



JESUS IN THE CITY FELLOWSHIP

information and news update

Our Fifteenth year of Ministry in South Minneapolis

Fulfilling the great commission through outreach and spiritual restoration one soul at a time.

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Mentoring and Discipleship

In these wonderful United States, we live in a culture where we want everything now and expect instantaneous results. I am a avid World War II history buff and as I reflect upon that war, I see how much our country has changed. It was a depressing and devastating time in history when our country made the decision to join the allied forces to fight the evils of fascism. It was also a terribly frightening time to be alive because there were no guarantees as to what the outcome of the war would be. When the men and women went off to war, it was not unusual not to hear from them for months at a time. Today, we have email, video cameras on our computers and cell phones, text messaging, and instant messaging; communication is instantaneous, and yet our problems that we face are enormous. As I write this, I am listening to the news discuss the oil leak that is in its fiftieth day. Mankind cannot solve its problems in its own power. We need to look to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and trust in him, for he is the answer to every need and problem. The Bible says in the book of James, "If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives it generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him." Today, more than ever, we need the Lord's wisdom as we watch the events of the world unfold.

The Fruit of the Word of God:

One of the positive areas of improvement that we can take note of is in our discipleship ministry. I have often written that it takes years to see change in a man who is coming out of years of drug and alcohol abuse. Today I am pleased to report to you that three men--Ian, Jim, and Tim--who have been part of our ministry's discipleship and drug rehabilitation program for less than a year (they are also graduates of the New Hope Center), are well along in their recovery.

Jim Dokken was using alcohol as an escape in his life for over twenty-nine years when he came to our ministry and began our program last fall. He has now been sober for nine months and is going through training to become a bank teller. He is now a devoted follower of Jesus! Jim started drinking when he was fifteen years old, and now he is a new creation in Christ, and in all areas of his life (see his picture insert).

Tim Bykowski came to us about six months ago at the age of nineteen. Tim became an addict in his mid teens, and is now walking with Jesus! You can read his mother's story of pain and joy on page three of this newsletter.

Ian, who came to us last fall, is from the Twin cities and is thirty years old. Ian was injecting methamphetamine into his body before we met him. He is now walking with Jesus!

These changed lives are the result of your partnership with us. Your financial support has helped us to reach men and women that otherwise may not have had a chance for this kind of life change. Thanks so much and God bless you!

Moving into 2010

I would like to thank you for your past support of Jesus in the City Fellowship and hope that you can continue. Ninety percent of our budget comes from individual like you. Your donations are helping to bring real change into people's lives that previously have not experienced real hope and love, and now through the power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ are experiencing real change. We pray for you and thank you in advance for your continued support of this life changing ministry.

God bless you this coming summer of 2010,
In Christ, Rev. Michael A. Pilla



Dr. Mark Harden speaking at Bethel Seminary where Kelly Dokken, (Board Chair for Jesus in the city Fellowship) received an award from Bethel for his work in South Minneapolis.



Jim Dokken, brother to Kelly Dokken shown here serving breakfast to folks at The New Hope Center Graduation. Jim has been at JICF for 9 months now. The Lord has restored Jim from years of alcohol abuse. Praise God!



Pat McCleary and Kelly Dokken when we sent Pat up to Duluth. Pat was in our ministry recovery for about one year. During this time, the Lord restored Pat from addictions.



Pat's last day with JICF.



At JICF we have a very diverse ministry team! Here is Pastor Michael Pilla with Van Dickerson, who last March graduated from the MN Teen Challenge School of Ministry, with a degree in theology and Evangelism. Van now speaks and ministers for JICF. He is an ex addict that God turned into a preacher now sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ. Praise God!



Dan has made two appearances at JICF. Here he is being introduced by brother, Pastor Michael Pilla. Dan taught about breaking the cycles of poverty and debt that morning.



Dan Pilla speaking at JICF on a Sunday morning. He is teaching about the Biblical Principles of money.



Shar Burgess who is recently graduated from Bethel Seminary, with her group Beyond The Walls ministering at JICF. They do a significant amount of prison ministry as well.

This is reprinted with permission from Tim Bykowski's mother who wrote me several weeks ago, thanking us for helping Tim grow closer to the Lord.

Hi! May, 24th 2010

You don't know me - but my son Timothy Bykowski has been attending your church for the past few months as part of his recovery treatment at New Hope Center. I sent him a text message this morning and he was having coffee with your mentoring pastor, Mike Lillie. I just wanted to let you know that I am so thankful for your ministry in Minneapolis! I am so thankful - because you and your team are willing to reach out to hurting, broken people; to bring God's grace and peace and love. This amazing gift can never be repaid. It is - like the credit card commercials - totally priceless. You won't know how much your ministry has helped my family - because we live in Wisconsin. But through you - my son has grown and God is working on his heart. God is transforming him into the person He wants him to be - and God used you and your team to help.

Because of people like you, because of your prayers, because of how God has used you - I don't go to bed at night worried about my son's safety. In fact - the opposite is true! I go to bed thankful that God allowed him to reach this point in his life - at such an early age! I am thankful that he was able to hear people like you - teach truth and be open vessels to God's love. I go to bed amazed at what God does through broken, messed up people. I am humbled by His amazing hand of protection, His incredible grace that gets all of us through to the next day.

And I just wanted to say thank you - and to let you know that now I will be praying for your church and for your ministry too - that you can reach many more lost, confused and broken souls.

Thank you so much!

Sincerely,

Chris Bykowski



This is Timothy Bykowski at graduation from New Hope Center sharing his story. He was at JICF for about six months.



Tim and his parents at the New Hope breakfast celebration.



*Timothy being prayed for at JICF
He has now moved back to Wisconsin.*



There are many ministries that JICF is involved with. About 15 years ago Dan Pilla developed TrueSports Baseball Ministries with Pastor Larry Forsberg. About 5 years ago it was launched under the leadership of Pastor Walt McFadden of Central Community Church In South Minneapolis. Now with 10 teams participating in a inner city baseball league/ministry, where Christian principles are taught with coaching and teaching baseball. Baseball has always been a big part of the Pilla family. Shown here are pictures of Pastor Michael Pilla with his son Gabriel (age 11), putting on a pitching / catching clinic at the spring launch of True Sports Baseball in South Minneapolis with Pastor Walt McFadden's coaching and ministry team. Gabe Pilla demonstrating the proper mechanics of pitching as he throws a fastball to his father. Gabe teaching the proper hand and eye motion to a future major leaguer.



DONATE ONLINE You can donate on line to Jesus In The City at our web site, www.jesusinthecityfellowship.org. Thanks so much again for all your support.

Would you like your newsletter emailed to you? Contact me at: Michaelangelo@pclink.com

LOCATION We are now holding services at Trinity Lutheran Church on 11th Ave So. and 19th Street in South Minneapolis at 11am. Go to our website for directions.

Jesus In The City Ministries
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Thank you so much for your support! Pastor Michael Pilla <><