

# MILWAUKEE GOOD NEWS

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## The Media Van is Home! by Sammi Funk

**B**ASICS Minister to Milwaukee John Jones is ready to take the Media Van (Big Blue) out on the streets for ministry work again! It's no secret by now that this repair journey was so much more than how it had initially looked; it could only happen in God's perfect timing and foresight.

John didn't know that he'd become an unofficial chaplain at National Spring (the company that stored and helped repair the Media Van), and that there were some troubles God knew would come, like rising staff tensions and the Polar Vortex. God allowed the Holy Spirit to move through John's presence every day to calm, mediate, and encourage every person coming through the garage. It seemed fitting that when everything was finished, John would throw a "thank you" party in the crew's honor.

On October 20th, John parked Big Blue at West Milwaukee Park just outside of the garage. It had all the fixings with its screens, new fiberglass front grill, and of course, amazing new diesel engine and chassis.

Long-time supporters, donors, and employees came out at John's invitation for a combined celebration of the Van's transformation, the honoring of the team, and the Packer game.

At halftime, John showed a tribute to the many weeks and months that the National Spring crew put into the Media Van since April 2018. He honored the main mechanics, Mickey and Scotty, and National Spring Owner and former BASICS Board member

Nancy Hodges. He also remembered Rick Puza, who passed away while preparing the new chassis for the transfer. The remaining Puza family were there and participated in the celebration.

During the tribute, Nancy honored John for the peace and grace he helped bring to the entire staff through the Holy Spirit. They thanked the Roadies for all their prayers over the year, and John topped it off with a framed photograph for the National Spring staff of their finished work in front of the Media Van.

Above all else, John thanks God for allowing him to find the right people with the valuable knowledge to help Big Blue reach its destination of full renovation and repair. He thanks God for his goodness and grace over the last several hard months, and the journey of faith it required to reach this amazing reward.



Scotty, Mickey, Nancy & JJ

**The Media Van is home, and God never stops working.**

To see upcoming events check out: [www.mediavan.org](http://www.mediavan.org) ■

## Front Row Seat at Mount Calvary by Pastor Dan Czaplewski



Powerful moments of dialog

**M**ount Calvary Lutheran Church has been at the corner of 53<sup>rd</sup> and Locust Streets in the Sherman Park neighborhood for almost 95 years. Nearly a century later, there have been plenty of changes both inside Mount Calvary and in our community. Today, Mount Calvary is an ethnically diverse

congregation that seeks to embrace its neighbors with the love of Christ.

The vision for Mount Calvary is:

*Mount Calvary is an intentionally diverse, urban community, which passionately proclaims Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. This is done through vibrant worship and praise. Members are engaged in joyful service in the Church and community at large. We provide a high-quality Christian education throughout the School and Church, and actively connect people with opportunities to help them flourish spiritually and physically.*

One of the core values for the Church is diversity, meaning "We intentionally embrace each of God's children as individuals with unique gifts, which enrich us all."

On October 12, 2019, Mount Calvary got to see its vision in action and live out our value of diversity with **Front Row Seat – A Dialog for Understanding Racism Together**. A diverse group of 72 people participated in the dialog by watching a panel model these difficult conversations, telling their own stories in small table groups, and sharing a meal together.

In just four hours, there were many powerful moments that opened the door for people to understand each other. People told their own stories and, most critically, listened to the stories of others relating to race. In the context of telling and hearing life experiences, there were no attempts to assign blame or determine guilt. The main purpose of the dialog was for Christians to hear about experiences and ideas that may be foreign to them, and ultimately to better understand one another.

About a quarter of the participants were members of Mount Calvary and about another third came from other Lutheran congregations. The remaining participants were drawn from a variety of local Christian churches in southeastern Wisconsin. Mount Calvary is deeply grateful to BASICS for making this dialog possible.

For more info about *Front Row Seat* and to receive notifications about future events, visit [www.basicsinmke.org/front-row-seat](http://www.basicsinmke.org/front-row-seat).

**"So then we pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another." Romans 14:19 NASB ■**

## Saturate Milwaukee Engaging Neighbors with the Gospel

by Ted Cheney



Volunteers: Jane Gobeli of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Ted and Pastor Bobby Sinclair

**S**aturate Milwaukee is a massive evangelistic effort to share the Gospel with every household in the Milwaukee area in 2019-2020. Churches and individuals adopt a zip code; then they are provided with door hangers containing the Jesus Film and Gospel tracts to distribute within that zip code.

The effort has been underway for a few months. So far, our part of the Saturate Milwaukee movement shows incredible progress as well

as its share of challenges.

In the 53206 Zip Code we have enlisted seven churches. This includes: Calvary Baptist, Canaan Baptist, Grace Community Baptist, Friend of Sinners, Metropolitan Missionary Baptist, New Testament Central City and Tabernacle Baptist.

One enthusiastic report came from Calvary Baptist Church, who has nearly completed their pledged distribution of 1000 DVDs. "We know that God orchestrated this! We are committed to rebuilding families in 53206. In order for that to happen, *people need to know the Lord!*"

Calvary accomplished their distribution by organizing 6 groups with a deacon as the leader, with families under each deacon. They had no problem following the maps that we provided for distribution. Getting the DVDs into apartment buildings has been a particular challenge. One member of the congregation was excited that she lived in the nearby building and was able to get the DVDs to everyone in her building!

Grace Community Baptist completed their distribution in a similar manner involving family groups and were able to cover their entire assigned area. Pastor Bobby Sinclair said "Our members benefited and were fulfilled to know they were part of kingdom witnessing with Saturate MKE."

In the 53226 Zip Code, we have Our Redeemer Lutheran who completed their pledge of 800. In the case of Our Redeemer, the work was multigenerational, featuring early grade school children and seniors assembling the packets, followed by teams of young teens making the deliveries under the supervision of an adult with the teams.

Dovetail Ministries has delivered 600 DVDs to date in the 53005 ZIP Code.

Mark Mallwitz helped organize churches and volunteers to cover Sussex. He shared "The Lord Jesus Christ was glorified as The Body of Christ worked together to bring the hope of Jesus to Sussex and Lisbon. Almost 7000 videos, gospel tracts and church flyers were distributed, and to God be all the praise and adoration!"

But the numbers are only part of the story. The real story is that church members are getting out to meet their neighbors and actually engage them, showing an interest in their lives, and demonstrating hospitality by extending an invitation to fellowship (particularly for those they find are unchurched). In other words, the people are going above and beyond the simple requirement of merely delivering the DVDs!

To find out more about Saturate Milwaukee, visit [www.saturatemilwaukee.org](http://www.saturatemilwaukee.org)

There is still time to get involved and zip codes available to adopt! Contact Ted Cheney at [lcdrted@gmail.com](mailto:lcdrted@gmail.com) or 262-567-5800. ■

## Welcome New Minister to Milwaukee Jane Turner!



Jane Turner

**J**ane Turner joined BASICS in October as an ordained chaplain and Minister to Milwaukee. Jane had initially connected with BASICS through Mark Mallwitz and served as a volunteer many years ago. Upon her recent retirement, Jane was led to serve God in ministry. She is grateful for the many different hands-on serving opportunities provided through BASICS.

Jane's previous ministry experience is varied and includes street ministry, ministering to the homeless, the poor and those in drug rehab, teaching missionary students, prayer walking and preaching - but in all of these things her focus is to love people well.

In her role at BASICS, Jane will connect and partner with different churches, work with Mending the Soul, Front Row Seat and help bring mission minded people to Milwaukee to serve.

In her free time, Jane loves spending time with her friends and family, which includes her grown children (2 sons and 1 daughter) and her 4 grandchildren (ages 19, 13, 10 and 2.)

Jane is so humbled and grateful for all the encouragement and love from her family, friends and the BASICS team. She had asked God to replace her job at the bank with serving Him. He is faithful - and she is excited to enter into her new career, one that she loves so much!

*"Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." Philippians 1:6* ■

## Making the best of the tax law changes

**B**ecause the personal exemption has disappeared from the form 1040 and has been combined with the itemized or standard deduction, it is now more difficult to have tax advantage through itemizing. **One option** would be to double up on some of your itemized deductions in one year and then use the standard deduction the next year. (E.g. pay your January 2020 mortgage payment in December 2019 and deduct the interest in 2019) **Other possibilities:** pay medical bills for services already provided, pay two years of real estate taxes in one year, pay your estimated state income tax at year end, or make additional charitable contributions at year end instead of the first part of the next year. ■

## Confrontation – A Healing Practice? by Michele Haffner



*Michele Haffner is on staff at Elmbrook Church and participated in an Sharpening Your Interpersonal Skills (SYIS) workshop earlier this year.*

I was so grateful to my employer, Elmbrook Church, for allowing me an entire week devoted to self-improvement. Prior to the start of SYIS, the course director sent participants a needs assessment. It was very difficult to rank-order the importance of listening skills, helping others solve problems, confronting others, managing conflicts, helping others manage conflicts, living in community, and being an encourager: I ranked all of them as areas of great interest to me!

On the first evening after introductions, I noticed that I was one of only four or five participants without overseas, missionary experience. I was feeling a bit intimidated. However, that was very short-lived. Within a couple of hours, we had already created a safe, sharing environment and a sense of camaraderie that just continued the build throughout the week.

Each day, I noticed that the skills built on one another. We practiced being loving listeners and then used those skills in drawing people out. As we helped others solve problems, we used our loving listening and drawing-people-out skills. By the time we moved into confronting and receiving confrontation well, we had already built an effective arsenal of tools.

When our facilitators polled the group at the start of the Confronting module, most everyone associated a negative emotion—anger, fear, awkwardness—with confrontation. Interestingly, after studying Scripture, it became apparent that confrontation is a loving and healing practice; it helps restore relationships, and it is our responsibility to each other as Christians. As I used the tools, I found that the confrontation went much better than anticipated. By listening patiently, drawing out the other person, and gently explaining my side, I saw the walls go down and my partner responding to me in kind. It was quite remarkable to move into place where, together, we were solving the issue that was causing problems between us.

The skills and knowledge I received at SYIS were definitely worth the investment. However, the relationships I made were invaluable. As someone serving in ministry within a church context, I rarely have the ability to spend extended one-on-one time with field workers learning about their missions and everyday life. This was a surprising and delightful perk of the SYIS workshop!

Registration is open for the 2020 SYIS Workshops! The dates are April 16<sup>th</sup>-May 1<sup>st</sup> and June 14<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>.

Visit [www.basicsinmke.org/syis](http://www.basicsinmke.org/syis) for more details.

To register, contact [genise\\_anderson@ntm.org](mailto:genise_anderson@ntm.org).

*“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” John 13:34-35 ■*

## God is on the Move in MPS! by Sherlena Hale

Despite all of the bad stories you might hear about the Milwaukee Public Schools, God is doing great things in MPS! In addition to weekly prayer for all 140+ MPS schools this year BASICS has the opportunity to go into three MPS schools for a monthly prayer walks; Alba, Clarke Street, and Rufus King International Middle School.

One of the blessings that came up during a recent prayer walk at Clarke Street School was that I was invited to sit in the worst 8<sup>th</sup> grade class in the school. At first the students were loud and not paying attention to the teacher at all. One of the students noticed the shoes I was wearing and it sparked a huge conversation. They all thought I spent \$750 for my shoes; I didn't, but they were convinced I did.

That opened a door for them to ask me questions about my life and how could I afford expensive shoes. I was able to have a conversation with them about being a business owner. They were so interested that we are now going to teach a business class for them after the prayer walk. Participating students will start their own business, earning income while they are still in school!

In addition to weekly prayer for all 140+ MPS schools this year BASICS has the opportunity



**MILWAUKEE  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Even with all the evil that is happening in the schools today, there is overwhelming victory taking place for schools kept in prayer.

For instance, there was a larger room that Alba School had on their rental agreement, but the other school that shares a building with them wanted that classroom. BASICS prayed with Alba School for that room and Alba got the victory.

*God is on the move in MPS! Contact Sherlena Hale at [sherlena2woc@yahoo.com](mailto:sherlena2woc@yahoo.com) or 414-460-8416 info about participating in the monthly prayer walks.*

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

# Hush... Pause...

by Gary and Laurie Hendrickson



It's a season for reflection. Signaled by the falling of leaves and the first soft flakes of snow. A time when we reflect on the

goodness of God for this year past and anticipate His direction for us for the coming year.

As we look back, we are grateful for the amazing work of our BASICS Ministers to Milwaukee and the gifted volunteers who faithfully serve God in schools and neighborhoods, with at-risk men, women and youth, with officers of the law, and incarcerated adults.

We celebrate that God and our generous donors have allowed our BASICS team to:

- **Pray** weekly for 150+ Milwaukee Public Schools, 7 Police Districts, the leaders and needs of our city
- **Encourage** and serve nearly 200 city and suburban pastors at our 17th annual **Pastor and Ministry Leader Appreciation Breakfast**
- **Unite** over 300 people to participate in racial reconciliation through **"Front Row Seat - A Dialog for Understanding Racism Together"**
- **Help facilitate** the distribution of over 10,000 Jesus Film DVDs, visually sharing the good news of Jesus Christ throughout Milwaukee metro
- **Provide** weekly counsel and encouragement for Milwaukee metro church and ministry leaders
- **Equip** staff and ministry leaders of 35 different churches and mission organizations through SYIS (Sharpening Your Interpersonal Skills) practical training in ministry skills
- **Facilitate** healing for those suffering trauma of emotional, verbal, physical, or sexual abuse through Mending the Soul, a

biblically-based group for trauma recovery

- **Disciple** through multiple weekly Bible studies in homes, schools, prisons and other locations
- **Connect** urban and suburban resources meeting *real* needs!

## What does the New Year hold? God is providing:

- Greater access to our schools for prayer
- New additions to our team of staff and volunteers
- Greater hunger for His righteousness!

**Our Christmas prayer** is for peace in the city, that the Spirit of God would move to reduce anger that leads to gun violence, road rage and death; that HE would move hearts of human traffickers toward righteousness, and the release of those they've enslaved; that HE would heal those who have survived the torment of trauma and abuse; that officers would be strengthened to serve the hurting in our community; that teachers and staff would be strengthened to thrive in their schools; that students would be inspired to learn; and that the Lord would provide satisfying, sustaining work for those needing income to survive.

## Will you join us?

Together **WE** share the hope of Jesus Christ in the city of Milwaukee!

Praying that the peace and joy of Jesus Christ is yours throughout this Christmas season!

For the BASICS Team,

Gary and Laurie Hendrickson  
Co-Presidents, BASICS In MKE ■



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

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



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Nicole Brown—Bookkeeper  
Deanna Ratz—Admin. Asst.

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Sherlena Hale  
Phil Helwig

### Care/Compassion

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## 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:

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OR



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