell know that you want to participate by calling 752-1655 or e-mailing at chuck.bridwell@cabcwaco.org.

Cost to Participate – There is no set charge, but we are asking each music director to find some people to donate \$50 each to make this production possible. Larger churches will most likely find more donors and smaller churches may find fewer. Each church may also be able to donate from their church budgets. If a church cannot afford anything from its budget, that church is still encouraged to participate. In addition we will take a freewill offering on the night of the Waco Community Hymn Sing and there will be a Patron Program to raise funds.

Choir Music – The combined choirs will be singing one or two songs as choir features, but most of the music sung that night will be congregational hymns in fully orchestrated beautiful arrangements with easy choir parts. One of the songs the choir will sing is the Mallory arrangement of "When I Survey" with the orchestra.

Printed Music – David Hamilton will send us a master copy of all the congregational music we will be singing. There is no charge for the music, but you will have to make copies for your choir. You will receive your master copy of the music and a demo CD mid-August.

Rehearsal schedule – As soon as you get the music, go ahead and start practicing it with your choir when the time is good for you. The only rehearsals we will have together will be on Saturday, September 18, and also on Sunday afternoon immediately before the event.



Serve God and Community

Volunteer for the New Waco Christian Men's Job Corps



Christian Men's Job Corps (CMJC) equips men in a Christian context for life and employment. Lives are literally transformed through this vibrant ministry that helps participants gain self-confidence, purpose, direction, and hope for the future. In addition to classroom work, each student is engaged in a weekly Bible study and paired with a mentor for encouragement and accountability. **And, it's right across the street from Columbus Avenue!** How easy could we make it to experience this wonderful ministry.

The current session began on July 13 and will run to September 24, 2010.

We are always in need of **teachers** to help with our evening classes.

Jobs For Life® -- If you have any experience at all in teaching, you can teach this nationally syndicated workbook course. www.jobsforlife.com

Computers -- Basic MS Office.

Bible Study -- Basic curriculum.

There is also always a place for male **Mentors**. This is a richly rewarding one-on-one opportunity to minister to a man who needs accountability and encouragement. If you know any of our current mentors, John Hawes (team leader), Walter Drake, Dowell Reese, Mark Rister, Dan Pleitz, Randy Mull or Dale Blackburn, ask them about this experience.

If you have the passion and talent for this work, phone Milt Anglin, CMJCW Executive Director, at 744-5605 or email to cmjc@att.net.



Christian Women's Job Corps Update

August 1 – 15 Applications for the new semester are currently being accepted.

Call for details: 757-0416

August 9 Interviews for potential participants begin

August 30 **Fall semester classes begin**

Volunteers are needed in the classroom.

Computer lab volunteers 757-0416 or

elaine@cwjcwaco.org

A budget partner for each woman

757-0416 or elaine@cwjcwaco.org



What is a **CWJC Journey Partner**?

Come to an informational meeting and learn.

August 28, 10:00 – 11:00

CWJC Center

1111 Herring Avenue

757-0416 or elaine@cwjcwaco.org

for more information



“Baskets of Hope” Dinner and Silent Auction

The theme for this year is “Boots, Baskets, and BBQ” so feel free to wear your boots and come join the fun.

Sponsorships are available. 757-0416 or www.cwjcwaco.org

Donate a basket. 757-0416 or www.cwjcwaco.org

Join the Baskets of Hope committee 757-0416 or pam@cwjcwaco.org



What A Week!

A couple of weeks ago we finished the first ever World Changers project in Waco. What an awesome

week it was. God worked in many amazing ways.

Here are some statistics:

Gospel Presentations – 64
Questions about Christ – 7
Salvations – 3
People wanting more information – 4
People requesting prayer – 12
Tracts handed out – 93
Bibles handed out – 22



More decisions were made by both the participants and residents than were recorded. Decision cards that were filled out can be picked up at the Association office for follow up purposes. Besides the seeds planted and decisions made, World Changers was well covered in the media.



I do want to take this time to thank all those churches that participated in this year's World Changer project. There were 18 different churches that provided meals for the crews and more that prayed for the project.

We have the opportunity to host a World Changers project here again next summer. We are in the planning process for next year. The dates for next year would be July 18-23. Would you to begin to pray about God would have your church to be involved? You can pray, feed a crew, or even send your youth to a project. You can find a list of next year's projects at www.world-changers.net. I would be happy to visit with you about these possibilities. I will start sending out information in December or January. Also if you would like to see a video about the week in Waco, visit <http://blogs.world-changers.net> and search under action cams for the Waco, TX project. I also have a few CD's about the week that you can pick up at the Association office.

We urgently need a lodging facility for next year. We need a school or other facility that can house 300 participants for the week. If you have any connections, please let me know.

Grace and Peace,
Brian Miller



Save The Date for.....



.....RA LEADERS' TRAINING

Who : RA Leaders, Interested RA Leaders, or Churches Interested in Starting RAs are welcome to attend.

Leaders of Training : Texas Baptist Men's State RA Leaders, Keith Mack and Murrie Wainscott

Date : Tuesday August 17, 2010

Time : 6:30 Supper Served 7 pm till 9 pm Training

Place : Meadowbrook Baptist Church Fellowship Hall

Other Information: Supper requires **RSVP by August 15**

Contact : Roy Norman 254-709-3543 or Brad Blanchard 254-640-0219 or e-mail to brad.blanchard76@yahoo.com

Topics to Cover : New RA Materials, How to lead a chapter, Calendaring for future events.

Royal Ambassadors (RAs) is a Bible-centered, church-based, Baptist mission education organization for boys in grades 1-6. The RA Motto, "We are Ambassadors for Christ," not only gives the organization its name, but also gives the boys and leaders a lifestyle goal. This Motto is taken from 2 Corinthians 5:20.

If you would like more information about how RAs can become part of the ministry in your congregation or how your existing RA group can participate in the Associational activities, contact Roy Norman 254-709-3543.

The WRBA is providing a clinic on coaching as a ministry tool on Tuesday, August 17, 1:00-3:30 p.m. at the Baylor University Hughes-Dillard Alumni Center. This clinic follows the annual Baylor Ministry Guidance Supervisor Workshop, focusing on the same topic. If you are a Ministry Guidance supervisor, we encourage you to register for the entire day. If you are not a Ministry Guidance supervisor, we invite you to register for the afternoon session. Register by contacting Louine Adams at the Ministry Guidance office, 254-710-3739 and Louine.Adams@baylor.edu.

GLORIETA ON THE BRAZOS
PRESENTS
BUILDING THE KINGDOM THROUGH SUNDAY SCHOOL
HAVING THE RIGHT TOOLS AND KNOWING HOW TO USE THEM
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25TH
BEGINNING AT 8:30 AM
CONCLUDING AT 12:00 NOON

SPONSORING CHURCHES AND ORGANIZATIONS
This conference is free to attendees due to the financial support of these sponsoring churches and organizations:

- Columbus Avenue Baptist Church
Waco, Texas
- Meadowbrook Baptist Church
Robinson, Texas
- Park Lake Drive Baptist Church
Waco, Texas
- Western Heights Baptist Church
Waco, Texas
- Waco Regional Baptist Association

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:
Frank Wallace, Minister of Education & Discipleship
Columbus Avenue Baptist Church · Waco, Texas
254.752.1655 · frank.wallace@cabcwaco.org

.....No Need Among You

Including the Excluded Conference

October 28-30, 2010

The annual "No Need Among You Conference," to be held this year in Waco on October 28-30, has just confirmed our best group yet of national speakers addressing Christian community development. Co-sponsored by Mission Waco, Baylor School of Social Work, Texas Baptists (BGCT), and Crestview Church of Christ, the Texas "regional conference" brings churches, faith-based organizations and other non-profits who work among the poor together to learn how to be more effectively serve, include and empower the lower-income and marginalized of our cities.



Pray for WRBA Pastorless Churches

Oak Grove, FBC Waco, El Calvario, FBC Elm Mott, Grace Temple, Downsville, Harris Creek, Seventh and James, North Waco Baptist Church