



# The Stelzigs

## MISSIONARIES TO THE CITY OF

# Boston

Praying friends and partners in ministry,

August, 2016

The last month has been very exciting. I received word this week that we have reached 26% of our needed support and are praying that we will surpass 30% by the end of this summer! We appreciate your continued prayers and support. In September-October we will be in WV, New England, and the New York City area. As we mentioned in our previous letter, if you are a pastor in one of these areas and we could be a help to your ministry in **ANY** way, please don't hesitate to contact us.

This month for our *Focus on the Field* update, we will be featuring one of Boston's inner-city neighborhoods — Jamaica Plain. Jamaica Plain or *JP* was annexed into Boston in 1874. *JP* is known for its beautiful parks including: Jamaica Pond, the Arnold Arboretum, and portions of Franklin Park (Boston's largest park). There are 3.3 sq. mi. of housing space (excluding public property and parks) in Jamaica Plain and according to the 2010 U.S. Census there were 37,468 people living in *JP*.

Historically Jamaica Plain has been home to many immigrant workers who would work in the many factories and breweries in this neighborhood. Prior to the Prohibition, *JP* was home to over 25 breweries. The need of the gospel in this neighborhood has been very evident for a long time. Although many of these breweries didn't survive the Prohibition, the need for the gospel still remains.

*JP* is still home to many immigrants. In fact, due to the high percentage of Hispanic and Latino people in Jamaica Plain, portions of this neighborhood have become known as *Jamaica Spain*. Over 30% of the population of *JP* is Hispanic/Latino. Most of these people are from the Dominican Republic. 16.5% of the people of *JP* speak Spanish at home and 37.8% of those who speak Spanish are unable to speak English very well. The Lord has directed us to begin learning to speak Spanish as well as other languages so that these people can be reached with the Gospel in their own language.

Again, over time, with the lack of any like-minded, Bible preaching witness, the wickedness of *JP* has only gotten worse and worse. *JP* is considered to be the most lesbian friendly neighborhood in Boston, MA. In the first 90 days of 2016 over 225 violent crimes were reported in *JP* alone. In this year alone over 200 drug related crimes have been committed in Jamaica Plain. We believe that the more blatant sin is in a certain area, the more that area is in need of the Gospel but "how shall they hear without a preacher". "Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest." Matt. 9:38

Christ's Servant to Boston,

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