

MILWAUKEE GOOD NEWS

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Donate Your Unused Gift Cards to BASICS!



There is a new way to help BASICS to continue to reach out to Milwaukee with the love of Christ! If you have unwanted gift cards worth \$5 or more, you can donate them to BASICS in partnership with K4K CardFunding, and proceeds will be used to support our work of Prayer, Care, Share and Prepare.

To participate go to www.cardfunding.org/basicsmw to enter the card information. Follow any instructions given on the receipt, and retain the card, as some cards may need to be mailed in.

Or you may mail your cards directly to the BASICS office (2224 W. Kilbourn Ave. Milwaukee, WI 53233), and we will process them for you.

Share this opportunity with your friends!

Please contact deanna@basicsinmke.org or 414-372-7200 with any questions.

Thank you so much for your continued partnership with us in God's Kingdom work in Milwaukee! ■

Save the Date! 16th Annual Pastor & Ministry Leaders Appreciation Breakfast

BASICS will again host a time of worship, prayer and fellowship for pastors and ministry leaders from around the area. The theme for this year's breakfast is "Rejoice Again: Healing Church Hurt"

Date: Tuesday April 24th, 2018

Location: Country Springs Hotel (Grand Salon)
2810 Golf Rd.
Pewaukee, WI 53072

Time: 8:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.

We will hear from speakers Jonathan Missirian and Armita Holiman around the topic of healing church hurt and have a chance to dialogue about it with fellow ministry leaders. We will also have a time of praise and worship and prayer with and for each other.

All pastors and full-time ministry leaders and their spouses are invited to this complementary breakfast.



RSVP by Tuesday, April 17th with your name, title, organization, email and phone number: email deanna@basicsinmke.org or call 414-372-7200.

"Therefore as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially those who belong to the family of believers."
Galatians 6:10 ■

Ministering to Rufus King International Middle School



Sherlena Hale

You don't have to read very far in the headlines to know that we desperately need the peace of God to reign in our schools today. Sherlena Hale and MPS Covered in Prayer continue to minister to the needs of our local schools in various ways, supporting the students and teachers with prayer and encouragement. Here is Sherlena's encouraging report of a recent prayer walk:

"We did our prayer walk at Rufus King International Middle School on January 2, 2018. We had a total of 15 people attend that walk. Normally when the students return after break, it's sort of wild. The main request for prayer was for peace to be in the building and that the staff would notice it. When the staff and students returned that next day, many of them went to principal Tamara Ellis, to report that there was such a peace in their

building. It was because we prayed to God and He answered our prayers. Peace Be Still at Rufus King International Middle School. God is moving in our Schools today."

BASICS will be serving a Staff Appreciation Lunch at Rufus King International Middle School on **Friday, May 11th** where we will serve a complimentary lunch to the whole staff and spend time listening to and encouraging them.

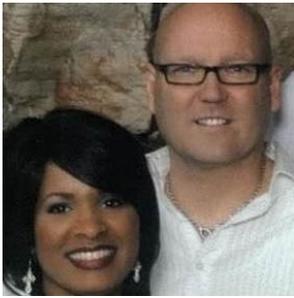
We are looking for volunteers to work as greeters, food servers and help with set-up/tear down.

Please contact Sherlena at sherlena2woc@yahoo.com if you are interested in helping with any aspect of this event. Don't miss this chance to help support and show God's love to some of our amazing and hardworking MPS teachers!

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

Rocco: The Unlikely Evangelist

by Bart Helmbreck



Bart and Kim Helmbreck

My wife and I recently moved into a new apartment complex and got a dog named Rocco about that same time, a cute little Shih Tzu Bichon mix.

Our apartment complex is huge, so on the cold days Rocco and I walk inside the building. Through Rocco I have been able to start befriending people. Almost every morning without fail, as we walk through the entrance way, we run into one woman in particular whom I will call Carolyn. As I say good morning, she always bends down to greet Rocco, and Rocco very politely raises his paw to shake her hand.

As Carolyn started to learn a little about my wife and I, she started opening up and having conversations with me about faith. Carolyn is a Christian woman but seems to have many questions. In fact, as of the last couple weeks, she has a new question almost every morning. We discuss her questions and I lead her to scripture verses so she can discover the truth in scripture and not just take my word for the answer.

One of her questions was, “Are we filthy rags before the Lord? Because there’s an argument in my church in which some say we are and some say we aren’t, but the bible does say it so I’m

confused” and another question was, “Are women able to speak in church?” We talked about what is historical narrative and what is normative in the scriptures.

We also looked directly at the scripture verses themselves so she could see them in context. For example, when Isaiah spoke to the self-righteous, those whose outward actions were impeccable, but hearts were far from the Lord, he said “...even your best *“deeds”* “are as filthy rags...” but in Christ we have new hearts. We are washed clean, holy saints, priests, and vassal kings.

I’m always amazed how God works in such mysterious ways. Once He used a stutterer named Moses. Another time a talking donkey. And now, it seems as though He’s using a little dog named Rocco.



Rocco

“Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.” Colossians 4:5-6 ■.

Friends of BASICS



Julie Bortolotti

We will occasionally feature stories of some of our friends and supporters. In our first installment below we’ve included a bit of Julie Bortolotti’s story.

Julie has been married to her high school sweetheart Bob for 50 years; they have 3 married daughters who all live in the area, along with 7 grandchildren. She is very blessed in that they are all in the area because Julie and Bob are able to interact with everyone’s lives and walk beside them in their spiritual growth, which is a great joy. She has been working with Bob in his landscaping business for 30 years. They currently attend Lakewood Baptist Church in Pewaukee.

Julie was raised in church and continued to be very active in church after she and Bob were married, teaching special needs kids there. In 1982 she got involved with an interdenominational Bible study. People there knew a lot about the Bible, but Julie felt out of it, because though she had been active in her church, she wasn’t very well grounded in Scripture. Around the same time she was introduced to Elmbrook Church, where she eventually ended up, joining the women’s ministry. Women from many area

churches participated in Elmbrook’s women’s ministry, and Julie had the privilege to mentor many of them.

Julie has actively ministered in many ways. She has a heart for prayer, mentoring and evangelism and is constantly ready to share her faith with the people she comes in contact with. She spent many years helping with Mother Scott’s Youth Center. Julie has also done hospice work and when she has the opportunity, she still sits down one-on-one with people who are facing death to minister to and share the Gospel with them.

Julie and Bob have supported BASICS from the very beginning. When asked why she supports BASICS, Julie said that she appreciates the heart of the workers that staff BASICS, their sincerity, love for God and their real commitment to change lives. With her heart for prayer, she uses the BASICS Prayer Calendar to faithfully intercede for our BASICS staff and ministry work.

We are grateful for the partnership of faithful friends like the Bortolottis!

“I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now” Phil 1:3-5 ■

New Years Eve Sherman Park Outreach by Frank Woods



Frank Woods always reaching out

This year's N.Y.E outreach began a day before the actual event as we covered the neighborhood in prayer. Usually during this time, God reveals the character of Sherman Park by observation.

Since the unrest of 2015, many Sherman Park residents believed that the church would vanish with the TV cameras. But God displayed his faithfulness by declaring, "I was always a part of the community!" Many donors and volunteers from around the body of Christ showered love on participants through their treasures, time, and tears.

The morning of the outreach, I was met with an overwhelming feeling of inadequacy concerning lost souls who lack hope. Who had I reached out to concerning this event, and would they show up? Forecasters predicted with accuracy -5 degrees for the day, and with many volunteers stricken with flu, I became uneasy.

But then came the arrival of HIS servants from different churches and ministries all working together. We had three different stations: the green trailer equipped with clothing, bibles, and soup; the Hot drinks station surrounded by warm invitations to the grounds and the one-on-one gospel invitation; the One Way Out of the Pit Grill, attracting more than the hungry souls but feeding the whole man.

35th and Burleigh is one of the most high-traffic areas of the city during this season. God drew attention to the spirit filled preaching of His word by those who drove by or marveled during the spotlight.

Many socks, hat, and gloves were distributed. My younger brother, Aaron Woods was there to support me, but I think that just as Moses was sent his brother, Aaron to speak, I was sent mine to SEE...

During the outreach, a group of 10 preteens came to investigate our event and encountered my brother. To his surprise, he noticed that all of them were without socks. Cut to his heart, he tearfully beckoned them over and instructed them to put on socks. Filled with emotion, he wept as he wrestled with the fact of the abundance of things many take for granted. God was at WORK!

"And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased."
Hebrews 13:16 ■



Braving the cold to share God's love

The Great Commission in Prison by Roger Dynes

In Matthew 28:19 Jesus gives us one basic command: *"Go therefore and make disciple of all nations."* I know when many of us heard this quote, we were probably sitting in the pews on "Mission Sunday." Maybe we even had a missionary telling us great stories of reaching heathens in faraway places, where there was no running water and the conditions were deplorable by our standards. Inside we silently prayed, "I am so glad God did not call me to be a missionary." There are at least 22 direct verses in the Old and New Testament giving direction to share God and Jesus with the world.

In the Bible study at Fox Lake Correctional we have been looking at this for almost a year and a half. Acts 1:8 says "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." Being surrounded by "razor wire" and "electrified fences" does not allow an inmate to go to Judea and Samaria. But their Jerusalem is behind those fences.

Prison is not an easy place to share the Gospel where almost every man is anything but a Christian and does not want to hear about Jesus. In our Bible study on Thursday nights 35 men studied the book of Ephesians and went through the book, *Multiply* by Francis Chan, In our discussions with the men, Jesus does not give any of us an out. **The command is specific for all of us, "we are all sent out."**

So how has it been working at Fox Lake Correctional? I met Bob (not real name) almost two years ago. He was quiet and would never reach out to others to share Jesus. He recently shared he is using the "Our Daily Bread" monthly devotional to reach other men. Rather simple, he just hands out the little booklet and extends the offer, "If you want to stop by my cell to discuss anything you read, I am here." A handful of men responded. How easy is that! Men are sharing the Good News and actively discipling in prison. Now that is Good News. How about you?

And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." Immediately they left their nets and followed him.
Matthew 4:19-20 ■



Next Chapter in Arn Quakkelaar's Story

by Mark Mallwitz



BASICS Board Praying for Arn Quakkelaar

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

This timeless truth from Micah 6:8 not only showed Israel how God wanted them to live, but demonstrates what Arn Quakkelaar has

modeled to countless people all over the world how to follow The LORD!

For 20+ years, Arn has been a model of acting justly, loving mercy and walking humbly with his God. He has lovingly, consistently and gracefully pointed whoever God brings in His path to The LORD. Arn is willing to share whatever he has, be it time, talent, treasures, touch and tears, with no applause or fanfare needed. God has allowed Arn to love the least to the greatest and he has done it beautifully!

Since March 1st, Arn has been focusing on 4 primary areas of his life as he and Norma begin a new chapter:

- 1. BASICS CEO Emeritus** (Former holder of office who is allowed to retain the title of honor) – Arn will continue to assist, support and encourage the leadership of

BASICS but without the official day-to-day responsibilities.

- 2. Reposition GENESIS** – Arn will continue to guide him his team as they continue the mission of Genesis - “To facilitate successful integration of citizens returning to the community from correctional institutions, thereby increasing public safety and decreasing recidivism.”
- 3. Health Assessment** – During this new chapter, Arn and Norma are focusing more on getting their health in order as they continue serving Jesus.
- 4. Commitment and Availability to write God’s Story**– For many years, people have been encouraging Arn to write God’s Story about his life and what he has learned. Arn was always too busy serving, but in this season, Arn is asking The Holy Spirit for Divine Revelation on what He wants to share with His People.

Arn has often acknowledged how humbled and blessed he feels that Almighty God has put him in a position to build God’s Kingdom and His network through BASICS.

It is safe to say that we are the ones blessed by God’s plan and His faithful servant Arn. He has modeled to all of us what a servant of Jesus Christ should be. We love you Arn!

“You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.”
Psalm 16:11 ■



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

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