

# *Ministry of a Servant*

Luke 3:11 until Matthew 6:33, Inc.

Erase Poverty Project

# Ministry of A servant

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## Executive Summary

Ministry of A servant is a newly established, faith-based 501(c)(3) organization (est. 2012) in Waco, TX est. by Femi J. Ariya, a young man with the vision to uplift and strengthen societies locally and, eventually, at large through equipping individuals with the right tools for a healthy, fruitful life. Our goal is create a better society from the economical, educational, cultural, and spiritual perspectives, and, with the 2 start-up programs planned (the Erase Poverty Project and Christ for Kenya), address the needs and affect the lives of over 1,000 citizens worldwide by the end of year 1.

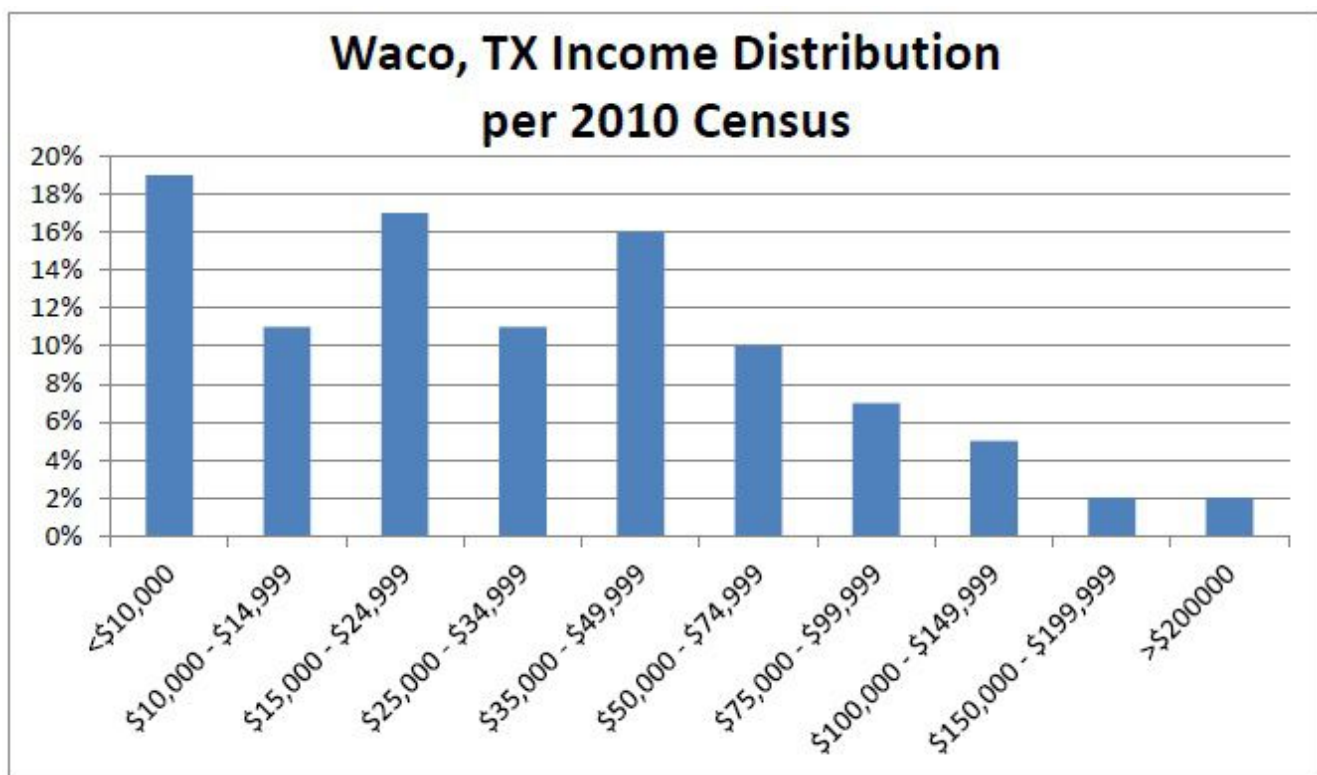
The Erase Poverty Project is the flagship project of Ministry of A servant designed to reduce the level of impoverished persons that desire to become both an asset to their community and a pillar of strength to their families. The project focuses on building and instilling social, economic, educational and health related awareness to the community with a strong emphasis on growing a healthy Christian spiritual relationship with God. By systematically removing, replacing and returning certain aspects of living while simultaneously weaning the participant off of dependence on the provisions of the program, it is believed that we can succeed where the government welfare system has recently struggled. Instead of breeding and encouraging an attitude that proves to be a burden on our economy and societal health, we hope to foster an attitude that will create assets to our communities and economy. As a newly established non-profit organization we have great expectations and have planned a budget that should be able to serve 96 participants per location at full operational capacity. Our mission is simple; strengthen our societies at the local, state, national then international levels by growing changed, upstanding, hardworking, Christian individuals ready to become the building blocks of a brave new world.

The total cost of implementation of this project is **\$380,000** with a year 1 net return of **\$15,000** (year 2 **\$30,000**; year 3 and onward: **\$50,000**).

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The need for the Erase Poverty Project in Waco, TX is dire. According to 2010 census data recovered by the U.S. Census Bureau, the average household is 2.59 people (around 3 persons) and the poverty-line for 3 person households is right around a \$17,500 - \$18,000 per year income. Considering this data, there may be anywhere from 19% - 47% of the City of Waco metropolitan statistical area population (42,687 - 105,594 people) that may be living below the poverty line (see chart below). Even in the best of lights this is nearly twice the 2010 impoverished population data of 12.4%.



Furthermore, specialized education in the Waco area is failing miserably. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 19.82% of the Waco MSA population hasn't even graduated high school. That's 4.98% higher than the national levels and equates to roughly 44,529 Waco citizens ill-equipped to serve and add to their own communities. What's worse, a large number of these people do not have a support system or key motivator to encourage and enable them to better themselves.

When I came to Waco, I was six. My mother and father had split for the second time and it seemed like divorce was imminent. My mother, struggling to cope with the mental, economical, and physical stress with raising two children from her mother's aging two bedroom home (which was also home to her brother at the time), did the best she could to raise us alone, but was eventually forced to seek government aid to relieve the burdens she tried to carry alone. We qualified for every program available, but my mother, with adequate foresight and intelligence

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took as little as she possibly could. Later, when I asked her why she did this she told me a story of a starving man and a fisherman. She said there was a starving man by the shore with no food to eat or way to fish because he didn't know how. One day, a kind-hearted fisherman from the nearby village started giving him a fish from his day's catch. This went on for some time, until a traveler came by and saw the beggar on the shore waiting patiently for his friend to bring his meal for the day. The traveler asked the poor man, "Why are you sitting here so skinny and gaunt? Don't you know you sit on the shores of the most fruitful of bays?" The beggar replied, "Good sir, I sit here day in and day out and watch empty ships return loaded down with bountiful catches. I believe no one knows how fruitful those waters are better than I. But in all the treasures the fishermen bring in, there is but one who was willing to share a little bit with me that I may not die. Seeing as I don't know how to fish, I owe my life to him, for the very day he came along I had made up in my mind to throw myself in the sea and end my life. He has saved me and every day I wait for him to come and feed me, but he became sick a couple days ago and I've prayed that another individual would pity me enough to share his wealth with me until my friend returns. That individual would happen to be you, would it?" The traveler replied, "Good sir, I do pity you, but I will not give you even one fish from that water, but I will show you how to get it yourself." With that, the traveler showed the beggar how to make netting, line, hooks, and gather bait. It was well into the night when the beggar finally caught his first fish and the traveler was well weary. "Stranger!" the beggar said with elation. "Look! Look! I have caught a fish on my own!" But as hard as the beggar looked, he could not find the man who had helped him leave his seat on the sandy shore. The next day, the fisherman returned to the shore early in the morning to prep his boat and string his lines only to find the beggar prepping his own equipment for a catch. The fisherman said, "Well, where did you get all of this?" and the beggar replied, "A strange Man came and showed me the way, may I come fish with you? I won't get in the way and anything I catch I will split right down the middle with you. From that day forward, the beggar and the fisherman worked together and were so successful as a two man team that they were able to buy more boats, hire more hands and became the dominant fishing company in the bay. A beggar that was given a little time and effort in the right way turned an ordinary fisherman into the most dominant force in the area. Yet if he were never to have learned, he would have remained a beggar and the fisherman, a fisherman.

My mother was a college drop out when we first arrived in Waco, but because she had the right support systems at home, church and school, she graduated from MCC in 1997 with an Associate's of Science in X-Ray Technology and landed a \$30,000 a year job. Instead of going from grandma's house to government projects, we went to a brand new \$90,000 home built from the ground up. So maybe the U.S. doesn't need a fisherman mentality (the general welfare system as it currently is), but maybe needs the support of grandma's crowded little home to drive her to greatness instead of complacency (Erase Poverty Project).

The people targeted and expected to benefit the most from this project would be in similar situations as my mother was, hindered from bettering themselves without significant help. The overcrowding of all of Waco's three government housing projects further exacerbated by the

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shutting down of the low-income housing Parkside Villages due to uncontrollable high crime is a resounding bell that signals the need for immediate action to be taken. There have been so many applicants for Section 8 public housing in the city that the waiting list has been closed until further notice. To ward off redundancy of highlighting the plight the city is in, it stands to be said that the harvest is ripe of people that are burdening our economy and these burdens could be transformed into blessings if only the energy, resources, funding and time were directed towards enhancement of life instead of pandering simple sustainment.

Poverty is not a condition; it is a mentality and lifestyle that is bred by one's life choices and ideologies that, together, create his or her world paradigm. What we may see manifest in the physical is a poor child with little food to eat and dirty hair, what caused it is the society's lack of care or knowledge on how to plan, educate and elevate the disadvantaged AND the child's ideology that this manifestation is typical and acceptable. Without a belief that one can achieve more, one will not achieve at all (For as a man thinketh in his heart, so is he - Proverbs 23:7 KJV). If the Erase Poverty Plan does not get implemented, impoverished Wacoans will be at risk of continuing to fall into the downward spiral of crime, poverty, and drugs that is already manifesting. Just imagine the impact that could happen if even 40% of the impoverished became assets to the community they are burdening? Erase Poverty Project needs to happen and it needs to happen now.

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## Goals and Objectives

### Goal

This project in its entirety is designed to increasingly strengthen society and decrease poverty to a drastically reduced if not virtually non-existent levels by systematically removing, replacing and returning certain aspects of living while simultaneously weaning the participant off of dependence on the provisions of the programs.

### Objectives

- Have 10 of the 24 year 1 participants in stage 3 and doing outreach for the program by the end of year 1
- Aid 1,000+ people with combined efforts of the Erase Poverty Project and Christ for Kenya by the end of year 1
- Have an established database of interested applied participants (at least 50% capacity) by the end of year 1
- Have all 24 year 1 participants complete the program and land a job in their respective fields of training by the end of year 2
- Reduce the local level of homeless population by 1% by the end of year 5
- Expand to 3 other cities by the end of year 7