

METROGRACE

Developing Urban Churches

February 2016

Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. "Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest." Matthew 9:37-38



Dr. Jim Brown
Executive Director

About 6 million people live in the metropolitan statistical area that surrounds Philadelphia. Most of those people identify as Philadelphians and participate in urban life through family relationships, work, entertainment, recreation and even worship.

Many people make their home in the City of Philadelphia. In fact, 1.56 million people live within the city limits. Center City Philadelphia is second only to Midtown Manhattan in its downtown population.

The million and a half people that live in the city itself make Philadelphia more populous than eleven American states. Hawaii, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Montana, Delaware, South Dakota, North Dakota, Alaska, Vermont and Wyoming all have less people scattered across broad areas. On average 11,457 people inhabit each square mile in Philadelphia.

The large, dense population provides an ideal setting to develop gospel-centered, community-based churches among the wide variety of people in urban neighborhoods. MetroGrace is working to gather teams who can advance the gospel in word and deed among neighbors throughout the city.

Currently, we've developed congregations in the area of Northeast Philadelphia in the neighborhoods of Holmesburg and Wissinoming.

Nearly 24,000 people make their lives in Holmesburg. Our team has gathered a congregation with connections to more than 300 people. They've purchased a church building and begun to make an impact on their neighborhood.

Wissinoming is smaller geographically but very densely populated with about 11,000 people living in half a square mile. Our team owns a facility in the neighborhood and is working to reach out to the community. A congregation gathers for worship each week with connections to more than 125 people.

We expect these churches to continue to grow in their neighborhoods. But we want to develop gospel-centered, community-based congregations in other neighborhoods, too. Our greatest challenge is finding biblically qualified leaders who can and will move into an urban neighborhood,

Agricultural-industry leader, John Deere, recognizes that cities around the world will grow by 70 million people a year between now and 2050. That's 192,000 more city dwellers a day, or 4.4 more every 2 seconds. John Deere is focusing tremendous resources toward discovering better ways to feed this massive urban growth. Should the Church not do the same?



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:

The Browns \$ _____
 The Millers \$ _____
 General \$ _____
 _____ \$ _____
 (Other)

**7721 Torresdale Avenue
 Philadelphia, PA 19136
 215-533-3396
www.metrograce.org
 Dr. Jim Brown,
 Executive Director**

gather a team, make friends, share the gospel, teach and assemble for worship. Would you pray with us for those leaders?

In cooperation with the congregations we've established at Crossroads Community Church, MetroGrace plans to begin reaching a new neighborhood in 2016. Please pray for clear direction, provision of personnel and finances and effective development.

A Story of Grace in our Wissinoming Neighborhood



Pastor Pete Forshtay

Thank you for your continued prayers for our ministry in Philly.

With the holidays past, New Years resolutions falling by the wayside and the onset of winter, one expects the natural flow in ministry through the seasons to result in fewer numbers of people participating in the worship service on Sunday mornings. The opposite has happened—we've seen growth in our attendance with numbers that we don't usually see except on Christmas and Easter!

I can say with confidence that this growth is not the result of any new campaign or from our own people canvassing the neighborhood. The only explanation is prayer and the Holy Spirit working in the hearts of people in our neighborhood.

Newer people continue to come out for weeks and months in a row; some people who we haven't seen in months are reconnecting and attending again; and, people who we've never seen or met are coming out to worship the Lord with us for the first time!

It is nice when we plan a ministry or try something new and see, as a result, growth in our church family; but, when men, women, boys and girls come to church all on their own, it tends to be more exciting because we know we had nothing to do with it! People have been praying and the Spirit has been working. Please continue in your fervent prayers for our ministry, that Jesus would continue to impact the lives of families in our community, and that we would continue seeing more and more people join us to worship our good Father!



PRAISE AND PRAYER REQUESTS

1. Kurt Miller, our Director of Strategic Partnerships, participated in the Global Missions Week at Cairn University in Langhorne, PA. He spoke and networked with faculty and students during classes, meals and after hours.
2. Kurt will also be participating in the Global Missions Conference at Lancaster Bible College during the week of February 15-29. He will again be speaking and networking with faculty and students. Your prayers for this week-long encounter are deeply appreciated.
3. We are seeking urban interns: summer interns, semester interns, one-year urban ministry interns and two-year church planter interns. Please pray that the Lord will direct interns our way.
4. Please pray for our new youth ministry called "Thrive." It meets on Thursday evenings. Pastor Pete and Danielle Forshtay, and a team of lay members, are leading this effort.
5. Please pray for our men's ministry that meets on Tuesday evenings.

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