



MISSION WACO | WORLD

Newsletter Fall 2023 1315 N 15th St, Waco, TX 76707 (254) 753-4900

Friends,

Isaiah 53 paints the picture of a Suffering Servant who grows up out of a "dry land" to bear the suffering of an oppressed people. Isaiah 54 goes on to describe a moment of celebration, future glory, hope for the hopeless, and an expansion of a kingdom.

At Mission Waco Mission World, we identify with this place of tension, between the sobering now and the glorious not yet, watching God transform lives in the present as we believe in and work towards a hopeful future. We find ourselves celebrating years of sobriety and employment with individuals who were struggling on the streets alone while we grieve another's continuing battle with the same challenges. We rejoice as our youth return from summer camp with a renewed hope for the future and a greater awareness of a God who deeply loves them. And in the same breath, we weep over a long-time friend who is on the verge of giving up on her wearisome, hard-fought battle against poverty.



Daily we find ourselves both on the highest of mountains and in the lowest of valleys. And yet our hope is not shaken. Not only do we continue despite the challenges, we also respond to the invitation to "enlarge the place of your tent, stretch out your tent curtains wide, do not hold back; lengthen your cords, and strengthen your stakes" (Isaiah 54:2). So even as we strengthen what God has given us, we are compelled to look ahead to the next way we are being called to serve our community and those around the world. We look forward to sharing more about how God is transforming lives over the coming year and how you can come alongside what God is doing through our efforts. Thank you for your faithful prayers, partnership, and support as we seek to steward God's call to empower, equip, and engage. We could not do this without you.

Grace and peace,

John Calaway
Executive Director



Let's stay connected!

Please scan the QR code to help us update your contact information. It will take less than 2 minutes, and it allows us to know you better!



Coming Up (and you're invited!)

17 Sept. WALK FOR THE HOMELESS

7:30 AM
Meyer Center
lbarnhill@missionwaco.org

A prayerful experience and opportunity for people of all ages to learn more about issues surrounding homelessness and available services in the community.

20 Sept. LUNCH & LEARN with Mission World

12:00
Mission World Office
janet@missionwaco.org

Learn about Mission World's recent trip to Columbia and how our faith-based microlending projects are leading to community transformation across the globe.

20-22 Oct. POVERTY SIMULATION

Starts at 8:00 pm
Mission World Office
lbarnhill@missionwaco.org

Through a 43-hour immersive experience, you will grow in compassion for those living in poverty and learn more about challenges and choices they face.

24 Oct. CHAMPIONS of Christian Service Breakfast
featuring Baylor Head Baseball Coach **Mitch Thompson**

6:45 am
Waco Convention Center
jbrammer@missionwaco.org
Visit events page for pricing.

Join us for breakfast, inspiration from Coach Thompson, and a celebration of local friends who serve the marginalized.

2 Nov. NATIVITY OPEN HOUSE

9:00 am - 6:00 pm
World Cup Cafe & Fair Trade Market

Enjoy seasonal refreshments and view or shop for nativity sets (and other Christmas items) from all over the world!

4 Nov. JUBILEE HEALTH FAIR

10:00 am - 1:00 pm
Jubilee Food Market
mcruzarredondo@missionwaco.org

Event includes healthcare providers, screenings, cooking demos, exercise classes, snacks, and giveaways - just show up and enjoy!

For more information on all of these events, scan the QR code or visit missionwaco.org/events.



Highlight: Manna House



-Vincent Hartsfield, Manna House Director

- The Manna House, our men's addiction recovery home, is at capacity, and we have a growing waitlist.
- We hit a milestone, having served over 800 men since August 2001.
- The men are getting great jobs that will help them find suitable housing when that time comes.
- We are set to move into our new home by the end of the year, which will create a better environment and double our capacity to serve.



Scan the QR code to make a gift to support the Manna House's upcoming move!

Highlight: Summer Internships

“Mission Waco’s internship program was such a formative experience for me. Before interning, I did not know what to expect from the program, but I kept an open mind and a desire to learn more about Waco. What I ended up discovering was so much more than what I could have imagined. As an intern, I saw the cohesive community that Mission Waco fosters to empower those who are marginalized. I made friends with other interns, staff, and residents of the Waco area who showed me how to intentionally serve with empathy and compassion. As a Christian, the internship brought me closer to my faith as I saw firsthand how God’s love prevails no matter one’s circumstances. I am grateful to have gotten to know Waco’s beautiful community this summer with the help of Mission Waco. It was an experience that I will always cherish!”

- Madelene Do, Social Services and Clinic Intern Summer 2023

**empower.
equip.
engage.**

Highlight: Mission World

“Paula Romanos (name changed), identified as one of the 32 participants of a new MWMW microcredit loan program in Colombia, is now breathing new life as her cafeteria business in a local school is beginning to rise. COVID-19’s impact on her business forced her to borrow \$1,000 from a payday lender because she did not qualify for a traditional banking loan. The payday loan was charging her a 45% monthly interest rate, which she paid faithfully, knowing that missing a payment leads to death threats.

“I lost my purpose to live, I stopped dreaming.”

The MWMW Microcredit program paid off the payday lender and provided debt forgiveness for a percentage of the debt. She agreed to pay back the remaining refinanced balance of the debt to MWMW in one year at 10% APR with a built-in savings account. In the next six months, Paula will benefit from a separate microcredit loan to help her stabilize and grow her business. Today, Paula is free from the grips of the payday lender and she said, **“I am a new person.”** With the payday loan being paid off, Paula was able to use the money to stock her shelves instead.

-Carolina Meza-Clark, Assistant Director of Mission World

MISSION WACO MISSION WORLD NEWS

Jubilee Food Market began the "Double Up Produce" program on September 1, which promotes healthy food choices by allowing those using EBT cards to purchase double the produce for the same price.



Urban REAP and six other community partners were awarded a grant from The Funders Network with matching funds from the Cooper Foundation to promote composting and gardening to build a more sustainable and equitable community in Waco.

The Street Sweep Program has recently signed a contract with Baylor Scott & White to keep the grounds of the Hillcrest Hospital Campus clean.



SUMMER HIGHLIGHTS by the numbers

2 individuals with skin cancer treated through the health clinic

30 individuals per night at My Brother's Keeper

6 youth completed Driver's Education

55 children in summer camp

17 HVAC units repaired or replaced

450 participants in summer groups

4500 transactions per month at Jubilee Food Market

Mission Waco Christmas Toy Store

Mission Waco hosts an annual toy store, selling new toys at an 80% discount and allowing parents to **shop with dignity** and purchase toys for their children. Parents are eligible for a shopping voucher after engaging in educational empowerment based opportunities.

HOW DO I GET INVOLVED?

VOLUNTEER to process toys (October and November) or at the toy store from November 30-December 2.

DONATE funds or new, unwrapped gifts (with price tag).

Visit missionwaco.org/toystore or contact jbrammer@missionwaco.org for more information.

Scan QR code to purchase a gift!

