

The Milwaukee Outreach Center



MAY 2006

Mothers Make a Difference

Being a mother takes at least nine months of patience followed by a lifetime of more patience. Solomon observed that an excellent wife and mother far exceeded the value of jewels and “the heart of her husband trusts in her. He will have no lack of gain” (Proverbs 31:11).

In this one verse a divine connection is made between the virtues of character, the covenant of marriage and economic well-being. One of the recurring issues we confront at The Milwaukee Outreach Center is poverty and its complications. There is no quick fix for poverty but extensive research confirms that mothers in the covenant of marriage do better economically than mothers who are not married.

One researcher followed the marital status of 5,000 women with children over a seventeen year period of time. These women were born between 1958 and 1965 and data was gathered into their 30s. The research found that single parenthood was most common among black, non-Hispanic women and least common among white, non-Hispanic women. It also found that cohabitation was highest among Hispanic women and lowest among white women.

The results showed that married, biological parents experienced lower rates of hardship than other parents with similar characteristics, including those with similar family income-to-needs ratios. There was a dynamic relationship between the benefits of marriage and the economic well-being of the family.

One of the key findings of this research is that marriage is likely to raise living standards when both spouses contribute to the stability of the home. Another finding noted that marital and economic instability came from low academic and technical ability, premarital pregnancies, cohabitation and unemployment.

The mother in Proverbs 31 is a picture of a wife of noble character. She willingly works with her hands in caring not only for her family, but also the poor. She likes to cook and her life is free from anxiety. She has good business sense and knows how to budget, buy real estate and invest in property.

This noble mother and wife speaks with wisdom and insight and her words are tinged with kindness. Because of her, her husband is respected in the community and her children refer to her as a blessing. She also has a testimony that honors God and this testimony is also evident in her family. How amazing that God’s answer to poverty comes through mothers of noble character who are committed to God’s covenant of marriage!



Marriage has benefits. Clarence and Bea Miller (front) are celebrating in May 63 years of marriage. They are accompanied by their daughters-in-law, Rose Miller (left) and Nancy Miller (right). Angie Miller, TMOE Counseling Intern, is their granddaughter (insert).

New Testament Church Empowered by Prayer and Vision

There are two mottos that guide the New Testament Church of Milwaukee: "There are no great men. There is a great God who uses men." And, "The world has yet to see what God can do with a church totally committed to Him."

This month we would like to introduce you to Andrew Hopgood, assistant pastor of the New Testament Church. God has blessed this thriving congregation and its ministry from their 66 acre campus on West Bradley Road.

Please tell us about the New Testament Church.

There were six families that started the NT Church in November of 1980. Oscar Johnson stated to me saying, "Andrew, we're starting a new fellowship called the New Testament Church of Milwaukee." I asked when they would be starting and then said, "Oscar, I'll be there."

I have been a charter member of this church and we recently celebrated our 25th anniversary. Five years we were at the Brown Deer YMCA, and then went to Vincent High School for six years. In December of 1991 we moved into our current location on West Bradley Road.

We now have two services each Sunday with 600-700 people in attendance for each service and many ministries throughout the week.

How did you become a minister of the church?

When I first came to the New Testament Church, I spent the first two years listening to the expository preaching of Pastor Julius Malone. I never knew about expository preaching and my ears perked up and I listened.

After that time, Oscar Johnson (our Sunday School superintendent at that time) came to me saying, "Andrew, I believe the Lord is calling you to teach."

Even though I was an educator, I was a nervous wreck and visibly shaken to stand and teach the Word of God and to speak with authority. From that point on, the Lord opened the door as a teacher, deacon, and elder. This has been a tremendous journey with Oscar Johnson as a founding member and Julius R. Malone



Prayer is a central focus of the New Testament Church (10201 W. Bradley Road). A men's prayer breakfast (above) is held every Tuesday morning at 8:30. Pastors, ministers and church workers throughout Milwaukee meet for prayer every Wednesday at Noon.



Andrew Hopgood, Assistant Pastor of New Testament Church (left) has enjoyed a life-long friendship with Oscar Johnson, founding member of the church.

as the founding pastor. In 1989 I was called to preach and on September 13, 1992 I was ordained as a minister and preacher of the Gospel.

What do you see as the greatest challenge for our city and community?

Every Wednesday at Noon pastors and church leaders gather together at the New Testament Church for prayer. Because of time elements, many of us do not have time for prayer. This is a significant challenge.

Second Chronicles 7:14 says, "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." This is the piece that will allow God to really make a difference in our community as we come together as believers to pray.

I'm not sure why this is so difficult to do. Revival starts with prayer and addresses our spiritual condition. When there is transformation of the heart (particularly of our leaders), then we will see a difference in our homes and city.

How does your church encourage people to become involved in outreach in the community and in missions?

Direction for a healthy church comes from five ships: Worship, Discipleship, Fellowship, Stewardship and Leadership. Each new member goes through a series of classes and after we are convinced about their relationship with Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, they become a part of a church ministry. We track their progress and participation through their engagement in a flock group.

We also set aside 10% of our budget for local and worldwide ministries and have members serving around the world.

What things do you believe have contributed to the vitality of the New Testament Church?

Without a doubt I believe that it is the plurality of leaders who are filled with the Holy Spirit. Pastor Malone is a praying leader and lives what he preaches. I have watched him for 25 years and he is always praying. He sets the direction for this ministry and prepares us for ministry.

Please tell us about your relationship with The Milwaukee Outreach Center and why you support this ministry.

We have supported The Milwaukee Outreach Center for many years because of the leadership and goals of the Center. We believe that you have a New Testament vision in reaching this city and we have entered a partnership with you to make this a reality for our city.

What are some of your mission goals for 2006?

Our goal for 2006 is to make disciples of Jesus Christ who will make disciples of Jesus Christ. We have over 700 members. If every member would witness and disciple a new convert, we will then have added 700 new believers.

Count On Me!

Today I'm enclosing:

___ My monthly commitment of \$ _____

___ A special offering \$ _____

Name _____
(first) (last)

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

I would like to...

- be a volunteer
- be a *CityReach* Prayer Partner
- attend the Phoenix Life Skills program (June 5-9; July 1-21)
- register for the Golf Scramble (August 23)
- visit with a Christian counselor



News To Use



Laurie Knapp is TMOOC's newest board member.

This month we welcome Laurie Knapp to the board of directors of The Milwaukee Outreach Center (TMOOC). Laurie first became involved with TMOOC as a featured speaker for the Phoenix Life Skills class. She stated, "Spending time with the students had a profound impact upon me. I noticed that many of the students were dealing with issues that I had already faced."

Laurie and her husband, Brian, are longtime members of Elmbrook Church. They have three adult children and one grandson. She is currently a shift supervisor for Starbucks in Oconomowoc.

We welcome Richard Hansen as the new president of the Board of Directors. He has served on the board for eight years and has a life-long commitment to Milwaukee. Recently retired as a branch manager for St. Frances Bank, Richard and his wife, Diane, are active members of Oak Creek Assembly of God. He also serves on the World Missions Board for the Assemblies of God in Springfield, Missouri.

In July Richard and Diane will celebrate their 40th anniversary. They have two married daughters and five grandchildren. We thank God for their leadership at TMOOC.



Richard Hansen (center) is welcomed as TMOOC's new board president by Will Hope, Director of Development (left) and Mike Rintelman, Executive Director (right).

Why I Volunteer

D.J. Rodrian, President, Rodrian Insurance (Brookfield, WI)

D.J. Rodrian volunteers on a regular basis as a speaker for Phoenix Life Skills. His greatest concerns for Milwaukee are spiritual and educational. He commented, "I have a sincere desire to help students in Phoenix find direction and employment. I believe in this program and want to see others serve Christ and find God's purpose for their lives.

"I am very concerned about the condition of education in Milwaukee. Many of our high school graduates are not prepared to enter the workforce or pursue higher education. Today people need to have specific skills and abilities in order to be employed beyond minimum wages. Increasingly, we are becoming a city of have's and have not's."

If you would like to be volunteer and make a difference in someone else's life, call Bill Lange, Director of Phoenix Life Skills at 414-760-0334.



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Michael Rintelman
Executive Director

Executive Director's Update



One thing that I have learned in ministry over these many years is that The Milwaukee Outreach Center is not able to meet all the needs that we encounter. The complexities of today's issues require the collaboration and skills of every Christian, especially those engaged in ministry.

On March 31, fourteen churches and ministries attended a meeting at TMOc to spearhead a true collaboration of like-minded Christians for the purpose of making a measurable difference in the lives of hurting people in our city.

The *CityReach* Partnership purposes to be a collaboration of Christian ministries and churches committed to the transformation of individuals, families and communities by intentionally working together in covenant relationship. This is not a new concept. People have attempted collaborations like this in the past and many have collapsed because of pride, position and titles. This initiative is different for two reasons.

First, the *CityReach* Partnership is evolving from nearly 20 years of purposeful relationships with each member of the Partnership. We know and love this city and we are linking ourselves with others who are reaching our community in tangible ways with the love of Jesus

Christ. Lip service is not enough. Good intentions are not enough. We believe that as we pray and work together, our combined efforts and strengths will make a greater impact on our city.

The second reason that makes this a unique initiative is the scope and reach of this partnership. The *CityReach* concept was first proposed by Operation Blessing International Relief and Development as a means to focus resources on purposeful transformation in the lives of people. The concept is to go deeper, rather than wider. Instead of giving someone a loaf of bread, teach them how to bake and to manage their finances. The Milwaukee Outreach Center is privileged to have been chosen as one of seven cities in our nation to participate in this initiative.

This is a dramatic change from ministry of the past that primarily met the temporary needs of individuals. Our goal as a Partnership is to facilitate transformation by using all the strengths of the partnership to meet needs and to move families from dependence to self-sufficiency and self-determination. We want to break the cycle of dependency and suffering that has held many in poverty for generations. As noble as our intentions, the *CityReach* Partnership needs your prayers and support if it is to be effective. Please let me know if you would like to join our partnership prayer team by returning the "Count on Me" slip enclosed in the newsletter.

