



# SARRACINO UPDATE

FALL 2010

## Greetings!

Greetings from the city of brotherly love! Heidi and I trust that this letter finds you and yours well and encouraged in the Lord. Much has transpired over the last several months since we last wrote. In this issue, we will update you on the Training program LAMPhilly as well as on how our Networking Ministry has been developing. - Mark Sarracino

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## LAMPhilly Training

*LAMPhilly Training, a ministry of CityNet Ministries, started in February of 2005 with seven students. Since its inception, we have seen nearly sixty students involved in the training from thirty five churches and seven ethnic groups! God has been very gracious to us by allowing us to be involved in touching the lives of so many urban church workers.*

*On Friday, June 25, 2010, we reached a milestone. We celebrated our first graduation from LAMPhilly with eleven students receiving Certificates from the Program! There were five who received a "One Year Certificate in Church Planting," one who received a two year "Certificate in Spiritual Foundations for Missional Leadership." and five who received a four year "Advanced Certificate in Urban Missional Leadership."*

*Over the last five years, we have had the privilege of working with over sixty students from 35 churches and seven different ethnic groups. Three are preparing to plant new churches in the City, two have recently been ordained as pastors by the Presbyterian Church of America and each of the others continue to be involved in various capacities of ministry in their local churches. In addition, we have had the privilege of having eight trainers facilitating one or more of the sixteen courses that we offer.*

*Presently, we have 16 students in two cohorts. One Cohort is in its second year and the other in year one.*

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Recipients of "Advanced Certificate In Urban Missional Leadership"



The men at this table are Recipients of the One Year Certificate in Church Planting

## New Opportunities

Part of CityNet's vision is to serve the urban church both in Philadelphia and beyond. Recently the Lord opened the door for us to begin working with a church in Up-town Manhattan, NYC. The church is Manhattan Bible Church (MBC) and it is situated in a predominantly Hispanic neighborhood. MBC has always been outward focused and has made strong inroads into the community over the years. Bill Devlin (pictured below) became the Pastor at MBC nearly three years ago and under his leadership, MBC is poised to train key leadership from the church in the planting of new churches in their community and beyond.

This is a great opportunity for CityNet and we are excited about what God has in store for His people in this community. Please pray for Manhattan Bible Church, Pastor Bill Devlin and his leadership team as they step out in faith in reaching their community with the gospel.



MBC is located in a community of over 200,000 people. The Lord has blessed the ministry with over four hundred in attendance on a Sunday morning. Recently, Pastor Bill and the leadership team made a renewed commitment to reaching their community in a strategic fashion. We have had two preliminary meetings and Lord willing, we will start the two-year "Spiritual Foundations in Missional Leadership" in January 2010. CityNet/LAMPhilly will provide the curriculum and framework for the program. We will teach the first few courses and MBC will then provide teachers who will assume primary responsibility for the training.

## Networking

*We continue working with a few strategic networks in the City (one in South Philadelphia, another in Northwest Philly and a more recent network in Eastern Delaware County). On Friday, September 17, we held a citywide Praise and Prayer gathering. It was a wonderful time of praising God, praying together and sharing in fellowship. Out of this time there was a renewed commitment to prayer and several new people signed up to either lead local prayer gatherings or become part of existing ones.*

*Please pray for a move of God in the neighborhoods of Philadelphia. Pray that God would bring a spirit of unity among His people so that there would be a concerted effort to reach every man, woman and child in the City with the love of Christ. Pray also that those who need Jesus would know that we are His people by the love we have one for another.*



## Family

Heidi continues her work for PA Cyber Charter School. She works with over 100 students many of whom are in Philadelphia. This is a virtual school where students do their work primarily from home on computers provided by the State of PA. There are some who also come to the facility where Heidi works located near Chester, PA.



She has been able to impact many of these young lives simply through her teaching and loving demeanor expressed both over the phone, online and in person. As some of you may know the urban context in America has not had great success in educating children in the public school system. PA Cyber is a school that offers an alternative education and appeals to many who desire to earn their high school diploma and want a healthy environment in which to do so. The data on percentage of ethnic groups who graduate from high school is as follows - 65% of African Americans in Philly, 55% of

Latinos and 91% of Caucasians. PA Cyber has been contributing to the increase of high school graduates in Philly because of the efforts of Heidi and others who are dedicated to educating those who want an alternative approach and are willing to work hard at it.

Please pray for Heidi - pray that she will be able to express the love of God to her students and that they will be drawn closer to Him through her teaching and loving approach of showing care and concern for their educational needs.

Shannon - continues her work at Cardone Industries where she is employed in the Human Resource Department. She also continues her involvement at City Line Church in Philadelphia working with and leading the Children's Ministry.

John - is in his fourth year at The Vanguard Group an investment firm in the area. He works in IT. He recently moved to a new department and is broadening his experience and expertise in online software issues and web-based programs. He is hoping to get involved in computer security in the future. He also attends City Line Church and helps with media and computer needs.

Heidi and I very much appreciate your prayers and financial giving on our behalf. Especially during economic times such as these, we really appreciate your concerted prayers and sacrificial giving.

Our support over the last several years has been stable and for this we are very thankful. We do need to increase our budget as more opportunities arise. We really do not want to turn down requests for assistance and/or partnerships for financial reasons. If the Lord puts on your heart to increase your giving or if you would like to give to the work, you can mail your checks to the address below or you can go to our [website](#) also listed below and sign-up for electronic giving.

May the Lord richly bless you and yours as you walk with Him!

With much love and appreciation,



Mark & Heidi Sarracino

*P.S. There may be considerable tax benefits if you make a gift before the end of the calendar year. Our ministry is entirely supported by caring Christians who have a heart for urban ministry. Any size gift is sincerely appreciated and will be used to support our work in the City of Philadelphia.*

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