



I'd like to apologize for the lack of newsletter updates over the past couple of months. I will try to do better. :)

It's been one year since we moved to Philadelphia to start Shores Philly. It has been amazing to see pieces of our vision start to become reality. Something that I love about the Kingdom is that God shows us things and reveals plans to us because he wants us to play an active role in advancing the kingdom of Heaven on earth. Sometimes we get a NOW word and sometimes we receive a word that has some now, some later and some way down the road. Seeing the big picture and partnering with Holy Spirit to see that picture become reality is so much fun!

Honestly, there have been times recently where I felt bad because I felt like I loved what we do too much. I know that may sound crazy but stay with me... People say "do what you love" but there has always been a trade off for me. For instance, I loved working in commercial construction because I loved seeing the blueprints of what we were working to build while watching it get closer to the final product each day. I hated the long hours, the hot days, and the time spent away from family when working in other cities.

There's no downer when your partner is The Holy Spirit! I love saying "Lord show me what you're doing in this person's life right now, so I can pour into that and help nourish that relationship." When we honestly have that viewpoint in ministry every day is an adventure that changes the lives of the people we minister to! I spend time at the end of each day reflecting on what The Lord did, how I can help contribute to the things He's doing in the lives of the people we minister to and how I can build on the language used to reach a certain person. In those times I always get hyped up and excited knowing that The Lord is at work. At times it makes me think this is too much fun to be my career! ~Luke



Community Meal

During Jesus' ministry before the cross we see the importance of fellowship with the people around Him. Whether it was just Him and the 12, or people's homes throughout the region, Jesus made a point to hang out and chill with the people around Him. We began community meals a couple months ago where we prepare a big meal, invite people around the neighborhood and open our doors for a time of fellowship with the people in our community. This gives us better insight into the lives of the people around us, opens doors for prayer and personal ministry and builds long-lasting relationships when we intentionally use that time to go deeper with people.



Movie and Meal Night

The first time we held a community meal at our house we didn't have enough cups for all the people that came. I went to a store across the street to get some more cups and encountered a homeless man asking for money. I apologized that all I had was a credit card but said: "we are having this party at our house with lots of food and I would love it if you came as my guest." He looked confused at first like no one had ever invited him into their home. I assured him everything was cool and we would love to hang out with him for the night. He came and sat quietly not talking much. I made a point to focus on him for the rest of the night and get to know him better. When God gives us opportunities we play a part in seeing them become a reality. The rest of the night went great (aside from breaking up a fist fight over who should get a plate first). I got to know the gentleman that was begging for money and we became friends. Powerful things start with small steps like becoming friends with a man that didn't have any.

I see this man on a regular basis. After a month or two, he asked if he could use our bathroom. I took him inside showed him where it was and went back out to help Alisan police the 'million' neighborhood kids playing in the yard. About 10 minutes went by and I noticed I didn't see my friend come back out. I went in to check on him and could tell that he was taking a bird bath in the sink in our powder room. I didn't want to embarrass him and let him finish cleaning himself. About 20 minutes later he came out and said: "I had to clean head to toe, toe to head." I said "well good I'm glad, next time you come over I'll show you where our shower is so you're more comfortable."

After I walked him out I went to the bathroom and saw pools of dirty brown water all over the new laminate flooring. While I should have been mad, the first thing that came to mind was Mary anointing Jesus' feet at Bethany. The story already holds a great deal of importance to us and is one of my favorite visuals of what it means to be a servant and love without ceasing. I grabbed a bucket and some rags and began cleaning up the

floor thanking God that I had the opportunity to clean up after a man that needed to take a bath to see he was loved. The fragrance that filled the room wasn't that of expensive oil. It was the smell of months without bathing, but, it carried the same power and significance because of the love behind the task.

School of the Streets



We held our first 'School of the Streets' training a couple months ago. At the training we teach on different topics like etiquette when ministering on the streets, hearing God's voice, prophesy and a number of other related topics. It was so much fun to do this in America! To see people activated and empowered to share the gospel in love with no agenda other than demonstrating Gods love to people was fantastic. We had about 30 participants, conducted the training, played some games that help break the ice and show us it's not as difficult or awkward as we thought and then went

out on the streets of Kensington to love the people God highlighted. One of our heart's desires is to help equip major denominations with the tools needed to begin their own form of street ministry to love the lost and broken in their communities. It was awesome to see all the follow up that came from each of the churches that attended, wanting to implement something in each of their surrounding communities. We have a couple more trainings throughout the rest of the summer that span multiple denominations. Keep all of that in your prayers. We want to see the Holy Spirit do awesome things, where people leave transformed, and empowered to change their cities!!



All ages have helped with the difficult work!

Land Behind the Church

You may have seen updates on Facebook about the land we have been clearing and restoring behind a church in Germantown. The progress has been incredible and it has been awesome to see the community pull together to help redeem a piece of forgotten land.

The land hadn't been touched in decades and was quite literally a jungle! over the last year, there were multiple hornet attacks, battles with poison ivy and Luke almost severed a finger at one point! We have removed around 11 tons of trash, debris, and overgrowth since we moved last year.

When we work together in the natural to bring life to a dead area we can see the overflow of Gods love and grace. The project has reignited dreams in the neighbors surrounding the property and brought a new hope to our area of the city. It has been amazing to see how contagious hope is when you are

intentional about spreading it!

Thank You!

We are so grateful for all you do for Shores of Grace Philly through your prayers, financial help, and sweat! We need pray-ers, givers, and workers and bless you for your part in any of those areas.

If you would like to give financially to help make more happen, please use the button below.

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