



JESUS IN THE CITY FELLOWSHIP

information and news update

Our 20th year of Ministry in South Minneapolis • *Who Is Your Neighbor Minnesota?*

Isaiah 58:10-12 "Feed the hungry and help those in trouble. Then your light will shine out from the darkness, and the darkness around you will be as bright as day. The LORD will guide you continually, watering your life when you are dry and keeping you healthy, too. You will be like a well-watered garden, like an ever-flowing spring. Your children will rebuild the deserted ruins of your cities. Then you will be known as the people who rebuild their walls and cities." (NLT).

This past Sunday February 1, Jesus in the City held a special service with Victory Christian Center on 35th and East Lake St. in South Minneapolis. As many of you know, for the past 3 years we have been trying to purchase the Oliver Ministry Center Building, which did not come to pass. Last year with our board approval and our many loyal partners we started searching for a new venue to house the many JICF ministry functions we hold to minister to those individuals who are looking for real change in their lives. JICF through the power of Jesus Christ provides that opportunity for transformed lives. Over the years we have seen many hundreds of men and women experience this.

In this new season we are praying and looking for that venue where we can multiply our efforts and be able to touch many more families.

In stating this I want to add that JICF has an amazing ministry team. We are surrounded (rather, I am surrounded) by some very gifted ministers, evangelists, musicians and vocalists who are extremely creative in their gifting's of their ministry.

In our journey to broaden and deepen our ministry we are going to be working more with Pastor Retha Dowells whom we have worked with in the past in our Christmas In The City outreaches. Below is a bit of a synopsis of what Pastor Retha does for woman coming out of poverty.

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Two Pastors in the City
twopastorsinthecity.com



Broken Women Find Hope

Women of Authority, established September of 2004, reaches out to many women who have lost control of their own destiny and forfeited any expectation for a trusting relationship. Retha Dowells, better known as Sister Retha, and executive director of Women of Authority, has provided more than 260 women with an oasis of encouragement and an affirmation of dignity through weekly meals and life-skills training one evening per week since September 14, 2004.

Domestic abuse, addiction and prostitution force some women to hope to be incarcerated as a respite from the suffering and harsh circumstances of their lives. Most of them have been sold the lie that they are worthless, that their circumstances are hopeless and that they are no better than their dismal environment and present situations. Most of these women have been misled and lied to all their lives

by men, by family, and by folks trying to make a buck off of them. They have to learn that the truth is that they do have great value in the eyes of Christ.

Following is an account of one of many situations Women of Authority encounters and targets in its outreach:

Continued on page 2

On a drizzly autumn night, Gloria stumbles into Women Empowerment, her eyes fearful and puffy, and her face bruised. "Can you help me?" she asks nervously, seeming half-dazed. "Do you have a shelter?" Her timing could not have been better. Our Women Empowerment program is meeting this very evening and I invited her to join us. "But I'll get in trouble with my boyfriend" she said. He was standing off in the distance. She retorts, "I have to go. Could you drop a flyer about it next to the door? I'll come back and get it."

Gloria, like most of the women we reach out to feels trapped, not just physically but also emotionally; caught between the familiarity of an abusive relationship and the desire to be free of it. Bringing fiery admonitions in weekly motivational talks, Sister Retha draws from her own life story illustrations of brokenness, apprehension and determination. "I was a thief, drug dealer, convicted felon, and became a drug addict, who knew (all too well) the hard life of the streets. I lived life in the shadows, angry, defensive and bitter," she recounts. "But I learned that my way was not the right way, so I was determined to find a better way. I yearned for healing, peace, love, and freedom, so I sought and found Jesus"

At Women of Authority, we come together to influence, motivate and encourage one another. We're a family, and as sisters, we share a common goal; we all want to live, love and be happy. Rejecting high-minded program methods, Sister Retha takes each woman where she is at in life. Like a life mentor, she is there when a need arises, any time of day or night. She provides one-to-one counseling, sponsors women out of addiction, advocates for their children, and connects women to educational or business opportunities. You will be hearing more about Pastor Retha and her ministry in our JICF updates.

Thank you for your support

Jesus In The City is a missionary church, meaning we raise support on the outside to fund our mission in the city. We rely on your support and we thank you for that in advance. Because of your faithful financial support we are able to touch and bring many people into God's kingdom so that they may experience the healing power of Jesus Christ.

I remain your servant in Christ, Rev Michael Angelo Pilla



Dan Pilla shown here preaching out of Genesis chapter 1 on Gods view of marriage and the sanctity of Life Sunday.



Pastor Michael shown here with his mother Carla Pilla and Dan Pilla at the Christmas Service 2014



Packing food for the Christmas In The City Delivery 2014



Pastor Chuck Fenrick and Pastor Michael Pilla ministering at Victory Christian Church on Lake Street.



Sunday Christmas worship at JICF.



Mike Mudgett down from Alaska with Dan and Jean Pilla.



Pastor Michael Pilla shown here with his son Gabriel Pilla and Peter Sterling, (new JICF board member and karate instructor).



Pastor Michael Pilla preaching at a special service held on East Lake Street, (Victory Christian Center) on Feb 1.



Janet Carlson vocalist on the JICF worship team packing food at Bachmans Floral for the Christmas In The City Delivery.



Long time friend of JICF Mike Mudgett visiting from Sitka Alaska this past Christmas.



Pastor Norton Lawellin leading worship at Victory Christian Center as we combined services with JICF.



Carol and Jean Blair with Mike Mudgett. Carol has been faithfully leading bible studies at JICF for over 10 years.



Pastor Retha Dowells shown here with a family she ministers to. This was one of our Christmas Families.

JESUS IN THE CITY RELIES ON YOUR SUPPORT!

www.jesusinthecityfellowship.org

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 Oliver Ministry Center at
2647 Bloomington Ave. So., Mpls., MN 55407.
Come and join us for great music in South Minneapolis at 10:00 am.
Go to our website for directions.

Thank you so much for your support! Pastor Michael Pilla <><

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