



# JESUS IN THE CITY FELLOWSHIP

Information and News Update

Our 21<sup>st</sup> year of Ministry in South Minneapolis

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CHRISTMAS  
IN THE CITY

HANDS ACROSS  
THE CITY

FISHING FOR LIFE

INTERNATIONAL  
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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."***

## “The Least, the Last and the Lost”

Pastor Retha has a term that she uses quite often in her extensive vocabulary in how she describes her ministry. She is a wordsmith. She refers to her outreaches in North and South Minneapolis as being a work directed to “the Least, Last and Lost.” To summarize the mission of Jesus in the City one could say the same thing. This is the call of JICF ministry right out of Isaiah 58: “To loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke.”

This is exactly what the prophet Isaiah was talking about when he prophetically asked that question. We are called as a church to reach the Least, the Last and the Lost. Jesus says that same thing to the church in Matthew 25:35-40:

*For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me. Then the righteous will answer him, Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you? The King will reply, I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.*

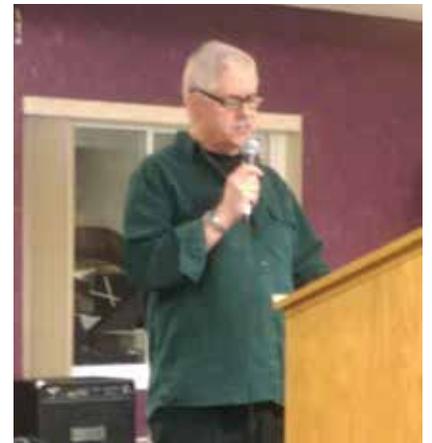
It has been my desire for years to start a school that would develop into a Bible college ministry theology school that would train up the next generation of Christian leaders. I am very pleased to say that we took our first step toward this goal by launching a new Monday night class called The Nehemiah Leadership Class. Please stay tuned as we launch more classes that are devoted to the study of God's Word, together with theology and ministry.

**Thank you for helping us to reach the least, the last and the lost. We appreciate your partnership and support. I want to wish you a blessed Easter, I remain sincerely yours in Christ.**

**Pastor Michael Pilla**



The first Monday night class for the Urban Ministry Theology Institute, (U M T I). Nehemiah Leadership Class was the first course.



Pastor Norton Lawellin sharing God's word at a New Hope Center Friday night chapel.



Pastor Retha Dowells and Kristen Hirt on the radio with Paul Ridgeway discussing women's issues in ministry at JICF.



John Walker and our faithful drummer Ralph Cork. Ralph is a miracle of God's Grace and has been the lead drummer for JICF for 18 years.

## THE TESTIMONIAL of JOHN WALKER



John Walker has been attending JICF for about 6 months. John grew up in the Bronx borough of NYC, NY and was recruited and joined a gang when he was 7 years old (see his testimony).

John Walker was born in the Bronx of New York City 55 years ago. By age 7 John was recruited into the local gangs and within just a few short years he was fully engulfed in the gang life of New York.

John has seen it all in his life, from drug addiction to serving time in prison. God planted John into the ministry of JICF and New Hope Center about seven months ago.

John is now dug into the ministry of JICF as he is working out his salvation (as it says in Philippians 2:12). John is allowing God to rebuild his heart and his new life in Christ. He has devoted his heart to following Jesus Christ and learning what it means to walk with him. He is been taking the Nehemiah Leadership Class Monday nights at JICF's new Bible School / Urban Ministry Theology Institute.

John is learning how to walk with Christ and how to become prepared for Christian ministry. John believes the Lord is calling him to urban ministry as he is being restored and healed from his past life style.



***Thank You for Helping to Make John's Inspiring Story Possible!  
Without you, we cannot continue this work.  
John and others like him are grateful for your faithful support  
of Jesus in the City. We ask that you please pray about  
deciding today to support JICF with a financial contribution.***

***Thank you so much for your financial and spiritual support.***

*Sincerely yours in Christ,  
Pastor Michael Angelo Pilla*

***[www.jesusinthecityfellowship.org](http://www.jesusinthecityfellowship.org)***

***You can visit our website for more information under the "Events" page.***



Ralph Cork drumming for a chapel at New Hope Center.



Rick Anderson is our lead guitar player on the JICF worship team, he has been with us for 4 years now. Rick has a servant's heart as he is always looking for ways to help at JICF.



Pastor Norton coordinating a worship team rehearsal before a JICF Sunday morning service.



[www.jesusinthecityfellowship.org](http://www.jesusinthecityfellowship.org)

**DONATE ONLINE** You can donate on line to Jesus In The City at our web site, [www.jesusinthecityfellowship.org](http://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](mailto: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.

**Jesus In The City Ministries**

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