

CCCO VISION23!



Central City Community Outreach
lacentralcity.org

Jump In!

Welcome! From the (not so new) Executive Director



Where were you 35 years ago?

Or were you even born yet? Lucky if that's you! As I write this newsletter, I am thinking back to where I was 35 years ago. For me, it was the fall of 1987 and it was my super senior year of college. I had no idea that after graduation in June of 1988 I would be moving to Los Angeles to start an internship at Bresee Institute. Little did I know that I would also meet Scott

Chamberlain, who at the time was living in what was called a "Welfare Hotel" and planting a church in the skid row area of Los Angeles. Now, 35 years later, I find myself taking a personal sabbatical which has allowed me to serve on a voluntary basis as the Interim Executive Director for CCCO.

Why would I take on this voluntary role with no pay, no benefits and a no guarantees of success?

You would be right to question my judgment but I believe my current decision stems from the summer of 1988. At that time, I had been meditating on a Bible passage, Isaiah 58:3-11, which

challenged me to consider spending a year serving those experiencing homelessness and poverty. The Isaiah passage discusses how the people of God were fasting but for the wrong reasons. Yes, they fasted, but not because they wanted their hearts and priorities to change, they fasted AND wanted to keep exploiting their workers AND ignoring the needs of the poor. This passage led me to consider options for service 35 years ago and it continues to guide me today. Although I must confess that I sometimes feel more like Jonah than Isaiah when it comes to the complex issues present at 6th and San Pedro where Central City is located.

If you are not a religious person and are not sure what I am referring to regarding Isaiah and Jonah, both were prophets. Isaiah, however, immersed himself in addressing the complex issues of his people for many years, while Jonah ran, complained and pouted when God asked him to serve. So, after recently visiting Central City, seeing the decline of the community, the increase in those on the streets and the despair of the people living in skid row, I sometimes want to run and leave it to someone else. But then we find people who inspire and humble us with their dedication to Central City and their service to the skid row community. There is HOPE!



Major partner, penguins and 86,000 sandwiches

Last Saturday, Scott and I had the privilege of being at Central City with All Nations Church members and interviewing Elder Byun, who leads people from his congregation to serve at Central City twice per week. Elder Byun is 70 years young, Korean is his first language, and he became a Christian at the age of 45. His factory was recently burned down by an unhoused person but he continues to serve in skid row. He said that his life has completely changed since he gave his life to Christ. Elder Byun and All Nations came to Central City by chance. During the pandemic he was watching a nature program that showed that it takes one brave penguin to jump first into the cold water before the others jump. This analogy, plus the needs he was seeing in skid row on television during the pandemic, made him not jump, but he said he felt more that he was pushed from the iceberg into doing something to help those in poverty, homelessness, addiction and mental illness.

Elder Byun and other members of All Nations saw the needs in skid row and decided to do something. So twice per week they started serving iced coffee, soup, fruit and water on the side-walk across from Central City before they knew it was a church. They also make sandwiches for people to take, like a brown bag lunch. By connecting with Tony, the current Central City Church pastor, they were invited to start serving from the Central City's space at 6th and San Pedro. Through this wonderful partnership, All Nations makes and serves 86,000 sandwiches per year and is also filling the gap to provide a monthly donation that helps pay the lease of the building.

Elder Byun is a great example to all of us who wonder what can be done, even in the midst of major challenges with homelessness. We are humbled by his and the congregation's example, which causes us to feel led to dream new dreams about what can be done through Central City Community Church and Outreach. I asked Elder Byun what scripture guides his work in skid row, he said **Matthew 25:45** "Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me." For us, Elder Byun is a hero and a leader, someone who sees the complex and difficult situation but jumps in anyway.



Ways to jump in from the iceberg!

Increase your donations for a specific need in one or all of the following ways:

- On-going lease of the building – total amount due each month is \$3,000
- Renovate space so it becomes a beautiful oasis in skid row; replace carpet and flooring – \$15,500
- Organize space with new shelving and cabinets – \$10,000
- Fresh coat of paint – \$5,000
- Graffiti removal – \$2,000
- Repair bathroom – \$2,000
- Replace Karaoke equipment – \$3,500
- Donate to help with future permanent Executive Director and Program Director for CCCO.
- Help with utilities – \$600 (approx.) due each month
- Christmas gift for Tony and Lucy – \$500 – helps with their gas as they pick up food daily
- Big crazy idea to take over 6th and San Pedro permanently – purchase current 6 story building – \$19 million



Why continue to support CCCO?

- There are a large number of individuals who have found Central City Community Church and Outreach to be a place of hope, care and transformation.
- There are exciting new partnerships and opportunities for expansion.
- Check out the Vision23! Which highlights the new vision, mission and strategic goals.
- Caring for those marginalized by poverty, abuse and trauma, is a hard task but important and needed work.

Central City Statistics

25,000 (approx.)
contact points
throughout the year

86,000
sandwiches served
annually at Central City

365
days per year Central City
is open and being used
to support the skid row
community

260
days per year food, clothing,
and hygiene are provided

600 (approx.)
annual church services,
support groups,
and Bible Studies

3
ongoing partnerships that
provide weekly support; All
Nations Church, Open Door
Ministry and New City Church

We are so grateful for each one of you!

TO DONATE, visit: https://app.etapestry.com/hosted/CentralCityCommunityOutreach_1/OnlineDonation.html
or send a check to: Central City Community Outreach, P.O. Box 13273, Los Angeles, CA 90014

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Scan to
Donate:





Central City Community Outreach

CCCCO Vision 23!

To build healthy relationships in a beautiful space designed to foster restoration, transformation and joy in the skid row community.

Mission

Building relationships to empower individuals to THRIVE



Why?

To bring beauty, hope and joy where there is too much despair.

Values

Diversity & Inclusion • Sustainability • Dignity
Hospitality • Community • Trauma-informed

Strategic Goals for 2023

- ✓ By 1/1/23 Establish an activated and engaged Board of Directors and Advisory Board to help relaunch the new vision.
- ✓ By 8/1/23 Raise \$350,000 for a new ED, PD and to renovate current space or to secure a new space.
- ✓ By 9/1/23 Increase capacity for targeted programs based on assessed needs.
- ✓ 12/31/23 Secure a permanent and sustainable space for CCCC and CCCO.

Desired Outcomes for Meeting Strategic Goals

- Continued basic needs support; meal, food and clothing distribution.
- Holistic mental health and life skills support.
- On-site Healthcare services through partnerships.
- Education and career services.
- On-site case management.
- Daily chaplaincy support and additional small groups.
- Relaunch Karaoke Coffee Club.
- Additional administrative support for the CCCO-new ED and PD.

Brief History

Est. 1988

Central City Community Church (CCCC) of the Nazarene was established in 1988 in response to research showing that there were no church congregations specifically present for the 15,000 people living in welfare hotels, SRO's, tents, shelters or on the streets in the Central City and skid row community. The other factor that motivated establishing the church in the downtown skid row community was due to its location being steps away from where Phineas F. Bresee established the first Nazarene church called the "Glory Barn" back in 1895.

Est. 1992

The Central City Community Outreach (CCCCO), a non-religious 501c3, was established to expand fundraising opportunities to support various community-based programs and resources for the individuals and families living in the downtown community. The CCCO currently pays for the lease of the building and part of Tony's (CCCC Pastor) salary for his role as community chaplain and program director.