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## MISSION NEWS

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ACEVEDO, JOHNNY

OPEN DOOR FELLOWSHIP – NEW YORK, NY

1-12

Dear Open Door Fellowship Supporters and Friends,

As a result of prayer and action, including a prayer and protest meeting in front of the legal offices of the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) that resulted in seven pastors and laypeople being arrested, NYCHA reversed course and is resuming rentals to churches.

Furthermore, they are willing to sign long-term agreements with congregations renting from them rather than limiting them to month to month agreements.

This is great news for the many churches like Open Door that were renting from NYCHA. It is also crucial for churches that have been banned from New York City Public Schools to have the option to rent from NYCHA centers.

We gathered for worship at the DeWitt Clinton Community Center last Sunday, January 8th and will meet there again this Sunday, January 15th where we will be celebrating two baptisms!

The great news of possible access with long term contracts however does not change our current financial circumstances at Open Door so we will not continue to rent space from NYCHA and will continue to explore other possibilities.

This is a serious challenge and potential set-back for us because we have spent the last two years investing in relationships at that location. This is a very high value for us as a neighborhood based church. If we were a commuter church, our location would not be as critical. Also, it will not be long before another church with greater capacity will rent the center from NYCHA. If this happens, we would rejoice that the Kingdom of God is advancing even as we lament having lost the use of the community center that we have called home for the last two years.

**If you would like more information on how to support Open Door Fellowship,  
or other ministries of Christian Reformed Home Missions, please call us.**

Please continue to join us in prayer:

- 1) That we would be given wisdom and insight in how to proceed.
- 2) That those in our fellowship would be challenged for growth as disciples and not just Sunday gathering attenders.
- 3) That we would be given favor as we seek other options.
- 4) That we would be able to leverage resources both inside and outside of Open Door.

Blessings,

Johnny Acevedo

Pastor

Open Door Fellowship of East Harlem