

MINISTRY UPDATES

Greater Grace Newsletter from Mike Thompson

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InFaith Partnership Status

After completing the “on-boarding” process with InFaith as a U.S. missionary, I attended the orientation in Philadelphia. After the customary meetings and information sharing, we toured the city and local mission. What an amazing experience!

Imagine a church ministry in the heart of the Kensington district of Philadelphia, an enclave of homeless camps, drug houses, gang activity and more.

How would a church impact a community with such profound needs? It begins with identifying and loving the people who comprise our mission field. And it begins by viewing each person through lenses of faith, seeing what God sees, each person, each child, created in His image to flourish through the grace of Jesus.

This church provides a huge playground, afterschool reading and mentoring helps, feeding programs, drug rehabilitation and feeds those who are hungry. While others flee, those who serve Jesus with InFaith move to the front lines to love and give grace to those who need it most and see it least.

Baptisms, graduations, weddings and celebrations occur in this place that most have written off. This is one of many InFaith missions that brings the gospel and love of Jesus to enclaves of darkness in the U.S. They are making Jesus look as good as He really is. I am grateful we were able to tour this church and see the values of InFaith in action.

We also toured the place where the liberty bell resides and the US Constitution was signed. Yes this is the same place made famous by the Nicolas Cage movie. We couldn't leave Philli without consuming a Phili-cheese steak...the real deal! Yum!

Front Lines Updates

In the mission field to which I am called (MN and WI), my focus is to strengthen rehabilitation ministries, non-profits, and churches by coaching leaders and teams. I have been invited to the board of a newly formed ministry board that is working toward opening a gospel-centered men's residential recovery ministry.

This month a board was formed, the mission was clarified, bylaws written and incorporation papers completed. There is a strong partnership with a local Celebrate Recovery Ministry. What a blessing to encourage this group who is bringing hope and new life to those who are desperate for practical and physical help.

I have also been doing pulpit supply for churches who do not have a pastor.

Praise Reports Prayer Requests

PRAISES	PRAYERS
Recovery Ministry Board Formed	Discernment and wisdom as I seek to invest in new and present ministries
Onboarding with InFaith Completed	Prayers that I can be a blessing to Dawn's family (wedding is Sept 7th)
God's work in Philadelphia / Kensington district. Wow! Praise God!	Physical, spiritual and mental strength and health so I can lead by example
Meeting fellow missionaries and making important connections	That God would raise up a prayer and support base to make this ministry possible

Contact & Other Information

MINISTRY PAGE: <https://infaith.org/ministries/michael-thompson>

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Note: Ministry page (QR Code and/or web site link above) has a ministry overview and a link/button for donations

InFaith Home Office:

145 John Robert Thomas Drive, Exton, PA 19341 / 610-527-4439
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Bonus Devotional Thought

Matthew 28:19 ¹⁸ Then Jesus came up and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore **go** and **make disciples** of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Regarding the great commission passage (Matt 28) there was a time in which the emphasis was wrongly placed on the word “go.” The result is that only “going” abroad was viewed as true missionary work. However, this is a poor translation. The emphasis in this passage is on “making disciples” while “going” adds emphasis to the word “making disciples.” In other words it could read; “GO MAKE DISCIPLES!” GO DO IT! With that in mind know that as you go make disciples wherever you are called, at home, or abroad, Jesus is with you! (see quote from Bosch below)

If, however, we translate *poreuthentes* not as a separate command, but as adding emphasis and urgency to *matheteusate*, a different picture of mission emerges. It then refers to bringing people to Jesus as Lord, wherever they may be.²⁶ Mission then loses its preoccupation with the geographical component and becomes mission in six continents.—(by Bosch in *The Structure of Mission Exposition*)

Blessings and love in Christ
Michael A Thompson