



WACO REGIONAL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Family News

— FROM YOUR DIRECTOR —

The **Discover!** project has already yielded some significant fruit this spring. The Missions Development Team requested that Bill Tinsley help coordinate the Discover! project, and through this effort of interviews, windshield surveys and demographic studies, each church has an opportunity to view their own community through new eyes. The Association also has the opportunity to see the region through new eyes as well. On June 5, the Missions Development Team will have the opportunity to receive the final results of this research and then make some conclusions about our future work in the area of church planting. I know that I have seen some new needs and opportunities through this process as well. Our schools are open and pleading for churches to become engaged in creative ways to help support and encourage those students who are at risk or at the margin of success. Entire new neighborhoods are being built right in front of our eyes in China Spring and the School District is struggling to keep up with the growth. New neighborhoods have sprouted out of the prairie soil West of Speegleville and all around the Crawford area.



New neighborhoods and unreached pockets of people are sure signals that we need a new church in that area. We identified two areas where we needed new church starts through the Discover! Project last year. We need a new Hispanic church in McGregor area, and we need a Western Heritage Church start in the Lorena area. Both of these have been in my prayers and on my mind through the year, but as of today, the Lord has not raised up the church planter nor the sponsor church to make these happen. So I keep praying. This year, I suspect we might conclude we need a new church in China Spring. I will be praying about that one too. Would you join me in praying that the Lord of the Harvest would send out laborers into the fields that are white?

In His Service,
Tim

— Upcoming Events —

  Camp Dates  	Church	Date	Location
	FBC Hewitt (Preteen)	June 9-13	Mt. Lebanon
	Downsville (Youth)	June 12-15	
	Oak Grove (Youth)	June 15-21	Lake of the Ozarks
	Meadowbrook	June 16-20	Super Summer
	Western Heights (Preteen)	June 16-20	Camp Mt. Lebanon
	FBC Hewitt (Youth)	June 21-24	Camp Eagle
	Meadowbrook (Preteen)	June 23-26	
	FBC Woodway (Preteen)	June 25-28	
	Downsville (Preteen)	June 26-28	
	FBC Crawford (Preteen)	June 29-July 5	
	FBC Crawford (Youth)	June 29-July 5	
	Highland (Preteen)	June 30-July 4	Mt. Lebanon

 Mission Trip Dates 	Church	Date	Location
	FBC Woodway (Youth)	June 13-24	England
	FBC Woodway	June 15-25	India
	FBC Waco (Youth)	June 22-26	Arlington, TX
	Dayspring (Youth)	June 22-27	Dallas, TX
	FBC Woodway (Youth)	June 22-28	La Grulla, TX
	Highland (Youth)	June 23-July 3	Uganda
	Columbus Avenue (Youth)	June 26-July 5	Washington DC
	FBC Woodway	July 19-26	Ireland
	Dayspring	July 19-26	Honduras
	FBC Waco	July 19-25	Shaw, Miss.
	FBC Woodway (Youth)	July 26-August 1	Belize
	FBC Waco (Youth)	July 28-August 1	Arlington, TX

VBS Dates

Church	Date	Time
Meadowbrook	June 8-11	
Grace Temple	June 9-13	6-9
FBC Robinson	June 16-19	
Calvary	June 16-20	
FBC Crawford	June 16-20	
Dayspring	June 16-20	
Highland	June 16-20	9:30-12
Waco FBC	June 16-20	
FBC Woodway	June 16-20	



Contact WRBA at 753-2408 or admin@wacobaptists.org to list an event.

— Collegiate Ministry Spotlight —



Recently, I began conducting needs assessments on the TSTC Campus with faculty, staff and student leaders to determine student ministry needs. Based on those discussions, there are tremendous opportunities to minister to TSTC students. We invite you to join us in reaching out.

An informal inventory of your church's capacity to meet student ministry needs is the next step. Once that has been completed, we can proceed to develop a strategic plan for effective Collegiate Ministry.

While we will continue on-campus Bible study during the current semester, the slower pace of summer will give us time to plan a full slate of activities for the fall semester. Input from the churches is crucial during this planning time. This is a great time to learn more about the TSTC campus and ministry opportunities there. It is also a time to initiate or expand the presence of your church on the TSTC campus. The harvest is plentiful. Please call (753-2408) or email me (tstc@wacobaptists.org) to schedule a time to share your ideas or to ask questions.

These are just a few of the ideas we are considering:

- Expanding the on-campus Bible study that has traditionally been held at 12:00 on Thursdays.
- Collaborating with students to plan and participate in community outreach projects.
- Scheduling a collegiate fun-run to benefit local organizations.
- Collaborating with the WRBA Jail and Hunger Ministries.

In my role as a WRBA Collegiate Ministry Coordinator, I look forward to working with church leaders and volunteers to be responsive to the ministry needs of TSTC students. WRBA is poised and eager to assist.

Jewel Lockridge
Collegiate Ministry Coordinator, TSTC Campus

Other June Events

Thursday, June 5, 4:00pm — Missions Development Team. WRBA.

June 8-9 — WMU Annual Meeting/Missions Celebration. Baltimore.

Sunday, June 15 — Baptist Men's Day.

Sunday, June 15 — Father's Day.

Tuesday, June 17 — Administrative Team Meeting. WRBA.

Sunday, June 22 — Mission: Dignity Sunday. www.missiondignitysb.org.

Thursday, June 26, 12:00pm — Networking & Missions. FBC Waco.

Sunday, June 29 — BGCT Hunger. www.hungeroffering.texasbaptists.org.

— Community News —

Continue to pray for WRBA churches seeking a Pastor:

Bosqueville, Concord, Hilltop, Lake Shore, Lorena FBC, Mart FBC,
Old Time, Pleasant Olive MBC, Woodway FBC

— “Sisterhood” of FBC Robinson —

I recently read about a new reality series that will be coming soon to Lifetime Television called the “Sisterhood.” It will follow the journey of five young women as they decide whether or not to become nuns. Upon reading this article, I immediately thought of the group of lovely women that I had met at FBC Robinson. You see, about six months ago, WRBA assisted FBC Robinson to develop a five-year plan for its church. And one of the objectives of this plan was to create a women’s network that would help to bring together women of all ages in the church. To kick this off, they recently held a women’s retreat at Day Spring Camp in West, TX, for which they are still giving thanks.



There were more than 25 women of all ages that attended the retreat. Hearts were healed and spirits restored as they all realized that the key to true joy in life is living a life sold out for Christ. FBC Robinson women felt a new sense of peace as they let go of the past and embraced the future, recognizing their worth and value in God’s eyes. They were encouraged to step out in faith and allow God to use them for great things, as they moved past their comfort zone and into the faith zone. The theme of the retreat was “Leaving a Legacy” taken from Jeremiah 29:11. In addition to a special speaker, three sessions were held entitled *Taking off the Masks*, *Turning Your Past into your Purpose*, and *Embracing the Call*. One member exclaimed, “It was awesome. It was exactly what we needed for our lives!”

One young lady, as tears swelled in her eyes, shared a personal story with the group. She no longer stands alone. She is now greeted with hugs and words of encouragement from the women she has grown to know and appreciate. This is what I call real “sisterhood.”

Evelyn Ofong
Associate Director
associate@wacobaptists.org



“The Sisterhood” of FBC Robinson gather together in fellowship.

— THE BODY OF BELIEVERS —

After tremendous growth and incredibly active ministries, Beverly Hills Baptist Church slowly declined in numbers. But one thing didn't change — the congregation remains active in ministry.

Former Church Secretary Margaret Webster, a member since 1965, said, "We may not be able, as senior adults, to do all that we were used to do ... but God has areas of ministry for us."

While Webster has visited other churches occasionally, she never felt a peace to leave Beverly Hills because "God is still using us."

Most of the church members are physically not able to do the same ministries the church once enjoyed, so they switched roles and started supporting other ministries, like Christian Women's Job Corps.

Webster said, "We felt our ministry had just fallen off and God sent the CWJC to our church.... I just felt like 'this is it' and then God opens all these doors.... I'm not going to shut a door when God's opened one."

One of those open doors was with the new church pastor, Victor Lyons. Bill Northcutt, a member for 18 years, said the church had to come to a difficult decision about its next years. It could continue in the course it was on and continue to decline, or the church could shift its focus to serve the area. He described the area as a "fertile field" with lots of young families and unchurched people. The church decided to look for a pastor who could help them minister to the local community.

He said, "We were looking for somebody who was obviously interested in an urban church in a changing community, that was bilingual ... that is interested in the challenges of changing a very 'set-in-our-ways' group of folks.... We also wanted a young person. The church needs to appeal to the folks in the demographic where we're set."

Webster is very happy with the new church pastor.

"I think he's wonderful. He's an excellent preacher.... I think God has a real future in using that young man. I'm really pleased with Victor."

While Webster and Lyons were planning for a VBS at the church this summer, there was period where it looked like the event wasn't going to be able to happen. Within the week, the church received calls from two groups who wanted to come help. Webster was very excited. She said there is a lot of need and opportunity in the Beverly Hills neighborhoods.

"My prayer is that God will bring in some young adults, middle aged adults, people who are willing to serve the Lord."



She hopes that the new, young pastor, youth minister and music minister will be able to help. While they are not children, the congregation has adopted them as such because of the difference in age.

She said, "God is using these 'kids' to bring life back into Beverly Hills."