



CHICAGO

Update

April 2017

It was this month last year, April 19, 2016 to be exact, that my life changed. A group from Brentwood Baptist Church (Brentwood, TN) took a day trip to visit one of our church partners in Chicago—Reborn Community Church.



THE ONE WHO CALLS YOU IS FAITHFUL,
AND HE WILL DO IT.

-1 Thessalonians 5:24



AN ACT OF FAITH

That was the moment God whispered,
“This is your next assignment.”

Pastor Jamie (Reborn), shared with our group about the church, the needs of the community and how Reborn is working to meet those needs by empowering its neighbors, ministering to children, creating economic opportunity, developing leaders, and connecting people to Jesus. My heart was captured!

Before leaving Reborn that day, we spent some time in prayer. Knowing that there was a great need for more leaders to join the Reborn team, someone (Scott Harris!) prayed that God would stir the hearts of people to be a part of this ministry. He went on to say, “...maybe even someone in this room”. That was the moment. That was the moment God whispered, “This is your next assignment.”

Later that day, our group and Pastor Jamie went on a river cruise around the city. The Holy Spirit kept prompting me to talk with Jamie, but he was in conversation with another person and I didn't want to interrupt.

The promptings persisted so I got up the courage to interrupt the conversation. Jamie shared his vision for transforming the Garfield Park neighborhood of Chicago with the gospel, and the desperate need for leaders with specific skills to help make the vision a reality.

In a bold declaration that could only have been prompted by God, I responded with, “I can help you with that.” Jamie asked, “Would you really be willing to pick up your life and move to Chicago?” To which I answered, “Well, that was not a part of my plan but I believe God is doing something here.” With tears in our eyes, we both agreed.

For the next three months, we prayed and discussed what it would take for me to move to Chicago and be a part of the Reborn team. The call came before the details. So, when I found out I would have to raise money to cover my personal and ministry expenses, I had a big decision to make. Will I trust God and move forward in obedience to what He was leading me to do, or will I choose comfort and security over obedience? I chose to respond in faith. A month later, Nailah and I were loading up the truck to make the move. Who would have thought God would send me?





A PILLAR OF HOPE

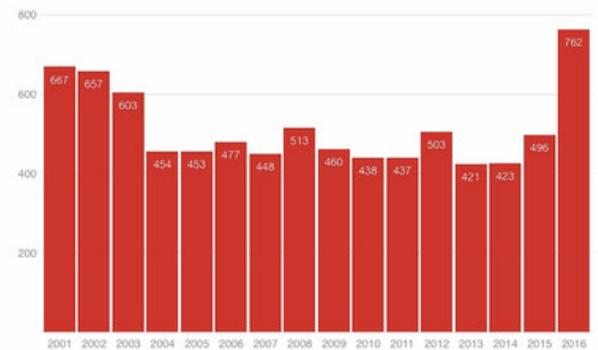
Garfield Park is one of the most dangerous neighborhoods in Chicago. Faced with high unemployment, high crime, failing schools, deteriorating houses and gang activity, many in our community feel like there is no hope.

Reborn has been strategically placed to be a pillar of hope and influence in this broken community. It takes an army of willing hearts to put feet to the ground and get their hands dirty to do this work. Not many people are willing to move to a place that has had 762 murders and 4300 shootings in one year. But when God calls, we should respond in obedience.



Murder in Chicago

Number of murders, 2001-2016*



* Includes first-degree murders, second-degree murders and reckless homicide
Source: Chicago Police Department

In his sovereignty, God made a connection that was mutually beneficial to everyone involved. We (Reborn) are reaching more and more people in our community and lives are being transformed. By being placed in this community, I have experienced the love of Christ like never before! I've come to a place in life where everything I've been through meets everything I've worked for at the intersection of God's unconditional LOVE and GRACE! Join me in rejoicing over the gospel which transforms, redeems, restores and heals.



THE GOSPEL TRANSFORMS,
REDEEMS, RESTORES AND HEALS



Recently I was asked to join a group of ladies to lead our women's ministry. We held our first women's breakfast in March. We invited our 8th grade girls to participate so they can get to know the women of the church and we can begin to build relationships with them. I am so thankful that they decided to come, even though it was the anniversary of the death of one of their closest friends. After the breakfast, they took flowers and visited the gravesite of their friend. I know it was a hard day for those sweet girls. Please pray with me that these girls would come to know Jesus, walk closely with him and that they would seek his best for their lives. Also pray for healing in their sweet spirits for all the loss and pain they have suffered. Pray that the women of the church would be a fountain of love, support, and encouragement for them.

THE LORD IS NEAR TO THE
BROKENHEARTED AND SAVES
THE CRUSHED IN SPIRIT.
-PSALM 34:18



GOD PROVIDES THROUGH HIS PEOPLE

As a ministry birthed out of an urban church, Reborn does not yet have the financial resources to cover operational, staffing and program expenses. We rely solely on donations from people, churches and organizations who believe in the work God is doing through Reborn. I personally rely on a number of phenomenal people, to whom I am tremendously grateful, who invest in me by providing financial support.

I would love for you to join me on this journey! If you would like to provide financial support by making a one-time or monthly gift, follow the link below. Your investment will allow us to continue to work toward transforming our city—one block at a time. All financial gifts are tax-deductible.

GIVE ONLINE



DEFEND THE WEAK AND
THE FATHERLESS; UPHOLD
THE CAUSE OF THE POOR
AND THE OPPRESSED.

-PSALM 82:3

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