

# Jubilee FOOD MARKET

...a Mission Waco project

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SOUTH (GOLGORD AVE) ELEVATION



Update #13; October 15, 2016

WEBSITE: <http://missionwaco.org/jubilee-market/>



**“Repairer  
of Broken  
Walls;  
Repairer of  
Streets with  
Dwellings”**

Isaiah 58:12

Broken glass, “tagged” fences, crumbling walls and streets filled with potholes are stark reminders of urban blight. They almost always accompany internal moral decay and external “white flight” from our inner cities to the suburbs. So it was with the neighborhoods near the intersection of N. 15th and Colcord Ave.

There was a time in the decades of the early 20th Century when this area thrived. Beautiful, large homes lined the streets. There were businesses like the Texas Theatre, Witt’s Cafeteria, North Waco Tropical Fish, Moran’s Restaurant, West Junior High and Safeway Grocery. Back then, there were few vacant lots, and children played outside with few worries of harm. Yet times changed and the turbulent 60’s brought a cultural upheaval nationally and locally. Martin Luther King, Jr. was marching for Civil Rights and African Americans now began to populate white neighborhoods. But like most people of color, their economic security was fragile and good paying jobs were hard to find. As the business community abandoned the area, poverty encroached. In time, the old shopping center became the home of bars and the Capri Theatre, an adult XXX movie house. Drugs and prostitution filled the vacuum. Big houses became “slum lord” apartments and small ones went unrepaired. Many of them burned, including West Junior High. The old Safeway was now a convenience store, twice shut down for drugs or food stamp fraud.

In the history of God’s people, Israel had also experienced loss of their city. Jerusalem was defeated and the Jews were exiled because of their sins of hypocrisy and double-mindedness, which included God’s punishment for their empty religious talk and acts and attitudes toward the poor. The exiled Jews in Babylon lost hope that they would ever see their city again, especially not rebuilt as in days of glory. But the prophets of the 8th Century encouraged them, reminded them it was God who brings “shalom” to the city, so that “all might prosper.” Led by the prophet Nehemiah and his contemporaries, the walls were rebuilt and life was eventually restored for God’s people. Isaiah proclaimed, “You will be called the Repairer of Broken Walls; the Repairer of Streets with Dwellings.”

The message is clearer when we understand that God’s kingdom is



**GRAND  
OPENING**

**December 1, 10:00**  
**“Soft Opening” on Nov. 21**  
**Ribbon Cutting, Prizes, and Pizza**  
**EVERYONE WELCOME!**



*General Managers  
John Gallagher & Ed  
Mazanec supervise*



*Two large fans  
installed in front and  
back by Boen Electric*



*New curb and side-  
walks make it pretty  
and safe!*

## Final Touches

We’re getting ready for the neighborhood and you! By the end of October, renovations and inspections should be completed. Shelves are being readied and the food inventory ordered. Staff are being hired and training begins in three weeks. Fund raising is nearly done. It’s almost time. We can’t wait!

both now and yet to come. Christians often “spiritualize” heaven as the only viable escape from lives of toil and suffering. We forget the Lord’s prayer that reminds us, it’s “on earth as it is in heaven.” Followers of God are not to abandon the city, but become the healers, the repairers, and the restorers, now in the midst of the problems.

For us at Mission Waco, the restoration of the old grocery store is not just a bunch of “do-gooder” Christians trying to make a formerly decaying neighborhood nicer. It is addressing our sense of “call” to bring healing and justice among the poor and disenfranchised. It is confronting a food desert, promoting health, adding a few jobs, and reminding all of us that God is “reconciling” his people of different skin colors, ethnicities, and economic backgrounds into a community and a neighborhoods where love predominates and children can play together. Rebuilding, restoring and reconciling are visible works of our God, which we are privileged to participate in and then celebrate newness for all. Most of you have joined and supported this faith journey of holistic renewal. Just as the workers in Nehemiah’s celebrated their rebuilding effort, so we hope you, too, will come celebrate “jubilee” with us and thank God.