

A Necessary Work

by Jennifer Webster

It's not comfortable, but it's necessary. The dialogue, the realizations, the paradigm shifts, the acknowledgement, the apologies, the vows made to be a part of the change. It's all necessary. **Front Row Seat – A Dialogue for Understanding Racism Together**, is necessary.



What began in 2018, with the hope of unifying those who have been historically and systematically segregated, is confronting the topic of racism and its impact on the body of Christ. Together,

blacks, whites, young and old, bonded by the shed blood of Christ, tackle questions like; “Have you ever been on the receiving end of discrimination?” or “How has race impacted your job or career?” Through gripping testimony and courageous transparency, we are left to reason with our painful reality. Participant remarks like; “It’s not in your face, it’s not blatant... it’s quiet” or, “racism is sin, rooted in hatred” and, “I never experienced racism until I moved to Milwaukee,” all serve as a prelude to discussing action steps to rebuild and reconcile.

Through the work of BASICS, Front Row Seat is transforming the narrative and reminding the Church that we are *all* made in the image of our Heavenly Father- *we’re family!*

1 Peter 3:8, puts it this way, “*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.*”

Though the devastation of racism and discrimination in our country has been great, we take rest in the hope and power of an even greater God! He has shown us that He is well able to heal and restore when we humbly submit to the process. These dialogues are just the start to maximizing the effectiveness of the Kingdom, exemplifying the true love and nature of Christ, and showing the world that God is a God of justice.

This is the gospel. Despite how uncomfortable, Front Row Seat has taught us to not only contend for the faith – but for one another as well. ■



A Beacon over Milwaukee

by Kathy Sprenger



Frank Woods

In the beginning God created the heavens and earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. “And God said, let there be light and there was light” Genesis 1:1-3

Such is the case with the ministry of Genesis Light-house and President and Executive Director Frank Woods. While led by the Holy Spirit, Frank Woods and his volunteers have created light where there had been darkness in the central city of Milwaukee.

Frank has followed the Holy Spirit, while bringing the Gospel to those who may not know the true Salvation and comfort God can offer those who follow Him. Because of God’s work through Frank, the people served are truly thankful for the blessings of this ministry.

On a recent New Year's Eve afternoon in the central city of Milwaukee, a beacon, of sorts rose from the ground as well over a hundred men and women appeared to get out of the cold, collect some donated clothing, enjoy warm drink and food. All were welcomed with a warm handshake, greetings and the promise that God is with them. As the men and women as they received these simple items, they were incredibly grateful. “God Bless you” resonated through the crisp air on that day just before the New

Year began. A New Year with hopes that it will be more Blessed than the one before.

Frank’s work focuses on helping those reconnect with society by

- Providing a safe Godly place to stay
- Assisting in finding employment
- Supplying spiritual support
- Reconnecting them with their families and each other

After witnessing this event and understanding more of the work Frank Woods does, I realized again that there is no greater joy than serving your fellow man or woman and seeing their grateful response.

Why tell this story?

Simply put, you can support Frank’s ministry in many ways and join those who benefit and are truly thankful for its blessings.

Please contact Frank at 414-254-2098 or takeadeepbreath@live.com and let him tell you how you can help.



Other outreaches happen throughout the year.

Contact deanna@basicsinmke.org if you would like to be added to the BASICS list and be notified about upcoming outreach opportunities. ■

Welcome to BASICS, New Board Members

Denisha Tate-McAlister



Award winning leader and author with 20 years of executive experience and go-to person for those up to something big! As a change agent in Boys & Girls Clubs of America National Movement, Denisha found her calling. With a B.S. in Psychology, from the University of Illinois, she developed programs, trained staff, measured outcomes, and learned strategies to align organizations to function at optimal capacity.

She has led departments of 120 people and systems with nearly 900 employees. She has served as Vice President, Chief Operations Officer (COO), and Chief Strategic Officer (CSO). Denisha has been recognized by the Business Journal as a WOMAN OF INFLUENCE. Boys & Girls Clubs of America has also awarded Denisha for her work in the areas of diversity and trendsetting.

Denisha has an M.B.A. from University of Phoenix and understands the significance of systems alignment. In 2014, Denisha Tate & Associates, LLC consulting firm was established with the focused principles of: **Leaders Lead & Live Love.**

Everyone deserves to live life and love every moment of it. Also, leadership is a gift, skill, and obligation. It’s not predicated on a title or position. Denisha consults to help nonprofits and churches achieve lasting success. ■



Jennifer Webster

It’s more than Laverne & Shirley, more than the Bucks or the Brewers, Milwaukee is Jennifer’s home. Born and raised on the city’s east side, the call to share the hope of Christ, here, is deeply personal. Her heart for serving others can be traced back to a rich upbringing in outreach and ministry. It’s her life’s aim to always be found uplifting and supporting others.

Jennifer is a proud millennial, AmeriCorps City Year (MKE) alumni, graduate of the University of Wisconsin- Parkside, small business owner (Rocket Elite Events), Co-author (*The Identity Effect*), and most importantly – the “cool aunt,” to her beloved nieces and nephews. When she has a moment to spare, you’ll find her binge watching her favorite Hulu/Netflix sitcoms! ■

Welcome New Minister to Milwaukee

Andrea Hopgood



Andrea has a passion for presenting God’s Word in such a way that it becomes a lifestyle, not just religion. She enjoys equipping ministry leaders with tools needed to reach believers and non-believers. During her 23-year career, she has served as a Children’s Pastor, a Children’s Ministry Consultant and a columnist in Children’s Ministry Magazine. She has created and facilitated various Women’s Ministry studies and events as well as being a presenter at numerous conferences. An-

drea has been married to Bruce for 28 years.

They have 2 daughters, Aniya 19, who is an Education major at a local college and Brea 25 (married to Michael), who is an RN at a local hospital.

She’s excited to join the BASICS team because this will allow her to be part of a larger group of like-minded believers, who share the common goal of bridging the racial and denominational gap. As an ordained Minister to Milwaukee, she will walk alongside Children’s Ministries to assist them in effectively passing our faith on to the next generation as well as provide city wide opportunities for kids to experience the Word on their energy level.

“Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.” 1 Timothy 4:12 ■

Christ Over Coronavirus

by Jennifer Webster

Here’s another post about the deadly pandemic that seems to have nations across the world shaking in their boots. Unless you’re living under a rock, you are well aware that we have currently found ourselves in the clutches and claws of COVID-19.

People are dying. Our doctors, nurses, and medical staff are working overtime.

Folks are fighting over toilet tissue, and suddenly, nearly every household has been forced to begin homeschooling.

Through all of the frenzy and fear, the temptation to fix your gaze on these uncertain circumstances, instead of on a steady and sovereign God, may be challenging.

For a second, I too, found myself rocked with anxiety and side-eyeing anyone who coughed or sneezed within my proximity.

Since our perfect health has been compromised through man’s rebellion against God (Gen 2:16-17), disease and sickness are an unfortunate aspect of the human experience.

The truth is though, this sudden attack against life, and life *more abundantly* (John 10:10), is an opportunity for believers to shine the light, hope, and solution of Christ. He is the answer.

Quick question: Could the Coronavirus be a clarion call for America, and other countries, to turn their hearts toward God? Could this pandemic be a reality check of the urgent need for repentance?

“If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and heal their land.” [2 Chronicles 2:14 (KJV)]

As we look to scripture for guidance, we are given **4 responses to widespread calamity:**

- To HUMBLE ourselves
- To PRAY to our Heavenly Father
- To SEEK to know Him, His Will, His presence
- To TURN from our sin

COVID-19 has already been defeated, through the shed blood of Christ!

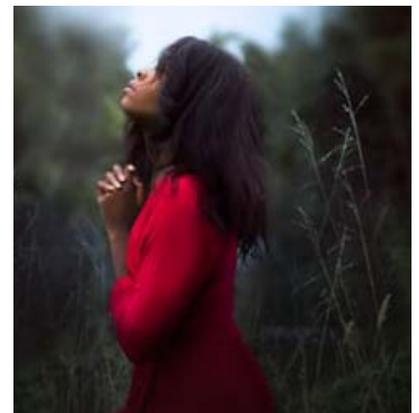
The very power that resurrected Christ from the grips of death, is the same power that *can* heal, save and rescue us - when we admit our total need of and dependence on God! ■

A prayer from BASICS Board Chair, Marlene Paprocki

“This is the day the Lord has made & I will rejoice & be glad in it. God has not given up His position of supremacy in the heavens and earth He created. I will not fear or look at the dismal side of things. I will trust He will carry out His GOOD plans during this time of distancing & I will give Him glory & honor every day.”

In these uncertain times, we can still lean on God's faithfulness!

Visit www.basicsinmke.org/media to hear **Bart and Kim Helmbreck** encourage us with a beautiful reminder of this truth! ■



Ministry In The Midst of Pandemic by Gary and Laurie Hendrickson



“Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. For you know that

when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.” James 1:2-4 NLT

We have been asking God to create a hunger and thirst for Him in the Milwaukee Metro Area. This current health crisis is doing just that. BASICS is a ministry of presence. How do we minister in times of “social distancing?” BASICS continues to support and serve those in need through time, talent and treasure!

TIME

24/7 Prayer - Partnering with Eastbrook and Brew City Churches to pray for the needs of our city. Visit www.24-7prayer.com/signup/bb83a7 to sign up to pray during the month of April!

Know your call. Listen. Recalibrate. Stay the race. At the beginning of this crisis, we asked God to remind us of our call, listened for His direction to adjust our methods to reach people with His love and message.

TALENT

Mobilizing Sewers! Hand-made masks are being delivered into the 53206 and 53210 zip codes, some of the most vulnerable and hardest hit areas in our state. These masks include hand-written notes of encouragement.

Adding new Ministers to Milwaukee For such a time as this! Our Ministers to Milwaukee have been delivering food to pantries and individuals, such as Jody*, a single mom of 4, who recently tested positive for COVID-19 along with her 8-month-old child. Mom and baby were hospitalized at separate locations for treatment. After the family was reunited, a BASICS Minister to Milwaukee was able to

provide much needed food resources. *Name changed to protect privacy.

TREASURE

Support our Shepherds (S.O.S.) Emergency Funding - your generous gifts, along with those from others in our BASICS family have provided over **\$8600** to bless and strengthen urban pastors!

Taking Discipleship Virtual! IT help and financial support is being provided to several urban and suburban pastors to help them get online for prayer, bible study and leader team meetings.

“Big Blue” Mobile Media Van is ready to roll during the virus! With restrictions extended, Big Blue is able to broadcast your church service right in your church lot, maintaining the safety of physical distancing by broadcasting both on-screen and through FM, bringing it right into the cars of your congregation. Churches are planning drive-in family movie nights from the safety of your car. If this is a way we can help **your** congregation, please contact us!

If there is ever an opportunity, it is right now for us to show the world who Jesus is:

We truly are all in this together.

Thank YOU! For your prayers, your heart for the city, and the Kingdom work that you are doing for HIS glory! Your gifts to BASICS touch the lives of real people - Join us in doing God’s work of sharing the Hope of Jesus Christ! See the box below for giving instructions. We invite you to join us with your time, talent and treasures as well!

Serving alongside you,

Gary and Laurie
And the BASICS Team ■

 **Find us on: facebook.**

<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

Servant to the Leader

Mark Mallwitz

Administrative Team

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

Prayer

Ted Cheney
Sandy Frisque
Sherlena Hale
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

“Good News” Newsletter is published quarterly by BASICS in Milwaukee, Inc. 2224 W. Kilbourn Ave. Milwaukee, WI 53233-1614
p. 414-372-7200
f. 414-372-7294
e. basics@basicsinmke.org
w. www.basicsinmke.org

Co-Editors:
Deanna Ratz and Roger Dynes

Giving is Easy!

BASICS is Brothers And Sisters In Christ Serving together uniting city and suburban churches to share the hope of Jesus Christ in Milwaukee.

To support BASICS’ ministry work or a specific Minister-to-Milwaukee:

Make check payable to:
BASICS in Milwaukee, Inc.
2224 W. Kilbourn Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53233-1614

OR



You can designate BASICS in Milwaukee as the recipient of your donation via the “write-in option” with the United Way.

For credit card donations, visit www.basicsinmke.org/donate