

April 2021

Dear Friends,

Spring is upon us and time seems to be flying by and standing still all at the same time. We hope that you are finding the spring ushering in new hope as it starts to warm up a little by little. The last two months have been a whirlwind for us.

Source MN, Inc.

Ben officially left his part-time food shelf position with Source at the beginning of March. We have also begun the transition of fully leaving Source and moving to be under our new non-profit, Places of Welcome. Our time with Source has been a time for growing and learning. Almost 7 years ago, Source offered to be our covering, our umbrella organization, as we started to raise our own support and learn how to transition from doing ministry as a couple to as a family. Source has been a constant support to us when we would return to Minnesota by giving us room and board, as well as a conduit for local ministry during 2020 when we became grounded in Minneapolis. We are thankful for our time at Source and will value the time spent with them.

Places of Welcome

We have been busy getting our Articles of Incorporation submitted to the state of Minnesota. Once we receive our official paperwork back from the state we can move onto submitting our tax-exempt status with the federal government. It feels like a hurry-up-and-wait type situation. We are in a holding pattern waiting for this important step to go through. Once it does, we can move onto getting our financial systems set in place, have an official board meeting, and get our website completed.



The website is behind schedule in getting opened to the public as we are waiting for a few more details to be set before we feel that it will be officially ready to go. We want to thank you for your patience as we work through all of these details.

Minneapolis

This past year, as you know, we have been hunkered down in Minneapolis. We are thankful that we have been able to be here during the Covid pandemic. We are also grateful that we have been able to be here during the racial unrest that has taken place since the murder of George Floyd. It has been an extremely hard thing to live through. We have been through a lot of growth this past year and learning a lot about racism, white supremacy, and justice. There has been a constant hum of tension here in the city since the unrest last summer culminating this past week with the guilty verdict of Derek Chauvin coming through. The people in this city have been through a great amount of trauma this past year and it has been palpable. Accountability for a horrible act of violence against another human is in place. However, I think true justice requires more work. I have been thinking about how justice is more than

punishment. I believe Godly justice involves redemption, restoration, and reconciliation and we are not there yet. I pray for Minneapolis, that we can truly move towards justice and I look forward to what is ahead for this great city.

Personal News

For the past 18 months, we have been able to rent an apartment through Source MN, Inc. Since we are transiting out of Source we are also needing to move. We are currently pursuing purchasing a duplex somewhere in the Twin Cities. We want to move towards having a duplex because we believe it is a good next step for us as a family, as well as a good fit with the mission of Places of Welcome as we continue to form and get our dream pulled together. We have never owned a house, so this feels like a big step and commitment for us.

At the beginning of March, Ben took on a part-time construction job to help us through the transition into Places of Welcome. It has been a big adjustment for our family and we are working hard on being adaptable and finding a new normal in the midst of transition.

As you can see, we have a lot of plates spinning at the moment. Please keep us in prayer as we walk through this season. We are feeling the stress of it all and yet want to walk through it with grace.

Please pray with us...

- That all the paperwork goes through for Places of Welcome and that we can finish getting set up quickly.
- For all the final details for our website to get worked out.
- For a new place to live. That we can find a duplex in the Twin Cities metro that will be a good fit for our family.
- For our family as we adjust to all of the transitions that are happening in our lives at the moment.
- For Minneapolis, that true justice will prevail and that we can move towards redemption, restoration, and reconciliation.

Our email address will be changing to:

theplacesofwelcome@gmail.com

Our new business address is:

1730 New Brighton Blvd
Ste 104-225
Minneapolis, MN 55413.

Our phones will stay the same:

Ben: 612-208-4448
Teresa: 763-242-0153

Thank you for being on the journey with us as we pursue creating places of welcome where we believe everyone is welcome at God's table.

Ben, Teresa, Oliver & Eva Pothier

