

<sup>∞</sup> Building the Kingdom. Transforming Lives. One Investment at a Time.



PRESIDENT'S CORNER: Remembering with Gratitude, **Expecting with Hope** 

**CHURCH SERVICES: Unsecured Loan Program** 

Metro Alliance

Church

ADF CHURCH LOAN

Church: Metro Alliance Church

Address: 4500 Bridge Avenue

 ■ Building purchase □ Land purchase ☐ Building renovation ☐ New construction

Bringing unity as the body of Christ out of the diversity of

inner-city Cleveland.

Pastor: Juri Ammari

Cleveland, OH 44102 Phone: (214) (31-1743

Loan type:

☐ Refinance Ministry Focus:



Cleveland, OH

ne Halloween night a few years ago, a small inner-city church intended to kick off a Bible study on the Holy Spirit. The building was decorated. Activities were planned. You could bob for apples while learning about the baptism of the Holy Spirit, or eat pie while considering the fruit of the Spirit. It was designed to be a fun "in-reach," a fellowship event for the congregation. But the turnout was far less than they had hoped. Were the young men teaching the class discouraged? Perhaps, but not for long.

Seeing the church doors open and the lights on, the neighborhood flooded in assuming they were invited. Without a moment's hesitation, the church altered their focus and jumped at this chance to love their community. God had turned their in-reach into an outreach! Each year since, it's grown and now more than 600 come every Halloween to their annual "Holy Ghost Party."

(Continued on inside)

"You have to love people enough to build a relationship that can handle the weight of the truth, that will bring them to the point of faith whereby they can receive forgiveness..."

### COVER STORY (cont.)

Metro Alliance Church in Cleveland, Ohio, is located where worlds converge. In the Midwest, Cleveland's near west side is second in cultural diversity only to Chicago with more than 50 languages spoken in the local high school. In this neighborhood where poverty lives among wealth, and where cultures from all over the globe intermingle, Metro Alliance seeks to make a difference with the gospel.

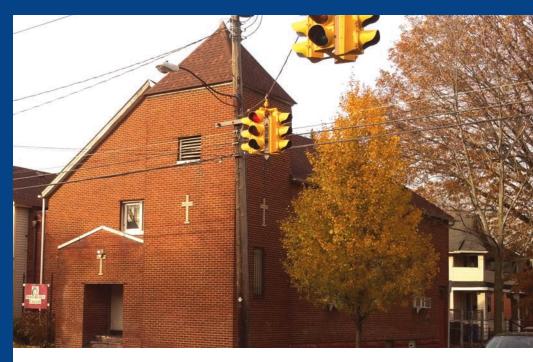
"We have the nations on our doorstep," explains Pastor Juri Ammari. The church can't be inward focused, it must be Christ-focused. He summarizes their mission statement this way, "You have to love people enough to build a relationship that can handle the weight of the truth, that will bring them to the point of faith whereby they can receive forgiveness and give it away, which will bring them into a common unity, or community with believers and deepen the community with all of the people they know." Regarding urban ministry, he says, "You have to move into the neighborhood and become a listener and learner for years before starting a ministry." And that's how the story of Metro Alliance began.

In 1999, the Central District felt a burden for inner-city Cleveland. So Juri and his wife Karen made the city their home, and began "coffee-shop" evangelism. They carefully surveyed fellow customers and neighbors believing that in order to know the peoples' need, they needed to first know the people, and to know the people, they had to live life *with* them in community.

The next step was to establish home Bible studies, and then eventually to meet at the YMCA. As the church grew large enough to move into their own facility, the Lord provided. Working together with ADF and the district, they purchased property which included a 120-year-old building, a fellowship hall, and a parsonage. Metro Alliance has been there since.

Bringing unity as the body of Christ out of the diversity of inner-city Cleveland is the heart-beat of Metro Alliance Church. They strive to love Christ and love others, "Because," Juri concludes, "when the great commandment is full on, the great commission gets accomplished." And that means that when God gives them a chance to show the Spirit instead of just talking about Him, they take it.

To share with our Alliance family what God's doing in your fellowship to advance the Kingdom, please contact us at adf@adf-inc.com



President's Corner

Sharing with Larry McCooey



### **Dear Fellow Investors and Friends**

Having celebrated ADF's 35th year in 2013, we move on to the future that God has for this ministry with grateful and expectant hearts.

We are grateful for you and your steadfast support of C&MA churches through your investments in ADF. And we are grateful for those churches where lives are being transformed.

We are also expectant as we reflect on God's faithfulness over the past 35 years and anticipate, like Paul, "a great door for effective work" (1 Corinthians 16:9). We look forward to an expanding number of churches and helping many of them with their needs to buy, build, expand, or renovate their facilities so that their service to the Lord will be most effective.

Many wonderful stories have been shared with you over the years, but there are so many more. We will continue to share those stories with you so that you can share in the joy of what God is doing and your partnership in it.

May God grant you and yours a blessed New Year.

Jamence L. McCooey, CPA, PFS, CGMA

President

"We are grateful for you and your steadfast support of C&MA churches..."



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### Contact Us

The Alliance Development Fund, Inc. PO Box 63419. Colorado Springs. CO 80962-3419

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forward to serving you. Please contact us if you have questions or if we can help you in any way.

All of us on the ADF team look

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