

METROGRACE

Developing Urban Churches

April 2018

MetroGrace connects **supporting, serving** and **stationed** partners to develop gospel-centered, community-based churches in urban neighborhoods.

Have you ever thought about your grocery store as a mission field?

Our Philadelphia neighborhood, Wissinoming, just got its own shopping center!



So what? Here's what: a small convenience store is located two-hundred, fifty feet away from our small church building. It carries high-priced milk, expensive brand-x toilet paper, eggs so expensive one would assume they came from the golden goose, and cheap beer.

Who would shop in such a small place where everything is marked up at incredibly high prices?! Apparently, everyone would! There is a corner store on almost every block, each one as small as the other, and each one is

gouging its customers because they have no other choice.

"But, Pete, can't someone just hop in their car or catch the bus and head to the nearest grocery store?"

I'm glad you asked!

Wissinoming hasn't had a proper grocery store for more than twenty years. It takes time, effort and money for families to shop at a grocery store in another neighborhood. Many do not own cars, so they must take the bus. This limits the amount of food that can be carried and increases the number of trips that must be made. Often, single parents must find babysitters or drag children along on these excursions. And, this only begins to paint the picture! Understand; the struggle is real!

So, we're excited about a brand new shopping center with a ShopRite grocery store right in our neighborhood! The Shoppes at Wissinoming is a great addition to our urban community.

Now, our neighbors have a place to pick up affordable groceries within walking distance of their homes. Hopefully, destructive 'Stop and Go' stores peppered throughout our neighborhood will diminish.

My wife Danielle and I are excited to have our own grocery store! It generates community and a place for us to meet neighbors. Though we only need to pick up groceries once a



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Please include this cut-off with your next gift and
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Name: _____

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Dr. Jim Brown,
Executive Director



week, I find myself there regularly. The new dining area features Ellis coffee, a Philadelphia tradition. So, ShopRite has become a comfortable place to meet folks from church, make new contacts and invite new friends to worship.

It's such a small thing, such a common thing, a grocery store in a shopping center; but it has great significance for life and ministry in Wissinoming!

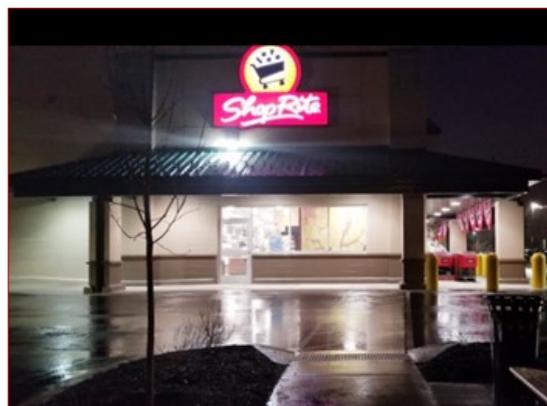
Praise the Lord with us for this blessing!

In a March 3, 2018 article, Connor Smith highlighted this new venture.

(<http://www.philly.com/philly/business/shoprite-northeast-philadelphia-wissinoming-food-desert-20180303.html>)

ShopRite of Bridge and Harbison will anchor the new \$29 million Shoppes at Wissinoming and employ 300 full and part-time people. It will give residents access to fresh produce, seafood, and groceries in a low-income area that the government says has lacked healthy and affordable foods within a half-mile.

Peter Ammons, who works with his father, brother, and sister in the family's supermarkets, said the project happened in spite of the January 2017 sweetened beverage tax, which has been blamed for depressing soda sales and cutting into merchants' profits. "Despite the challenging business climate in the city since the beverage tax was implemented, **our family made a decision to move forward with this new store and keep our commitment to the community,**" he said in a statement... (Emphasis added)



The area was identified as one that lacked a full-service food grocery store, said Candace Young, associate director of research and evaluation at the Food Trust, which has worked to end food deserts...

The Ammons family is making a difference in the city! They're providing needed products and services, jobs and community pride. We're grateful for men and women in business who are committed to urban communities. How could the Lord use you to make an impact in the city? **Could you or someone you know open a business in an urban community?**

MetroGrace is developing gospel-centered, community-based churches that seek shalom – the well-being of the city. Thank you for helping us to grow congregations in four urban neighborhoods.

Jeremiah 29:7

Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper."



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