



WACO REGIONAL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Family News

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No. 1

FROM YOUR DIRECTOR



Two weeks ago, a friend asked for my evaluation of the progress of our ministry teams in the Association. I was happy to respond that we had made tremendous progress through this past year, but we still had a long way to go. When he inquired about what it would look like when we fulfilled the vision, I replied, "When several hundred churches in the central Texas region are strong and healthy and collaboratively *together* in the areas of church starting, church revitalization, leadership development, missions and networking, and community ministries. We would see churches helping one another in a collaborative way to make disciples and minister in Jesus' name and extend the gospel around the world." In my mind, this doesn't look so much like a neat organizational diagram, but rather a messy web of powerful relationships across which the love of Christ flows. The best news about this is that this is not really *my* vision. It was on the Lord's heart as he uttered the words.... "you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you..."

So, how far have we come? Some! How far have we yet to go? Far! I thank the Lord for the privilege of being a witness to what he is doing today in our very presence.

In His Service,
Tim



Preschool | Children's Minister Retreat

January 10 - 11, 2011

For: Ministers, Directors, Preschool and Children's Leadership.

Where: Tapatio Springs Golf Resort, Boerne, Texas

Contact: Bethany Frisch at **888-244-9400** or
bethany.frisch@texasbaptists.org

Science and Faith: Breaking Down the Wall

February 5, 2011 9am-4:30pm

FBC Waco

A seminar co-sponsored by the First Baptist Church, Waco and the Center for Ministry Effectiveness and Educational Leadership, Baylor University. Speakers include Gerald Cleaver, Phyllis Tippit, and Barry Harvey.

For more information contact Julie Covington at julie_covington@baylor.edu



Carter Blood Care is looking for churches to host a blood drive. This vital service touches lives all over Central Texas. For information on how to host a blood drive, contact Terry Aslin at TAslin@carterbloodcare.org

Discover!

In 2010, the WRBA conducted a *Discover!* project in the Bellmead area to discover new church starting and new ministry opportunities. At least one of the churches who participated in that process is pursuing new ministry opportunities as a result of that effort.

In 2011, the Missions Development Team is considering conducting the *Discover!* project inside the circle comprised of Loop 340, Highway 6, and the Lake. The Discover Sub-Team has asked Rod Lindsey to manage that project this year. Rod will be contacting many of you in these next weeks to enlist your church's participation. This effort is considerably larger than the Bellmead project last year and will require a wide participation of volunteers, van drivers, interviewers, and researchers who can help us to "see" our communities with new eyes.



February Pastors' Conference February 2, 2011

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

Guest Speaker

Dr. Dub Oliver, President ETBU

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

Please RSVP by **January 26th**

Winter Senior Day at Latham Springs

Thursday January 20th, 2011, 8:30 a.m.

Go visit Latham Springs for Winter Senior Day where the peace, serenity and nature's beauty will provide the ideal atmosphere to draw close to the Lord. Be part of a community of 50+ believers taking an active role in the ministry of these holy campgrounds.

Share in the worship, teaching and fellowship here and enjoy a delicious lunch.

\$7.00 per person.

WRBA Financial Summary as of December 28, 2010

By becoming members of WRBA each church has pledged to support the ministry efforts of the Association with their time, talents and financial resources. During 2010 WRBA has received financial support from 77 of the 136 churches that are members of our Association.

Year to Date Contributions 219,646.83

Year to Date Budget Needs 253,517.00

If you have questions about the financial support of our ministries or our budget needs please contact us at

finance@wacoregionalbaptistassociation.org

Congratulations to **Oak Grove Baptist Church** upon calling their new pastor, Dennis Larson. Dennis and his wife, Alison, and their two children, Dee Ann and Aaron are moving to Waco next week..

Continue to Pray for WRBA Churches Seeking a Pastor:

Seventh and James, Emmanuel, FBC McGregor, Third Street



Why Community Ministries?

The answer to that question, for me, is derived from our understanding of “church.” I’ve asked many people over the past thirty years for their definition of “church” and the responses have been as numerous as the persons asked. The common thread in the multitude of definitions is that most define church by describing her activities. What is often missing is any mention of the nature of church. In other words, is there something that causes a church to be “church” that then gives rise to a multiplicity of activities? The phrase I’ve used now for a number of years is that a church is “a prophetic community of faith,” with each of those words containing tremendous significance. For the purposes of this article, I will focus on the first word of significance—“prophetic.” By prophetic I mean transformational—exacting transformation both within the church membership and in the church’s immediate and extended contexts. In other words, a church is not defined by her numbers of members, size of budget, etc., but by the manner and extent to which her members incarnate the teachings of Christ and, in turn, by the way the church positively impacts her community and the world. With that understanding, it is relatively easy to answer the question: Why community ministries? We engage in ministry in our communities as a matter of course. This is simply what churches do as they enact positive transformation in our communities. It would be unthinkable for a church to do anything less. I am grateful for the way the churches of the Waco Regional Baptist Association are seeking transformation in the communities of McLennan County and surrounding areas. For those individuals and churches looking for additional ways to impact your community beyond what your church is already doing, I encourage you to consider the following pathways to community transformation:

Restorative Justice Ministry: Jail Ministry of McLennan County, McLennan County State Juvenile Correctional Facility Units I & II, Christian Women’s Job Corps, Christian Men’s Job Corps

Hunger Ministry: Local church food pantries throughout McLennan County and surrounding areas

Collegiate Ministry: Ministry with students of McLennan Community College and Texas State Technical College

The Community Ministries Team of WRBA stands ready to assist you as you engage in efforts to seek transformation in your community. The overall team consists of three task forces organized to address each of the above categories of community ministry. Please feel free to call or write with any question you may have about community ministry. I appreciate the privilege of working with so many churches that are truly prophetic in their impact.

Dr. Dane Fowlkes
Associate Director

Upcoming Events and Announcements

Thursday, January 6 -- Leadership Development Team Trip to visit Retreat Site. For more information, contact Meg Cooper at meg_cooper@sbcglobal.net

Wednesday, January 12 – All at Truett Seminary

9:30 Baylor Department of Religion Doctrinal Conference at Truett Seminary

12:00 noon Monthly WRBA Pastors' Conference

1:00 p.m. WRBA Executive Board meeting

Friday, January 14 –11:30 a.m. Restorative Justice Sub-Team of the Community Ministries Team Meeting at Pat Neff Hall

Tuesday, January 18 at 2:00 p.m. New Church Growth Review with the Bridge at the Bridge.

Thursday, January 20 at 11:30 a.m. Dedication Service for Miracle Hall at Latham Springs.

Thursday, January 20 at 5:30 p.m. Church Revitalization Team Meeting at the WRBA – Garden Room .

Tuesday, January 25 at 12:00 noon. Leadership Development Team at the WRBA – Green & Gold Room

Thursday, January 27 – Deadline for reservations for the February 2 Pastors' Conference.

The WRBA is currently seeking a full-time Administrative Assistant. For more details contact Tim at director@wacoregionalbaptistassociation.org