

Ministry In The Midst of Pandemic

by Gary and Laurie Hendrickson



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Even in the midst of a pandemic, God is allowing BASICS to share the Good News of Jesus Christ in both word and deed! It is the Light of Jesus that is bringing much needed HOPE to the city of Milwaukee!

During this time of COVID and civil unrest, God is allowing us to bring that hope through:

- **Drive in Movie Night** – A capacity crowd came together at the Sussex Community Center for a special showing of “A Rush of Hope!” Ministers to Milwaukee John Jones and Mark Mallwitz, in collaboration with several local churches, brought God’s message of encouragement during dark times. Worship led by Mark Kenney focused us on who God is during these tough times.
- **COVID Care Hygiene Drive** – In partnership with National Christian Foundation WI, 3,000+ hygiene items were collected by individuals, local businesses and churches. These were distributed to those in need in the city of Milwaukee through local ministries, food pantries and community centers, strengthening their reach into the neighborhoods around them.
- **Front Row Seat - For Such A Time As This** -These dialogs for Understanding Race Together, begun by BASICS over 2 years ago, had powerful relevance in light of events this year. In this time of COVID, we partnered with churches such as Parklawn Assembly and Brookfield Lutheran to host both on-line and outdoor learning events, with over 90

households engaging, sometimes for the first time, in dialog with others who look different from them!

- **One 2 One** - In these days of isolation, many struggle with skills and opportunities to relate well to one another. In a multiethnic setting, this online training, presented by Pastor Bobby Sinclair, focused on skills beneficial to re-entry after social distancing. Skills such as asking open questions for caring conversation were practiced to help us be more relationally intentional with those we minister to.



Pastor Sinclair

- **Pastoral Support** – In addition to navigating a move to virtual services, pastoring God’s people during this time of trauma, loss and social unrest, has been difficult, stressful and exhausting for pastors. We were grateful to able to show our appreciation for a group of urban pastors through financial support and a relaxing evening around a fall bonfire just for them!

Prayer Focus:

As we move into 2021, would you pray with us, as Jesus prayed?

“...that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you, May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.” (John 17:21)

Lord, make us one so that we can influence many. Help us to see opportunities to unconditionally love a neighbor, a co-worker or even a family member with whom we may disagree, or who’s perspective we don’t yet understand.

Enjoy these stories of the GOOD NEWS of God at work in our city!

From our entire BASICS family, we pray that you would have a Christmas of contentment and the joy of Christ in 2021! ■

Serving alongside you,

*Gary
&
Laurie*

Gary and Laurie
And the BASICS Team



Front Row Seat-Backyard Edition at the Hendrickson’s home

Kingdom Milwaukee – God On the Move

By Mark Mallwitz



Mark Mallwitz

Kingdom Milwaukee was a movement of the Holy Spirit in downtown Milwaukee August 16th – 21st. The Lord did appear powerfully and faithfully every day, and His Glory, grace and goodness drew people from darkness into the Light, but also strengthened, encouraged and rekindled fires in the hearts of His Disciples that were serving!

Here are 3 ways the Lord moved at “Kingdom Milwaukee”, along with insights and testimonies from those who faithfully served.

Lost People Coming to Jesus Christ – During this week of prayer, evangelism and witnessing, the Holy Spirit touched the hearts of many lost people. Several of these people include:

- A young woman from Chicago who had only been in Milwaukee one week received Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior.
- A man from the neighborhood heard songs of worship and praise and The Gospel message and came to the altar saying “I am tired of my life as it is, I want Jesus to lead my life!”
- A homeless man met 2 men of God on the streets, heard about Jesus, and came to the outreach several evenings, and received Jesus Christ as His Lord and Savior!

God’s Glory did indeed rise over all the darkness and fear that was hovering over Milwaukee, and these testimonies are just a glimpse of what the Lord did for His Glory!

Drive-By Prayer – Supporting MPS in a Creative Way!

Those of you who have been a part of the BASICS family may know that we have long been involved in praying for MPS, and have recently had the honor of praying/walking inside a few of these Milwaukee Schools. But with MPS closures and the move to virtual learning, we’ve needed to pivot to be a little more creative in how we continue to support MPS Staff and Schools!

Challenging times require new ways to pray effectively without being physically inside these schools - drive-by prayer!

While meeting up at the BASICS office, prayer warriors were assigned in teams of two to each school (Rufus King Middle School, Clark Street School, Alba Elementary, Obama School, and South Division High) and then drove to their assigned locations. Once on site, volunteers linked and prayed for the individual schools via conference call. After praying, we each took a picture of prayer warriors outside the school with a sign saying “We Prayed for Your School today!” Photos were then sent to each school principal as an encouragement.

Minister to Milwaukee Jane Turner shares that “These times of prayer have been highly successful and a blessing to principals and schools!” What’s next? We’ve resumed holding some prayer walks inside the schools, and are on-boarding a new school, Oliver Wendell Holmes, a school that offers specialized services for students with Individual Educational Plans (IEP), and one of 21 schools statewide to be named a School of Distinction in the areas of reading, math, and PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports) by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.

God’s Working in the Body of Christ – Almighty God was ministering to, uniting, strengthening, and loving the humble servants who came to bless other people at Kingdom Milwaukee.

- A dear sister was used as the instrument of God to lead the first person in her life to salvation!
- A Spirit-filled couple from Florida spent the week exhorting, encouraging, proclaiming and ministering to everyone not only outside, but inside the Body of Christ.
- A loving man of God came to serve with his arm in a sling because of pain, and at the end of his time serving God, his pain was gone and the sling on his arm was off!

Lessons Learned from the Wonderful Counselor – As Kingdom Milwaukee concluded on Friday, August 21st, the Holy Spirit had been teaching many truths and lessons to the team who served.

- Lost people are hungry and eager to receive the Gospel of Jesus Christ TODAY!
- The Body of Christ is made up of many parts, and when led by the Holy Spirit, it is like a symphony coming together with all its diversity and playing one beautiful song for God’s Glory.
- Prayer needs to be the foundation and the power source of everything, and if the Holy Spirit is called upon, He will show up in greater ways than we can imagine!

“Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you. See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the LORD rises upon you and his glory appears over you.” (Isaiah 60:1-2) ■

Contact us at deanna@basicsinmke.org or 414-372-7200 to find out how you can join us in praying for and supporting MPS schools.

“And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap, if we do not lose heart.” (Galatians 6:9)



God's Provision Comes Just in Time!

Due to financial difficulties from COVID-19, BASICS set up a Support our Shepherds fund. We had prayed to be able to bless 5 pastors with a significant financial gift, and thanks to the generosity of our donors, we were able to bless 16! Here is the story of one of these gifts, how God worked to bring all the pieces of the puzzle together to provide for needs.

In short, we are in the enviable position of being on the front lines of this crisis, and we get to watch God work. We have witnessed God's provision as he tunes the hearts of prayerful people who then are moved to lean into and listen to the Lord and provide what is needed **just in time**. We are watching the miracles happen. And God is praised all over the city as a result!



Pastor Dan Quakkelaar

The Need – by Pastor Dan Quakkelaar

Friend of Sinners church serves the Lord in the inner city near 30th and Burleigh on the North side of Milwaukee. It is a hard neighborhood with tough gangs, but God is present here. There are strong believers already here who love the Lord deeply and walk by faith every day. The members of Friend of Sinners are working to serve as Jesus's hands and feet for a community that in some cases loves him dearly, and in other cases doesn't know him at all.

Ministry here requires careful stewardship of God's provided resources. But God provides for the needs of his people – often just in time.

One woman needed a bed for a toddler she is unexpectedly caring for, and at the same time another person called wondering if anyone could use a bed for a toddler. The thrift stores were closed, but when another person from church needed bedding and blankets, these very items showed up in a random call from another friend of the church. God already had met the need before we even began to look. When we needed masks for our elderly and sick, a physician's wife provided 40 cloth masks, while another church sent 250 hospital masks.

After an unexpected death in the church, where there was financial need for the family, God provided hundreds of dollars at just the right time from another church in another city.

We recently missed out on a grant of funds, but then God sent a donor who provided what was needed.

Blue Line Chapel

Although it rarely appears in the news, every day, our MPD officers deal with

- 3-4 Shootings
- Car-Jackings
- Overdoses
- Fatal accidents, and more.

Additionally, they deal with the same challenges you and I may have, family struggles, financial challenges, COVID, cancer..

God is providing pastoral care and biblical counsel for 1,500+ Milwaukee Police officers through Milwaukee Police Chaplain, George Papachristou. Currently, two Bible studies meet the needs of officers working different shifts.

Chaplain Papachristou is in the beginning stages of launching **Blue Line Chapel**, a unique mid-week church service to meet spiritual needs of officers and their families. BASICS is taking on coordinating meals for these gatherings, to encourage the men and women who serve our city so faithfully.



Jane Turner

God's Answer – by Jane Turner

One day I heard a small, quiet, loving voice. I knew the voice was from my Best Friend, my Comforter, the Holy Spirit. He told me to give a specific amount of money to someone, but I didn't yet know who should be the recipient.

Soon after that, I called a friend. I told him about the Holy Spirit's request and asked if he knew of anyone I could give this money to. He told me he was praying that very morning for Pastor Dan Quakkelaar and Friend of Sinners Church. I contacted Pastor Dan who was blessed to receive this offering.

I love how God puts everything together like a beautiful puzzle! One piece was me hearing and obeying God. Another piece was my friend's prayers for Pastor Dan. And another piece was Pastor Dan and the people he serves in Milwaukee: prayers were answered, and the people he serves knew that God has not forgotten them, that they are loved.

We are all a piece of God's puzzle; it's not a full picture until you have all the pieces. We don't always get to see what the whole puzzle looks like, but don't grow weary of doing good, praying, giving, sharing, calling – whatever your puzzle piece is, use it for His Glory!

“Let us not become weary in doing good for the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.” (Galatians 6:9-10 NLT) ■

Such a simple act of kindness can ultimately be a great act of love toward the men and women who protect our city! If you or your group would be interested in providing a meal at an upcoming service, contact Mark Mallwitz at: shyplatypus4190@gmail.com.

“Defend the weak and the fatherless; uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.” (Psalm 82:3-4) ■



George Papachristou and Gary Hendrickson

Pentecost – A Day of Unity and Prayer

"When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them." (Acts 2:1-4)

The world and the prince of the air only want to tell us all the evil and hopeless situations that are rising up in our city and in our nation. But may this testimony enlighten, empower and encourage each of us to see God on the move in Milwaukee as it is in heaven!!

Pentecost Sunday was a day that Almighty God moved in Milwaukee like the day of Pentecost described in Acts! A group of Kingdom-minded Christians met at Ethnos Church, 1400 N. 6th St. in Milwaukee for a time of praise, worship, confession and repentance, asking the Holy Spirit to move in our city.

Ethnos Church Pastor Elie Hasbani hosted this time of prayer; worship leader Christi Schimp led praise and worship; and a diverse group of leaders took turns leading prayer: Pastor Darnell Robinson, Vicki Gumina, Pastor Charles Wallace, Laura Mallwitz and John Larry.

This **powerful time** of prayer at Ethnos Church prepared the way for a Pastor's Prayer Walk that began at Martin Luther King Dr. and Locust Ave!

Pastor's Prayer Walk

Hundreds of people from the Body of Christ and from the community came together for a prayer walk at the site of recent violence in Milwaukee.

Pastors Raymond Monk and Micaiah Young organized the event. They had asked God just the day before to put this event together, and WOW, DID HE DO IT!

How powerful it was to see pastors from all over the city, coming together in one accord, asking Almighty God to move in our city, in our hearts, and in our nation as only He can do! And it was amazing to have people from every tribe, tongue and language come together, singing "How Great Is Our God" and "Amazing Grace" to the Lord Jesus Christ on Pentecost Sunday, while walking on Martin Luther King Drive!

God's people were loving one another, and loving those who were not part of the walk!

All of this in the city that everyone has written off, Milwaukee. **BUT GOD!!**

For years, people with prophetic gifts have been speaking from all over the world that Milwaukee is going to be the center of revival for the U.S! Almighty God has given me and many others a glimpse of what has been prophesied over our city for all these years! The Holy Spirit moved in a powerful way in Milwaukee on Pentecost 2020!

Glory to God in the highest!

"Not to us, O LORD, not to us but to your name be the glory, because of your love and faithfulness." (Psalm 115:1) ■



Walking and singing praise songs



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EMAIL VALERIE at:

nanaal234@sbcglobal.net

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Personnel & Contact Information

Leadership

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

Servant to the Leader

Mark Mallwitz

Administrative Team

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

Prayer

Sandy Frisque
Phil Helwig

Care/Compassion

Mary Cheney
Jenny Fostner

Share/Evangelism

Sammi Funk
Alvin Hull
John Jones
Jan Remmen
Frank Woods Sr.

Prepare/Discipleship

Roger Dynes
Sonya Graves
Andrea Hopgood
Ted Jansen
Mike & Gail Moses
Peggy Neal
George Papachristou
Diane Trinko-Johnson
Jane Turner
Dawn Bowers-Winters

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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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