

REACH QUARTERLY UPDATE

In Philippians 1, the Apostle Paul writes, "I thank my God in all my remembrance of you...because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now" (v. 3,5). Paul thanks God for the Philippians' partnership in the gospel. However, it's not until the end of Paul's letter to the Philippians that we learn that the partnership the Apostle Paul was referring to was financial partnership (Philippians 4:15). **In other words, our partnership together in the Reach Initiative is gospel-partnership.** I thank God for our partnership in the gospel!

In this Reach quarterly update, you will read an update from Pastor Tim about the progress we have made on Citylight Church's new facility at 4050 Main Street in Manayunk. You will also read an update from Pastor Paul about the wonderful outreach that Citylight Church put on in our community during the Christmas season. I hope that you enjoy both updates because Reach isn't only about a long-term facility where we can set down deep roots in our community and bear lasting fruit for generations. Reach is also about Citylight Church's day-to-day mission of making disciples of Jesus for the glory of God in the Philadelphia region (Matthew 28:18-20).

As we near the halfway point of the Reach journey together, I am specifically praying that eternity will inspire your joyful generosity. I am praying that the Father will help you experience the truth that you will reign with him forever and ever in a new heaven and a new earth, so that you continue to joyfully make an eternal impact with the Father's resources. I pray that the following passages renew, refresh, and inspire your generosity toward Jesus' cause.

REVELATION 22:1-5 "Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever."

MATTHEW 6:19-21 "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Joyfully with you for His glory,

MATT COHEN

Lead Pastor

OUR GOALS

100% *engagement*

We are inviting everyone who calls Citylight Church their home to give themselves first to the Lord, to embrace Reach, and to make a faith-filled generosity commitment

raise **\$4.3 M**

We believe God is calling us to raise the funds necessary for Citylight to secure a new, long-term facility for our congregation, while continuing our mission of making disciples of Jesus.

OUR PROGRESS



\$1,948,548.94

GIVEN TOWARDS OUR
2 YEAR **4.3 M** GOAL
(as of jan 15th)



"I'm excited to fill the front rows at Citylight with friends who wouldn't normally go to church. I'm truly being transformed by the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. I'm infinitely grateful to Citylight for helping me grow closer to God."

NICK SCOTT
CITYLIGHT MEMBER

PROJECT UPDATE & PRAYER POINTS



A lot has happened since our last update!

WE ARE NOW THE PROUD OWNERS OF 4050 MAIN STREET!

This means God has answered so many of our prayers, and we made it through the negotiating, due diligence, and closing phases of the project!

By the time you receive this, hopefully many of you will have had the chance to come to our Open House and see the property. God deserves so much praise for this provision. We have been praying for 3.5 years, and at just the right moment, he provided a facility beyond what any of us expected. We could not be more excited to rebuild this property in the heart of our neighborhood in Manayunk.

The season of rebuilding the property is well underway. We are in the schematic design phase with our architectural team and excitedly working to ensure we have the property designed in the most ideal way to support the work of the gospel in this region through Citylight Church. We are actively taking bids from several contractors and will likely have a contractor chosen by the time you read this update.

NOW THAT WE OWN THIS PROPERTY, WE ARE ASKING FOR PRAYER IN SEVERAL WAYS...

First of all, construction costs continue to rise as supply chain issues continue to be a problem. This, along with inflationary pressures and workflow shortages in the construction industry, has us imagining that construction costs may be higher than initially anticipated. Please pray that the Lord manages this aspect of the process by keeping costs low, providing the right team, and providing more resources than we could have imagined.

We're forming a team to pursue grants and alternative funding opportunities. Additionally, we are exploring historic tax credits. We have actively formed a reserve account to help offset loan costs in the future and are on track with our Reach commitments. Everything else about the project looks to be in great shape.

Please pray for wisdom as we continue the design process, for easy and quick approvals from the city for needed permits and variances, and for a streamlined process in working with city officials and stakeholder organizations. Finally, please pray that the Lord allows our timeline to remain on track so we can occupy the building sometime in the middle of next year.

We are immensely privileged to be building owners and to be stepping into the responsibility that entails. This is an exciting season! Please don't hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions at all. You can reach me at **(814) 404-7142** or **tim@citylightphilly.com**.

TIM SHUTES

Executive Pastor

MINISTRY UPDATE: COMMUNITY CAROL SING

Have you ever had an idea that turns out even better than what you thought would be the best possible outcome? Citylight's first Community Carol Sing was just that! In late summer, our staff team began brainstorming possible ideas for a community outreach in the winter. Winter comes with many challenges in this regard, but the idea of gathering our church and inviting the broader community to join us at a local park to sing Christmas carols together seemed like the kind of idea that was low risk and had potential to be pretty cool. In our minds, the worst case scenario would be a few dozen people from Citylight join us to sing Christmas carols at a public park, while the best case scenario would be a few dozen other community members joining us. A turnout of 100 people was our stretch goal.

On the evening of December 2, approximately 300 people joined us at Gorgas Park to sing Christmas carols! At least half of those who joined us were people from our community whom we'd never met. Our resident Philadelphia Boys Choir alumnus, Pastor Gordon, prepared a choir to lead us in singing. We also had a hot chocolate bar and some kids activities, but overall it was a fairly simple event and turned out to be a far greater success than any of us anticipated.

That said, what was most encouraging to me were the signs that we are becoming a known presence in the neighborhood. There were some who knew us from our annual Fall Fest event at the same park. Someone from the neighborhood's community development group stopped by to encourage us and invite us to be a part of their events. We even had someone thank us for doing this again (mind you, we've never done this), to which I replied, "We're happy to be here!"

We long to live up to our name - Citylight - a city on a hill whose light shines before others who see our good works and give glory to God (Matt. 5:14-16). The Community Carol Sing was clear evidence to that end, and we're excited for all that the future holds as we continue to put down even deeper roots in our community.

PAUL FULLER

Pastor of Care