



WACO REGIONAL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Family News

— FROM YOUR DIRECTOR —

This past year our Administrative Team has led the way to the creation of what we call a “Missions and Ministry Fund.” This fund was established by depositing the proceeds of the sale of the old association office into a Quasi-Endowment. The growth of this fund will expand and extend the collaborative mission efforts of our WRBA churches. By growing this “Missions and Ministry Fund” we are empowering our ministry teams and churches to dream of really changing the future for the better in the areas of Church Planting, Restorative Justice Ministries, Hunger Ministry, Student Ministry, Church Strengthening, Leadership Development, and mission projects outside of McLennan County.

Each year our ministry teams are invited to dream of what they could do if they had additional resources to further the good news of Jesus in their area of focus. Some examples from the requests that came in the form of grant requests this year:

- The Networking and Missions Team will be able to host a training conference for those desiring to use English as a Second Language (ESL) in their mission efforts locally and globally.
- The Church Strengthening Team will be able to extend its offer of walking alongside one additional church this year to help it to grow, train leaders, and establish a five year plan to glorify the Savior and extend the Gospel.
- The Student Ministries of the WRBA on the campuses of MCC and TSTC will be able to produce signs, banners and promotional materials to direct students to new Bible Studies, Evangelistic Events and Mission opportunities throughout the year.
- The Christian Men’s Job Corps will be able to extend its ministry to the men in the county jail this year.

We dream of growing this Missions and Ministry Fund to a Million Dollars so that it can produce a significant boost to these cooperative missions in the region. Each year some of the growth and earnings of this fund will be made available to our WRBA Ministry teams to do things they never before imagined possible. Would you join us in this effort and consider making a gift or a bequest to the Missions and Ministry Fund of the Waco Regional Baptist Association?

-Tim

— EDNA WOOD IS RETIRING —

It is with mixed emotions that we bid farewell to Edna Wood. She is retiring on March 31, 2014. She has been a blessing to the Waco Regional Baptist Association with more than 17 years of service.

Before becoming the WRBA Director of Missions, Tim Randolph knew Wood from their time of service on the WorldConneX board. He remembers her passion for missions, cheerful spirit and hospitality.

He said, “We will definitely miss her cheerful spirit and her gift of hospitality. Her attention to detail, her being thorough and precise have been very helpful because we know that everything she does is going to be okay ... because she’s done it right the first time.”

Wood graduated from Mississippi’s Blue Mountain College with a Bachelors in Education. She then went to Nairobi, Kenya as a Journeyman for two years. Upon returning to the States, she went to Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth where she earned a Master of Religious Education, focused on women’s work.

Wood met her husband, Randy, at Southwestern. They married January 1972 and graduated the following May. They have two children, Lindsey and Michael; a daughter-in-law, Karmen; and a granddaughter, Presley. The family moved back to Waco in June 1985.

Wood has also been involved in WMU since she was a child. She started as a Sunbeam (now Mission Friends), then a GA and YWA. Her mother was her GA director and her time with WMU activities influenced her decision to be a Journeyman. Later Wood became the WMU director at Columbus and for the WRBA. She has also been a WMU of Texas board member and an officer.

Wood became the WRBA Financial Secretary in August 1996. She heard about the opening and curiosity led to the position she’s held for more than 17 years. She started “in the only office on the second floor of a building that no longer exists on New Road.” Paul Stripling was the Director of Missions at the time and joked that she needed to be closer to God while she kept the financial books.

Many things have changed since then. The books used to be kept on an old DOS system, and now it is on Quickbooks. The association has been in three different locations with just as many names.

“We have greatly streamlined the organization,” Wood said.

We would be remiss in not mentioning at least one funny moment at WRBA. Paul Stripling gave many certificates to people during his years as director. When he was finishing serving as the association’s interim director, people sent funny certificates back to him for a scrapbook. Wood said she would never forget his face as he read the sweet and funny words of recognition.

When asked what she’d miss, Wood said, “The people of the churches and the office.” She’s excited about being able to spend more time with family, getting to travel with her husband, volunteering and other projects.



— Collegiate Ministry Spotlight —



This is the initial installment in a series of reports on the activities of the TSTC Collegiate Ministry - Cru, which was formerly known as Campus Crusades for Christ. We begin with a belated and huge “thank you” to members of FBC Woodway and all the other volunteers who helped to make the Thanksgiving meal at TSTC one to remember. Students from the Culinary Arts Department, under the direction of Chef VanZandt, prepared the traditional meal for nearly 100 TSTC students. Since students returned to campus from the Christmas break, WRBA has been working with Tyler Ebeling, student leader for Cru.

With assistance from Dr. Frances Worthey, Director for the Women’s Resource Center at TSTC, the Collegiate Ministry provided pocket editions of New Testaments with Psalms and Proverbs for the Cru Ministry. The New Testaments are being used in the Bible Study sessions which are held each Tuesday from 12:00-1:00pm in the Texas Room of the Student Services Building. All students are invited to attend.

Dr. Jewel Lockridge, Collegiate Ministry Coordinator-TSTC

- New Hunger Ministry Coordinator -

As I step into the role of Hunger Coordinator at the WRBA, formerly Chairman of the Hunger Task Force, God’s call has placed me among a group of people that are like me in many ways, yet as different as we need to be to make up the whole ‘body’. I realize that the hunger ministries in our member churches look as different as we do. They are many and varied; from community gardens, food pantries and meals to volunteers, financial support and advocacy. We each strive to do what we do best in our perspective communities, and each in the way God has called us. So how do we best maximize what He has given us to take care of? This is the question I ask as I humbly come to serve our member churches through the WRBA.



Jesus calls us to prepare ourselves as His bride. What does that look like in your hunger ministry? How does the WRBA help you and support you in that effort? As we prepare the bride together, for that magnificent wedding feast, we each bring our best to the table. Your best will most likely be different from anyone else’s, and that’s what makes it all so beautiful.

As we work together, and I begin to get to know each of you a little bit and how the WRBA might help you in your hunger ministry, we will hopefully unfold the beauty that awaits us as we each bring our best to the table. That is all I can give. That ability to ‘feed them’, as Christ calls us to do, takes on many looks. God wants to help us! My prayer is that we approach hunger ministry in a holistic way, ministering to each person we come in contact with - helping them to prepare themselves wholly, for the greatest feast. If we are doing that in hunger ministry, we are giving Him our best.

Peace, Conway
Hunger Ministry Coordinator

— Upcoming Events —



Annie Armstrong Easter Offering March 2-9

“Firmly planted...rooted in the Gospel”
2014 Goal: \$70 million

More information at www.anniearmstrong.com.

BGCT Spring Break Disaster Recovery—West, TX March 10-22,2014

Texas Baptist Disaster Recovery is partnering with FBC West and the West Long Term Recovery Team to assist in building and repairing homes of the uninsured and under-insured in the area. Come volunteer for a day or for a week.

For more information and to register, visit www.texasbaptists.org/events/2014-disaster-recovery-spring-break-opportunity.



Association Bible Drill

The Waco Regional Baptist Association Bible Drill will be **Sunday, March 30** at **Western Heights Baptist Church**. The first drill will start at 2:00pm. Participating churches should provide the names of their participants by March 24 to Julie Hammer at julie.hammer@cabcwaco.org or 752-9000, or to Marcy Smith at marcy@whbcwaco.org or 776-2524.

Participating churches need to contact Julie Hammer on the afternoon of March 27 to get the scheduled drill times.

**Executive Board Meeting
11:00am on April 2 at Truett Seminary**

**April Pastors' Conference
12:00pm on April 2 at Truett Seminary
Cost: \$7.00**

Speaker: Marvin Hickey, President of S&H Powerline Construction

Please make a reservation by **March 27**.
Contact Katelyn at admin@wacobaptists.org or 753-2408.

SAVE THE DATE — VBS Training Sessions

Western Heights Baptist Church is hosting VBS teacher training sessions on Sunday, May 18 from 3:00-5:00pm and Saturday, May 31 from 10:00am-12:00noon. It will cover this year's Lifeway VBS material. For more information, contact Marcy Smith at marcy@whbcwaco.org or 776-2524.

Other March Events

Saturday, March 1, 9:00am — Human Trafficking Workshop. Pershing Park Baptist Church, Killeen. Email wmu.bba@sbcglobal.net for information.

March 2-9 — Week of Prayer and Mission Study/North American Missions and Annie Armstrong Easter Offering.

Wednesday, March 5, 10:00am — Baylor Doctrinal Conference. Truett.

Wednesday, March 5, 12:00pm — Pastors' Conference. Truett.

Thursday, March 6, 4:00pm — Missions Development Team. WRBA.

March 7-8 — BGCT African American Leadership Workshop. Truett.

March 10-22 — Disaster Recovery Spring Break. West, TX.

Tuesday, March 18, 4:00pm — Admin Team Meeting. WRBA.

Monday, March 24, 9:30am — Women in Ministry. Truett.

Thursday, March 27, 12:00pm — Networking & Missions. FBC Waco.

Sunday, March 30 — BGCT Hunger Sunday.

Sunday, March 30, 2:00pm — Associational Bible Drill. Western Heights.

Wednesday, April 2, 11:00am — Executive Board Meeting. Truett.

Wednesday, April 2, 12:00pm — Pastors' Conference. Truett.

April 17-19 — Congreso. Baylor. www.youth.texasbaptists.org/congreso.

— Community News —

Continue to pray for WRBA churches seeking a Pastor:

Bosqueville, Concord, Lakeview, Lorena FBC, Mart FBC, Old Time, Pleasant Olive MBC, Western Heights, Woodway FBC

Congratulations to Beverly Hills Baptist and their new pastor, Victor Lyons!

Discover! 2014

This year's Discover! project will cover the communities of Crawford, China Spring, Gholson, Elm Mott and West. We are accepting volunteers to help gather information to support and strengthen local church ministries.

Volunteers are given training. They conduct the community interviews of key leaders in the designated area. They also work on a community windshield survey. Discover Coordinator Bill Tinsley is gathering requests for demographic data from the local pastors.

The interviews and survey results are placed in a bound report along with the in-depth demographic information and maps. Some churches find it helpful for key church leaders to meet with the WRBA Executive Director and Discover Coordinator. In this meeting, the group will discuss the report and possible ways for the church to respond to the local needs.

For more information about the Discover! Project, contact Discover Coordinator Bill Tinsley at bill@tinsleycenter.com.