



Urban Mission *in the Bible*

- ✦ God calls Jonah, sent to the pagan city of Nineveh, to love that great city because of its vast number of spiritually blinded residents (Jonah 4:10-11).
- ✦ God tells the Jews, taken captive to the wicked city of Babylon, to “seek the peace and prosperity of the city” and to “pray to the Lord for it” (Jeremiah 29:5-7).
- ✦ Jesus ministered in word and deed to “all the cities” of Galilee, challenging his disciples to labor in the plentiful urban harvest (Matthew 9:35-38).
- ✦ The Apostle Paul targeted the influential major cities of his day—Athens, Corinth, Ephesus, Rome—for aggressive church planting (Acts 16-19).
- ✦ Most of the NT was written directly to the city churches which Paul had planted.
- ✦ We need a return today to the city centric model of mission practiced by both Jesus and Paul.

How Can You Help?

Project Antioch is a faith vision dependent on the prayers, participation, and financial support of those who share our vision of training effective urban church planters by planting dynamic new churches in NYC.

There is a critical need now for \$220,000 to place our first lead planting couple in NYC by the end of 2011. Our plan is to provide three years full support for our launch team leader to enable him to be fulltime reaching and discipling people for Christ. Another \$75,000 is needed for our Project Antioch Start-Up Fund to cover early-stage outreach and team-training expenses.

Two types of churches are needed:

- ✦ **PARTNER CHURCHES.** These provide monthly financial support for the lead planter, pray faithfully, provide regular encouragement, and are available to provide teams for special projects. A minimum of five Partner Churches are needed for each NYC planting project.
- ✦ **PROMISE CHURCHES.** These are available to provide teams or occasional financial support for special projects or outreach. They also commit to pray faithfully and provide regular encouragement to the church plant. A minimum of ten Promise Churches are needed for each NYC church plant.

For more information
or to give online go to

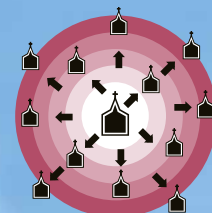
www.bbc.edu/churchplanting



Project Antioch

Preparing effective urban church planters
by planting dynamic new churches in New York City.

VISION 2011



ACTS 1:8

Church Planting *in New York City*

If the Gospel is to be spread worldwide, the city will be its launching pad.

The Need

- ✦ Metro NYC has 22 million people, or one out of every 300 people on the planet!
- ✦ North America's largest mission field.
- ✦ Millions are indifferent to the Gospel.

- ✦ Communities in all 5 NYC boroughs are underchurched.
- ✦ Evangelical Christians, while growing, number but 5% of the NYC population.
- ✦ North America's most ethnically and religiously diverse city.
- ✦ 800,000 Muslims plus many Hindus, Buddhists, Sikhs, and other Eastern religionists.
- ✦ NYC is the least Protestant city in the USA.
- ✦ "Capital of the World"—It is a media, cultural, financial, political, and entertainment center of global and national influence.
- ✦ 20,000 new churches are needed to meet the average per capita ratio of 1,000 people per church existing in most of the US.

The Challenge

- ✦ God has brought the "nations" (people groups) to NYC—almost 40% of city residents are foreign born.
- ✦ Over 300 distinct people groups and 800 languages have been identified in metro NYC.
- ✦ New York is home to 191 colleges/ universities with about 950,000 students.
- ✦ Bible-believing Christians largely vacated the cities during the 1960's, 70's, and 80's.
- ✦ High living costs and crime discourage many families from living in NYC long term.
- ✦ Because of its intimidating size, dizzying diversity, and constant neighborhood turn-over, New York is a complex city in which to plant new churches.

Urban Strategy

- ✦ Partnering with established Bible-believing churches and city ministries.
- ✦ Carefully selecting and training a planting leader who both loves and lives in the city.
- ✦ Recruiting a gifted and ethnically diverse team to assist—no lone rangers.
- ✦ Providing an experienced urban mentor to coach the lead planter and his team.
- ✦ Three years' support for team leader raised in advance, plus start-up funding.
- ✦ Evangelizing targeted communities with good news and good works, word and deed evangelism.
- ✦ Launching multi-ethnic, multi-cultural churches in communities with insufficient Gospel witness.
- ✦ Utilizing "micro" church design models to surmount the lack of available and affordable property issue.
- ✦ Bathing all ministry in intentional intercessory prayer.

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