



So You Say You Want a Revolution

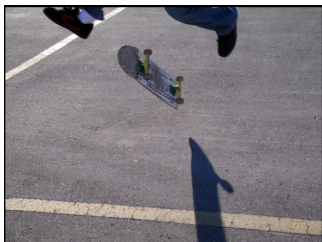
Well, You Know, We All Want to Change the World



360 is shorthand for panoramic photographs and virtual reality worlds, since it is the degree measurement of a circle.

How can I be a good neighbor this month?

As you are out doing your Spring clean-up, or see your neighbor out working in his/her yard, walk yourself over, lend a hand and re-connect, or connect for the very first time. Many hands make light work. And working alongside can make a friendship.



The term 360 refers to a trick in certain sports, like freestyle skiing or motorcycle stunt riding, where the athlete rotates in the air a full 360 degrees.

Melissa Rosin

Last October, my husband and I attended a dessert that was aimed at sharing 3sixty's vision with stories. We walked into a room that had a definite hipster coffee-house vibe and listened to their stories, their plans and dreams; by the end of the evening, I was entranced. Here were people who were feeling the same longing for true community, true belonging. And they were doing something about it! So I jumped in with both feet. I've become the office administrator for 3sixty, responsible for this newsletter, among other things. And now I am trying to define 3sixty for you . . . and me.

The definition has been elusive. Quite honestly, it's been like herding cats. I've been trying in my analytical way to put a nice, square box around a fluid entity.

I asked 3sixty's director, Brian Wolthuis, where the name "3sixty" came from. He said, "Think revolution." Okay. There's "complete circle", there's "orbit" and "a complete rotation". Nifty. But, uh-oh, there is also "radical or complete change", "overthrow", and "rebellion". Oh dear.

Then I went to the best source of information on the planet: middle-schoolers. What I gleaned there was, "Well, if someone does something for someone else, it could come back to them." Brilliant. Now we're cookin'.

So here we go -- an almost stream-of-consciousness defi-

inition of 3sixty as I understand it. It's a desire to attain a bit of the wistful Norman Rockwell painting of community, something we never quite had, but really, really want. There are aspects of both a complete circle and a radical change within 3sixty. It's a holistic revolution; not a violent overthrow, but a transformation, a making new of all things. It wells up from within the neighborhood like a spring, rather than poured from outside into the neighborhood like a pitcher. It's a ministry with, not to or for. It seeks depth in relationships; and once relationships are forged and trust is iron-clad, then discipleship can flow naturally. It's organic, as it seeks to respond rather than to plan or initiate. It's "process" rather than "program". It roots through its neighborhood seeking what is already there: talents, gifts, time, experience and even wealth, although not necessarily worldly riches. It's truly living out Christ's call to love.

Adding to the abstract definition, the brass tacks are that it is a ministry that intends to collaborate and connect with its neighbors within the loose boundaries of 13th Street to the north, 24th Street to the south, Pine Avenue to the west and Lincoln Avenue to the east.

On the very last night He lived on this earth -- at His last Seder, while the apostles were busy jockeying for position, as He was drying His hands from washing their feet, as Judas was skulking out the

door -- Jesus gave His almost last words: "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 13:34-35)

This command to love one another was not new. But the how of it, the measure, was fresh and radical: "as I have loved you". He'd just raised the bar.

Taking Jesus seriously means we must take his words seriously. Did the disciples do that? In Acts 4:32, we read that there was no needy person among them. The whole economic structure of their lives changed! The disciples and the early Church loved so completely that, some 300 years later, they had transformed society!

Loving others is a first step in obedience to Christ. People are hurting. Life is complex. Soul care and life transformation aren't happening for many. Loving others is our greatest apologetic, our greatest justification and defense as Christians.

Jesus commanded us to love one another as He loves us. 3sixty is some local neighbors' attempt to do just that.

Taking Jesus seriously means we must take His words seriously.



What We're Working on Now . . .

In addition to encouraging neighbor-to-neighbor relationships and service, we are working on collaborations with neighborhood families. 3sixty has a unique role in fostering these grassroots initiatives.

Eighth Day Farm

Jeff Roessing

An urban agricultural farm, Eighth Day Farm, will foster community and partnerships, provide discipleship opportunities, seasonal work, and food assistance for families living in the neighborhood. The farm, in partnership with Zion Lutheran Church, will grow some crops at Zion's property at 709 Pine Avenue. Please, look into the farm at eighthdayfarm.com.

How can you get involved?

Join the CSA: be a member and get produce! The CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) is the financial backbone of the farm and is crucial to our other services.

Sponsor a Scholarship Share: provide a low income family with a CSA share.

Volunteer with the Flowers for Funerals: we intend to develop a plan to deliver fresh flowers for the funerals of DHS clients.

Become a shopping coach: pair with someone who wants to learn to shop "healthier", more economically and more efficiently.

Summer Youth Internships: instruction in organic farming, food economy and its ties to health and environment, market interactions.

Provide labor: help pound a shallow well and set up a simple irrigation system, build a shed and composter, spring-time clean-up.

Donate materials: small shed, washing station with 3 industrial-size sinks, materials for composter, shovels, pitch forks, garden shears,

wheel barrows, wheel carts. Our goal at Eighth Day is to be careful listeners in tune with the lives of city residents and as ready to respond to articulated needs as to enact our own ideas.

Time Bank

Catie Hauch

We're on the verge of launching a community skills exchange: an hour for an hour, no matter who you are.

Back in the day, helping each other was something that came naturally and was expected from neighbors. From watching someone's kids, to dropping off meals for a sickly neighbor, to coffee klatches and barn raisings, communities were full of mutually supportive networks. Times have changed and these networks are disappearing. Few of us have family nearby or neighbors we know well enough to turn to for support.

According to timebanks.org, "at its most basic level, time banking is simply about spending an hour doing something for somebody in your community. That hour goes into the time bank as a time dollar. Then you have a time dollar to spend on having someone doing something for you."

Time banking is like bartering; the big difference is that you don't pay back the person who does you a favor. It's a pay-it-forward system. The types of services offered aren't necessarily the services one gets paid for, though they can be. They can also be nurturing services such as sewing, teaching, elder-care, gardening, light home repair or transportation. In return for your hour of service, you receive a time dollar—like frequent flier points rewarding neighborly behavior. It may seem odd that someone is paid the same for, say, web design and pulling weeds, but

this is what makes time dollars work. Everyone's time is valued equally—just like in a family. Time banks make extended family of strangers.

If you're interested in learning more about time banking or to stay informed as to when the time bank is launched, contact 3sixty at 298-2389 or via email at josh@3-sixty.org.

The (Yet to be Named) Housing Initiative

Brian Wolthuis

One of the primary ways 3sixty's built relationships and given service in the neighborhood has been through construction. Everyone in the neighborhood lives in a home, whether rented or owned, which needs maintenance or improvement. We've often collected volunteers and funds to help each other out at our homes, and find that these kind of opportunities continue to grow. It's a great way to build community and there are chances for almost everyone to help.

3sixty (and our neighborhood) is a unique network of people with skills and connections to serve in this way. We are developing a plan and the partnerships to grow our capacity to respond to needs. In addition to helping one another with smaller projects, we have a vision for housing rehab so that we can help committed neighborhood families who are renting move into home ownership. This is a value that the neighborhood and city share. Please pray with us about this and let us know if you want to be part of helping us develop it.



We believe relationships are the essence of community, and presence is an essential part of being a good neighbor. Our outreach is not to those in need, but to the needs of everyone at all times. The Spirit is at work and it is our privilege to serve Jesus Christ by seeking the spiritual, social and physical well-being of our neighbors in the core city of Holland.

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Clarity

Brian Wolthuis

Since 2002, we have lived in the neighborhood that God chose for us. It was very clear to both Amy and me, when we were looking for homes after moving back from California, that there was a specific plot of His land that He intended for us to live within. As it turned out, with no money in the bank, and no job, we were able to purchase the home, outbuilding, even a small parking lot!

God has been sharpening our calling and helping us to discern what he is doing in this neighborhood. He has continued to graft things in us and prune others off. We have spent these years planted in our neighborhood with work, worship, and friendship. We have been allowed to serve our neighbors, to work on homes, to share hope and life together in many celebrations and struggles with the families around us. Much of this work has been grueling. Some of it, amazingly exciting and inspiring.

We are missionaries in our hometown, three blocks from a seminary, four blocks from where we went to college, in a city that has church buildings and ministries everywhere you turn.

Our Great God is committed to restoration. He has always been more interested in healing and helping people than the construction of religion. I believe he gets quite tired of our religious activities that don't spring forth life in ourselves and in those who need life. He's always been birthing a people, a family, and I hear Him calling his people simply to cooperate with Him again.

Two years ago, after six years of working as hard as I knew how on the vision God planted in us, I came to the end of myself. I was exhausted and empty. I had to

quit. I didn't give up on God. I didn't give up on His mission. I didn't give up on the people around me. I just gave up on trying too hard, on carrying the responsibility to do things that only He can do. I gave up on my efforts and the fruit of that. I saw my prayerlessness. Since I'm so stubborn, however, I think God had to allow me to be desperately worn out and crushed to actually return to my proper place under Him.

Almost immediately, as I looked around me, I saw many things coming together. The story became much less I and much more Him and We. There are many people coming forth and moving in with their gifts and partnership and passion. I see how He

I didn't specifically ask for this, I just kept telling and showing God that I was willing. I kept asking for his Kingdom to come...here, and in me. I see how all of the trials and work and relationships that God has had me in over the last eight years have been working toward these purposes of His. This is not a new work and we aren't re-inventing anything; it is simply the clear place where our lives and gifts intersect with our neighbors.

I believe that we are becoming the Church that is more closely following the gracious leadership of our Jesus...we are beginning to participate in the things and relate with people that He is longing for.



has been stirring things deep within many of his people for years that are now being allowed to collide in a beautiful way. I see cooperation between state and federal programs and city organizations and some simple families, churches and non-profits.

We are participating in what God is doing and being allowed to help some who have not had nearly enough help or support throughout their lives. We are growing into a community that gives hope and opportunity to many with whom the Church has had no idea what to do or has been entirely threatened by.

$$\frac{\sigma(n)}{n^{1+\epsilon}} \geq \frac{\sigma(k)}{k^{1+\epsilon}}$$



360 is a colossally abundant number.

I looked up this term, but the mathematical definition went completely over my head.

I still don't know what a colossally abundant number is, but I like the sound of the words.



I didn't specifically ask for this, I just kept telling and showing God that I was willing.

