



WACO REGIONAL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Family News

———— FROM YOUR DIRECTOR ————

I recall listening to Bill Hybels at the Global Leadership Summit last year when he described the essence of leadership. He drew a dot on a chart and then said “leadership is moving people from where they are (the dot) to where they need to be (another dot). The surprising thing about that, according to Bill, was how much energy and effort it takes to get people to understand that their “*here*” is no longer acceptable. In other words, it takes a good bit of effort to help people understand that they need to grow in their skills, and in the execution of their duties within the church.

We are looking forward to the Glorieta on the Brazos event on Saturday, September 20 (details inside), and I fully expect that we will have close to 300 people present. That will be a good attendance. But **there ought to be *twice that many*** present because we easily have a thousand workers in our church Sunday Schools in this region. What pastor or Sunday School leader doesn’t need to sharpen how they teach or lead? Which church worker couldn’t use a shot in the arm of new ideas and inspiration and encouragement? Ray Still, the Senior Pastor at Oakwood Baptist Church in New Braunfels, Texas, will be leading the general session and a breakout session for pastors. All of the sessions will be led by top-shelf leaders from across the state of Texas.

Are you ready for your church or your Sunday School class to move from “*here*” to “*there?*” This is a great opportunity to begin that move. I’ll see you “there”!

In His Service,
Tim

— Wrestling with a Dilemma —

It's a leadership cliché to say "I have some exciting developments to share with you." But in this case, I really do! First, it is my pleasure to introduce our new Hunger Ministry Intern, Jenny Hodge. Jenny is a graduate student at Baylor University's School of Social Work and Truett Theological Seminary, and is serving this year at WRBA as part of a pioneer partnership between the Waco Regional Baptist Association and Baylor's School of Social Work. The Hunger Ministry Intern serves as an important resource person for encouraging greater collaboration among existing hunger ministries in our area, as well as for facilitating the development of new hunger ministries in under-served areas. Please see the brief bio below for more information on Jenny.



Secondly, a very important decision will be made on September 7 at the next WRBA Executive Board meeting that will directly impact our involvement in community ministry/ transformation. The Executive Board will consider a proposal from the Restorative Justice Task Force to pursue establishing a non-profit entity in the name of Cornerstone Assistance Network Central Texas. Cornerstone Assistance Network Central Texas is to be a non-profit faith-based intermediary dedicated to the advancement of programs and practices that promote restoration of offenders, ex-offenders, their families, victims and communities, through relationship with Christ and faith communities. The mission of Cornerstone Assistance Network Central Texas will be to address the critical issues connected with restoration and reintegration of offenders and ex-offenders, as well as their children and spouses. True restoration will come as individuals encounter a transforming relationship with Jesus Christ and practice a vital relationship with other followers of Christ. Ultimately, this approach to Restorative Justice in McLennan County and surrounding areas will strengthen and heal whole communities as well as individuals and family members. Restoration of individuals will include the following goals:

- To establish a holistic transition and reentry process that ensures coordinated services and mentoring for formerly incarcerated men and women.
- To establish a process of caring for children and spouses of incarcerated men/women.
- To establish a regional network of government agencies, community and faith-based organizations, businesses, and citizens committed to successful transition and reentry for the formerly incarcerated.

Cornerstone Assistance Network Central Texas will be established by Waco Regional Baptist Association, but will from its inception be open to network partnerships with churches and faith-based organizations representing all Christian denominations. Community collaborations are essential if we are going to help the marginalized in an effective manner. Only by weaving together a diverse network of churches, organizations, volunteers, and financial support will Cornerstone Central Texas be able to consistently serve, and help others serve and see restoration of ex-offenders each year in McLennan County.

In practice, Cornerstone Assistance Network will assist local churches and organizations with resources to better meet the needs of those that God sends their way. Together, we can demonstrate Christ's love and compassion to all who come to us seeking restoration and reintegration.

-Dane Fowlkes, Associate Director



Hi, my name is Jenny Hodge. I am very excited to be the new Hunger Ministries Intern for the WRBA. I worked with summer programs for the Virginia Baptist Mission Board and a year-long internship with the Richmond Baptist Association. I am thrilled to work with the local Baptist association and churches! I will be networking and coordinating with Baptist churches who are operating hunger or food assistance programs for individuals and families in the Waco area. My goal is to help local churches identify new resources, share information, and support and develop current and new food ministries.

Currently, I am a dual-degree student at Baylor's School of Social Work and Truett Seminary.

The Body of Believers

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

"Seventh is a church of many traditions and one of the things that is very important to us is maintaining those traditions," said Matt Rosencrans, Seventh and James' minister to students.

While holding to its customs, the church and new members are working on adding ministries, especially to the changing neighborhood around them.

He hopes they will "be a very present, vocal presence of Christ in our community and in our world."

While they have created some ministries, the church doesn't want to repeat other organizations' work. They encourage members to work with agencies in town. This was modeled at a youth mission trip to San Antonio.

The youth have gone seen many ways to serve God during multiple trips.

The church has been busy with an interim period for more than a year. They just welcomed their new pastor, Erin Conaway on Aug. 1.

"I'm most excited about our new pastor. I think he's fantastic. He's a leader who leads by listening first," Rosencrans said. "(I'm) very excited to see him grow into this position as he gets to know the congregation and as they get to know him."

Minister of Congregational Life Leslie Rosencrans said, "I think we're still getting to know him. I'm so excited that he's here. He's got a lot of energy and is passionate about what he does."

She says he values them as individuals and as ministers.

Conaway has been working at the church for about a month.

He said, "It's wonderful. There's such a powerful fellowship here. The people really love each other, and they've embraced my family."

Conaway has enjoyed meeting with past professors from Baylor and Truett and meeting new faces in the Baptist association.

He said, "I've met with several different pastors in the area and am excited to do more of that. It's been a wonderful welcome. I really love the spirit of camaraderie with the other pastors."

Two things really attracted Conaway to the church. One was worship.

"We do creative liturgical worship here. It's a more formal service than a lot of Baptists are used to, but I know from my experience here as a student in seminary that I learned a lot about silence," he said. "I think the space that's filled in with silence and the more reflective, contemplative moments in the service allow people to take stock of 'what is the spirit saying to me.'"

The other motivating factor was the history of missions. He's hoping to "exploring some new opportunities of service."

During the past year the church has pulled closer in various ways. While looking for a pastor, the members and interim pastor worked together.

"I think the congregation stepped up in amazing ways. People were always willing to step up in many ways," Leslie Rosencrans said.

The church also lost one of their Administrative Assistants.

"Pat (Strother) had been a member since her college days and had been on staff for 24 years. She was so much of the DNA at Seventh," Rosencrans said.

They worked together in each instance and pressed forward to God.

"I really love the people. I think that it's a group that's really committed to deciding how they want to live and work in the world and how God is calling us to live and work in the world," Rosencrans said. "They are always asking questions and always seeking."

Upcoming Events

Executive Board Meeting

11:15am on September 7, 2011

Truett Seminary

The meeting will proceed Pastors' Conference. Join us in discussing many facets of the association before the Annual Meeting in October.



No Need Among You Conference

September 15-18, 2011

Crestview Church of Christ, 7129 Delhi

For more information or to register, go to www.noneedamongyou.net.



P R E S E N T S

Renew, Refresh, Revive

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

Saturday, September 20, 2011 from 8:30am-12:00pm
Columbus Avenue Baptist Church

2011 Retirees Retreat

September 26-30, 2011 at Glorieta Conference Center, NM

For more information, call 1-800-797-4222.

Special Friends Retreat

September 30-October 1, 2011 at Mt. Lebanon

For more information, visit texasbaptists.org/events/special-friends-retreat-mt-lebanon/.

Pastor's Conference

12:00 noon on October 5

Truett Seminary

\$7.00 for the meal

Speaker: Barry Camp

Pastor Emeritus of Highland Baptist Church



Please make a reservation by September 29. Contact Katelyn at 753-2408 or admin@wacoregionalbaptistassociation.org. **-OR-** Avoid a long line by pre-paying at www.wacoregionalbaptistassociation.org.

Other September Events

Thursday, September 1, 9:00am — Missions Development Team Meeting. WRBA-HBMC.

Monday, September 5 — WRBA Office Closed for Labor Day.

Wednesday, September 7, 11:15am — Executive Board Meeting. Truett Seminary.

Wednesday, September 7, 12:00 — Pastors' Conference. Truett Seminary.

Saturday, September 10, 9:00am — Beth Moore Simulcast.

September 11-18 — Week of Prayer for Texas State Missions and Mary Hill Davis Offering.

Thursday, September 15, 8:00am — Fall Senior Day. Latham Springs.

Tuesday, September 20 — Leadership Development Team Meeting. WRBA-HBMC.

Tuesday, September 20, 4:00pm — Administrative Team Meeting. WRBA-HBMC.

Wednesday, September 28 — See You At The Pole.

Friday, September 30 — Courageous Movie Release.

WRBA Annual Meeting: A Tapestry of Faith October 18, 2011

6:00-8:00pm at FBC Woodway
The cost is \$5.00 and dinner is provided

You may register and pay at www.wacoregionalbaptistassociation.org. This will shorten the check-in line. You may also register and pay at the door by contacting us at 753-2408 or admin@wacoregionalbaptistassociation.org.

We would like to have two or more members from each church participate in the choir. Each church is asked to select a color of T-shirt for their representatives to wear.

Community News

Continue to pray for WRBA churches seeking a Pastor:

Emmanuel, FBC McGregor, FBC Riesel, Highland, Hilltop, Shiloh, West Robinson

Congratulations to FBC Crawford and new Director of Children's Ministry Dee Doshier!
Congratulations to Lake Shore Baptist Church and Jaime McGlothlin, new Minister to Children!

Congratulations to Meadowbrook Baptist Church and their new Administrative Assistant Sarah Lester!

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.