



# Family News

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No. 7

## FROM YOUR DIRECTOR

Last month, I shared with you about meeting with a pastor who was considering leading his congregation to join the Waco Regional Baptist Association. The pastor and two lay leaders asked, “Why should we join the WRBA? And what kind of commitment does that mean for us?” Last month, I answered the first question. Today I would like to answer the second question.

**Participation:** The very word, “association” itself implies relationship. Without personal participation in a group there is no possibility of relationship. In our recent move, we discovered a piece of Sunday School art that my youngest daughter, Andrea, had drawn a number of years ago. The page had been prepared by the Sunday School teacher and was filled with partial sentences followed by blanks that the children were to fill in. One sentence started, “In heaven, there will be no \_\_\_\_\_.” She had filled in the blank with the word “meetings”. I realized that I had been telling her that “I was going to a meeting” almost every time I left the house. She concluded that meetings must be a bad thing. We too can begin to believe that meetings are just a waste of time. How are we going to know one another and encourage one another and stimulate one another to *love and good deeds* if we don’t ever do meetings? Being a part of the Association means participating in different meetings, fellowship groups, training opportunities, yes, even the annual meeting! We do need to get acquainted!

**Cooperation:** Sharing what we have with other churches and pooling our resources for missions and ministries as an association of churches has long been an expression of our relationship and mutual commitment to the greater mission that our Lord has given to all of us. This too, is a commitment that a church makes when it joins the WRBA.

**Communication:** Let’s make a comparison of being a part of an Association and being a part of a circle of friends. What group of friends doesn’t ever call one another, never asks a question, never notifies the others when they change phone numbers or email addresses? What group of friends never lets the others know when they come across a difficult time in their life? Or when they experience a big blessing? Communication includes all of these as well as formal communications such as the Annual Church Profile.

These are all very basic pieces of what it means to be a member of the Waco Regional Baptist Association. It is a privilege for me to serve as your director, and I am looking forward to the journey ahead as we flesh out what it means to be in association together.

In His Service,  
Tim



## Vitality for Sunday School Adding Life to Small Groups

Saturday, August 29, 2009

8:30 a.m. to Noon

Columbus Avenue Baptist Church

Plan now to participate in this special training event. Sunday School teachers, pastors and leaders of ministry for all age groups in your church will benefit from this workshop. Because of the generosity of those involved in the planning, there will be no charge for this seminar.

### Conferences and Speakers

#### Preschool

##### **Preschool Sunday School: From Good Morning to Good-Bye**

Gayle Lintz, Preschool Curriculum Writer for Lifeway Christian Resources

##### **Connecting Church and Home**

Delanee Williams, Preschool Minister, FBC Allen, TX

#### Children

##### **Igniting a Child's Desire to Know God**

Bronwyn Stanley, Children's Minister, FBC College Station, TX

##### **Spiritual Training Meets SUV**

Lisa Law, Children's Minister, FBC Norman, OK

#### Youth

##### **Sex and Technology**

Nathan Dunman, Youth Speaker, Waco, TX

##### **Broken Hearted Teens**

Matt Smith, Director, Living in Freedom Ministry, Temple, TX

##### **Youth Ministry in the iPhone 3Gs Age**

Braun Brown, Director of Student Ministries, Watermark Community Church, Dallas

#### College

##### **Lots of Pieces and No Box Tops**

##### **Student Culture in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, How do the Pieces Fit Together**

##### **How do Students Fit into Your Church, Puzzled: Helps for Putting It Together**

Trey Bledsoe, Student Minister, Canyon Creek Baptist Church, Temple, TX

#### Adults

##### **Making Your Sunday School/Small Group Missional – Moving Beyond the Church's Walls**

Kim Grice, Director of Community Connections, FBC Arlington, TX

##### **Biblical Teaching that Truly Changes Lives**

Dr. Rick Yount, Professor of Foundations of Education, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

##### **Preparing for Bible Teaching That Brings About Life Change**

Dr. Bob Utley, Professor of Hermeneutics, Retired, East Texas Baptist Univ., Marshall

##### **Building Community in Your Sunday School/Small Group**

Frank Wallace, Minister of Education and Discipleship, Columbus Avenue Baptist Church, Waco, TX

#### Pastors

Dr. Dennis Wiles, Senior Pastor, FBC Arlington, TX

*This regional conference is being organized and promoted by Columbus Avenue Baptist Church with the assistance of Meadowbrook Baptist Church, Park Lake Drive Baptist Church, Western Heights Baptist Church and Waco Regional Baptist Association.*

## *Touching Lives*

"Up close and personal" is the description I would use to describe what sitting in the welcome area of Operation Assist is like, especially if one happens to be at the volunteer desk when a train goes by in the early morning or mid-afternoon. More important, however, is how that phrase also applies to the volunteer effort that goes on three days a week at Operation Assist at their relatively new downtown location.

This is my third week to work with the Association's Community Ministry Team and experience first hand what the churches of WRBA support through their joint efforts. I have been impressed with the scope of what happens throughout the week at Operation Assist. From the grateful comments of a person who checks out a walker to assist an elderly parent through the Association's medical equipment loan program, to the happy sound of children with their parents picking up supplemental foodstuffs, to the easy camaraderie of volunteers visiting with people who come through the door, Operation Assist is a place of deep connection. In the days ahead, I look forward to learning more of the work of the BSM at MCC and TSTC, the ministry at the county jail, and ministry to immigrants through the Ruth Project.

Before coming to Waco, I spent 17 years in San Antonio, involved in questions of urban poverty. While Waco is nowhere as large, many of the issues are the same. I am happy to have found a place where Christians attempt to engage the hardest situations of life and offer both a hand and a word of encouragement because of the call of Christ on their lives.

Meg Cooper

### **WRBA Financial Summary as of June 23, 2009**

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 the first six months of 2009 WRBA has received financial support from 80 of the 140+ churches that are members of our Association.

Year to Date Contributions 119,514.81

Year to Date Budget Needs 136,058.50

WRBA's Administrative Team has begun their budgeting process for 2010. If you have questions about our ministries or our budget needs please contact us at [admin@wacoregionalbaptistassociation.org](mailto:admin@wacoregionalbaptistassociation.org).



### **CHANGE A LIFE, CHANGE THE WORLD**

Associational WMU Training will be offered in Hillsboro on Saturday, August 1, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Central Baptist Church, 1100 Old Bynum Road. Evelyn Blount, former executive director of South Carolina WMU, will be the training leader. Bring your own brown bag lunch; drinks and dessert will be provided by the host church. For more information call Kathy Hillman 710-6684 or 749-5347 or Edna Wood 753-2408 or 759-8183. You can also check the website [www.wmutx.org](http://www.wmutx.org). This will be a great day to refresh team building skills and to learn of new WMU opportunities.

#### **Pray for WRBA Pastorless Churches**

Williams Creek	Lakeview	Greater Calvary MBC
Oak Grove	Bellmead FBC	FBC Waco
Rock Creek Baptist Church	FBC Crawford	Old Time Baptist
El Calvario	FBC Elm Mott	



**Rolando Rodriguez**  
 Director,  
 Hispanic Ministries  
 214.887.5425  
[rolando.rodriquez@bgct.org](mailto:rolando.rodriquez@bgct.org)



**Charlie Singleton**  
 Director.  
 African American  
 Ministries  
 214.828.5130  
[charlie.singleton@bgct.org](mailto:charlie.singleton@bgct.org)

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## Support for Hispanic and African American Ministry

### African American Ministries

The BGCT African American ministries office can assist your church in determining administrative strategies designed to enhance the church's life and operation. We have established networks with professionals statewide that can advise you and your staff regarding tax issues, personnel management, budget development and leadership team organization.

### Hispanic Ministries

The Office of Hispanic Ministries exists to encourage, inform, and help Hispanic Baptist churches, aligned with the Baptist General Convention of Texas, reach the goals the Lord has given them. The Office of Hispanic Ministries serves more than 1,100 Hispanic Baptist congregations throughout the state of Texas. Their goal is to assist these congregations in their ministry, utilizing the wide variety of services and ministries available through their office.

For more information on these and other ministries of the BGCT you can access the BGCT website at [www.bgct.org](http://www.bgct.org).

**Don't forget WRBA's Executive Board Meeting scheduled for July 8th, 10:30 a.m. at Grace Temple Baptist Church. Revised by-laws will be presented and a report on the structure and the efforts of our community ministries team will be the focus of this meeting.**

### So long, Greg!

Greg Brumit has served our association as the Church Services Director, the Director of the Medical Equipment Loan Ministry and as the Associate to the Director for eight years. At the end of June, Greg will be leaving the association to focus on his work as pastor of Kendrick Lane Baptist Church. We are grateful for his years of service and will look forward to his continued personal contribution to the association in years to come.



## Operation Assist

**Serving the community with food, clothing and the lending of limited healthcare equipment.**

Located at 400 South 4th Street, Operation Assist  
 is open from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.  
 Monday, Tuesday and Thursday.

Phone: 752-6315  
[assist@wacoregionalbaptistassociation.org](mailto:assist@wacoregionalbaptistassociation.org)

No money is exchanged for any of our services however the ministry does rely on the donations of food, clothing and healthcare equipment.

## Update on Missionary Home and Week of Prayer Giving

WRBA has received \$4,319.26 toward the needed funds for the improvements and repairs on the Missionary Home. The offerings are still being forwarded from some of our churches. If you or your congregation have not yet had a chance to participate you can send your contribution to:

WRBA  
P.O. Box 1848  
Waco, TX 76703



### WACO MUSIC DIRECTORS



Please put Tuesday, July 21, 11:45 a.m. on your calendar for our next music directors lunch at Uncle Dan's BBQ. That is also the day that the Alleluia Conference begins. Chris Wommack will be bringing a report on plans for the October 4 Waco Community Hymn Sing.

Thank you,  
Chuck Bridwell

## Resolution

### *Regarding a Baptist 400th Anniversary With a Special Opportunity to Share Baptist Heritage*

**Whereas** many Baptist historians agree that the establishment of a Baptist church in Amsterdam, Holland, by a group of refugees from England four hundred years ago in 1609, was the first church in so-called "modern times" known to hold the recipe of Baptist beliefs, polities, and practices that characterize Baptists today, and

**Whereas** this tiny band of believers pastored by John Smyth set forth concepts that we today cherish as Baptists, such as the Lordship of Christ, the Bible as the sole written authority for faith and practice, salvation only by grace through faith, believer's baptism, the priesthood of all believers, the autonomy of the local church, and religious freedom for all, and

**Whereas** holding these beliefs cost Baptists dearly through the years; considered traitors by governments and heretics by state-supported churches, they remained steadfast in spite of fines, imprisonment, banishment, public whippings, torture, and death, and

**Whereas** after years of persecution Baptists in Colonial America led the way in the struggle that finally brought religious freedom to the United States of America, and

**Whereas** the road that brought us to what we enjoy as Baptists today in a free land is a bloody one, soaked with the blood of our Savior who died for our sins, with the blood of patriots who fought and died for political freedom, and with the blood of Baptist martyrs and others who died for the cause of religious freedom, and

**Whereas** major characteristics of Baptist life, such as diversity and freedom, are evident in the various views about the beginning of Baptists, and

**Whereas** Baptists throughout the world are celebrating the 400th anniversary of this historic church in Amsterdam;

**Be it therefore resolved** that the members of the Baptist Distinctives Council of The Baptist General Convention of Texas urge Baptist individuals, churches, associations, institutions, and other Baptist entities in Texas to utilize the 400th anniversary celebration

- to retell the Baptist story,
- to emphasize those beliefs and practices which Baptists have held dear these many years in spite of horrible persecution, and
- to pay tribute to the Baptists of the past who paid a high price to make possible what we today enjoy.

**Baptist Distinctives Council**

**Baptist General Convention of Texas**

## WACO REGIONAL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Tim Randolph, Director

P.O. Box 1848, Waco, TX 76703-1848

Phone: (254) 753-2408 Fax: (254) 755-6365

Website: [www.wacoregionalbaptistassociation.org](http://www.wacoregionalbaptistassociation.org)