



JESUS IN THE CITY FELLOWSHIP

Information and News Update

Beginning our 21st year of Ministry in South Minneapolis

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IN THE CITY

HANDS ACROSS
THE CITY

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Isaiah 58:6-7; *"Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter—when you see the naked, to clothe him, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?" Verse 12... **You will be called Restorer of Streets with Dwellings.***

We live in very interesting times right now. In fact, one might say it feels chaotic and divisive. And you might be thinking, "That is putting it mildly!" We see our country divided and we see the body of Christ divided. I am sure that many of you are well-read in the Bible, you know this division and disunity is not God's heart for the Church. And that actually Jesus' last prayer in The Garden of Gethsemane was a prayer for unity in the future Church.

Being in unity does not mean we agree on all the minor and intricate points, or that everything is perfect all the time. After all, we are mere humans. It means we care, and we listen to one another, and we work together to solve problems as we pray and seek the Lord for answers and for His perfect will in this world, which can be a very dark place.

I personally subscribe to the theology that God is in the details when we invite Him in. As Paul writes in Acts, *"in Him we live and move and have our being."*

From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us. "For in him we live and move and have our being." As some of your own poets have said, "We are his offspring."

Acts 17:26-28, NIV.

So moving forward, we have the government that God has ordained. We have serious problems in the cities of our country. God has called Jesus in the City to be part of the solution. We are called to address these problems directly and work daily to bring real change and hope. God has assembled an amazing ministry team. Our team is able to walk side-by-side with men and women who are coming out of hell. Through our love and guidance, we show them how to walk away from darkness and become the hands and feet of Christ.

(continued on page 2)

Where are you in this discussion and in this process? We have many service opportunities here at JICF whereby you can directly and indirectly engage in this ministry. We need your help and support. On the next page, please read one man's inspiring story of hopelessness and redemption and of how Christ restored his life, and how he is now plugged into JICF.

Please prayerfully consider financially supporting JICF this year. As we grow in ministerial opportunities, our budget needs have increased as well. We need your support to continue this work.

Thank you so much for your financial and spiritual support.

**I remain sincerely yours in Christ,
Pastor Michael Angelo Pilla**



Pastor Retha ministering to the women of JICF.



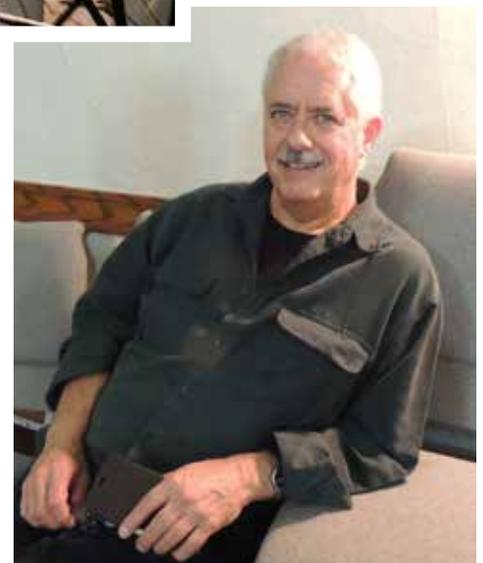
The Brewer Family,
how cute!



The people of Hope
Worship team at
JICF on our family
outreach Sunday.



Tony from Fishing For Life, with Adrian, Pastor Retha and Laura shown here loading up groceries for Christmas.



Pastor Norton Lawellin getting ready to minister at the Memorial Service for Gene Blair.

TESTIMONIAL of ADRIAN CRADDOCK



Adrian Craddock shown here singing with JICF worship team.

My name is Adrian. When I was six months old, I was adopted. The people who adopted me named me “Adrian” after a character in the book Rosemary’s Baby. Because I cried on the way home from the adoption agency, they said I was “the devil’s child.” I was treated (and treated myself) as such for the next forty-four years. I have never met my biological parents.

Growing up, I was subjected to extreme physical, emotional, and mental abuse, until leaving home at age seventeen. I was seven when I drank alcohol for the first time. I drank covertly throughout childhood and without restraint for the next three and a half decades. I also became addicted to narcotics, marijuana, crack, and virtually any substance I could get my hands on to assuage feelings of insecurity, shame, displacement, and fear. I was also addicted to violence and deviant sex.

I supported my addictions with criminal activity. I’ve been arrested over one hundred times. Over the years, I’ve spent several months in and out of various Minnesota county jails. I was incarcerated in state correctional facilities for a total of nearly twelve years for various felonies I committed. I received mental health diagnoses of bipolar disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder, and borderline personality disorder. I have taken a variety of prescribed psychotropic medications to alleviate the symptoms thereof. I have been admitted to fifteen secular or faith-based treatment centers. Nothing worked.

In February 2000, a jailhouse minister led me in the Sinner’s Prayer. Although I would continue to flounder in the world with chemical dependency issues and criminality for the next fifteen years, Jesus heard my plea. He allowed my afflictions to bring me to a place of surrender and repentance, and I finally came to the end of my line. On May 28, 2016, I admitted myself to the New Hope Center treatment facility. Residents at New Hope Center are required to choose a “home church” as part of the treatment program. Thanks to the warm, sincere, and compassionate attitudes of the people at Jesus in the City, I was led to plant my roots in their church. What a blessing! I haven’t looked back since.

Jesus in the City has rallied around me and my fiancée of three years, Wendy Ingram. Wendy is battling a serious health condition, and is in her own spiritual fight to come out of the darkness into the light—that is, the love, grace, and mercy of Jesus Christ, her Lord and Savior. I have dedicated myself to the service of JICF to the utmost of my ability, recognizing not only the necessity to give back where I have received, but also for the imperative of staying accountable and involved for the sake of my sobriety, my confidence in God, and for my continued strengthening and equipping regarding the good work God has prepared for me to do.

I arrive early each Sunday to help with setting up for service. I lend a vocal on the Praise and Worship Team. And, I avail myself in the capacity of a dependable servant for virtually every endeavor of the ministry. I do these things unto the Lord, with unspeakable joy and immeasurable gratitude. JICF reciprocates by allowing me to mature in Christ without pressure or unrealistic expectations. I am encouraged weekly. I’ve witnessed many manifestations of answered prayer. I am thoroughly being taught sound doctrinal wisdom required for the cultivation of the spiritual gifts and talents God has given me for the edification of the Church.

Peace in Christ,
Adrian Craddock

Thank You for Helping to Make Adrian’s Inspiring Story Possible! Without you, we cannot continue this work. Adrian and others like him are grateful for your faithful support of Jesus in the City. Please make a decision today to support JICF with your most generous contribution.

We also deeply appreciate your support of Christmas in the City this past December. JICF ministered to 25 families and over 140 people this past December alone. These folks were all touched by the love of God through your generosity. We are now following up with each and every family as we continue to reach out to them with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.



Teddy Bagley and her staff getting ready to deliver gifts for Christmas In The City 2016.

Lonnie, and Pastor Van with Pastor Dale and Roberta loading gifts for Christmas In The City.



Pastor Michael Pilla loading gifts out of Bachman's Floral for Christmas In The City 2016.



The Helb Family getting gifts delivered.

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

God Bless you!

Pastor Michael Pilla <><

LOCATION

3249 - 30th Ave. So., Minneapolis, MN 55407

Come and join us for great worship and preaching at 10:30 am.

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