



Maybe you've heard about our little church, The Village, which has ministered in its modest way to the city of Tucson, Arizona for eight years now. Maybe you haven't... We started out with nine people meeting in our house in 2000. We grew too big for the house; two carpet replacements later we moved to the back room of a friendly Presbyterian church. This began a cycle of moving that has repeated several times over these years. When the time approached to leave each place, we never knew where we were going next, but each time (and, always at the last moment!) God provided a place for us to keep going. As we've moved here and there, and grown in small doses to our current 80-member congregation, we've hoped for a building of our own. Recently, through the generous donations of many (including some of you!), God provided us with a building of our own—something we've longed for for many years. And, again it came just as we were needing to leave the Lutheran Church that had been hosting us.

All along, our mission has remained constant: to minister to those whose souls have been injured, to help them find God's healing hand, and as we do so, to find more of Him as a community. We have held to Isaiah 61 as one of our theme passages for our community. **"He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, ...to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion—to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor."** [Isaiah 61:1-3 NIV]

As we have worked with those God has brought to our community, we have gotten to be a part of many beautiful stories—some quite dramatic—that display this splendor of God. Like the young lady who was an avowed atheist who came to Christ and was baptized at The Village...or the group of college girls, each seemingly with histories of abuse worse than the next, who found healing through the relationships and care of The Village...or the woman who suffered under spiritual oppression and came into freedom through the prayers of our leaders. (You can read more of these stories at http://www.supportthevillage.org/healing_the_city/stories.php.)



In each of these examples—and many others—my work with people has been one of the ways God has accomplished healing and growth. I have been a counselor in our community since the start of The Village, **leading hurting people into a more fruitful and spiritually healthy life.** God has given a gift to me that I feel I am called to use at The Village: an ability to see how a hurting person's experiences, feelings and choices connect, and to then understand what that person's path to freedom could be. I've been meeting with folks at The Village (and some who are not from The Village) on a small scale for eight years.



Now that we have our own place of worship, The Village is interested in expanding this aspect of its ministry by bringing me on staff for 20 hours per week. In addition to continuing my present ministry, I would begin **to train others to do what I do.** However, The Village can't afford to pay me—and with the current financial crisis, we're at a point where I will need to increase the income I bring to our family one way or another...so that's what this letter is all about.

We hope to raise support so that I can continue this ministry and come on staff as the Counseling Coordinator for The Village. Our dream is to one day (soon?) have a large enough community to support this ministry out of our church budget. Until that day comes, our hope is to raise \$12,000 per year for my part-time position.

As I ask for financial support, I can't help thinking of the dark world we face here in Tucson and how often we must deal with oppressive forces that battle against us. I also want to use this letter as a catalyst for expanding the prayer that is being offered on behalf of The Village. Please pray for us – and especially for me!

If you can help with a one-time or recurring donation or with the support of your prayer, please fill out the enclosed pledge card and send it back with a check or a commitment to pray. We'll be sending you updates on The Village from time to time, so stay tuned!

Thanks,
Julie Brunson

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Make checks payable to "The Village" with "Julie" in the memo line.