



**HARRIS CREEK**

# God is at Work

*2020 in Hindsight*



# Did You Know?

## **Harris Creek,**

In Genesis 50, Joseph says:

*The enemy intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.*

I could say something similar about the work God is doing at Harris Creek in the year 2020.

The year started with ministry thriving. Services were full, with many in overflow seating. Stories of life change were pouring in week after week. Then, meeting in person came to a screeching halt as the pandemic shut the world down. But that did not stop God from moving through this church and accomplishing His purposes. Indeed, He cannot be stopped.

## God is at work.

### **TENS OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE STREAMED HARRIS CREEK SERVICES FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD.**

We received brand new camera equipment through a generous donation that allowed us to send our services live into your living room. While not meeting in person limited our ability to make disciples, we were still able to engage the lost, as many of our Sunday viewers are not connected to churches. And many of them are in other countries like Zimbabwe, India, Egypt, Ireland, and other countries throughout Europe. Some of these countries are closed to Christianity, but the Lord made a way for us to bring His Gospel to them. As you pray for the nations, please celebrate the work that God is doing here to take His message from McGregor to reach hearts throughout the Earth. God is at work.

### **800 PEOPLE ARE READING ALONG WITH US IN OUR BIBLE READING PLAN EVERY DAY.**

We've heard from many of them, that this is their very first time to read the Scriptures for themselves! God has also allowed us to produce a podcast that equips thousands of young adults every week around the world. God is at work.





**WE WELCOMED OVER 400 NEW MEMBERS.**

We are watching the Church being built. In Acts, it says The Lord added to their numbers daily those who were being saved. God has not stopped that work even in the midst of a pandemic! It seems every Sunday I talk to someone who wants to place their faith in Jesus. And I often hear from many of you about similar conversations you're having throughout Waco. God is at work.

**WE DID SOME MUCH-NEEDED HOUSE CLEANING.**

We painted the outside of the building, painted Stage 2, replaced the carpet, and broke ground this week in the exciting process of adding over 200 new parking spaces as well as an additional entrance road to help with the flow of traffic. God is at work.

**WE HELD A VERY SPECIAL AND MEMORABLE "FAMILY**

**REUNION" OUTSIDE WHEN WE WERE ABLE TO GATHER AGAIN.**

We heard stories of life change, worshiped in song, celebrated baptisms, and even welcomed new family members, some of whom were experiencing what God is doing at Harris Creek for the very first time. The night ended with a bang as we thanked God for His kindness to this church. God is at work.

**WE FINANCIALLY PARTNERED WITH MINISTRIES LOCALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY.**

We helped churches overseas impacted by COVID-19 by sending resources to communities that were devastated by the virus. We supported missionaries who are on the ground offering hope in a time that desperately needs it. Here in Waco, we helped our homeless population infected by the virus quarantine safely away from shelters. We deployed tens of thousands of dollars in resources to local ministry efforts and supported local camps. We donated over 140 bicycles and hundreds of presents to Mission Waco Toy Store, so that children in our city can enjoy Christmas gifts and our ministry partner can be supported. Harris Creek's toy donations alone allowed Mission Waco to minister to an additional one hundred families beyond their original plans. God is at work.

**WE WELCOMED 6 NEW MEMBERS TO OUR STAFF.**

They are playing important roles in areas from administration to marriage ministry. In a time where many places of business are forced to shut down, the increased ministry opportunities have actually caused us to add to our staff. God is at work.

**WE ENGAGED THE LOST, EQUIPPED THE SAINTS, AND EMPOWERED MEMBERS FOR SERVICE.**

We saw marriages restored. Prodigal children return. People being saved. Dozens baptized. The nations reached. The hungry fed. Children cared for. Needs are being met through the kindness of God at work through this body. God is at work.

And He is doing all this through you. Praise God for the chance to participate in His work!

“This is about God, The Creator of the Heavens and the Earth, showing favor to us and allowing us to be a part of His great work.”

I want to be very clear; this is not a celebration of me or our amazing staff. This is not about you or this church. This is about God, The Creator of the Heavens and the Earth, showing favor to us and allowing us to be a part of His great work.

“One day, much sooner than we realize, we will have even more clarity on just how extensive God’s work actually was...”

As we close out our year, you should know that 25% of our yearly budget arrives in the month of December through the generosity of this church body. The Lord has allowed us to build a disciple-making factory here, but that factory is still being paid off. I eagerly anticipate the day we are able to participate in God’s work in even greater ways. 2 Corinthians 9:6-7 says, “The one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows generously will also reap generously. Each one must do just as he has decided

in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” Would you pray about how God would have you invest in the work He is doing and what you could give cheerfully? Monica and I and our kids regularly pray the same thing.

Lastly, thank you. Thank you for the ways you have invested here. You have invested wisely. One day, much sooner than we realize, we will have even more clarity on just how extensive God’s work actually was and how He used your investments to change lives. Thank you for your prayers for God’s work, this church body, the church staff, this city, and the world. Would you please take a minute right now and pray? Thank God for all He is doing and for the opportunity to take part in it. Ask Him to help us continue to be faithful. Ask Him to do even more than we can ask or imagine in 2021.

I cannot wait to see what he accomplishes through Harris Creek in the next year. I love you guys, and it is an honor and a joy to get to serve God alongside you.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year,

**Jonathan Pokluda**

*Lead Pastor*





2020

# Ministry Growth

## 417

### NEW MEMBERS

“I was struggling with temptation and its consequences and it hurt to keep everything inside. I decided to talk with my Life Group leaders and they helped me realize how much I need Jesus. That night, I decided to truly surrender my life to God, so we celebrated with worship and ice cream. :)”

– Elaine Hapa

## 3,000

### AVERAGE WEEKLY PODCAST LISTENERS

“Becoming Something has quickly and easily become my favorite podcast! Such a fun mix of humor and cutting up with one another, while having deep, meaningful conversations, full of wisdom and truth. I have been so encouraged and challenged in my walk with Christ. My affections for Jesus and my desire to follow and obey Him have been strengthened.”

– Meredith Hammontree

## 10,000

### AVERAGE WEEKLY MESSAGE VIEWS

“I vacationed here in September and felt at home the moment I walked in; I lived in Michigan without community, so stepping in that Sunday and experiencing community so readily from the get-go was a new feeling. Now I’m serving at the 7p service and getting plugged into a young adult Life Group!”

– Noah Bottrell

2020

# Celebrating God at Work

WHILE COVID-19 HAS LIMITED OUR IN-PERSON MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES, WE'VE STILL SEEN:



**25**

RE:GENERATION PARTICIPANTS



**800**

AVERAGE DAILY BIBLE READING PLAN READERS



**24**

BAPTISMS



**150**

BASE CAMP PARTICIPANTS



**652**

SISTERHOOD PARTICIPANTS



**29**

NEW LIFE GROUPS



**13,000**

MOBILE APP DOWNLOADS



2020

# Investing in Kingdom Work

“We are praying that faithful followers of Jesus would continue to invest in God’s work here so that nothing would hinder us from doing all that He’s called us to.”

deployed to meet needs around the world. We are praying that faithful followers of Jesus would continue to invest in God’s work here so that nothing would hinder us from doing all that He’s called us to.

#### **HOW HAS 2020 IMPACTED HARRIS CREEK FINANCIALLY?**

In 2020, we had 404 new people investing in this mission. When God creates a movement He provides for it. As people are looking for the best ways to invest His resources, many have seen Harris Creek as a strategic opportunity. While we’ve never been busier at making disciples, our giving has increased 52% to help meet this need. However, roughly 25% of our annual giving comes in the month of December – please pray about helping us meet this need.

#### **WHAT IS HARRIS CREEK’S BUDGET?**

\$2.64 million (for the fiscal year ending 6/30/2021).

#### **WHAT IS HARRIS CREEK’S MISSION BUDGET?**

\$2.64 million. Every dollar we spend is toward advancing the gospel of Jesus Christ, both here and around the world.

#### **WHAT IS OUR BUDGET ALLOCATION?**

72% goes toward all midweek and weekend ministries, our ministry partners, and our staff. 28% goes toward operating, maintaining, and developing our facilities.

#### **DOES HARRIS CREEK HAVE ANY DEBT?**

Yes, we currently owe \$5.9 million on the auditorium that we opened 2 years ago. Our plan is to aggressively pay toward the principle of this loan so that we can minimize the amount of interest we carry. While we do not think debt is sin, and this loan has blessed us with opportunities for life change, we do believe debt is limiting to future opportunities. People are often not motivated to give to buildings. We love to give to meet tangible, practical needs that pull at our hearts. Our building is helping that be accomplished! We enjoy this building every week and God has turned it into a factory of disciples who will be

**[INVEST IN GOD’S WORK BY CLICKING HERE.](#)**



# What a Year.

2020 is a year worth celebrating. Watch our 2020 recap video online ([harriscreek.org/2020](https://harriscreek.org/2020)) and consider giving to the mission and vision of Harris Creek. Help us finish the year out strong! [Give now by clicking here.](#)

