

7 BRIDGES TO HEAL THE RACIAL DIVIDE

VICTORY WORLD CHURCH

5905 Brook hollow Pkwy

Norcross, Ga. 30071

Pastors Dennis and Colleen Rouse

BRIDGE 4: COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND SERVICE

Victory will celebrate its 25th year of ministry in 2015 with over 13,000 active members and over 118 different nationalities represented on a weekly basis. Racial Reconciliation has been one of the four pillars of Victory since its inception and continues to be its calling card as one of the most diverse congregations in America. The four pillars of Victory are founded in Acts 1:8 where Jesus says these last words before ascending to heaven, " And you shall be a witness of me to JERUSALEM, JUDEA, SAMARIA, AND THE UTTERMOST PARTS OF THE WORLD." When Jesus mentions Samaria it's clear He's communicating cross cultural ministry to be a part of every believers life. The Samaritans had a history of tension with the Jews and Jesus was setting the course for the church to heal the history between these two cultures. With those final words of Christ we took the mandate to build the church on four pillars that represented the Great Commission. " BUILDING STRONG FAMILIES, TRANSFORMING THE COMMUNITY, RECONCILING THE CULTURES, REACHING THE WORLD".

True Reconciliation begins in the heart of the leader and becomes an intentional course that is woven into the fabric of everything the church does from the sermons that are preached to the style of worship that is chosen, the people that are represented in leadership and on the stage, and finally the types of ministry that go forth from the body.

Some of the things that we do that fit into Bridge 4, COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND SERVICE are:

1. Identifying every area of need in the community within a practical distance from the church and mobilizing volunteers to serve those areas in a consistent way that makes a difference. We have hired staff that's primary responsibility is to to lead ministries that serve the Community.

Examples: Clarkston refugee community represents the largest refugee community in the nation with over 50,000 refugees from war torn nations, approximately 20 minutes from the church. We have serviced this community with furniture, ESL classes, coaching and tutoring for children, food and clothing drives, job education, etc.

Movers and Shakers ministry: mobilizes volunteers to help people in the community with furniture and other household necessities. We have furnished as many as 30 apartments at a time for women who are in a domestic abuse program.

We are partnering with several local community projects such as Norcross Food Bank where we regularly supply food by the tons to keep their shelves stocked as well as many of our people volunteer to work there on a weekly basis. We also have a ministry called 7 Bridges that work with homeless people who actually live under 7 Bridges in Atlanta.

We have volunteers serving in The Gwinnett Crisis Pregnancy Center helping women who are not wanting to have abortions. Along with that we are partnering with several other non profits that address homelessness and poverty in our community.

Every week we are serving several Nursing Homes with Sunday morning ministry. As well as sending volunteers to several detention centres where we have weekly ministry to both youth and adults.

Each week we have a team of volunteers called The Mercy Team that visit the sick in all of our surrounding hospitals as well as do home care for those who are home bound.

Our church hosts several programs that address the needs of the community each week

1. We have one of the largest Celebrate Recovery programs in the United States hosting around 350 people each week breaking free from addictive lifestyles.
2. We offer a ministry called Emmaus that addresses same sex attraction to countless individuals wanting ministry in this area. We actually have 2 staff dedicated to this ministry as we are only 1 of 2 churches that offer this in Atlanta which has the 3rd largest gay population in America.
3. We host several ESL classes through out the week for our heavy immigrant population.
4. We sponsor community job fairs and health fairs every year to assist people in these areas as well as host a program developed at Victory called AIM to help people find jobs and prepare resumes.
5. We created a Christian school focusing on reaching children from poorer families. So we subsidize the tuition so these children can get a quality education from a Christian perspective.
6. This year we are launching a Health Care initiative called "BRIDGE ATLANTA" made up of over 140 Doctors and health care workers who will offer health care for those who can't afford it. This is a major undertaking headed up by some key Dr's in our church who have retired from their practices to do this full time.
7. We have a Home and Car repair ministry that offers help to those who have needs in this area.

These are just a few of the many ministries we offer at Victory along with partnering with other non profits to help Transform the community!