

Training Urban Leadership: An Incipient Program

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This is the century in which the world is becoming urban. Half of the human race already lives in cities, and the rate of the increase is phenomenal. In 1900 only 11 cities had one million or more inhabitants. Today, approximately 300 such cities exist. A new city the size of Chicago is spawned, on average, every month. The world is moving to the city. Peter Nykamp of the Free University of Amsterdam notes that "the world of the future will be a world of cities."

The phenomena of urbanization that now embraces us needs to be addressed by college and seminary curricula. Students who predominantly come from suburban and rural backgrounds are ill-equipped, without training in urban sociology, urban theology and practics, to become city pastors. Westminster Theological Seminary recently said that urbanization has "enormous implications...for seminary education. Men and women need to be educated for Christian service in an urbanizing world."

The Church of the Nazarene was born in the city. But when I arrived to teach sociology and anthropology at Nazarene Theological Seminary in 1981, I found no coordinated urban training program.

What I did find were several courses taught by urban specialists, all with the same title of "Urban Ministries." I also found a good number of students who were interested in preparing to serve in the inner city. Several of these enrolled in the course in urban sociology when it was first offered in the 1982-1983 seminary year. At that time, the course joined the potpourri of generically titled courses ("Urban Ministries") which continued to be scheduled, with the resulting overlap in course content.

In late 1983 I wrote a grant proposal outlining our need of a structured urban training program and thus made application for funds for the development of such a curriculum. Subsequently, we received a grant of \$2,500 from the E.O. Davis Charitable Trust, which is administered by the First National Bank of Kansas City.

In early 1984, my colleague Paul Orjala and I flew to Chicago to attend a seminar being addressed by Ray Bakke. We were both inspired and challenged by his dynamic and authoritative presentations. He spoke to my colleague and me about joining the S.C.U.P.E. consortium. However, we felt that the Gordon-Conwell Seminary model of urban training would probably be more effective for us at N.T.S.

Meanwhile, pragmatic action was being taken by the students of the Seminary. By the time I returned from a summer of work in Africa, I found a coalition of eight students who had already formed themselves into a referral organization for inner city residents in the areas of emergency housing, transportation, and food. The time was right to call together a group of urban training consultants.

On October 27, 1984, the meeting of urban training consultants was held at the Seminary. Attending were some denominational executives, professors, the district chairman of inner-city ministries, colleagues from M.A.N.C. who are interested in our program and Dr. Tom Nees of

the Community of Hope, Washington D.C. We were heavily reliant on suggestions from Dr. Nees, who has developed his program in close relation to the Church of the Saviour in Washington D.C.

From this meeting, and a later meeting of professors appointed by the Curriculum Committee of the Seminary, came the recommended list of required courses and practicums. These courses, which appear below, are for the degree, Master of Divinity in Missiology, with an emphasis in urban ministry.

Meanwhile, praxis was continuing apace among the students. Because of student interest and training (one participant has a B.S. degree in nutrition), it was decided to establish a food bank and nutrition counseling service in a building that had become available through a church in the inner city. A denominational grant of \$1,000, plus \$750 from the original grant, has helped this become a reality. Cooperation and integration with existing agencies is one of the primary goals of this groups, which sees itself primarily as a "hands-on" referral group.

The above developments were further strengthened in December 1984, and December 1985 when the E.O. Davis Charitable Trust made a second and third grant to this project. While not as large as the first grant, these two additional grants should keep the development of this program alive. We hope to bring in one or two more experts who will help us to further one and refine the structure that we now have.

We now have finalized our curriculum as you see it below, which has now been approved by the Curriculum Committee and the Faculty of the Seminary.

An M. Div. in Missiology may be earned with an emphasis in urban ministry by including the following courses in one's program:

The City in Theological Perspective	2 hours
Urban Sociology	2 hours
Urban Ministry Practicum in Urban Issues	2 hours
Sociology of Religion	3 hours
Urban Ministry Practicum in Urban Systems	2 hours

The above courses may be substituted for World Evangelization, Practice of Mission and Theology of Mission in the regular M. Div. in missiology program. The resultant electives with advisement will then number eight hours.

<i>Course Description</i>		
M66	The City in Theological Perspective (Dr. T. Nees) This course will examine the theological implications of urban ministry.	2 hours
M64	Urban Sociology (Dr. C. Gailey) A study of the development of urban communities and the	2 hours

	ecology and social organization of metropolitan areas. A survey of methods of community analysis in theoretical perspective and practical application.	
M9301	Urban Ministry Practicum in Urban Issues (Dr. T. Nees) Supervised field experience in an urban church, parachurch, or community setting. The focus of this practicum will be urban issues such as racism, poverty, and social disorganization, especially as they relate to the attitudes of the individual student. Prerequisite: M66	2 hours
M9302	Urban Ministry Practicum in Urban Systems (Dr. B. Cunningham) Consideration of a variety of urban systems which affect the quality of life of the urban citizen. Supervised field experience in an urban church or community setting involving such focus as political and economic structures of the city, and the place of the minister.	2 hours
M63	Sociology of Religion (Dr. C. Gailey) A sociological analysis of religious behavior and beliefs. Special attention is given to the relationship of religious institutions to the American social structure. The influence of religion on group behavior.	3 hours

In addition, courses already in the missiological curriculum, such as Cultural Anthropology, Ethics, and Christian Education in an Ethnic Perspective, will of course be required of each student.

The total curriculum will look like this:

The City in Theological Perspective	2 hours
Sociology of Religion	3 hours
Urban Sociology	2 hours
Christian Education in Ethnic Perspective	2 hours
Cultural Anthropology I and II	6 hours
Practicum in Urban Systems	2 hours
Introduction to Church Growth	2 hours
Practicums in Urban Issues	2 hours
Introduction to Biblical Studies	4 hours
Practicum in Urban Service	2 hours
Biblical Hermeneutics	3 hours

Old Testament Exegesis	3 hours
New Testament Exegesis	3 hours
Biblical Theology	3 hours
Constructive Theology	8 hours
Doctrine of Holiness	4 hours
Introduction to Christian Ethics	3 hours
Heritage of the Christian Church (HI, 2)	6 hours
History and Polity of the Church	2 hours
History of Missions	2 hours
Christian Preaching	4 hours
The Pastor as Educator	3 hours
Pastoral Counseling	3 hours
Church Administration	2 hours
Evangelism in the Local Church	2 hours
<i>Electives</i>	
Old and/or New Testament	5 hours
Sociopolitical Factors in Mission	2 hours
World Hunger	2 hours
Today's Moral Problems	3 hours
Other Electives	5 hours

This should be referred to as an "incipient curriculum." We invite advice from any quarter, and we especially welcome any suggestions or proposals from you who are meeting here today.