

Catalyzing & Building
a Sustainable
City Gospel Movement

Exploring John 17 expressions of
unity and collaboration:
a vision-casting workshop

Tom White
Frontline Ministries
City Advance

1


Catalyzing a Sustainable
City Gospel Movement

Leaders catalyze movements,
movements change cities,
cities shape culture

2

A Compelling Challenge...

*Only a healed,
unified church
is able to heal
a broken,
divided community.*



3

Jesus' Prayer for His Followers---

"The goal is for all of them to become one heart and mind—
just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you,
so that they may be *one heart and mind with us*.
Then the world might believe
that you, in fact, sent me."
John 17:21-23
(the message)

4

Living in our Lord's Blessing

"How wonderful, how beautiful,
when brothers and sisters get along!
It's like costly anointing oil flowing down head and beard.
It's like the dew on Mount Hermon flowing down the
slopes of Zion.

That's where God commands the blessing..."

Ps. 133 (message)

5

City Reaching Movements

change of thought leaders, practitioners and language over 40 years

- "7 mountains," spheres, domains (Bill Bright and Loren Cunningham)
- "City-Reaching" (Edgardo Silvano)
- "Transformation" (George Otis)
- "Transform World" (Luis Bush)
- "City Gospel Movements" (Tim Keller)

6

"City Gospel Movement" a working definition

"Christians and Churches coming together across racial and denominational lines in a city, unified by a) the gospel, and b) a vision to reach that city, seeing the urban Body of Christ grow in quality and quantity faster than the population, so that the salt and light of Christian love and truth will improve the life of that city, renew it, improving it socially, influencing it culturally and lifting up Jesus' name so that it is increasingly respected and honored in that city."

Tim Keller, Movement Day 2016, October 2016

7

Tim Keller Video
Movement Day Global Cities
October 2016

8

The Biblical Framework:
God's Design & Desire to Dwell
with and through His People

*"I will keep my covenant with you...
I will put my dwelling place among you...
I will walk among you and be your God,
and you will be my people"*
Leviticus 26:9-12

9

The Biblical Framework:
building the house of the Lord

*"Where is the house
you will build for me?
Where will my resting place be?
This is the one I esteem:
he who is humble and contrite in spirit,
and trembles at my word."*

Isaiah 66:1, 2

10

The Biblical Framework:
giving priority to building the
"house of the Lord"

*"This is what the Lord Almighty says;
These people say, 'The time has not yet come
for the Lord's house to be built.'
Then the word of the Lord came through the prophet Haggai,
"Is it a time for you yourselves
to be living in your paneled houses, while
this house remains a ruin?
Build the house, so that I may take pleasure
in it, and be honored."
Haggai 1:2-4, 8*

11

The House of the Lord
New Testament Revelation

*"In him (Jesus) the whole building
is joined together and rises to become
a holy temple in the Lord.
And in him you too are being built together
to become **a dwelling in which God lives**
by His Spirit"*

Ephesians 2:21, 22

12

The House of the Lord New Testament Revelation

“...you, like living stones,
are being built into a spiritual house
to be a holy priesthood,
offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God
through Jesus Christ.”
1 Peter 2:5

13

God’s Royal Priesthood (1 Pe. 2)

a “people belonging to God,” called to--

Declaration

of
good news
that brings
broken people
out of darkness
into light

Demonstration

of
good deeds,
touching needy people
with the compassion
of Jesus

14

“Let me tell you
about my Church!”

Teeside, UK

15

Components Essential for Effective Collaboration

- 1) Commitment to work over the long haul building healthy, *authentic relationships* in the local Body (Jo. 17:21-23; Phil. 2).
- 2) The practice of *transformational corporate prayer* that is regular, fervent & focused on interceding for your city (Is. 62; 1 Tim 2:1).
- 3) Clarify and cast vision for *intentional mission*: “what must we do together that we cannot do in our own congregations & organizations?”

16

Core Values of a Biblical Culture of Honor

"If being in a community of the Spirit means anything to you...
Then agree with each other, love each other,
be deep-spirited friends.
Don't push your way to the top.
put yourself aside, and help others get ahead."

Phil 2:1-5, The Message

17

"Deep-spirited friends" How does this happen?

- Embrace hiddenness
- Pursue cross-cultural friendships
- Be intentional listening to another's story
 - Give your time, transparency & trust
- Help others find their place "on the wall"
- Pray...play...serve together

18

Kingdom Cultures in the Local City Context

- ◇ Pastors/Churches
- ◇ Non-Profits
- ◇ Marketplace Leaders
- ◇ Prayer/Prophetic
- ◇ Millennials

Within the Body of Christ, these cultures differ in mindset, objectives and methodology. Layer into this reality the differences of gender, ethnicity and theology...building a "culture of honor" is a long-term labor of steadfast, sacrificial love.

19

Working Group Assignment

Move into mixed groups of 6-8.

Assign a facilitator.

What is the Lord stirring or saying to you today?

What concrete steps can you take to strengthen a culture of honor in your community and region?

20

Building a Sustainable Citywide Movement: *growing a kingdom "eco-system"*

- *What is required* – kingdom-minded leaders who carry an unwavering commitment to build 3 cultures:

- 1) A culture of **honor** that builds relational trust (Phil 2:1-4)
- 2) A culture of **transformational prayer** (Acts 4:23-31)
- 3) A culture that collaborates around **missional endeavors and strategies** that release kingdom influence into all societal spheres

Such leaders create core values, common language and a shared vision to catalyze partnerships between these four cultures of kingdom leadership:

- ❖ Pastors
- ❖ Non-profits
- ❖ Marketplace
- ❖ Prayer/prophetic

21

Catalyzing a City Movement (building the "house of the Lord" in your community) *what is required?*

"A/C" Leaders (apostolic/catalytic) that—

- ❖ Receive revelation of the "house of the Lord"
(see what God is doing)
- ❖ Give articulation to the vision for others to follow
(speak what God is saying, others hear His voice through you)
- ❖ Bring contextual activation to the vision
(capacity to functionally implement the vision)

22

Catalyzing a City Movement (building the "house of the Lord" in your community) *what is required?*

Putting in place a citywide leadership team that stewards a sustainable "city gospel movement"

- ❖ Racially diverse, mixed gender, multi-generational
- ❖ Regular meetings to seek the Lord & get consensus on next steps
- ❖ Implement a rhythm of corporate spiritual disciplines
- ❖ Plan the right citywide events at the right time

23

Variety of Approaches to Community Transformation

- Presence-Based
- Evangelism
- Biblical Justice
- Marketplace Initiatives
- Church Partnerships
- Prayer/Power Evangelism
- "City Gospel Movements"

We are seeing numerous contributors with unique and distinct approaches employed to catalyze measurable transformation of both individuals and institutions. In any given city, such approaches may inform and shape one another, and work synergistically to bring release of kingdom presence and power in all spheres of societal endeavor.

24

Building a Rhythm of Corporate Spiritual Practices into your City Movement

- Annual Prayer Summit
- Leadership Prayer: recommend weekly, but monthly okay (pastors & non-profit leaders)
- Pastoral Prayer Clusters
- 24/7 prayer strategy
- National or Global Prayer Initiatives
- Citywide Worship Gathering
- Fasting & Prayer: annually, one week to pray for your community (participation optional)
- CityServe: mobilizing the Body of Christ to meet practical needs of your community

25

City Gospel Movements: threefold mission

- **Increase the percentage of Jesus followers** compared to the general population growth by collaboratively sharing the good news and doing good works (1 Pe. 2:4-12).
- **Incarate biblical justice** by caring for the needs of the poor, marginalized and exploited (Is. 58; Mt. 25:44-46).
- **Release the leaven of kingdom influence into all spheres** (domains) of societal activity, resulting in measurable transformation of both individuals and institutions (Jer. 29:7).

26

Building Collaboration is hard work...

"It is not about just getting started and running on the excitement of this brave new world of partnership; rather, it is the 'discipline of getting things done' in a highly diverse team of folk working on a very complex set of problems in a dynamic and interdependent city environment from within stable and independent organizations. It is a ridiculous working situation that one might normally avoid. At the end of the day, however, there really are things that need to be done that must be done together, and it really does take a system to change a system."

Phill Butler, Vision Synergy

27

Compelling Reasons to Build the City-Wide Body of Christ

- (1) It's **biblical**—God designed & delights in unity (reflects unity within diversity in the Trinity)
- (2) Inherent **value of collegial relationships** (the joy of knowing and caring for one another)
- (3) Has an apologetic power ("one...that the world will believe, **witness of oneness**")
- (4) Acts 4:29-31 **united prayer** for outpouring of the Spirit with signs, wonders and conversions
- (5) 1 Timothy 2 **united intercession** for the city and its governmental leaders

28

Compelling Reasons to Build the City-Wide Body of Christ

- (6) **Coordinate serving ministries**; stewardship of personnel & resources.
- (7) **Corporate responsibility** to win & disciple the collective souls in your city
- (8) **Maximize training** & equipping (Eph. 4:11).
- (9) **Release synergy** of combined gifts & callings, empowered by the Holy Spirit.

29

City Gospel Movements:

outcomes we can hope & pray for

- Growth of the Christian community: conversion rate outpaces overall population growth (*this will only be possible with authentic spiritual awakening*)
- Healthier marriages, families, churches
- Increase of social well-being: racial harmony, lower crime, economic opportunity & equity

30

City Gospel Movements:

outcomes we can hope & pray for

- Redeemed culture: education, media and the arts honor godly principles and human dignity
- Economic stewardship: more Christians utilize wealth for kingdom endeavors
- _____?

31

Working Group Assignment

Move into mixed groups of 6-8.

Assign a facilitator.

What is the Lord stirring or saying to you today?

Is there a societal issue/problem that is common to you all, that compels you to work together towards a solution?

32

Gleaning the Word of the Lord

Move into groups of 4-6. Share with one another:

- ❖ What am I hearing? What do I see the Spirit doing in our community?
- ❖ Pray together: agree with Paul's prayer (Rom 15:5-7)

*"May the God who gives endurance and encouragement
give you a spirit of unity among yourselves
as you follow Christ Jesus,
so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify
the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you,
in order to bring praise to God."*

33

Celebrating our Community's Spiritual History:

an exercise

Identify spiritual pioneers,
historical milestones
and events that have shaped
your city's kingdom narrative

(facilitator creates a timeline

on white board or flipchart.

Invite thanksgiving & praise at close)

34