



The Urban Harvest

World populations are increasingly moving from rural to urban centers, making for larger cities with greater population density and diversity. Cities have been the central gathering places of human life from time immemorial, it has been from these populous centers that great ideas and social movements have sprouted, accompanied by the massive growth in urbanized life that has resulted over the last several decade. For the first time in history, more people are living in cities than rural areas. This way of living is only going to continue: approximately 54% of people worldwide now live in cities, up from 30% in 1950, by 2050, the urban share of global population is projected to be 70 percent.

Approximately 65 percent of the U.S. population now living in cities and generating 75 percent of the nation's gross domestic product, such urban life increasingly dominates the national landscape. The majorities of North Americans live in urban areas and are increasingly concentrating in mid-sized and large cities. In 2010 forty-one urban areas in the United States housed more than 1 million people, up from 12 areas in 1950 and projected to grow to 53 by 2030.

With urbanization the church faces its own problems: how to reach the city with the message of salvation; how to establish its presence among thousands of unreached city dwellers. The church also needs to investigate and study new methodologies to reach the secularized society that characterizes many cities and its complex demographic. In the great urban centers, the number of "new non-Christian urban dwellers per day" is increasing while the percentage of Christians in the city is decreasing. In 1900 there were 5,200 "new non-Christian urban dwellers per day"; in 1992, the number was 107,800; in 2,000, the number was 132,000, in 2017 that number was 141,00, and it is projected to be 145,00 by 2025. In 1900 urban Christians constituted 68.6 percent of urban dwellers. The figure for 1992 is 48.4 percent. In 2000 city Christians accounted for 47.8 percent of urban dwellers.

Throughout history God has called his servants to propagate the gospel to cities, and at no time has this been more urgent than in today's urbanizing world. It is extremely crucial and prudent for urban ministers and churches to be intentional about being multi-ethnic as possible to promote the diversity-unity in Christ as should be evident in the power of the Gospel. The Urban minister and soul winners must commit themselves to the gospel that creates local ministries where the walls of hostility are broken down by the reconciliatory power of the Holy Spirit. Only when we have demonstrated the unity of God's church will the world be cognizant that the kingdom of God has broken through the darkness of the world, establishing peace between all ethnic, cultural and language groups. The church is God's solution to racism, ethnocentrism, and classism.

SPEAKERS:

Bishop Jerald Staten – Guest Evening Speaker

Bishop Micheal Mitchell

- *"Send me a Preacher" – Keynote Address*
- *"Insights into Urban Problems and Possibilities"*

Dr. Victor Nyarko

- *"Understanding the Role of the Church in Community Development."*

Pastor Nerrick Chung-Ying – Moderator

- *"If not Now, When?" – Keynote Address*
- Moderator Panel Discussion: *"Ethnicity in Urban Church Growth and Planning."*

MILLENNIAL FORUM:

Min. Andrew Chung-Ying

Min. Ariel Lopez

Pastor Omar Jolly

Pastor Donny Willis

SYMPOSIUM PRESENTATIONS

INSIGHTS INTO URBAN PROBLEMS AND OPPORTUNITIES.

SPEAKER: Bishop Micheal Mitchell – Building the Bridge Director, UPCI

The mass migrations of the world's population to cities have resulted in a cultural change all over the world, everyday two hundred thousand people move to cities around the world. The Church has been slow in its response to the rapid cultural shifts, when it is imperative that the church must come to the realization that it can be part of the answer to helping urban centers to flourish. The "negatives" of urban city life seen as problems can be made to serve the cause of the gospel, and should be leveraged as opportunities. Evangelism in our inner cities is certainly unique in many ways. It has its own set of problems, its own advantages, and its own set of strategies for witnessing about our Savior. Despite the obstacles, the gospel message has the power to change the hearts of those who hear it and make God's kingdom come also in urban areas. The density of urban areas opens the way for the gospel to spread quickly. Cities are strategic places to carry out the mandate of Matthew 28:18-20.

UNDERSTANDING THE ROLE OF THE CHURCH IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT.

SPEAKER: Dr. Victor Nyarko – Victory Family Worship Center, Bronx NY

With the urbanization rate exceeding the general population growth rate, the UN predicts that the world will be 75 percent urban by the year 2050. Churches will now do diligence to position themselves to provide public service to the surrounding communities. Urbanization changes not only where we live, but also the way we interact, do business and worship. The realities of urbanization now confront the Church and its mission. Should the Church be concerned with community development? There needs to be a paradigm shift in our approach, where our dualistic approach (focusing on the soul as opposed to the body) to a holistic approach, ministering to both physical and spiritual needs, consequently developing a deeper concern and involvement in community transformation. Urban evangelism is incomplete without affecting the social structures of the urban centers. As the individuals are transformed by the gospel, the transformation must also flow into the urban community.

PANEL DISCUSSION: ETHNICITY IN URBAN CHURCH GROWTH/PLANNING

MODERATOR: Pastor Nerrick Chung-Ying - Word of Life Apostolic Center, Rahway NJ

Is the Church for everyone? John emphasized the fact that Christ is bringing together people "from every tribe and language and people and nation" (Rev. 5:9; 7:9). In Revelation 21, in the vision of the New Jerusalem, a picture of the Church, there is a plurality of "nations" that will "walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it.... The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it..." (Rev. 21:24-25). This biblical orientation should influence our reflections and actions concerning the planting of multi-ethnic congregations in Urban North America. Besides the traditional European groups, which have "melted" into the main "pot" of the North American society, there are said to be over 120 ethnic groups communicating in more than 100 languages and dialects. What then, is the reality of cultures and ethnicities in our North American church plant and growth context?

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Friday – April 12th	7:30 PM	EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE SPEAKERS: Bishop Micheal Mitchell Bishop Jerald Staten
Saturday – April 13th	9:30 AM – 12:30 PM	SYMPOSIUM – URBAN HARVEST
	10:00 AM	INSIGHTS INTO URBAN PROBLEMS AND OPPORTUNITIES. PRESENTER: Bishop Micheal Mitchell
	10:45 AM	UNDERSTANDING THE ROLE OF THE CHURCH IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT. PRESENTER: Dr. Victor Nyarko
	11:30 AM	PANEL DISCUSSION: ETHNICITY IN CHURCH GROWTH AND PLANNING. MODERATOR: Pastor Nerrick Chung-Ying, Sr.
	1:00 PM	MILLENNIALS FORUM Pastor Omar Jolly; Pastor Donny Willis Rev. Ariel Lopez; Rev. Andrew Chung-Ying
	6:30 PM	EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE SPEAKERS: Pastor Nerrick Chung-Ying Bishop Jerald Staten
Sunday – April 14th	11:30 AM	WORSHIP SERVICE

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