

# Bridge Street House of Prayer



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## DEC. 2011

THE BSHOP IS A MISSIONAL COMMUNITY SURRENDERED TO THE LOVE OF JESUS WORKING IN US AND THROUGH US TO BRING TRANSFORMATION TO OUR NEIGHBORHOOD THAT WILL MULTIPLY IN THE CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS THROUGH COMMUNITIES OF PRAYER.

## EXIT 76

Last month we (the BSHOP team) had the privilege and joy of taking a road trip to meet some new, and hopefully lasting, friends at the Fire&Fragrance YWAM base in Harrisburg, PA (fireandfragrance.com). I first got connected with these guys several years ago when I was suffering for Jesus in Kona, HI with my brother. He was speaking at a discipleship school there and invited me to come join him. So, I made the sacrifice and headed out to the Big Island. Aloha!

During one of the classes my brother asked the students who they knew that was passionate and what they were passionate about. One of the names that quickly came up was this guy on base named Andy. And the students said the three things he is passionate about... prayer, LIFE, and community. "I have got to meet this guy!" I thought. Andy and I met briefly and over the years we stayed connected with him and his crew. Most recently, we got connected with a YWAM base that they recently planted in Harrisburg, PA so we decided to take a road trip out to meet them.

After a 10+ hour road trip, when we walked into the community house where many of them live, it felt like we were home. There were about 8 or 10 of them there waiting for us and when we walked in, the decibel level in the room just about doubled as people immediately connected



Kate and Lilia playing with the twin girls at the base in Harrisburg

and excitedly started talking and laughing. We did not know exactly what to expect before we got out there, but what we found was a community of young people, filled with passion

for Jesus, living selfless and sacrificial lives, and committed to prayer and to the glory of Jesus in their city and in the nations. So, yeah, we felt at home. Over the next couple of days, we were blessed to spend time in prayer and worship and fellowship with the Fire&Fragrance crew, developing a new friendship that will



Enjoying a meal downtown Harrisburg

hopefully last for years to come. Over the years, God has given me quite a few opportunities to travel, both nationally and internationally. Now I love to travel. I love everything about it. But, there is one part that I have come to love more and more. Coming home. Exit 76. And this trip, like many others before it, confirmed so much about what I love about the BSHOP and the West Side.

I love the BSHOP team. As we shared in our last newsletter, this is one of the strongest components of our ministry right now. This recent trip highlighted the passion and commitment that our team has to our mission and the love that everyone has for each other. We have a conviction that a strong team is necessary for an effective mission and the strength of our team gives me great hope for our mission.

I love the commitment that we have to exalt Jesus above all else. A phrase that we use often is that we "default to praise." On the highest mountaintop or in the deepest valley, Jesus is worthy of our praise. Simply for who He is, He is worthy of all honor and strength and wisdom and power. Years ago we made a very conscious



Ryan and Lilia "occupying" Harrisburg



Amanda helping give Lilia a sink bath

effort to exalt Jesus above all. Simply because He is worthy. Simply because of who He is.

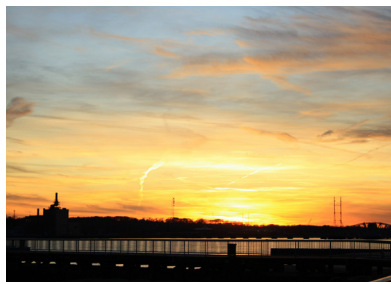
I love our lifestyle of prayer. For the BSHOP, prayer is a way of life. More than an event (though we have lots of prayer events). Everything that we do is rooted in prayer. It's how we connect with God. We believe the power of our prayers have real impact in this neighborhood that we cannot have through our physical actions. It is not only the foundation of our mission, it is woven into all that we do.

I love the BSHOP's burden for the lost. This is why we are in this neighborhood. This is why we do what we do. We want to see revival here on the West Side. Not a flash-in-the-pan revival that draws Christians from all over the globe to come a see the "big show;" we want to see the kind of revival that awakes the dead hearts of our friends here on the West Side. We want to see the kind of revival that restores hope to the hopeless. Revival that restores broken families. Revival that frees people from addictions. Revival calls people out of darkness and into the marvelous light of Jesus.

That is why we are here.

That is why I love the BSHOP.

*Ryan Waalkes*



*Sunset over the ocean in New Jersey where we roadtripped to another prayer house*



*Home!*

## LEMONADE AND TURKEYS

*Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever. Psalm 107:1*

You know that phrase that states, "When life gives you lemons, make lemonade"? Well, at the Bridge Street House of Prayer, when we were given twenty frozen turkeys and twenty bags full of dry food goods, we were privileged to witness twenty families in our neighborhood make Thanksgiving dinner.

While that has nothing do with lemons or lemonade, it does have everything to do with God's provision and goodness over those on the West Side. Three days before Thanksgiving, Sunshine Community Church (thank you Sunshine!) donated a surplus of foods for twenty families to make a turkey dinner. Kate and I hopped into a car full of frozen turkeys and food bags, while Andrew (my husband) and Derek jumped into another full vehicle. As we visited neighbors, Pavilion regulars, as well as families that we haven't seen recently, God's joy was present in our interactions.

Half-way through our deliveries, one of our young neighbor girls asked if she could join us in delivering the turkeys. She got in the car and asked, "Why are you delivering these to people?" We responded by saying, "Today, we get to show God's love by giving people a Thanksgiving dinner that may not have had the means of making one."

All twenty turkeys and food bags were delivered that day.

All twenty families expressed their gratitude and thankfulness.

All twenty families received God's generosity and goodness.

For He is good.

So thankful for you all and your support of the Bridge Street

*Lindsay Sisson*

## prayer

Thank you for praying. Here are some things you can be praying for.

- Pray for grace and wisdom as we steward these ministries.
- Pray for BSHOP staff as we move forward with ministry.
- Pray for grace over our community life.
- Pray for protection of our minds, bodies, and hearts.
- Pray for our neighbors and our relationships with them and for real transformation in our neighborhood.

**The Pavilion @ 1056 Bridge is open from noon - 5 pm Monday - Friday**

**Our Saturday Evening Worship Gatherings begin at 7 pm every Saturday in the Tabernacle @ 1054 Bridge**