



# ONE

*"My prayer is...that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you...so that the world may believe that you have sent me."  
- John 17:20-21*

One Body for One Community Sept – October 2012

Mission Waller, Inc.  
a 501(c)3 non-profit

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## Important Dates!

Thursday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> – Thanksgiving!

Saturday, December 1<sup>st</sup> – Waller Christmas Festival, from 1pm – 6pm

Tuesday, December 25<sup>th</sup> – Christmas!

Dear Family and Friends,

We're getting this newsletter out a bit later than we intended. Sorry!



Well, first things first. Our family road trip was amazing! The kids absolutely loved visiting with our family and friends, and they miraculously seemed to enjoy riding in the car as well (thank God for portable DVD players☺). We were able to visit Joel's sister,

Katie, in Missouri, and she took us to Silver Dollar City in Branson. What fun! And, aunts are so great; she let Jael color her dog with washable markers!

We left Katie and headed farther north to visit Jeff Copeland (our friend from college) and his beautiful wife, Marilyn. Jeff is a Christian Illusionist, so besides their sweet chocolate lab, they also have fish, birds and bunnies. The kids were in heaven. They also took us to visit the St. Louis City Museum. What a crazy place! Besides the first floor pretty much being an adult jungle gym, there was a ferris wheel on the roof, 11 stories up (Jael's favorite part)! By the way, if you are ever interested in having Jeff do his show at one of your events or parties, you can check him out at [www.facebook.com/copelandmagic](http://www.facebook.com/copelandmagic).



After spending almost a week in Missouri, we traveled east to see Joel's brother, James, his wife, Sarah, and their kids, Noah and Gracie. It was tons of fun to watch our kids get to play with their cousins! Plus, it was super beautiful in North Carolina, a mountain view from the front porch! We were able to take a tour of Samaritan's Purse (where James works) and see the facilities for Operation Christmas Child, which made Jael very excited. We also got to play in the river, pan for gems, and the kids slept in a tent in the living room!

We were a bit sad to start heading home, of course, but we planned a beach trip on the way home to help the kids adjust to being back in the car again. Our kids LOVE the beach, so this was a great stop! We stayed at Navarre, which is close to Pensacola, but not near as expensive. Plus, the sand was white, and we were able to collect loads of sea shells!

And, surprise to those of you who haven't heard yet, on the last day of the trip, we found out that we are expecting another baby! Yay! Traci is about 17 weeks along now, and we hope that we can find out if it is a boy or girl before Thanksgiving! Josiah isn't quite sure what to think of the whole thing, but Jael is super excited (she's been praying for a baby for quite some time now). The due date is April 4<sup>th</sup>.

As soon as we got home from the trip, we hit the ground running. Traci started homeschooling the kids. This has been an interesting and challenging endeavor. We'll let you know how the year goes as we figure it all out.

Jael also turned 5 YEARS OLD! This was a very BIG day for her. She even looked at her hands and said, "My hands are bigger now!" Also, she did a lot to help plan out and prepare for her huge birthday party. More than 40 people showed up – told you she loves her social events! This is one of her favorite times of the year. It was a Rapunzel-themed party, with a themed cake, homemade piñata, and, of course, a costume. We had loads of fun!



Also upon our arrival home, Joel started working with his dad to replace the roof on our old house, which his dad and step-mom are buying from us. It was a long, hard process for them, but they finished it, and it looks great. And, a blessing, insurance paid for it due to some damage from a windstorm while we were on vacation.

We have also invested in selling Melissa & Doug toys. Joel has been selling them at fairs, and we are about to set up an online store. These toys are great! In fact, part of the reason we decided to sell them is that we love them for our kids. We are also hoping to partner with Toys for Tots during the Christmas season. Anyways, if you'd like a catalog, let us know, and we'll email you an online catalog.

And, we have been working part-time at a church called Friendship. Their youth pastor resigned, and Joel agreed to step in through December until they find a new youth pastor. It's been a fun time so far. This was one of the youth groups we had often done events with while we were working with Waller Baptist, so we already knew most of the students and quite a few of the adults. With Traci still playing on the praise team at Waller Baptist on occasion, we've been flip-flopping back and forth on which church we visit on Sunday. Our kids have been great about it though.

We've also been enjoying the new Bible Study on Sunday nights that we've been a part of. We have been able to join with several other families in fellowship, discipleship and prayer. It's felt like a real community and has been an amazing blessing to our family. We have been spending the time encouraging one another, discussing how to become better God-honoring parents, how to teach the Bible to our kids, and even spiritual warfare.

Another big step, Traci submitted the initial manuscript for her second book in her *Dream Catcher* series. We are hoping to get the book published and in printed-form by mid-December. This is going to be a bit of a challenge with December being right around the corner, but the publishers say it is possible if we stay on the ball, so please pray for us in this! We may set up a Kickstarter account in order to help raise funds to get this thing published. If we do so, we will send out an email to all of you so you can get involved and basically pre-order your copy of the book there if you'd like.

I'm sure some of y'all would also enjoy hearing an update on Elizabeth. She loves her time in Juarez, Mexico, especially since her family recently visited her there and she is visibly beginning to see God moving in the people around her. Please be in prayer for her as she will be heading out to Peru and Mexico City for Outreach with the students she has been working with. If you'd like to receive updates from her, go to [www.eliannraines.wordpress.com](http://www.eliannraines.wordpress.com) and sign up for her newsletter.

Coming up in the next few weeks, we will begin collecting for a Shoebox Toy Drive that will benefit the orphanage in Acuna, Mexico that we have been partners with for years. Joel will be dropping these boxes off in person, probably accompanied by a mission trip team that will be passing out the boxes and presenting a Vacation Bible School for the kids based on the Christmas story. If you'd like more information, such as how to get involved or what items to place in a shoebox, please contact Joel at 713-899-3215 or [joel@missionwaller.org](mailto:joel@missionwaller.org).

And, the Waller Christmas Festival will be on December 1<sup>st</sup>, from 1pm – 6pm. Joel has been working with the city to help plan this event. It is such a fun time, and we'd love to have to come out for food, craft booths, music and a parade! There will even be a tree-lighting at the end of the event, right at 6 pm. Joel will be running a toy booth, selling Melissa & Doug, and Traci might have a slot singing. It should be a great time for family fun!

Well, I know that's a lot, but we hope it wasn't too much to read. Thanks for giving your time to find out how we're doing! If you have any questions about anything, please don't hesitate to ask! We love y all lots!

With Love,

Joel and Traci Bauler  
And Jael & Josiah



Hoping to bring you a smile!

#### Prayer Requests & Needs:

- ✠ **Praise**...for our amazing, growing kids, and the awesome vacation we had with them!
- ✠ ...for the new baby that will soon be gracing our family!
- ✠ ...the overwhelming things God is doing to bless us and the community of Waller.
- ✠ ...that we might be getting to buy our house.
  
- ✠ **Pray**...that the Christians in our community would be united as “One.”
- ✠ ...for discernment as we make decisions for our family and ministry.
- ✠ ...for our children to be healthy and for God to grow their character through our experiences.
- ✠ ...for us to be grateful for the times God is growing OUR character.
- ✠ ...for Elizabeth missionary journeys, and as she disciples and trains up others.