

BASICS Soup or Bowl FUN Raiser!

On Monday, January 14th, BASICS will host our first ever Soup Or Bowl FUN-raiser! We will start the evening sharing a bowl of delicious homemade soup together while we hear stories of how God is working in Milwaukee through the ministry of BASICS. After that, we will enjoy fun and fellowship and bowl 2 games!

- **When:** Monday, January 14th, 2019, 6:00-9:00 p.m.
- **Where:** Bluemound Bowl
12935 W. Bluemound Rd.
Brookfield, WI 53005



- **Cost:** \$100/team of 5 or \$20/person
Early Bird rate –register by January 1st
After January 1st - \$125/team of 5 or \$25/person

- **Register:** www.basicsinmke.org/soup-or-bowl

Contact deanna@basicsinmke.org
or 414-372-7200 with questions. ■



Serving Homeless Veterans on Veterans Day by John Stephan



Living under the Marquette Interchange

As we have transitioned into the colder time of the year, the needs of the homeless population in Milwaukee are even more urgent. A while back, I had learned of a group of homeless veterans who have been **living under the Marquette Interchange**. I started praying about it over a year ago to see if it was in God's will to serve in this area of Milwaukee. The BASICS team helped pray for an open door for us to be able to serve there. God gave me confirmation one week before Veterans Day. I could see that His hand was in it. All the doors were opening, and everything was coming together for His Glory.

We had people coming forward wanting to volunteer. Other ministries supplied more than enough food for the day. People donated hats, gloves with hand warmers, jackets and floor mats. There was also a woman with a real passion for veterans and the homeless who made twenty beautiful quilted blankets to help keep them warm. **Every need for the day was met!**

On the day of the outreach, we pulled up under the interstate on St Paul Avenue. I sounded my horn, and people started coming out of their tents. A man named Tracy was the first to come to us. We mentioned we would be serving a meal in half an hour and asked him to tell the others.

We had men, women and even a child come for a meal and other supplies that they would need to survive the cold. We met a lot of new friends that we were able to pray and share the Gospel with. One man even came back as we were cleaning up and requested prayer. Another man thanked us and even helped us pack up. It was absolutely beautiful!

Earlier that week a dear friend had given me a verse for this outreach. It powerfully impacted me and all who served. It says ***"He who oppresses the poor reproaches his Maker, but he who honors Him has mercy on the needy."*** Proverbs 14:31 (NKJV)

One encouraging follow-up from that day: A week later we came back with some other things that they requested such as garbage bags and firewood. We found out that Tracy, who we first met at the outreach, had moved into an apartment. Praise God!

God is always on the move! To find out more about how you can serve with John and His Banquet Ministries as events come up, contact jstephan317@gmail.com. ■



Homemade quilted blankets

Ministering to Law Enforcement Officers by George Papachristou



George Papachristou

The law enforcement profession is under unprecedented attack. Thankfully 2018 has seen God open many doors with respect to Law Enforcement Chaplaincy in the state of Wisconsin and the City of Milwaukee. The State Department of Justice partnered with the International Conference of Police Chaplains (ICPC) to train over 300 law enforcement chaplains throughout the state. I am blessed to have been one of the ICPC Instructors who presented the 12 courses that allow a chaplain to attain the "Basic" level of ICPC certification. This will now be the standard of certification by the State of Wisconsin as a Law Enforcement Chaplain. This training is continuing a semi-annual basis.

This past year I have had the honor to preside over 4 weddings for officers. Sadly, I was also called to officiate at the funerals for two officers slain in the line of duty and two who took their own

life. In the aftermath of these tragic deaths, many officers have come forward with questions regarding their faith which has led to two Bible study/support groups being held each week for all area law enforcement officers. These are held on Tuesday mornings and Wednesday evenings, allowing officers from all shifts to attend. There has also been the establishment of a local chapter of **Fellowship of Christian Peace Officers**. This is a support and study group that meets once a month for fellowship and Christian education.



Finally, God has allowed me to lead officers in prayer at the various police districts in Milwaukee. Many officers are now praying in my absence in small groups before they begin their shift.

Please join me in prayer for safety of officers and that the citizens would understand the officers' role. Also, please pray that God would guide me to officers in need of His word and that He gives me the words to speak. ■

Wednesday Morning Worship & Prayer by the Wednesday Prayer Team

If you were to come to the BASICS office at 9:00 a.m. nearly every Wednesday, you would find a group of Prayer Warriors in Worship and Prayer. We start with singing hymns. Phil Helwig plays guitar and sings, Sandy Frisque plays French horn, and Pastor Alvin Hull plays a drum. Singing to the Lord helps us focus our minds and hearts on HIM. Our hearts are warmed and our thoughts are quieted. Though we come into the room as individuals we are united in our worship.

Phil Helwig is our Wednesday morning leader. He gathers all the prayer requests and types out a sheet, adding appropriate scripture. We follow the ACTS Steps of Prayer: Adoration (praise), Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication (intercession). Then after prayer, those who are able stay for a time of fellowship, coffee and treats.

What brings us together week after week, fighting traffic to come?

Sandy at times feels overwhelmed, but by coming and just being around the team and focusing her attention on the prayers and needs of others, she always feels so much better. What brought Sandy to BASICS? Her daughter, Deanna is the BASICS Admin. Assistant. Sandy had Wednesday mornings free, checked out the prayer group and soon couldn't think of not coming.

Robert is a new prayer warrior. He is a friend of Pastor Hull and lives just down the street. Robert says that Jesus brings him there every week. He comes to get closer to Jesus. Not everyone is comfortable praying out loud, but we have seen Robert's growth in corporate prayer.

Besides being a regular on Wednesday morning, Pastor Ed Johnson is a frequent school prayer walk participant. We help provide prayer support leading up to the walks. Pastor Ed says it's great seeing what praying for students, teachers, and administration can do. The atmosphere can change from one of friction and conflict to peace and love for each other.

Pastor Hull believes prayer is the key to victory and the nucleus of success. After he became active in BASICS, he started his own prison and street ministries. He says BASICS is his covering. What he appreciates about the Wednesday prayer time: seeing the prayers answered, seeing healing miracles manifest, being involved with a united corporate prayer team, and watching the prayer team increase in spiritual growth and in intercession and prayer.

If you have a heart for prayer and would like to join with other like-minded believers, everyone is always welcome!

- We meet on Wednesday at 9:00 a.m.
- in the Chapel on the lower level of
- City on a Hill (2224 W. Kilbourn Ave.)

If you would like more information, call the BASICS office at 414-372-7200.

"The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."
James 5:16b ■



Prayer team, clockwise from left: Pastor Ed, Phil, Sandy, Pastor Hull, and Robert

Who is the Prisoner by Roger Dynes

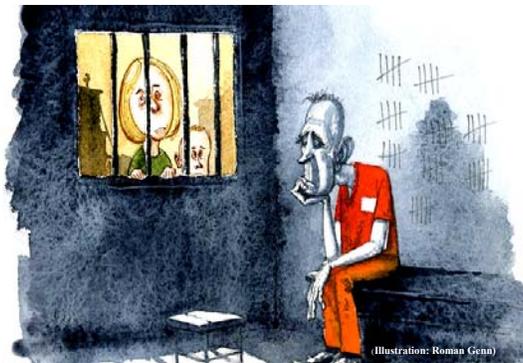
We always assume the incarcerated person is in prison because they are behind prison walls. Of course that is the reality. Yet it is said the family is also incarcerated due to many factors. Google “family incarcerated also.” <http://humantolofjail.vera.org/the-family-jail-cycle/>

When I do a pastoral visit, I am always with an inmate alone in a small room. But in this federal prison, the inmate and I are in the visiting room where all the inmates and their visitors come to see each other. Each visitor will go to the soda, snack or sandwich machine to treat the inmate with something special and partake in a sort of communal meal.

The last time I visited there was the grandma who visits her grandson every week; then girlfriends, wives, dads, moms and children of the inmate. The little ones play in a small play area oblivious to what is really taking place and where they are.

The hardest thing to observe were the boys and girls clinging to their fathers. Some of the older children seemed to take it in stride; but do they tell their friends, “My dad is in prison?” You see the joy of them greeting each other, but then you see the reality of saying good bye, each returning to very different worlds.

The prison is in the middle of nowhere. Most visitors travel long distances and stay in a hotel to get to the prison early in the morning. How do you count up the time of travel, the expenses, and leaving early from another state on Friday or Saturday to



make the trip then the long return trip home? But there are also inmates who never get a visitor, letter or phone call. Sometimes I am the only visitor an inmate ever has.

It is easy for us to say, “the inmates deserve their punishment, who cares.” The problem is they too are created in the image of God. God cares. And we should care that they return to society able to establish a normal life with employment and family ties. As a Christian is it just an option to reach out to men and women in prisons? Well no!

Jesus answered, “The most important is, ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” Mark 12:29-31 Matthew 25:31-40 sums it up in verse 40, “. . . Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.”

Our neighbors are the incarcerated and their families. Pray that God would lead you into a way to either directly/indirectly connect with those within the walls or the relatives left on the outside. You could provide financial support for biblical materials or write letters to an inmate. But the most important thing you can do is pray. ■

The Frequency Conference 2018 by Frank Woods

On October 26-27, I traveled with my wife LaDawn and the Genesis team to Philadelphia to attend the Thriving Frequency Conference. The theme was “**All Jesus Everything: Equipping the Body for Unity and Cultural Change.**”

Formed as a platform to dig into cross-generational and cross-ethnic reconciliation, the challenges named in previous conferences, this was a time to speak the truth in love. Knowing that God is able to redeem us in the midst of our differences and link us up together as the body of Christ, we were desperate to seek Christ and see him permeate a multitude of current issues and show how transcendent the person and work of Jesus Christ is and always has been.

After a 16-hour drive, we arrived the day before the conference and had time to enjoy the richness of the history of our country found throughout the city of Philly along with amazing food.

The conference was held in the same place as our housing; we gained greater insight and clarity by rubbing shoulders with the speakers and attendees. The praise and worship was “The sound of heaven touching earth.”

The conference powerfully cast a vision of Christ as He touches “Street Level” in so many things: from unity in the church to division in the church, from racism to generational divides, from issues dealt with in urban apologetics, all the way to church planting and how churches are being shaped to equip people for cultural change and be a gathered community that scatters into the world.

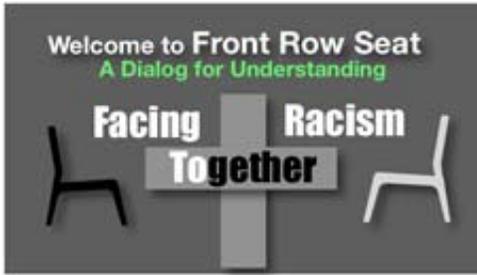
This was a systemic opportunity for us to get on one accord as the body, to go back to our communities and see the glory of Jesus Christ in everything. We were challenged to see Christ permeate the difficulty in the division amongst our churches. This is especially relevant as we minister in Milwaukee which is all too often characterized by segregation and division. He gives us grace to move beyond discord towards gospel resolutions so that we can be great witnesses to the world that God has created.

“He has shown you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.” Micah 6:8 ■



Genesis team at the Frequency Conference

President's Corner: Dialogs of Courage



I Peter 3:8 says: *“Finally, all of you should be of one mind. Sympathize with each other. Love each other as brothers and sisters. Be tenderhearted, and keep a humble attitude.”*

Contrast that with USA Today’s report that Milwaukee is the second most segregated city in America - yet God has opened a door for BASICS to help His Church lead the way in Facing Racism together, under the cross of Jesus Christ

We call it **“Front Row Seat.”** Imagine with me, believers of differing races, coming together in the safe environment of a church to openly dialog about the realities of racism. Scriptures regarding the unity and justice to which God calls us are reviewed. Front and center are eight panelists, four of one race facing four of another.

On a cold, rainy night, over 40 people, city and suburban venture to the heart of 53206. White, black and brown... all have previewed material that helps us understand not only the racism that existed in our past, but also how it continues to divide us today in different and more subtle ways.

In that space, the dialog of why the panelists have come begins. Time is given to share the impact racism has had on them, their family and their culture with those across the aisle. Once that is modeled, it’s the audience’s turn to be panelists in their own four on four groups.

The results of these gatherings have been AMAZING. Paul tells us *“Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think.”* (Romans 12:2 NLT). By having a place for open, honest discussion, and a space to ask questions and exchange ideas, participants are transforming the way they think about people of different cultures. They’re beginning to see people of other races with greater understanding and compassion, as we build on similarities. And isn’t that just where Jesus would have us!

How can you be involved?

Pray: It takes courage to enter into a dialog of understanding racism. Please continue to pray for those participating in these gatherings.

Participate: As God is stirring you to take the next step in being part of a Front Row Seat gathering, contact deanna@basicsinmke.org. We have cards with simple next steps for you to join us in building bridges of relationship and reconciliation.

Support: Hospitality and a shared meal always seem to open doors. Our goal is to include a luncheon for each event to provide continued time of dialog.

Thank you for your love and support for uniting God’s people! We look forward to continued partnership in 2019! ■

Gary and Laurie



<https://www.facebook.com/ServingMilwaukee>

EMAIL VALERIE at:

nanaal234@sbcglobal.net

with any events or announcements you’d like shared on our Facebook site.



Follow us on Instagram:

<https://www.instagram.com/basicsinmke/>

Personnel & Contact Information

Leadership

Gary & Laurie Hendrickson
Co-Presidents
Arn Quakkelaar
Founder/CEO Emeritus

Administrative Team

Lydia Beasley—Accountant
Nicole Brown—Bookkeeper
Mark Mallwitz
Deanna Ratz-Admin. Asst.

Prayer

Ted Cheney
Sandy Frisque
Sherlena Hale
Phil Helwig
Mike Sellenheim

Care/Compassion

Mike & Susie Hayden—Coordinators
Mary Cheney
Jenny Fostner
Neva & Thomas Hill

Share/Evangelism

Frank Woods Sr.—Coordinator
Sammi Funk
Bart & Kim Helmbreck
Alvin Hull
John Jones
Dan Quakkelaar
Jan Remmen
John & Terri Stephan

Prepare/Discipleship

Roger Dynes
Sonya Graves
Mike & Gail Moses
Peggy Neal
George Papachristou
Al Pietrowiak
Diane Trinko-Johnson

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p. 414-372-7200
f. 414-372-7294
e. basics@basicsinmke.org
w. www.basicsinmke.org

Co-Editors:
Deanna Ratz and Roger Dynes

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