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The Prayer Center In North Minneapolis Closes Doors



MINNEAPOLIS (WCCO) — For two years, a minister used The Prayer Center on West Broadway in North Minneapolis help get kids out of gangs, to help drug users get clean and to make neighbors feel safer.

Reporting
Reg Chapman

But Tuesday, Pastor Jeriland Spence watched as Hennepin County Sheriff's deputies escorted a locksmith into The Prayer Center.

"The Prayer Center is just a place where an ordinary person can come and know that they are loved and know that they are cared for and know that they matter to somebody," said Spence.

Spence, and those who counted on her, now have nowhere to go.

Building owner Jerry Reider says locking Spence out was that last thing he wanted to do.

"We weren't anxious to do this at all. It was just a situation where they weren't able to economically stay here anymore," he said.

Reider said Spence is 5 months behind in rent.

Spence gets no grants or help from the government, just donations from people who pass by and see the transformation of this section of West Broadway, now known as God Block.

"I had no life. I had lost hope," said Arthur Fields.

He said he used to destroy life but with the help of Spence, he's a better man who's returned the favor. Fields is keeping track of the young men he's mentored.

"The purpose and meaning I got now is living I know about love, I know about God, I know about God's people and I know how to help and give instead of always wanting to receive," Fields said

Now it's The Prayer Center that needs a blessing. Spence believes God will help her get the [money](#) to pay what she owes.

The man who owns the building said if Spence pays what she owes he will allow her back in. Spence said she believes people will help her keep this resource in North Minneapolis.



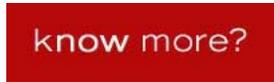
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On Tuesday, Pastor Jeriland Spence watched as Hennepin County Sheriff's deputies escorted a locksmith into The Prayer Center.

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