

Changing Lives Through Hands-on Compassion!

Transformation of our beliefs, attitudes and actions is a challenging journey. While the Holy Spirit is the author of such change, there are certain experiences and discussions that bring insight, openness and involvement and can become the platform for God's fresh work. For over nineteen years, Mission Waco has offered poverty simulations and summer "plunge" programs that engage "orthodoxy" (right beliefs) and "orthopraxis" (right actions) together around the issues of poverty. We have watched God's transforming process "turn the light on" for many students to destroy old myths and understand the realities of poverty and the biblical call to action on behalf of the poor.

As we have expanded our summer program in recent years, our reason is to not make room for more participants, but primarily to offer deeper transformative experiences and discussions around other critical social issues which youth and adults alike need to face:

Training and Mobilization Topics 2012

- **Racism**- With the recent election of President Obama, many Christians believe that we have become a "color-blind" society. Yet most studies show that "racialization" is still an ongoing phenomenon in American culture and that churches are part of the problem instead of the answer. This topic will explore some of those findings, the personal beliefs of the visiting group, and some intentional efforts Christians can be a part of to help overcome prejudice. There will be interactive discussions with youth/adults who come from minority and lower-class backgrounds, some games and initiatives, which deal with prejudice, and other activities.
- **Homelessness & Empowerment**- Many middle-class Christians simply do not understand how there can be so much homelessness in the richest nation on the earth. This topic will explore the reasons for homelessness, their challenges and what is being done to empower them, and how "relief" can often do more harm than good. Students will attend Mission Waco's homeless shelter, "My Brother's Keeper," do an optional "Prayer Walk for the Homeless," or have a special dialogue with the homeless themselves.
- **Global Missions and Worldviews**- While more information about today's world is available to Christians than ever before, most remain uninformed and unengaged. This topic will discuss various religious and non-religious "worldviews," such as Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, agnosticism and post modernity, create some geographic global awareness, and explore the biblical and practical call to missions. An "Unreached People Group" simulation can be included in the experience.
- **Church Renewal, Call, and Spiritual Gifts**- The church in America is in trouble, with thousands leaving each week who never return. Yet the Body of Christ should be the most basic and vital expression of God's power and transforming work in the culture. This experiential study will examine the early church, critical theological principles, structural challenges of the average church, the history of God's renewal of the church, and current alternative expressions of the Christian faith that are attracting outsiders. Practical applications of how students can impact their own church will be explored, as well as helping them clarify their unique gifts and call.
- **Economic and Social Justice**- "The whole gospel to the whole person in the whole world," is a rallying theme for those Christians who understand that God has always been concerned with the call for his people to "seek the shalom of the city." Biblical passages, church history, and other contemporary issues, such as living wages, racism, classism, gender, the legal system, etc, will be discussed. The students will be challenged to examine their own communities and local needs using various tools and research, as well as create strategies of change.

Once you have booked your time in Waco with a contract and deposit, you will select based on the needs and maturity of your group, which issue you want. There will be one or two sessions on an issue while you are here. They will include a combination of biblical support, present realities of that issue, discussions, and experiences which help bring new insight and impact. Obviously, sessions on any topic will not bring radical change, so our hope is that you will plan ahead to continue those discussions when you return home. We can offer some guidance and materials on how you can do that.

In Christ,
Jimmy Dorrell, Executive Director

2012 GROUP INFORMATION

Current as of 5/14/2012. We will update availability on this page as group reservations are confirmed with contract and deposit. Our dorm holds 48 people, so if you see a group confirmed for less than that number, it is possible that we can take an additional group or two depending on group size – please contact us if you have questions about availability. **Two reminders:** 1. **Space sometimes opens up several months before dates as group deposits become non-refundable and confirmed groups adjust their numbers – so check back with us around that time if you are looking for specific dates.** January 10 is the drop/adjust date for spring break groups, and March 1 is the adjust/drop date for summer groups. 2. **Occasionally groups do cancel for various reasons, so contact us if you would like to be on a waiting list for certain dates.**

Spring and Fall: Contact us regarding available dates and pricing.

- Pricing will be similar to summer schedule below and can be adapted to agreed-upon length of spring or fall trips. Prime spring break weeks in March will use Schedule A, B or C as fits Mission Waco schedule.
- For other general use of training center dorm, lodging only is \$10/night/person, or \$32/night for lodging and breakfast/lunch/dinner.

Spring/Fall 2012 Groups:

Dates	Schedule	Status	Group Reservation Info
April 21, 2012	Overnight in dorm	Confirmed	Group of 18 youth/adults
Sept 14-15, 2012	Overnight in dorm	Pending	Group of 20-25
March 14-17, 2013	Adapted Sched C	Pending	Group of 100 children/adults
March 17-21, 2013	Schedule A	Pending	Group of 96 high school freshmen and adults

Summer 2012: Only Schedules A, B and C are available during summer months – scroll down for details.

Dates	Schedule	Status	Group Reservation Info
June 3-7	A	Space Available	
June 8-14	B	Space Available	
June 14-17	C	Space Available	
June 17-21	A	Confirmed Space available	Group of 32 high school / adults
June 21-24	C	Space Available	
June 24-28	A	Space Available	
June 29-July 5 *or June 28-July 1 First group to register for this session will determine schedule for any addl groups for this session.	B (*or adapted B – see purple box below for pricing)	Pending Space Available	Group of 19 youth/adults
July 6-12	B	Confirmed - FULL	Group of 80 high school/adults
July 12-15	C	Confirmed Space Available	Group of 37 middle/high sch/adults
July 15-19	A	Confirmed Space Available	Group of 25 high school/adults
July 20-26	B	Pending Confirmed	Group of 16 youth/adults Group of 16 youth/adults
July 26-July 29	C	Confirmed Confirmed	Group of 25 middle school/adults Group of 8 youth/adults
July 29-Aug 2	A	Confirmed Confirmed	Group of 20 middle/high school and adults Group of 16 high school and adults
Aug 2-5	C	Confirmed Space Available	Group of 25 middle school/adults

	Schedule A	Schedule B	Schedule C
THIS SCHEDULE DESIGNED FOR:	High School; college; adults. (If you have junior high students and are interested in these dates, please contact us to discuss options and we'll see what will work!)	High School completing 8th grade and older; college; adults	Junior High; High School; college; adults
INCLUDES:			
Content/Experiential Learning as described above (1-2 sessions depending on group preference)	Yes - pick one topic	Yes - pick one topic	Yes - pick one topic
Plan and Lead chapel/devotional at My Brother's Keeper homeless shelter (<u>if there is an opening when your reservation is confirmed</u>)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Plan and lead Street Camp (backyard bible club) in low-income neighborhood or apartments (curriculum and planning guide provided; your group provides snacks and craft materials)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Participate in Volunteer Service Projects	Yes	Yes	Yes
Participate in cross cultural worship (Church Under the Bridge, and one other if available)	Yes	Yes	Yes - CUB only
Mission Waco T-shirt for each participant (required for Street Camp)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Lodging	4 nights (Sun/Mon/Tues/Wed)	Pov Sim plus 4 nights (Sun/Mon/Tues/Wed)	3 nights (Thurs/Fri/Sat)
Meals	Sunday lunch through Thursday breakfast	Pov Sim through Thurs breakfast	Thursday lunch through Sunday breakfast
Information and Planning Packet with all the details - usually mailed in January for spring break groups, and in early April for summer groups.	Yes	Yes	Yes
POVERTY SIMULATION!	No	Yes	No
Minimum Group Size:	Group can be made up of more than one church or organization as long as one church/org takes lead for contact with Mission Waco, and is responsible for deposits/payments. Mission Waco may assign more than one Group to dorm/dates based on space available, but each Group must have minimum of 12.		
Cost:	\$170/person	\$210/person for regular Schedule B. (*\$115 for Adapted Schedule B option on June 28-July 1. Avail due to July 4 holiday during regular schedule. Arrive Thurs by 10am, depart Sun by 3pm. Includes Thurs night lodging, Thurs lunch thru Fri dinner, and Pov Sim which is Fri PM through Sun 3pm.)	\$125/person
Arrive: (See notes on Early Arrival options below)	Sunday by 10 am	Friday by 8pm	Thursday by 11am

Depart:	Thursday by 10 am	Thursday by 10am	Sunday after CUB (worship service is usually over by 12:30pm). Lunch not included, but can be provided for extra fee.
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Early Arrival

We understand that due to long distances travelled by some out of state groups, it is more convenient and restful for your group to arrive the night prior. It is likely that our dorm will be full, but in other buildings we have floor space for sleeping, showers and breakfast to offer your group. Cost for this is \$15/person. Your group will move to the dorm per the schedules above. If the dorm is available on the early arrival night, your group will go ahead and move into the dorm at that time.

Lodging

Our training center is located in a racially diverse and lower income neighborhood. The dorm has simple accommodations for 48 people. There are two sleeping areas, each with bunk beds for 24 and toilets, sinks, showers. The first floor also has a meeting room and kitchen. The fenced back yard includes space for parking. We usually host one group at a time, but will allow more than 1 group to share the dorm as space allows. If that is the case, the meals and sleeping areas are shared, but we can provide separate meeting space for the evenings as needed. With our current format, the first group of a given week with confirmed reservations will select the content topics for that week.

Meals

Meals are provided by Mission Waco during the spring break and summer months. You are welcome to prepare your own meals at other times in the fall and spring, or let us know if you would like us to cater. Our restaurant, World Cup Café, opened January 2006 at the corner of 15th and Colcord and has added more capacity to take care of work group meal needs – and the café quickly became a favorite of our work groups. They will provide some of the catering for work group food in most cases, or we will otherwise take care of providing the meal. Depending on group size, eating at the café (it is really cute! and has a great selection of Fair Trade gifts) and ordering off the full menu or taking an afternoon coffee/smoothie break can be scheduled there for an extra fee. (Groups who are staying in other housing or are with us just for one day projects are encouraged to eat at World Cup or other neighborhood restaurants – we need your business and our neighborhood has several options of great food within blocks of Mission Waco.)

Volunteer Service Projects

Occasionally groups have funds to help offset some of the project costs at Mission Waco or with local homeowners in our neighborhood. This is not required (we'll have projects for you regardless of funding), but if your group would like to help in this way or learn more about available projects in need of funding, please let me know. In feedback from previous groups, several leaders said they would have liked this info. Examples of projects funded through these extra donations from groups: new fence for children's playground, new fence for residential recovery house, new mural on exterior wall of training center, commercial freezer and fridge for training center, new picnic tables for various buildings, paint houses for local low-income home owner, remodel kitchen at children's center.

General Schedule

- Upon arrival Mission Waco staff provides a brief orientation to the week, the neighborhood, and the facilities.
- Church Under the Bridge meets at 11am on Sundays (yes, it's under I-35!), but groups must arrive by 10am to learn about CUB and visit with some of the regular attendees. (Church Under the Bridge is so essential to the week's experience as a whole that groups unable to be here early Sunday morning are asked to reschedule at a time when they are able to worship at CUB.) Groups who are with us on Sunday evening may choose to attend another cross cultural worship service (location varies depending on schedules; and availability of finding a church offering evening worship), or have free time on Sunday evening.
- Other days include a mixture of content/experiential learning, volunteer service projects and Street Camp.
- Groups also lead the chapel service at My Brother's Keeper homeless shelter on one evening during their visit (if date is available when reservation is confirmed). This is usually a highlight of the trip for the groups.
- Groups generally have the evenings free after 6pm each night (with the exception of the MBK shelter night). If group leaders would like more evening free time, please let us know and we can discuss options.
- Our staff members lead morning devotionals, organize the service projects, coordinate meals, lead content and experiential learning sessions, and are also available for debriefing and problem solving during the week as needed.

- Your adult group members are asked to help supervise your youth and lead out in the service projects, and also one adult (not the group leader) will be asked to be our main kitchen contact to coordinate your group's help with small tasks needed for meals set up and clean up. Leader Preparation Info is included in the packet mailed to you prior to your visit. This information is required reading for all adult chaperones.
- Following cleanup and breakfast on your departure day, your group is dismissed.
- Groups in the spring/fall will have similar schedules based on our current needs, and when possible we try to include volunteer service projects and also some activities with participants.

Fees

Our fees cover our expenses including facilities, staff, utilities (and food where relevant). Each group will be responsible for additional costs for Street Camp supplies such as craft materials, snacks, etc. – a list of suggested items will be provided with the Street Camp curriculum included in the packet mailed prior to your visit. Fees for each schedule are listed above in that section.

We have a 28-foot climbing wall and 200-seat theater with big screen/projector at Jubilee Center (main office building), which are available to groups for an extra fee and require advance reservations. Volleyball, basketball, playground and picnic facilities are available at no charge at our Jubilee Park.

If you would like visitor information about Waco area attractions, visit the Convention and Visitor's Bureau website at <http://www.wacocvb.com> , for Official Waco, Texas Tourism Information - Hotels, Attractions, Restaurants and more.

Please contact me (email preferred) with the following information:

- preferred dates
- how many students/adults you plan to bring
- age or grade range of students
- any other questions you have

After we confirm a date, please send your contract (download from website www.missionwaco.org) and deposit within 3 weeks of date confirmation. Group deposits are:

- \$20 per person. Minimum group size is 12 people.
- Additional \$250 deposit for each group. This deposit may be applied to your final payment, but is not refundable if you cancel or reschedule. If you reschedule, an additional fee of \$250 is due for new date.
- Note: There is an extra deposit per person required for Poverty Simulations -- see contract.

Please read the contract carefully regarding refund eligibility due to cancellation or reduced numbers. There is an additional non-refundable payment due three months prior to arrival, and then final payment is due two weeks prior to arrival.

Our goal is for your students to gain exposure and experience with urban missions so that they might be challenged and mobilized for a life of ministry within and for the Kingdom of God. I hope you will prayerfully consider joining us as we seek to mobilize students and touch the lives of the people of Waco. Let me know if you have any questions. My email address is the easiest and fastest way to reach me, kwise@missionwaco.org.

Kathy Wise
Assistant Director