

METROGRACE

Developing Urban Churches

October 2018

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

MetroGrace is developing gospel-centered, community-based congregations in Philadelphia neighborhoods. Thank you for supporting our urban ministry! Some families and churches plan their ministry budget in the fall. Would you prayerfully consider increasing your support for MetroGrace? We've served in the city for 28 years. Over that time, some churches have redirected their missions support. And, some supporters have moved on to heaven. Could the Lord use you to help sustain our work with a monthly gift?



Jim and Lisa Brown lead MetroGrace as well as the ministry team in Holmesburg. This small congregation has been the primary sending group for new church plants. That means those who remain behind are stretched thin. Please pray for replenishment for this church family. A church supper is planned for Columbus Day. Ask the Lord to use this time of fellowship to strengthen and encourage the church family. Pray that newer folks would be able to connect. A Fall Fest outreach event is planned for the end of the month. Pray for new community contacts.



Please continue to pray for Mike and Margarete Connor. Mike continues his pastoral training. Currently, he is working through a seminary level course on homiletics called Christ-Centered Preaching. Pray for wisdom and balance as Mike works full time, serves at Crossroads and studies. Pray, too, for Margarete as she helps administrate the ministry at MetroGrace.

Last month, Jim and Lisa Brown returned to Bridesburg to lead our ministry team there. The group transitioned to Sunday evening worship services. In the first two weeks, about thirty people have participated with ten neighbors walking to our facility. Please pray for a church planting intern who will move into the neighborhood and grow to lead the congregation. Pray for a committed team to develop the church family. Thank you for your generosity to help replace the HVAC in this building! We needed \$7500 to install a new rooftop unit. **The Lord has used you to provide all that was needed for that project!** Lord willing, we will have the unit installed before the heating season .



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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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www.metrograce.org
Dr. Jim Brown,
Executive Director**

Pete and Danielle Forshtay lead the MetroGrace ministry in Wissinoming.

They write:

In one month, we had 4 shootings in the Wissinoming neighborhood of Philadelphia; 2 resulted in the victims deaths. Three of those shootings, both of the murders, happened just two blocks from our home. We live four blocks from our church building, so all of this happened in close proximity to where we worship and serve the Lord with our small church family.

Within 24 hours of each shooting, our church set up a prayer tent in front of the homes where the shootings took place. It was important to set up as soon as possible, right on the site of the shooting. Our church wanted to be a visible demonstration of the light of Jesus Christ



overcoming the darkness. We wanted to show, despite the circumstances, we have nothing to fear from the cowards with guns.

Our blue tent had a banner with our church name and another inviting folks for prayer. By the second murder, we realized that it wasn't enough to set up for just an hour or two; so we set up from 9 am until 5 pm. We stayed out of sight of news cameras and we never approached anyone. But several people approached us to express sorrow, gratitude and a desire for prayer.

By midday, reporters were still broadcasting that they had no identity for the victim or motive for the shooting. But, those of us who were set up to pray learned quickly who she was, what she was doing and how she came to be shot. Sadly, this too was drug related. We may have learned more than the detectives in the few short hours we were there to serve our neighbors.

We're at a bit of a loss as to what we can do as a church when tragedies like this strike; we know Jesus Christ can make a difference, but we need help sharing and praying with others.

So last month, Danielle and I began holding a prayer meeting at our home on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays at 7:00 pm. If you're able to join us, we'd love to have you over. If not, would you consider setting aside time, at least twice a month, to pray for us and our ministry? Thank you.



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