METROGRACE
Developing Urban Churches

Member of CHARIS FELLOWSHIP

November 2026



In May 1991, I graduated from Grace Theological Seminary. By June Lisa and I had moved to Philadelphia with our three children, all under the age of five. That summer we hosted a ministry for children in our small rowhouse. At the closing, children brought their families and more than fifty people packed out our first floor. In September we hosted a Bible study called ***Heaven Help the Home*** using a study guide from Howard Hendricks. And on November 3, 1991, Crossroads Grace Brethren Church of Philadelphia held its first worship service at the Tender Loving Childcare Center.

By the end of 1997, Crossroads had purchased a small building and become a self-supporting congregation. In 1998, Grace Brethren North American Missions asked us to serve as career missionaries to develop a World Class City Project. By the end of 1999 we had agreed to serve, helping others to develop gospel-centered, community-based churches in urban neighborhoods. Eventually, this project would become MetroGrace.



We purchased a large facility in the Frankford neighborhood. It included an auditorium, a fellowship hall, offices, dormitory space and an apartment. The building allowed MetroGrace to expand its ministry. Many short-term missionaries would serve over the years. Summer interns gained practical hands-on training in urban ministry. And church planting interns could live in the apartment while their ministry began to form.



The Lord allowed us to help in the development of several urban congregations.

- ***Crossroads Grace Brethren Church of Philadelphia—Jim Brown***
- ***Crossroads Grace Brethren Church—Wissinoming—Bob Pearson***
- ***Crossroads Grace Brethren Church—Frankford—Mark Ritzman***
- ***Crossroads Grace Brethren Church—Northeast—Dan Browning***
- ***Comly Street Chapel—Mark Rowe***
- ***House of Joy—Victor King***
- ***Crossroads Community Church—Holmesburg—Jim Brown***
- ***Brazilian Bible Church—Paul Alencar***



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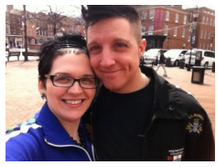
Thank you for supporting MetroGrace this month! Please include this cut-off with your next gift and use the back to indicate any changes to your contact information.

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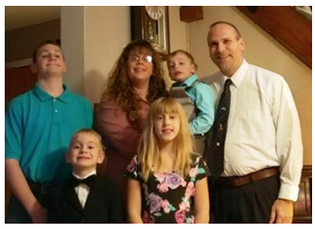
Enclosed is my gift to support:

General Fund	$_____
Jim and Lisa Brown	$_____
Pete and Danielle Forshtay	$_____
Rick and Kristin Dobrowolski	$_____
Other	$_____

2417 Welsh Road Suite 21
PMB#501
Philadelphia, PA 19114
215-533-3396
www.metrograce.org
Dr. Jim Brown,



- ***Crossroads Community Church—Wissinoming—Pete Forshtay***
- ***Crossroads Community Church—Bridesburg—Jim Brown/Pete Forshtay***
- ***Brazilian Baptist Church—Dimas Pezzato***
- ***Crossroads Community Church—Rhawnhurst—Frank Yost/Mike Connor***
- ***Citylight Bible Church—Allentown—Rick Dobrowolski***
- ***Word of Grace Church—Wissinoming—Pete Forshtay***



Through these years, the Lord used many people to advance our urban ministry, more than I can list here. But I wanted to express gratitude for a few.



Dan and Jennifer Gregory were our initial prayer partners in Indiana. We had hoped that they would join us in Philadelphia. God had other plans, using them significantly in Indiana and Ohio.

Larry Chamberlain, Ed Jackson, Bill Snell and Jesse Deloe were part of the team at Grace Brethren Home Missions that helped us get a start.

Luke Kauffman led the Northern Atlantic District Mission Board that supported our work from the beginning.

Mike and Margie Brubaker first welcomed Lisa and me into pastoral ministry. Then, they generously offered us folks from their congregation to begin church planting.

Bob and Sharon Pearson, Jack and Christine Brown, Joe and Theresa Wexler and Dorothy Brown were part of our first church planting team.



Kurt Miller was the National Director of Church Planting at Grace Brethren North American Missions. World-class City Projects was Kurt's vision. His vision provided a national platform to help develop MetroGrace. Later, Kurt and Anecia would move to Philadelphia and join the team at MetroGrace.

Jim Johnson, Ken Seyfert and Ryan Bowell have led Grace Financial during these years. Brenda Kent Byers served with all of them. Grace Financial has been a tremendous help in many ways throughout our ministry.



I am grateful for all of these brothers and sisters!

And, Lisa and I are very thankful for each one of you! Your prayerful financial support and encouragement have provided a lifetime of blessing!

I am also very grateful for our children. Jason, Jared and Jennifer have served alongside us in every capacity—too many to list. We rejoice to have our children, their spouses and our grandchildren serving with us at Crossroads.

About two years ago, Lisa was diagnosed with Early Onset Alzheimer's Disease. She spent a year receiving infusion treatments of the newest medication. It was not effective for her. The disease has continued to progress and it has changed our life dramatically. While we would prefer not to walk this path, God has chosen to use it in our lives. We are trusting in the sufficiency of His grace and trying to practice the kind of faith that we've preached all of our lives.

As a result, we've decided to focus our attention on pastoral ministry at Crossroads and suspend the ministry of MetroGrace at the end of this year. This is a very difficult decision, but we recognize that there is a season for everything and a time for every purpose under heaven.

If the Lord would lead you to continue participation in our ministry, we would be grateful. Crossroads will use the same mailing address as MetroGrace. So you could direct your offerings to

Crossroads Church, 2417 Welsh Road Suite 21, PMB #501, Philadelphia, PA 19114.

And donations can be made online at www.crossroadsphiladelphia.com.

If you'd like to support one of our ministry partners you can do that directly.

Word of Grace Church, 4706 Comly Street, Philadelphia, PA 19135—wordofgracephilly.com

Citylight Bible Church,1140 E Clair St, Allentown, PA 18109—www.citylightbible.church

As you might imagine, a transition like this if full of emotion. Our hearts are full of gratitude and joy for you! Our team of supporters has been a source of encouragement and blessing for many years. Your prayers and offerings have made an eternal impact in the lives of urban families. Thank you!

Pastor Jim Brown