

GRACE CREEK CHURCH

# MISSIONS IMPACT REPORT

OCTOBER 2022 – SEPTEMBER 2023





## Dear Grace Creek Church,

Our goal with this Missions Impact Report is to celebrate some of the incredible ways your generosity has impacted our region and world. As Grace Creek Church grows, we can serve our city, region, and world in more and more ways. Whether you are new to Grace Creek Church or have been here for years, I hope you continue to step out by serving those in need and building spiritual family.

We continue to reach East Texas through Third Saturday Serve every month, culminating in our annual Serve Day, where over 700 of us made an impact in our community. And, of course, we can't miss celebrating all God did during Storm Relief in June of 2023. When 250,000 residents in our region lost power, we jumped into action, and God immediately provided generators, food, and volunteers to begin a week-long relief effort. At the end of 6 days, we served over 7,000 meals, loaned 130 generators, and saw six individuals give their lives to Christ as hundreds of cars lined up daily to receive from our church family. It was a local missional impact like we had never experienced before.

We continue to love Single Moms and Widows in our church by providing life-giving experiences for them to experience spiritual family, the love of God, and the power of generosity as it transforms their families.

We continue to have a global impact as we support mission organizations and missionaries by planting churches worldwide. Our mission trips in 2023 were incredible. We saw a move of God, and let me tell you, the stories we've heard from all ages blow me away!

While these stories inspire us, I pray that we understand it's not about "doing missions" but about living missionally every single day. This is real impact.

Honored to be your Pastor,

Pastor Matt & B. Benson



We're celebrating a total of

**\$407,235.24**

**IN FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO MISSIONS  
FROM OCTOBER 2022 – SEPTEMBER 2023.**

*\*See page 6 for additional contributions related to Storm Relief.*

**In addition,**

**1,971 Grace Creek Church volunteers served  
11,512 hours this year, valued at \$343,748.32!**

**We support local and global missions organizations, missionaries, church plants, and more.**

# SERVE DAY 2023

**64 PROJECTS**

**714 VOLUNTEERS**

**2,142 HOURS OF SERVICE**

**\$80,255.12 IN DONATED SUPPLIES & VOLUNTEER TIME**

Outreaches at Bel Air Apartments & Longview Square Apartments

Keep Longview Beautiful Street Clean Up Projects

City of Longview Code Violations

Local Nonprofit Facility and Grounds Support

Homeless Shelter Outreaches

Local School Outreaches

Longview Dream Center

Encouraging First Responders

Nursing Home Outreaches



## SAVE THE DATE

**SERVE DAY 2024 – SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21**

There are opportunities for individuals, families with children, small groups, and students to serve together in various projects throughout our community.





If Christian Mata has ever greeted you, you know what joy looks like. As a Grace Creek First Impressions Serve Team member, Christian has the biggest smile and finds a way to make your day better.

In late August 2023, Christian's mother unexpectedly passed, leaving him without a home in Longview. Because of Christian's incredible impact on everyone he meets, he was able to find temporary housing. His attitude was

unchanged in these dire circumstances, which inspired us to find a way to support his next steps.

Discovering that his grandparent's home had been long abandoned, a team of loving Grace Creek spiritual family members made a plan to begin making this house a home for Christian. The team kicked off this project on Serve Day 2023, and it was powerful!

*"God has truly blessed me with the best spiritual family in the whole world, and my faith in Him is*

*the only reason I am still here in Longview today! We are truly better together, and I'm looking forward to the day I move into my new home. I'll have the biggest housewarming party ever!! May God bless this season as He sees fit, and I will continue to reach people and build lives with a smile on my face. I will do this for God's glory and to make my parents, grandparents, brothers, my spiritual family, and my Lobo Nation family proud!!!"* – Christian Mata



# STORM RELIEF 2023

We're celebrating a total of

# \$77,299.60

IN FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

**6 DAYS**

**363 VOLUNTEERS**

**2,652 HOURS OF SERVICE VALUED AT \$79,188.72**

**\$164,945 IN DONATED RELIEF SUPPLIES**

In June of 2023, East Texas experienced one of the most devastating storms that East Texas has seen in years. While dealing with a heat wave that brought temperatures well over 100 degrees around the clock, over 250,000 people were left without power for over a week. Grace Creek saw the dire need and immediately jumped into action. What resulted was truly a miracle only God could have provided.

For six days, volunteers provided over 7,000 meals, countless boxes of supplies, and 130 generators to those in need. Hundreds of cars lined up every day to receive from our church family. It was a local missional impact like we had never experienced before. The biggest celebration was that six individuals gave their lives to Christ!









# LOCAL MISSIONS

## THIRD SATURDAY SERVE

On the third Saturday of each month, Grace Creek Church goes into the community with various serving projects that meet real needs because HELP=HOPE. There are opportunities for individuals and families to serve together. Opportunities include serving meals to people experiencing homelessness, providing groceries to families in need, supporting local nonprofits with various projects, working with the City of Longview to clear up code violations, and serving our widows. There are so many ways we serve our region each month. Join us for our next Third Saturday Serve by registering at [gracecreekchurch.com/missions](http://gracecreekchurch.com/missions).

## SKILLED PROJECTS

Our Skilled Projects Team is a group of men and women with various gifts and talents who complete various projects for single parents, families in need, older adults, and those living with disabilities.

## DEAF INTERPRETATION

Grace Creek Church is one of the few churches to provide interpretation services in East Texas so that the deaf and hard of hearing can engage in church services. We offer ASL interpretation every week during our 9:15am service as well as Small Groups for the deaf so that they can engage in spiritual family.

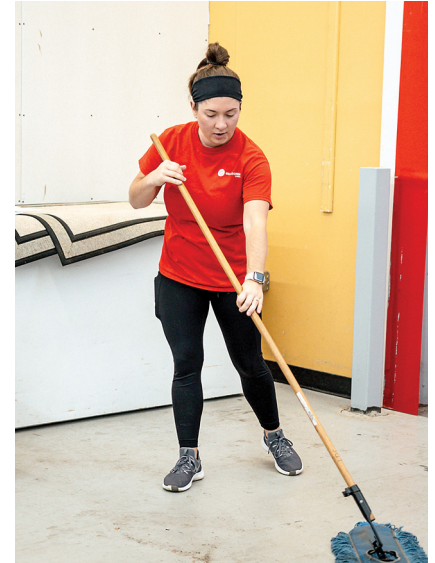




*“After attending our first Third Saturday Serve in early 2022, our hearts quickly felt a burden for local missions. Ms. Bailey approached us about leading a team for Serve Day, and we quickly said yes! Since then, we have been privileged to lead a Serve Team at the Longview Dream Center every month.*

*This ‘yes’ has been a big part of our life change at Grace Creek. We have seen how serving is necessary for meeting the needs of others in Longview — which was an eye-opener for us. It has also reminded us of the continual heart change that happens in us when we serve. Being a part of Third Saturday Serve has reshaped our thoughts, priorities, and obedience. Our first “yes” has led to this.*

*We are thankful for Grace Creek Church’s heart for local and global missions, and for this opportunity to continue serving and growing.”*  
– Jordan & Whitney Scroggins





# SINGLE MOMS & WIDOWS

**WE'RE CELEBRATING AN ADDITIONAL \$23,929.48 IN DONATED GIFTS IN KIND FOR SINGLE MOMS AND WIDOWS THIS YEAR.**

At Grace Creek Church, we have a God-given burden to care for single moms and widows. James 1:27 says, "Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world." Thank you for not only meeting practical needs but also providing avenues for spiritual growth for these women and their children.

## MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH

Just before Mother's Day, Grace Creek Church hosts a beautiful Mother's Day Brunch for our Single Moms and Widows each year. There are opportunities for women to take their next steps as they have love and generosity poured on them from our Missions Team, generous local supporters, and Pastors who bring a special message of encouragement.

## BACK-TO-SCHOOL SHOPPING SPREE

We all know the hustle and burden of the back-to-school time in a family's life. We aim to ease the transition for single-parent and foster families by providing school supplies in their time of need. We encourage our church to donate school supplies as we provide this moment to pour out love, prayer, and encouragement to these special families.

## HOME FOR CHRISTMAS

Each year at our annual women's Christmas event, our Pastors take a special moment in service to honor and pray over our Single Moms and Widows. We also take this time to provide a special gift for these women who deserve a moment of recognition.

## CHRISTMAS COMPASSION

At Christmastime, we love helping our Single Moms with children living at home by providing gifts that these moms can give their children. We want children to receive special Christmas gifts, and we love to provide lift for our Single Moms during the most wonderful time of the year.







*“My girls and I started coming to Grace Creek in March 2021. Before coming to Grace Creek, I did not know Jesus, and if we’re completely honest, I did not believe there was a God. However, through social media, I saw people who not only attended Grace Creek, but believed and truly followed the ways of the Lord. They always carried so much joy. My life was filled with anxiety, anger, depression, and chaos. I knew I had to make a change. The way I was living was not working, so I had to do something different and make a change. Giving my life to Christ was the only other option.*

*In March 2021, when I attended Grace Creek for*

*the first time, I immediately felt like I belonged here. Grace Creek has loved on me and my girls from the moment we started attending. Shortly after coming to Grace Creek, my girls and I said yes to Jesus, and all 3 of us have been baptized. Life couldn’t be any sweeter! My girls have grown so much in their journey of following Christ. Grace Kids and Grace Creek Students have been an absolute blessing in teaching my girls the way of the Lord and what it means to have a ‘spiritual family’.*

*As a single mom, life can be hard at times. We often feel unseen, undeserving, overlooked, and unworthy, but Grace Creek makes us feel the*

*opposite. There are numerous events held just for single moms and widows. I have not only had the honor to serve at some of these events but have also been on the receiving end, and the love and gratitude felt is indescribable. Grace Creek Church has ensured that my girls and I are cared for and is a reflection of God’s love. I decided to serve on the Missions Team to love people by serving them, just as Grace Creek has loved and served my family. I am a living testimony of the heart transformation and life change that can happen to those who are lost and broken when they come to Jesus.”*  
– Merissa Floyd

# beyond

Beyond is a church-wide journey to inspire us to live and give beyond ourselves. No matter where we are in our walk with Christ, He's always encouraging and inspiring each of us to take our next step and do our part in reaching people and building lives. Together, we'll grow in our relationship with God and build our faith as we look beyond where we are to the place He's calling us to go.

## WHAT GOD'S DOING

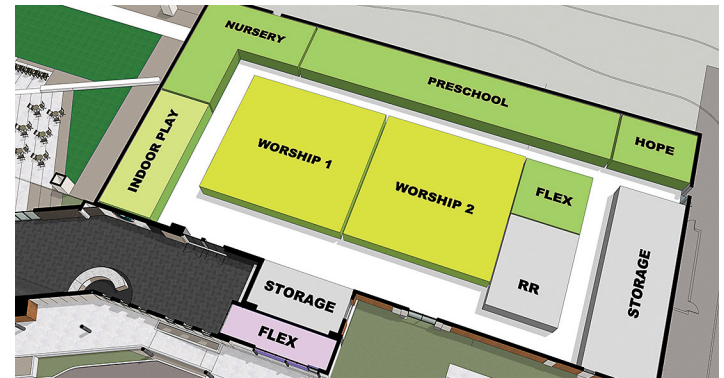
It is incredible to see what God is doing here at Grace Creek Church. The impact we have had in-person and online goes beyond what we could have ever imagined when we first set out in 2009 to build a church in East Texas that would reach people with the life-giving message of Jesus Christ. With the expansion of our Online environment in 2020 and our weekend service reaching over 2,500 people in-person and online, there is certainly cause for celebration! However, with the continued growth comes challenges that can impact our first-time guest experience and ultimately influence how we reach people and build lives.

## WHAT WE'RE DOING

To continue caring for every person who walks in the doors at Grace Creek, our physical footprint needs to expand—including the Next Gen space, Commons, and parking lot. Beyond began in October 2021, and with Phase One fully funded and completed, we're excited to start Phase Two and Phase Three of our project.



**PHASE ONE COMPLETED: SUMMER 2022**





# PROJECT

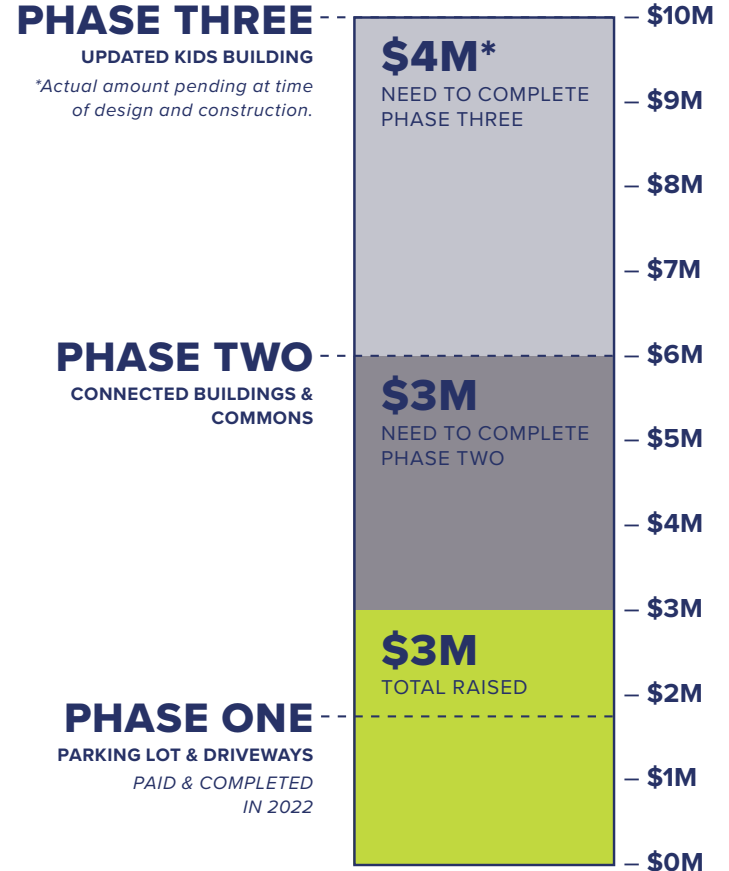
*Next Step & Need*

Our next step in the Beyond project is to start constructions on the connected buildings and commons. The financial need to complete this project is \$10M.

NEED  
**\$3M**

TO COMPLETE  
**PHASE TWO**

We are asking the entire Grace Creek family, new and old, to prayerfully consider giving their best cash gift towards this need.



Market demand and inflation in the construction and supply chain industries over the past two years have significantly increased our overall project costs.

TO GIVE AND LEARN MORE, VISIT: [GRACECREEKCHURCH.COM/BEYOND](https://gracreekchurch.com/beyond).

# GLOBAL MISSIONS



## CHURCH PLANTING PARTNERSHIPS

### ASSOCIATION OF RELATED CHURCHES (ARC)

This year we've continued to partner with The Association of Related Churches (ARC) to see churches planted within the United States.

ARC is a cooperative of independent churches from different denominations, networks, and backgrounds that strategically resource church planters and pastors to help them reach people with the message of Jesus.

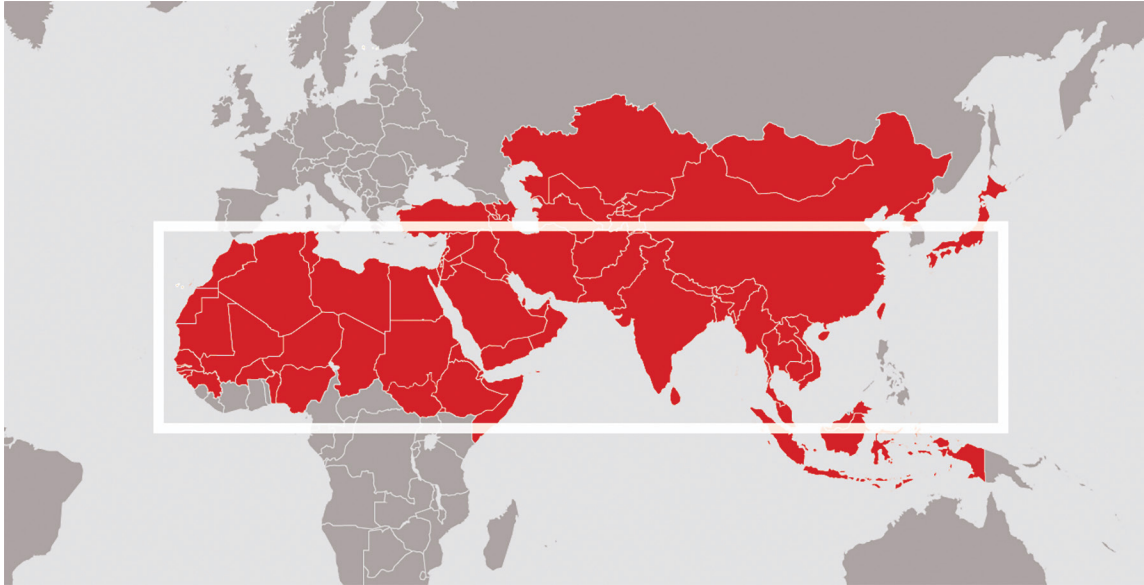
### SURGE NETWORK

Through our partnership with Surge, we plant reproducing churches that start Christian communities and train disciples across the globe.

Thanks to the steadfast work of thousands of foreign missionaries over hundreds of years, Surge was able to birth a new era of missions centered around empowering qualified native workers to spread the Gospel to their own people. A native speaks the language, understands the culture, and lives comfortably in the same conditions as those they evangelize.



# MISSIONARY SUPPORT



**THE 10/40 WINDOW**

## **UNDISCLOSED MUSLIM NATION**

Sofia was born and raised as a Muslim in a Muslim nation. She encountered Jesus during college, and that changed everything for her. Sofia is uniquely called by God to reach the unreached and works in the US as well as in the 10/40 window. She has had the privilege of seeing God show up in people's lives, and she believes there is no one too far from His reach. Because of our support, she's able to continue to minister in the Islamic community and see many come to know the saving power of Jesus.

## **OVERLAND MISSIONS**

Overland Missions exists to communicate the Gospel in remote places. Through our support of Jake and Hannah, many have heard the Gospel that changes lives in the remote places of Zambia, Madagascar, and the islands of Zanzibar. They have seen incredible fruit as the Gospel spreads among many in a strict Muslim environment.

# 2023 MISSION TRIP RECAP

Grace Creek Church sent a total of 38 short-term missionaries to the Los Angeles Dream Center to support the ministry of a local church, the Angeles Temple. From playing with neglected kids in under-resourced neighborhoods to handing out food and other necessities to those experiencing homelessness on Skid Row, we experience so much ministry and life change.

We also sent 25 short-term missionaries to Belize in partnership with Compassionate Hearts Alliance to serve children and patients in the St. Margaret Village area. We were able to help over 600 patients and 180 children experience the real love of Jesus through a VBS and medical clinic.



**GRACE CREEK MISSIONS**  
**LA DREAM CENTER**  
January 2023



**GRACE CREEK STUDENTS &  
GRACE CREEK YOUNG ADULTS**  
**LA DREAM CENTER**  
March 2023



**BELIZE MEDICAL MISSIONS**  
July 2023



*“My trip to the Dream Center was one that I’ll never forget. I hadn’t been attending Grace Creek very long before deciding to go on this mission trip. I have always had a heart for missions and felt God calling me to this trip. Before we even left for the trip, I was so nervous about praying over people and having conversations with them because I didn’t know how I would relate to them. But God showed up! He took away that fear, and He gave me the words to speak in every prayer moment.*

*This trip was so rewarding and the Lord used it to reshape my heart and change how I see and care about people. During a service, I had a moment of conviction and am so thankful for the new anointing from the Lord. I rededicated my life to living on mission for the Lord every single day. While reading the book of Acts, God showed me just how to live missionally. I have to live in the power of the Holy Spirit, point everything back to Jesus, and have an unwavering confidence in the Gospel. It is not our religion we rely on; it’s Jesus. I am forever changed because of this experience.” – Makayla Willeford*



*“While on the Belize Mission trip, God gave me a fresh and deeper revelation of our DNA statement: People Matter to God. Serving my family and those close to me has always come naturally in the past, but the Belize Mission trip widened my heart’s space to love and care for all people, as we are all children of God. Since returning home, I have continued to grow as I walk in the understanding that I am the hands and feet of Christ. He is using me to reach people by meeting them where they are and caring for their needs. I can give love and grace because Christ has given it to me.” – Brent Hansen*

# 2024 MISSION TRIPS



## LOS ANGELES DREAM CENTER

Los Angeles, California

**JANUARY 29 – FEBRUARY 4, 2024**

Ages 18+

**MARCH 11 – 17, 2024**

Ages 15 – 30

Join us for an incredible weeklong mission to the LA Dream Center in Los Angeles, California, where we will have the opportunity to be a part of many of the life-changing outreaches that take place daily. We will play with kids in under-resourced neighborhoods, hand out food and other necessities to those experiencing homelessness, and get to play a role in bringing hope and help to the broken of Los Angeles. Apply for this trip, and we will resource you to raise funds, prepare spiritually through a small group, and have an amazing time as we serve Jesus and others.

*To learn more and apply,  
visit [gracecreekchurch.com/missions](https://gracecreekchurch.com/missions).*





## **COMPASSIONATE HEARTS ALLIANCE**

Belize, Central America

**JULY 7 – 13, 2024**

Ages 18+

Join us for a weeklong mission to Belize, Central America, in partnership with Compassionate Hearts Alliance. We will be providing Medical Clinics and ministry to the kids and families in and around St. Margaret's Village. If you have a medical background or are passionate about ministering to kids and families, you can make an impact for the kingdom of God on this trip! We will resource you to raise funds, prepare spiritually through a small group, and have an amazing time as we serve Jesus and others.

*To learn more and apply,  
visit [gracecreekchurch.com/missions](https://gracecreekchurch.com/missions).*





For more information, to serve locally,  
or to apply for a mission trip, visit  
[gracecreekchurch.com/missions](https://gracecreekchurch.com/missions)



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