

METROGRACE

Developing Urban Churches

October 2019

MetroGrace is developing gospel-centered, community-based churches with Crossroads Community Church of Philadelphia in the neighborhoods of Holmesburg and Wissinoming.

Wissinoming—Pastor Pete Forshtay

Crossroads Wissinoming was joined by three other neighborhood churches for a prayer walk called, "Bless Wissinoming." The idea developed as a result of a prayer meeting I had with the other church's pastors a few months earlier. Our desire was to show that our churches are united in the gospel. We wanted to pray together for the neighborhood with our people. Each congregation gathered five to ten of its people and met on Saturday, September 14th at 6:00pm to walk and pray through and for our neighborhood.



Danielle, Pearl and I had an opportunity to pray with a young man who used to attend our student ministry. Though he isn't in a good way, he was still happy to see us, meet our daughter and pray with us. We're happy to have a continued presence in his life and will continue reaching out to him.

After walking and praying in small groups, walking from church building to church building, we concluded the prayer walk at our building on Comly Street around 7:30 for a time of fellowship and worship. A few people had an opportunity to share how their prayer walks went and everyone was encouraged by the joint endeavor. Before we parted ways, the pastors spoke about when we could meet to plan the next joint-church service or outreach event.



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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**

Holmesburg—Pastor Jim Brown

Later this month, Women of Grace will be staying in Philly for a few days to serve the Lord through Crossroads. We're looking forward to their help as we have an overwhelming need for women's ministries in a variety of ways. Perhaps the most obvious, though far from the most common, is homeless women who have substance abuse problems that they support through prostitution. Some of these women have, through drug use, messed up their minds and have developed psychological problems as well. As is the case with most issues in our world, there isn't a quick fix, nor can one ministry meet the needs of even one problem, but the Women of Grace will be here to help us, pray with us and assist in the assembly and distribution of Blessing Bags for these women who live on our streets. Pray this all goes well and that the recipients of these bags are truly blessed, feel loved and decide to make a change in some way. With any one of them, it's a long road ahead, but receiving deodorant, chewing gum and a gospel tract among other things may be the very thing they need to change their minds and surrender their lives to Christ. Pray also for the Women of Grace. We already know they're compassionate and committed where they are, but our prayer is that they'd share in our vision for the city, for urban ministry, and become cheerleaders for our ministry, praying for us and encouraging others to support us and join us. We need help!

Bridesburg

About four years ago, MetroGrace began working with Crossroads Community Church of Philadelphia to develop a new congregation in Bridesburg. A team of about twenty people began praying and planning to reach that community. Initially about thirty-five people gathered for worship each week. Since that time, two elders retired and moved away, the team has dispersed and we've been unable to discover a church planter. Remaining staff and volunteers have been stretched thin. And, financial resources have been drained. So last month, the elders at Crossroads decided that it was time to conclude our ministry in Bridesburg. Certainly, this was not the outcome we envisioned. But, it was no surprise to the Lord. Please pray for the transition. Ask the Lord to strengthen our remaining congregations. And, pray for new church planters with a vision for the city.

Thanks for all you do to prayerfully support our urban ministry!

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

BLESSING BAG

CHECK LIST

We are using this list in order to assemble and create bags easily and consistently. However, you do not have to limit your bags to these items or include each one listed.

Necessities:

- Gallon Sized Ziplock Bags
- Hand Sanitizers
- Baby Wipes
- Band-Aids

Toiletries:

- Tooth Brush & Toothpaste
- Deodorant
- Pads, Liners & Tampons
- Chapstick
- Comb
- Soap or Body Wash
- Face Wash
- Lotion
- Tissues

Blessing Items:

- Life's Most Important Question Booklet
- Card of Encouragement
- Church Invite or Contact Card
- Bus Tokens
- List of Local Resources

Personal Items:

- Socks (new unused)
- Gloves (new unused)
- Scarf, Hat or Ear Muffs

Non-Perishable Foods:

- Granola Bars
- Trail Mix
- Energy Bars
- Hard Candy
- Gum
- Beef Jerky Sticks

Praying for your Bag

Pray that God uses these bags to provide items for people in need. That these practical blessings will open hearts and eyes to the Gospel.

Consider handing them to someone personally and praying with that person in that moment.

Always consider your safety and make wise choices when distributing bags.

