



The Samaritan

October 2025

FROM CRISIS TO CHRIST-CENTERED HOPE AND RESTORATION



Jeff Noyed, Director

Living in the City - 40 Years Now

In the summer of 1985, a group of guys presented a vision for an Urban Ministry & Koinonia (Fellowship) House in the Phillips Neighborhood at Bethlehem Baptist. Feeling a stirring in my spirit I came forward to express my interest - in a Sunday school class of 125 young adults I was the only one who came forward. I knew God was wanting me to move into that house - both to live and minister. So, with God's leading I moved on Labor Day weekend of 1985.

Phillips Neighborhood is a dynamic community with many ethnicities, world views, joys and challenges. With 23,000 people in a 2 mile by 4 mile land area it is very population dense.

So, why move there, especially when one could live in a community with more resources, fewer problems and more homogeneity? This was the question I kept getting from well-meaning friends and family.



Incarnational Living

Two Bible Verses became clear as I pondered this questioning: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... The Word

became flesh and made his dwelling with us. (John 1:1 & 1:14).

God's plan for Redemption came to Israel on Planet Earth through Jesus Christ to live and die so that Human Being's Sins could be forgiven. It was not God's plan to do this from another Planet or Solar System. It was intentionally done incarnationally in Israel on Planet Earth.

For me it became clear that being called to Minister to the Phillips Neighborhood meant that I needed to be there, like Christ, incarnationally.

Identifying Living

Two weeks ago on my block 15 shots were fired between two gangs on a Friday night with two being shot. Living in the community allowed me to be there at this point of need to minister to people on the Block. Identifying with their pain, we have had Neighborhood Block gatherings that are leading to steps forward and healing and prayer. "Being there" and "Identifying" and "Ministering Change" happens when one is present, not absent, from the community.



Investment Living

When one lives in the community they serve the money from their paycheck stays in the community. Investing in the community I bought the Brown House/Duplex in 1994 and then in 2001 bought the above White House for \$1.00 and invested \$60,000 into the renovation (now yellow house in picture). I



still own, pay property taxes, insure, and manage both houses (they are right next to each other) and live in the lower level of the Brown House.

Also, buying groceries, gasoline, hardware supplies in the community keeps jobs in the community and allows for further connections to be made.

Do I have regrets? No. This is exactly where God has wanted me to live for the last 40-years. I have had the joy of being in Ministry and living in the Phillips Community.

Thank You for your partnership with Jericho Road Ministries that has allowed me (and others) to live and minister in the City!



Pastor John Bohnsack
Urban Ministry Visionary, Writer & Speaker

Fishers of Men

There is a story about a man I'll call Maynard. He lived in a small town near a lake where he went fishing almost every summer day. Others fished all day with limited success. By contrast, Maynard returned daily in just a few hours with his full limit of fish to eat or freeze for the winter. Word of his success spread even to the attention of the game warden. Out of curiosity, the game warden asked if he could go fishing with Maynard, who gladly invited him. The next morning they headed for the lake and his favorite fishing spot. The game warden was eager to see what kind of bait Maynard would use so he watched carefully as **Maynard reached into a duffel bag, pulled out.... a stick of dynamite, lit it, and threw it into the lake.** The explosion shot volumes of water in every direction, violently rocked the boat, AND brought a number of stunned fish to the surface. Maynard quickly grabbed them with his landing net and dumped them in the boat. The game warden was justifiably incensed, immediately notifying Maynard that what he did was **ABSOLUTELY ILLEGAL!** Unruffled, Maynard reached into his duffel bag, pulled out another stick of dynamite, lit it, and handed it to the game warden, saying **"DO YOU WANT TO TALK OR FISH?"** Totally shocked, the game warden knew that if he held onto the dynamite, he and Maynard would both be blown to bits by the explosion. He had no choice but to throw it into the lake, which he did, *while Maynard was video recording him with his cell phone.* Maynard knew that he would not be prosecuted or tagged for the illegal fishing as long as he had the video of the game warden doing the same thing. **The key here is, "Do you want to talk or fish?"** In Mark 1:18 Jesus, talking to Simon and Andrew (both fishermen) said to them, "Follow me and I will

make you fishers of men." While Jesus was clearly talking directly to them, He is really speaking to each of us today, to each person who invites Jesus to be their Lord and Savior. **We are to be fishers of persons who are in need of a Savior, not with dynamite but with gentle words and loving actions.** On JRM weekly produce distribution day, a Bible study that includes the Gospel message is offered. It is not forced, but offered to any who are interested. Monday thru Thursday afternoon, personal interviews are conducted for food and other crisis needs. In that setting, talk and action is first, and only after the stated need is resolved to the best of our ability is there reference to matters of faith, as led by the Spirit. Talk and action, as a first priority, is so people do not feel forced into any faith related conversation. A simple invitation for any prayer requests is one way of "fishing".

Our hope and prayer is for an "evangelism explosion", not stunning folks, but gently and with care "rocking their life" in a positive and eternal way. And, each year a number of individuals respond by inviting the Lordship of Christ into their life as a result of the JRM "fishers of men", staff and volunteers.

Your support makes this possible and YOU, by extension, are a fisher of men!

OUR MOST GRATEFUL THANKS!

**PLEASE CONTACT US IF YOU HAVE A CHANGE
OF ADDRESS, PHONE AND/OR EMAIL.**

If someone you know is interested in receiving the E-newsletter (same content as the printed mailing), have them send their name and email address to Jericho Road Ministries at the below address or email us at ken@jerichoroad.us

***Checks can be made to
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Tax deductible***



Jubilee Church/Jericho Road Powderhorn Park
1628 East 33rd Street, Minneapolis, MN 55407

Bethesda Church/Jericho Road Elliot Park
1118 8th Street South, Minneapolis, MN 55404

Phone: 612.455-1193 Fax: 612.455-6850