

What our Pillar Leaders do for a good time on the town

As a kickoff for our September Pillar Leaders meeting, BASICS leadership team served together with Just One More Ministry. Just One More's purpose is to provide food to the hungry and a faith based recovery program those suffering with addictions.

In just 2 hours we put together meals to feed 620 people which are then distributed where they are needed most through churches, ministries and other organizations. Sign up for Volunteer opportunities with Just One More at www.jomministry.org.

"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, ³⁶ 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... whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." Matthew 25:35-36, 40



Serving at Just One More

Physical Life Saved by Church Partnership!

One of BASICS' callings is to help unite the church in Milwaukee, by bringing urban and suburban believers together to meet needs and serve the city. As we've pursued this calling, we've established partnerships with many churches around the area.

New Testament Central City Church on 24th and Center is one of BASICS' partners. They run an adopt-a-block program in their neighborhood where they do outreaches every month, which consist of clean-up and beautification and knocking on doors to pray with residents. These monthly outreaches culminate in a block party in the summer.

BASICS has helped to foster a partnership between Southbrook Church and New Testament Central City. Southbrook typically helps with the block party, so there were volunteers from Southbrook there as well as the New Testament Central City members.

Drs. Tim and Nikki Allen were there from Southbrook along with their children with the plan being to have an "Ask the Doc" booth at the block party. Dee Mingo (a member of New Testament Central City) went to invite a resident to the Block party. In the house was "Mama," an elderly woman (name changed for privacy). Her leg was elevated and wrapped in bandages. Mama asked Dee to pray, saying that she had been at the wound doctor the day before and had been instructed to go back there in a week to get it checked again. Dee prayed for her, but felt that something wasn't right. God prompted her to send for Dr. Nikki. When Dr. Nikki arrived, she found Mama had a concerning low temperature, then she unwrapped the bandages to see that

gangrene was setting in. Dr. Nikki told Mama's daughter how serious it was and that if it was her mother she would be taking her to the ER immediately.



Dr Nikki Allen

Mama's providers were at St. Luke's, which just happens to be one of the hospitals Dr. Nikki was affiliated with! So Dr. Nikki put Mama in her van, drove her and Mama's daughter to the hospital, and was able to ensure that she was seen immediately. In the ER Mama was nervous, so Dr. Nikki sang hymns with her, swapped stories about favorite sermons, and reassured her that even the Bible supports the idea that "if your eye is causing you to sin, you should remove it," so if her leg was causing her harm it needed to be removed. After finding she had a serious infection, admitting her and evaluating options the doctors ended up removing her leg.

If Mama had followed the instructions and waited a week to go back to the doctor, she likely would've lost her life. Since then New Testament Central City has continued to minister the love of Jesus to Mama and her family, and Dr. Nikki and Mama's family pray for each other and keep in touch.

BASICS' heart is to facilitate connections within the Church in the Milwaukee area. This is a powerful and amazing testimony that shows how God can work within partnerships, bringing together many parts of the Body of Christ in Milwaukee to work together to save a life!

"From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work." Ephesians 4:16 ■

Of Soul Importance by John Stephan

The soul is the most important thing to God the Father! He has such a love for each one of us. This is why He sent His “only” begotten Son. Jesus was the ultimate sacrifice so we could be redeemed into the family of God.

Remember Jesus came to seek and save the lost. Jesus had the best divine appointments and outreaches. He shared the Good News with individuals of all types as well as with thousands of people at a time. You can see examples of this in John 3-4 when he first went after a well to do Jewish man named Nicodemus and then a down and out Samaritan woman. **His outreach was never based on race or social class.**

It was the same when he spoke to the large gatherings. The feeding of the 5,000 took place near Bethsaida, close to the Sea of Galilee. In contrast, the feeding of the 4,000 took place in the region of the Gerasenes, in the region around the Decapolis. The Bethsaida region was primarily Jewish and the Gerasenes region was primarily Gentile. This shows how important it was to Jesus to go to these different regions for **all** the people. Paul also taught this in **Romans 10:12-13** *“For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”*

These miracles show the provision of the Lord and His love for all His people in all different regions. When you are witnessing, do you have that same desire for all people? Do you include your boss or coworkers? Do our outreaches cover different areas? When we are going to serve at an outreach has it ever been in the suburban mission field besides the urban mission field? I ask these questions because as a minister myself, I am continuing to learn every day.

The most important thing He has put on my heart is “the lost” – and the lost can be found everywhere. We must realize that many

are condemned already. **John 3:18** *“...whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.”*

We have the greatest calling ever: to be a witness unto Him the Great I AM! We must then understand Acts 1:8 as part of the Great Commission as well, *“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”* The Great Commission is enabled by the power of the Holy Spirit. We are to be Christ's witnesses, fulfilling the Great Commission in our cities (Jerusalem), in our states and countries (Judea and Samaria), and anywhere else God sends us (to the ends of the earth). Or is the Great Commission enabled by us? Definitely Not! It's all Him! So let us step aside and let God...

If you want to partake in winning souls, contact His Banquet Ministries at 414-587-6914. ■



John Stephan in action

Ministry of Presence by George Papachristou



George Papachristou

I have the honor of serving as Chaplain for the Wisconsin State Patrol and the City of Milwaukee Police Department. My primary function is to be a support resource for the men and women who serve these agencies.

The function of a chaplain can be best described as a “Ministry of Presence”. That means being a face that the officers are familiar with and know. The only way that can be accomplished is to be with them as much as possible.

I do this by attending roll calls, riding along in the squad with the officers as they perform their duties and responding to critical incidents at all hours that they may be involved in. This creates an atmosphere of trust with the officers and opens the door for any questions they may have with respect to their faith. These questions can arise in the still hours of the night while riding in the squad car or when meeting for a cup of coffee in their free time.

A chaplain does not try to convert or “save” an officer but offers support of a faith based nature when asked, and then allows the work of the Holy Spirit to take over. I serve as one piece of the overall support offered to officers in conjunction with mental health and peer support.

This past summer with the support of BASICS, I was able to hold a cook-out for each of the Milwaukee Police Districts covering all their shifts. This was a great time of fellowship with the officers and allowed them the opportunity for a break in the course of their shift and to be offered a word of support and appreciation. Building these relationships has opened the door to allowing me the privilege of officiating over two marriages and two funerals for officers this past year. We look forward to Bible study groups forming for the upcoming year.

Please pray for the Holy Spirit to guide my conversations with officers, to grant me discernment as to what needs to be said, and when to remain still. Also pray for protection for all officers as they perform their duties and for me as I ride alongside them.

“Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.” 1 Thessalonians 5:11 ■

New and Old Connections Help Bless South Division

BASICS seeks to function as a connector between organizations to help move resources to where they are needed. In a recent example of this, God's hand was evident in how He brought together new and old partnerships to help meet an urgent need.

Recently Mark Mallwitz ran into Pastor Scott Ehle, of New Berlin Free Methodist Church, a long-time partner of BASICS, and he asked what his church could do to help BASICS right now. Mark mentioned that we were in great need for winter coats of all sizes, and Pastor Scott said "Let me see what we can do." Pastor Scott later contacted us to let us know that they had a large amount of winter coats, as well as hats, gloves, scarves and winter boots!

Mike Hayden picked up the coats and delivered them to Mama Mac's clothes closet at South Division High School, where the week before, as BASICS was serving there was an announcement over the intercom that there was a critical need for hats, gloves, scarves and winter coats!

Then, Pastor Scott called Mark back to let us know what a joy it was to do this with BASICS and to see if we wanted a potentially much larger amount of winter items from an organization in Janesville called GIFTS Men Shelter (God Is Faithful Temporary Shelter www.gifts-shelter.org)

Mark called and talked to Penny Monte, the Outreach/Development Assistant for GIFTS. He told her about BASICS and what a blessing it was to receive the coats from GIFTS. Penny was very gracious and asked if we would want more because they have more than enough. They receive items daily and don't have a place to go with them!

We were very encouraged to see how God was able to work through established partnerships and new connections to meet the need at South Division. Mama Mac was similarly touched by the timely provision of the needed items. "I Just wanted to...tell you how kind of all of you to donate to me, and my students and their families. God is always working, I'm so thankful for Him. God bless you all,"

"My soul will boast in the LORD. The humble will hear it and rejoice." Psalm 34:2 ■



Mike & Susie Hayden
with Mama Mac (center)

Sharing the Gospel from Milwaukee to Texas

by Jan Remmen



Jan and daughter Sara

In this season, I am thankful for God's present of His one and only Son, Jesus, who paid for my sins and all those who believe and surrender their lives. And I am thankful for His presence, He will never leave us or forsake us.

I have seen God's presence and His work as I do street evangelism and minister in nursing homes but also in a recent special mission trip. My daughter Sara and I were blessed to

go to Pearland, TX with Samaritan's Purse to minister to flood victims. We spent time working on a house that had been flooded. James, the owner of the house we worked on, had to flee with his wife after they woke up to water up to his mattress.

My team hauled out a lot of moldy drywall and insulation. By the time I left, it was down to the frame of the home, that needed to be raised. Everyone on our team signed a Bible with a short message for James and his wife. I enjoyed praying with James and Jean (another team member), and James invited me to come back to visit them!

While I was gone, my youngest daughter Melissa was in a bad car accident. Melissa had a broken wrist, right arm and fractured rib, but it could've been a lot worse. I am so thankful that the God of angel armies protected her and my grandson Donovan.

God has been teaching me through the "Satisfied" Bible Study that only He can fully satisfy. He is our ALL and ALL our real joy giver. As I share the gospel whether in Texas, on the streets of Milwaukee, or in the nursing homes, the message is Christ Alone. He is Lord, Lord of all, and He alone can satisfy each person I encounter. My desire is that this truth would ring in the hearts and minds of all, that they would repent and believe, follow God and spend eternity in heaven.

"Give praise to the LORD, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done." Psalm 105:1 ■



New Chapter in Ministry by Mark Mallwitz



Antione and Mark

For the past four months, a faithful ministry leader and I have been connecting every Monday morning, sharing Scripture, prayer, our lives, and whatever is on our hearts. The Lord has used this time to help us grow in our commitment to Him, taught us how to be more transparent and accountable, and to encourage us as we both go forward in our walk with Jesus Christ!

This type of ministry is what God is leading me toward for 2018 and I am excited to share it with you!

“**Servant to The Leader**” is the name of the new ministry I am privileged to serve Him with BASICS. This ministry is teaching me to **listen, learn and love** faithful and devoted leaders of Christ Jesus! The Lord has brought almost 50 pastors and ministry leaders to meet one on one with since I started this chapter in ministry in July. Some of these meetings were

just one time. Others have been ongoing. All of these connections have been a blessing!

Here are a few testimonies of what God is doing through this ministry:

“God is being honored as Mark joyfully opens his servant heart to listen to those he serves and as he gives thanks for this new direction of his life. And perhaps most importantly he gently reminds those he serves that the work of ministry is prayer. How God is honored when we enter into His will and obediently follow His call!”

“These meetings have been a tremendous help in allowing me to be vulnerable, learning trust and seeing the benefits of focused one on one time of prayer and encouragement.”

“As I was starting a college ministry, God brought hope and encouragement through Mark. These meetings always help remind me to keep my eyes upon Jesus and to further God’s Kingdom.”

If you know of a Pastor or Ministry Leader you feel would benefit from a time of encouragement, listening, prayer and counsel, please have them contact me at mark@basicsinmke.org

“From him the whole body joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.” Ephesians 4:16 ■

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“To see Christians united to transform lives and cities for the Glory of God.”

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