

METROGRACE

Developing Urban Churches

June 2025

Member of  CHARIS FELLOWSHIP



Pastor Jim Brown—jabrown215@yahoo.com



Recently, a woman began attending at Crossroads. She had moved to Philadelphia from California. Having grown up around the Apostolic church, she turned away to explore other religions. Now, she said she was a Christian. She found Crossroads, enjoyed the services, and took home a baptism application. Later, she

invited her live-in fiancé. He also enjoyed the service, though he is not a Christian. It was clear that there was confusion and some sticky situations to sort out. But that's often the case with newer believers. One Sunday early in the service, she left abruptly. It was noticeable and caused some concern; perhaps she had some family issue. Later she explained on social media:

Today I walked out of church...I think I was upset that they printed this without thinking of who might be reading it idk to say "wicked hopeless traditions" about people celebrating is kind of judgmental! ...I don't feel church should ever be a place to compare one religion to another or pass judgement on how others choose to practice whatever they believe in. When I was Buddhist they'd say, "Be good, Do good!" Now that I'm Christian I find that there's little room or acceptance of people who aren't like minded when it comes to religion. Religion seems to separate people. "God is love" his love is unconditional yet people misinterpret that and create such a divide...

The paper she mentions was from our missionaries. They live in an area surrounded by idolatry. It's a reminder that evangelism begins within the visible church. Not everyone who attends worship, claims to be a Christian and seeks baptism has been born again. Jesus said, "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven." (Matt. 7:21) The quest to be "spiritual" is not the same as repentant faith that leads to salvation. We want to love our neighbors, but the pluralism of our culture cannot infiltrate the church. We are called to be different:



Don't team up with those who are unbelievers. How can righteousness be a partner with wickedness? How can light live with darkness? What harmony can there be between Christ and the devil? How can a believer be a partner with an unbeliever? And what union can there be between God's temple and idols? For we are the temple of the living God...Therefore, come out from among unbelievers, and separate yourselves from them, says the Lord. Don't touch their filthy things, and I will welcome you. (2 Cor. 6:14-17 NLT) **Please pray for this couple.**



Thank you for supporting MetroGrace this month! Please include this cut-off with your next gift and use the back to indicate any changes to your contact information.

Name: _____

Enclosed is my gift to support:

General Fund	\$ _____
Jim and Lisa Brown	\$ _____
Pete and Danielle Forshtay	\$ _____
Rick and Kristin Dobrowolski	\$ _____
Other	\$ _____

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1st Baptism Inside our New Building

While we have had baptisms since moving into our building, this was the first one actually held in the building. While the building we moved into has seen many iterations of usage, this was the first time it's been utilized for a church to gather in. A sister church gave us their old portable baptistry, and three of our men worked hard to assemble and then tear it down in order to hold a baptism here. Thankfully, the floor remained dry and all



went well and according to plan, complete with a beautiful testimony of the work of God in a life. We hope to hold many more baptisms in our building for generations to come, especially when the weather doesn't allow us to utilize an area creek, river, or swimming pool. Praise God for many more considering taking steps of faith in baptism and church membership. Pray along with us that others would continue to follow Jesus in these ways. We're longing for a renewal of young people committed to following Jesus no matter what the cost.



Pastor Pete Forshtay—peteforshtay@gmail.com

This month, Word of Grace plans to serve at the Whosoever Gospel Mission.

The mission is located in the Germantown neighborhood of Philadelphia, where the Brethren Church first developed in America.

They serve homeless men from all parts of Philadelphia, providing housing, counseling, job training, transition into the community and relocation.

The mission has served the Lord in Philadelphia since 1892. Grace Brethren Churches have served alongside Whosoever Gospel Mission for generations. Some have served on the board to

afternoon Worship Service
WHOSOEVER GOSPEL MISSION

Sunday, June 22nd

advance the mission. Some have preached and led worship. MetroGrace teams have served in the warehouse, thrift stores and dining hall. And currently the mission is led by Heather Rice, previously a member at Crossroads.

Word of Grace will lead a worship service, interact with the men at the mission and share a meal. Please pray that God would be glorified through effective ministry at the mission.

We're excited about students who plan to attend Camp Conquest this summer. There's still time to help! Just mark your gift as "Camp"! Thanks for all you do!

