

# METROGRACE

Developing Urban Churches

**August 2018**

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



Pete and Danielle Forshtay

Wissinoming was blessed to have Fuze, the youth group from Fremont, Ohio, led by youth pastor Zach Pinkerton, join us for a week of ministry and community service!

While here, Fuze did a prayer walk through the Wissinoming neighborhood, praying for the community and offering to pray with our neighbors about anything burdening them in their lives. I feel this is the absolute best thing we can do, petitioning our God to meet their needs. It also helps develop a heart for the city when we spend time and effort praying for a massive group of people for whom Jesus died. I was deeply moved to see the students jump at the opportunity to pray with our neighbors with genuine

care and love.

Fuze also spent time cleaning a few corners of the neighborhood streets. Cleanliness is not something that is highly valued by a majority of folks living here; but, I live here, and I like to see clean streets and sidewalks in front of my church and home. There must be someone else, even one person, who would perceive this as an act of love. It's better than standing around waiting for someone to litter in order to shout, "HEY, PICK THAT UP!"

A while ago, we removed the drop ceiling in our sanctuary to reveal an old stylized tin ceiling! It is gorgeous, but the paint is dull and chipped away. So Fuze climbed scaffolding to scrape and paint our rustic tin-tiled ceiling, beautifying our area of worship in the process! This is a project that would have taken us weeks if not months to complete, but they knocked it out in half a day!

We have a small young youth group that meets Wednesday nights. This summer will be the first time we're meeting through the school's summer break, so we're looking forward to seeing how it grows! While here, our teens got to meet my old youth group as we hit a local park for games and evangelism! We're praying God changes hearts forever and that a major impact is made by the ministry of Fuze and Thrive (our youth group).

Thursday, the last full day that Fuze was here, we spent checking out the rest of the city of Philadelphia, i.e. the historic district and, of course, the Rocky statue! At the end of the day, the teens were welcomed back to our house as we had a cookout with our elders and their families. It was important to me that Fremont saw that life in Philly isn't always

**METROGRACE**  
Developing Urban Churches

*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:

Jim and Lisa Brown \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
General Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**7721 Torresdale Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19136  
215-533-3396  
[www.metrograce.org](http://www.metrograce.org)  
Dr. Jim Brown,  
Executive Director**

dealing with brokenness and challenging ministry all the time, but that families make and have wonderful lives here as we serve the Lord together!

Having Fuse join us for just a few short days made such a major impact on our life and ministry. They were such a blessing to us and moved us to tears multiple times. They impressed me to no end with their boldness for Jesus and their willingness to serve. I expect great work of the Lord to come through their lives in the future!

When I was their age, in their youth group, I was introduced to Philadelphia and developed a strong desire to serve the Lord here. It didn't hurt that I was also attracted to Danielle, the girl from Philly who would become my wife. Through other servants and service opportunities, the Lord shaped in me a heart to serve Him in Philly, and now I have that same privilege as a servant of the Lord to introduce other young servants of Jesus from the town of my youth, Fremont, Ohio, to the mission field of Philadelphia! Who would have known. And who knows whose heart is being challenged the same way today. Please pray for the youth from Fremont who came here to serve us and the Lord.

On another note, Access 2018 was held in Fremont, Ohio for the 2nd year in a row, and Danielle and I had the privilege to travel and represent MetroGrace again.

After being on the road for nine and a half hours, we arrived at the Quality Inn just outside of Fremont and checked in to our reservation. We had such a wonderful time at Access last year, Danielle took what remained of her vacation time to accompany me to the conference this year. So, we were hoping that our hotel would match the pictures we saw online, but woke up Monday morning to discover the pictures of the outdoor pool we saw were ones taken prior to the renovation and the removal of the pool. Staring out our window, we had a fantastic view of the other hotels we should have booked. Haha!

We spent Monday with my family as my parents remain Fremont residents, and connected with a couple students whom we had just seen the month prior in Philly!

Come Tuesday and the conference finally began! True to the previous year, it was wonderful seeing so many familiar faces, greeting one another with warm hugs and hearing people ask, "How are you?" and actually intending to wait around for an honest answer instead of just waiting for their turn to speak. The volunteers at Grace opened the doors for us, greeted us warmly, offered us coffee and refreshments and generally treated us like royalty! Right away, we were spoiled. We were further blessed by the times of worship and prayer as well as hearing the speakers during the sessions give biblical challenges motivating us to return to our first love and to remain vigilant in praying for the lost in our lives. At the end of the first day, we were treated to ice cream and got to spend time with more of the Fremont students we hadn't already seen. It was a fun and full first day!

We enjoyed speaking with others about the impact Fremont had on our life and ministry, what it is MetroGrace does, and how we are benefiting and blessed by it all! Many of our conversations led to us telling folks that we have a guest room that is open to anyone who desires to check out the city, whether they're visiting for service or fun. We're hoping to continue connecting with people, inviting them to help us through mission trips, internships and partnerships. Many people expressed their desire to help and we're looking forward to hosting as soon as they're able to join us!

[Please join us in prayer for the folks of Philadelphia.](#)

**I would like to add or change my address, phone number or email address:**