

METROGRACE

Developing Urban Churches

February 2018

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

Supporting Partners encourage urban churches with prayer and financial provision. Our prayer team receives a monthly newsletter, views our website and follows social media to make requests of God. Do you know someone who would like to pray for MetroGrace? Please use the form below to send us their address; we'll add them to our mailing list. Supporting Partners advance the gospel through financial provision. We praise the Lord for individuals, churches and groups that invest in urban church planting! Would you invite others to join you in supporting MetroGrace?

Serving Partners provide hands-on help to meet specific needs. Many small groups, youth ministries and churches serve at MetroGrace. Their work encourages congregations and engages team members in frontline urban missions. Would your group like to serve? Contact Jim - jim@metrograce.org.

Stationed Partners move into the city, live on mission and participate in the life of a MetroGrace congregation. Are you looking for meaningful ministry? Do you want to make a significant difference in the lives of people? Could the Lord use you to transform lives? Live, learn and lead in Philadelphia! Call 215-533-3396.

Holmesburg

Recently, the City of Philadelphia sued several pharmaceutical companies.

"The opioid crisis is the largest public health crisis this city has seen in a century, and it has been fueled by drug companies. It's well past time for those companies to stop pushing these drugs and start helping us cope with the human tragedy they have caused." (Health Commissioner Dr. Thomas Farley)



We hear of many overdoses, proclaim the need for Narcan, debate the role of Methadone and shake our heads at wasted lives. But the epidemic becomes real when it is personalized.

Last September a young father attended a worship service for the first time. After the service, he spoke with one of our elders and prayed to trust Christ for salvation. After a few weeks, I was able to begin the "Growing in Christ" course and develop a relationship with him. Soon I discovered that he was struggling with a heroin addiction. He didn't fit the stereotype. He was raised in a strong, moral family. He is program director at an important social agency. He has a home, drives a newer car and cares for his daughter every other weekend. But he's wrestling with the strong psychological pull and physical addiction of heroin. Please pray for this young dad. Ask the Lord to deliver him fully.

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*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 \$ _____

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215-533-3396

www.metrograce.org

Dr. Jim Brown,

Executive Director



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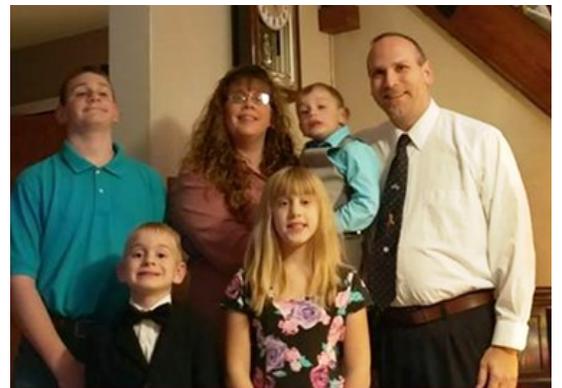
Last month Pastor Pete Forshtay and congregation observed The Greater Philadelphia Martin Luther King Day of Service, the largest King Day event in the nation. More than 150,000 volunteers served at over 1,800 projects throughout Philadelphia. Pastor Pete wrote, "I knew it would be difficult getting our folks to serve on Monday, a work-day for most,

and with temperatures in the single digits! Even with those hurdles, there were three older men and eight young students who decided to use their day off to work. We took to cleaning up our block on Comly Street—sweeping the street and sidewalk, picking up trash blown all over the place, and raking up garbage stuck under fences and in the grass. What made the work tough, and why it took the better part of two hours to accomplish, is that we recently had snow that buried the trash and froze it in places. It was hard work which required us to bust out the shovels to get the job done. In all we filled four large trash bags with garbage just on our street. Yes! You read that correctly! On one street we were able to fill four large trash bags with garbage. You see, some of the houses and properties remain vacant on our church's street and usually no one takes responsibility for keeping these properties cleaned and maintained. As we were cleaning, a few neighbors stuck their heads out their front doors to shout, "THANK YOU!" to the kids hard at work.

When finished, we went inside the church and warmed up with hot chocolate and rice crispy treats. I shared with them why we serve. We were not just following Dr. King's example of service. We were obeying Christ's command to serve; and, that if we want to be great we must learn to become servants. After watching a portion of Dr. King's speech, we prayed together and dismissed for the day. It was hard work, we didn't clean as much as I hoped we would, or as far as I would have liked to go. But, the Lord brought out quite a few children, unaccompanied by their parents, none of them being forced, coming of their own free will to serve on their day off. It truly blessed my heart to see the Lord work through them."

Rhawnhurst

Please continue to pray for our church planting intern Mike Connor and his family. Last month his wife Margarete fractured and dislocated her knee cap and tore the ligaments that hold it in place. She needed surgery and is recovering at home. Margarete has four young children, works as administrator for our ministries and serves in a variety of roles at Rhawnhurst. Please pray for complete healing and restoration. Mike continues to progress through his internship. He is participating in our Pastors Institute, developing his ability to communicate God's word and leading the church planting team.



Bridesburg – We continue to pray for a church planter or church planting intern to move into this neighborhood and develop a new congregation. Please pray with us! In the meantime, Pete and Danielle Forshtay are leading our outreach in Bridesburg. We continue to make contacts, communicate with neighbors and host a weekly gathering. Though response has been slow, we have seen the Lord working in several lives. Could the Lord use you to help develop a new urban congregation?

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