

# Those Peculiar Johnsons

1 Peter 2:9 "... You are God's peculiar people...." • Winter 2018

No one knows whose womb holds the chief! African Proverb

## Success in the Killer Zip Codes

Life expectancy depends on zip code. Take a drive through Philadelphia's University City or even up North Broad Street. Why not walk in Center City, West or South Philadelphia? The city is home to seven medical schools, three pharmacy colleges, two dental schools, numerous nursing schools, and training centers for other health professions. Depending on where you drive or walk, the prevalence of preventable, treatable, and curable diseases—diabetes; hypertension; stroke; prostate, colon, and breast cancers—and, of course, dying from gunshot wounds is at record low or high levels, solely dependent on zip code.

To paraphrase one Philadelphia reporter, some people are living in Killer Zip Codes.

*It's not just bullets and drugs sending so many on early trips to the undertaker. It's something far harder to escape: the stress of just actually having to live in these places.*

*Their zip code kills them slowly, but surely. They are living in such fear, filth, and hunger takes a toll. It batters the body [and] stunts brain growth.... Kids growing up in Fairhill [Philly's poorest community] and Strawberry Mansion and Swampoodle [Philly's most violent areas] have significantly lower life expectancies than kids in Iraq and Syria. Literal war zones. In Fairhill, a child born today is expected to live to 71. That's three fewer years of life than children in Iraq and Syria, where civil wars rage, bombs explode, and armies of marauding mass murderers roam. [http://www.philly.com/philly/news/20160420\\_In\\_city\\_s\\_poorest\\_neighborhoods\\_\\_a\\_matter\\_of\\_life\\_and\\_death.html](http://www.philly.com/philly/news/20160420_In_city_s_poorest_neighborhoods__a_matter_of_life_and_death.html)*

Miriam Medical Clinics (MMC) is on a mission to change the health care for all Philadelphians, especially those living in killer zip codes. Our doors are open to all—insured, uninsured, or underinsured—seeking compassionate care. Here are some victories within the killer zip codes.

For over four years, Miriam Medical Clinics have provided medical, dental, and podiatric care. Our services and networking continue to grow.

1. Collaboration with **BEBASHI**, Transition to Hope, an organization aimed at providing services to clients diagnosed with HIV.
2. Partnership with **Why Not Prosper**, a home for women in transition from prison and jail.
3. Working with **Surge Recovery** as they help men recover and rehabilitate from addiction and incarceration.
4. Assisting the ministry of **Redeemed for a Cause**, which provides care for women being trafficked for sex. They need material and medical support.

Dear Michael and Kay,

By faith, I want to partner with you in ministry!

I will pray for you.

I want to invest \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per \_\_\_\_\_ month, \_\_\_\_\_ quarter, \_\_\_\_\_ year, beginning \_\_\_\_\_ (date), for as long as the Lord enables me.

Enclosed is a cash gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for your ministry.

Please send me *The Call*, WGM's magazine, free of charge to my mailing address.

Name (Mr./Mrs./Ms./Rev./Dr.) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Give online by electronic funds transfer or credit card at [www.wgm.org/michaeljohnson](http://www.wgm.org/michaeljohnson).**

Make checks payable to World Gospel Mission and send completed coupon to: World Gospel Mission, P.O. Box 948, Marion, IN 46952-0948.

5. **Community Clinical Conferences** with topics such as: smoking cessation, medicine management, diet and exercise, trauma healing, and depression.
6. House calls for those clients who are limited by age and infirmities.
7. The **Philadelphia University of the Sciences** provides students and professors of pharmacology, who give onsite full medication review for our clients.

The Jesus whose birth we celebrate this Christmas season was born in Bethlehem and made his home in Nazareth, which was in a killer zip code. We thank you for your partnership in Miriam Medical Clinics and the other Out of Nazareth ministries.

Through **Out of Nazareth**, we continue to provide support for the incarcerated and their families, helping men and women obtain expungement for their petty offenses and a second chance while incarcerated and upon their return home. One man we support, HH, has been incarcerated for over 35 years. HH provides hospice care for those behind bars. He ministers to them as they die, washing their bodies, cleaning their wounds, and providing other personal care. HH shows them the love of Jesus and the freedom it brings, even as he himself continues in his incarceration. There is victory in Nazareth.

In family news: We rejoice with the birth of Nathaniel Paul on September 23, 2018, to Emmanuel and Talisi. Their fourth born, he's their first boy after three beautiful girls. We celebrated Thanksgiving with the family. He does have parents. We will show them next time.



This Christmas, you can celebrate that you have been a blessing to many lives in killer zip codes of Philadelphia, and on their behalf, we thank you. This New Year, with your help we hope to expand the ministries of Miriam Medical Clinics. We are still in need of money to do the renovations on the building that was given to Miriam Medical Clinics. The estimated cost of renovation is \$85,000. In addition, the Johnson Ministry Account, which keeps us active in all the works in these zip codes, is in dire need of support; fundraising has been a challenge. And lastly, pray for the necessary professional staff volunteers to help us in meeting the growing need to give the gift of Christlike care.



**WORLD GOSPEL MISSION**  
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Your financial support can be given online at [www.wgm.org/michaeljohnson](http://www.wgm.org/michaeljohnson) or can be sent to World Gospel Mission, P.O. Box 948, Marion, IN 46952-0948. Mark donations for Michael and Kay Johnson ministries.

### YOUR GENEROSITY MAKES A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE.

Every day, God's people are reaching the lost and hurting with the message of hope.

This movement of transformation doesn't just happen; it's because people like you say yes to God's leading.

*Thank you for your faithful giving!*

#### World Gospel Mission Donor Disclosure

All gifts to WGM are tax-deductible to the full extent allowed by law. Contributions are solicited with the understanding that WGM has complete control over the use of all donated funds. It is our policy that all gifts designated for a specific project be used toward that project. If we receive more funds than needed for a project, the extra funds will be applied toward a similar pressing need. WGM is a member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA) and Missio Nexus.

