

METROGRACE

Developing Urban Churches

January 2019

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

MetroGrace churches welcomed neighbors to a variety of ministries in December. Three congregations gathered for a Christmas Banquet at the beginning of the month. It was a great time with food, fellowship and fun! Thrive student ministries had a great Christmas party. Kingdom Kids were able to share in worship on Sunday morning. And each of our congregations held a Candles and Carols service on Christmas Eve.



There's something energizing about a new year. A clean calendar brings a fresh outlook. Unknown possibilities revive hope. And, eager anticipation enlivens daily tasks. Previous challenges are placed in the past. Lingering effects are addressed with new vigor. And, eventually the fond memories of yesterday prevail.

Renewal need not be an annual occurrence; we can be reenergized daily!



Lamentations 3:22-23 (ESV)

(22) The steadfast love of the Lord

never ceases; his mercies never come to an end;

(23) they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

At MetroGrace, we're depending on the loyal love of the Lord to continue day after day. We're trusting in His ceaseless compassion. We are relying on fresh faithfulness! Throughout this year, we will recall God's love and compassion with hope!



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

Lamentations 3:25-26 (ESV)

(25) *The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him.*

(26) *It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.*



This year, our MetroGrace churches plan to focus on Unity, Peace, Strength and Growth. We find encouragement from Acts 9:31 (NASB): "So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria enjoyed peace, being built up; and going on in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it continued to increase."

The church that began in Acts 2 had experienced internal challenges and external persecution. By chapter 8 they had been scattered.

Unity

After recording Paul's conversion in the beginning of chapter 9, Luke writes about the church, singular, in Judea, Galilee and Samaria. Though separated by distance and culture there was a oneness among followers of Christ that transcended those differences. MetroGrace churches pursue unity in diversity embracing differences for the good of the gospel.

Peace

Freedom from persecution allowed the church to experience a period of irenic blessing. Soon they would advance the gospel among Gentiles everywhere. But, they needed time to rest in their peace with God (Romans 5:1), relate with Christ who is their peace (Ephesians 2:14) and rejoice in His victory that provides peace. (John 16:33) Our churches need to rest, relate and rejoice in peace.

Strength

During this period the church in Acts was being built-up. Like a Master Craftsman, the Lord promised to build His church. (Matthew 16:33) This edification comes through the word of His grace (Acts 20:22) and the encouragement of Christ's followers. (1Thessalonians 5:11) Please ask the Lord to build-up the church in Philadelphia this year.

Growth

A unified church that is rested and edified grows. The early church increased by advancing the gospel to the ends of the earth. They reached people of different races, ethnicities, languages, beliefs and socio-economic levels. (Romans 15:19) Reverent respect for the Lord and encouragement from the Holy Spirit empowered their ministry. Please pray that the churches at MetroGrace will multiply by reaching all kinds of people everywhere with the gospel.

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