



### **Three Decades of God's Faithfulness**

August 2024

What was happening thirty years ago? Israel and Jordan signed a peace agreement. The IRA declared a cease-fire in Ireland. South Africa held its first free election. O.J. Simpson was arrested. The movie *Forest Gump* was released. Whitney Houston's *I Will Always Love You* was record of the year. The World Wide Web was created. Something else happened in 1994: We moved to New York and began *Urban Harvest Ministries*.

In just one month, we will celebrate the 30th anniversary of this ministry. In September, 1994, Lidia, Angel (at four-years-old), and I launched out by faith to follow the calling of the Lord to the devastated community of the South Bronx. There have been many trials, many mountains to climb, many valleys to cross, and many challenges to face. And there have been many lives and communities impacted by the hope that can only be found in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.



Above: Dr. Tom Grassano in the South Bronx

There are so many stories God has allowed us to experience as we have walked with Him by faith. ***In every single step, our God has been faithful!*** I wrote the book *Walk with Me* to share the stories of all that God has done. Many people have told me, "This is not your story; it is God's story!" Praise the Lord! That is precisely what I intended to share.

Below: Bringing hope at a Prayer Station in Detroit

The greatest stories are the ones of transformed lives. People without hope who are now messengers of hope. People who once walked in darkness who are now agents of the Light of the World. Over the next few months, we will be sharing some of these stories of transformation that are a result of this ministry's presence in the South Bronx, Detroit, and Vietnam. Stories like:

- A man who left home at 13 years old and became a homeless heroin addict for 17 years, living on the streets. Now transformed by God, he is reaching many with the Gospel.
- A former drug dealer in charge of an entire project building in the Bronx who is now leading a city-reaching effort in Buffalo.
- A teenager whose faith was opposed with mockery by his siblings now planting a church with the same brother and sister who once mocked him.
- A college student who lost his mother and brother while we were mentoring him, now leading a ministry advocating for faith-based social justice.



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- A young man with authority in the drug market on the streets who became a godly father and servant of the Lord.
- A man who worked as an assistant to three Detroit mayors and whose father was a body guard for Jimmy Hoffa, now completing training as a church planter.
- A college hockey player who found Christ in our chapel and is now a college head coach starting his own chapel program.
- A homeless girl just out of jail who “stumbled on” our prayer station in Detroit and was reunited with her family.

So many lives have been changed by this ministry! Through your prayers and support, you have been and continue to be a vital part of it. ***We rejoice in all that God has done and we thank you for your partnership!***

As I look back, there has been a constant theme wherever God has taken us. That theme is **HOPE!** Hope in dark places. Hope for broken lives. Hope for those trapped in cycles of abuse, addiction, and poverty. Hope for those who have never heard.

We pray that God will continue to guide every step as we walk with Him by faith to keep bringing hope in dark places.

I received a text from a leader of a village in Asia, a man whose life is being changed by the love of God. It was a prayer:

*Dear God, I pray that You hold my hand and don't let me go, because it will be difficult for me to live without You. Please strengthen my heart so that I can have time to calm down and be close to You. Keep me away from sin and help me to always trust in You!*

What an amazing prayer from this man! And one that I believe we all can pray.

**Thank you** for your faithfulness in prayer and partnership. Without you, these stories would not have been possible. God bless you for it.

We invite you to celebrate with us for God's faithfulness over 30 years of bringing the hope of the Gospel to places of darkness and despair! Keep us in your prayers as we continue bringing the hope of Jesus Christ!

*“The rain and snow come down from the heavens and stay on the ground to water the earth. They cause the grain to grow, producing seed for the farmer and bread for the hungry. It is the same with My word. I send it out, and it always produces fruit. It will accomplish all I want it to, and it will prosper everywhere I send it.”*

- Isaiah 55:10-11 NLT

*“Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.”*

- Ephesians 3:20 NASB



*Above: An outreach in Detroit*

*Below: Young men in the South Bronx praying to begin a new life in Christ*

