

URBAN CHURCH: A Practitioner's Resource Book

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PART ONE: THE HISTORY

Colin Marchant ~ Story of Urban Mission. 1826 Glasgow: City Mission began. 1966 another wave followed. Agencies in Victorian era: YMCA, Shaftesbury, St Vincent de Paul, Bernado, Spurgeon's childrens. Anglican and Catholic Orders, Armies: 1882 CA, 1865 SA. Methodist Central Halls. 1884: First Settlement was Toynbee Hall. Communities: Iona 1938; Wm Temple, Corrymeela, Indust Mission. Networks I 1960s. Ecumenical movements, Immigration. GLO-CAL.

Ken Leech always involve children.

PART TWO: CHURCH LIFE.

Steve Latham: Church can provide sense of belonging – a body to join. Acts as alternative power base against *the Powers*. Long-lived unlike projects.

Jim Hart: denominations turn local leaders into puppets not prophets.

Imperial edifices are collapsing.

Stuart Murray Williams. Pluriform scene. 1,500 leave church each week.

Large or small? Mono-cultural or multi-cultural, counter-cultural? Belonging-believing, behaving. Plant or renew? Urban Expression eLondon plant from roots up. Ethos more important than structure.

SPIRITUALITY AND WORSHIP

Chris Burch on depression support. Prayer, be real, creative scripture,

Jacqueline Brown: music, arts. Worship leaders dangers – pride etc.

Doug Gay: Eclectic use of ritual. Group diversity enriching ~ painting etc. “The static, linear, wordy worship, which has been revised, embodied a set of assumptions about class, culture and gender at odds with postmodern living and diminished the creativity of God's grace to us in the Incarnation.”

PART FOUR SCRIPTURE

John Vincent: inductive method. Start from victimised. Find brothers in text.

Jenny Richardson: leaders ~ solidarity with locals and use groupwork skills.

Roger Sainsbury: preaching.

PART FIVE COMMUNITY:

Greg Smith: Communities build walls too. LA say Faith 'communities'?

Social Capital, Social cohesion. Always conflict but church stays.

Chris Erskine: Listen! Hear connecting (shared) issues; Find the passion; Hear the solutions; Value conversion. Sacrifice to build Christian unity.

Andy Dorton: Put 'on' the estate ~ not choice. Estates don't develop organically but are designed abstractly on paper. Uniform.

Churn so a few are the 'locals'. Nearby new estate has smaller rooms w parking space for £50K. Ours for £5K ~ because 'Council House tenant = second class citizen'. Everything is redeemable.

Alan Craig: Keir Hardy estate Canning Town LP move families off to sell at new high land prices. 1,900 removed, 425 allowed to return to create mixed community

PART SIX. RACE

Wale Hudson Roberts: Indian food turnover higher than coal, steel, shipbuildings! 50% black and 30% Asian dating white women.

Sheila Garvin:

Andy Bruce: Church was multi-racial but not multi-cultural.

Robert Tang: young plant concentrate on self, later on planting & social care.

PART 7. CULTURAL CHANGE

Graham Routley. Needy turn inwards ~ tell their stories ~ whose territory is it? Have we the right to evangelise here?

Mark Perrott: who is excluding? Need church of healthy to carry weaker. Estate was betrayed by established church who had left derelict church. No right to parachute and preach – listened and cared. Rob Lewis *Church of irresistible Influence*. More holistic understanding of mission.

Richard Springer: Enoch Powell 1968. Church was medium for articulating woes and finding sanctuary. New blacks don't find pastoral bible easy, following USA patterns of black church. Want more than refuge.

Wagih Abdelmassih: Muslims laugh at Churches who offer hospitality.

PART 8. PEACE-MAKING

Patton Taylor: It wasn't Cath/Prot but class that separated youth from church leaders! Hit and Run evangelism. Now CommDev, with rather than to. Have less control and more influence! Live the values gives opportunity to proclaim.

Geoff Reid: 16% Muslim. 'Double orphans' from Mosque and white society.

Paul Keeble: Longsight Manchester. Gangstop march. A gun and they listen to me! Youngsters seen as problems – when they have problems. Peace festival and cathedral service for mourners of gang deaths. SEP (someone else's prob)

Tim Foley: Less destructive so more constructive conflict. Facilitator for chrch

DEBT: **Rob Holman.** Debt is biblical theme. Fragments society and sin of greed in lenders. Banks refuse 'bad risk' poor (7.9mill) Shop target poor with slogans – a £432.38 sofa totalled £777.38p. Lose it cos payment too high.

Wonga etc APR 164% and must repay. Made pre-tax profit of £169 m! Loan sharks – 500% and violence. Credit Unions but need to deposit. CAP etc.

BUILDINGS: **Terry Jones.** Did not demolish Victorian pile. Listened and Informed. Slow stages ~ Playgroup. Restaurant meeting place. School for exluded. Only 55 in congregation, but..

EMPLOYMENT: **Dave Rogers.** Own New Deal – mentor, training, full wage, job.

PART 10. FAITH SHARING

Derek Purnell: Jesus does not focus on place but person. Sacred Space nonsense. No one is to stay the same. Meaningless symbols of established, unintelligible hype of moderns, and blandness of in-betweens.

Amanda Gray: Churches fortress remnant. Muslims think we're all Christian and porno. Serve and surreptitiously evangelise. Care for whole families so converts don't get harassed. No favouritism.

Howard Astin: Cell church style. Living for the lost. Values first, then structure.

Juliet Kilpin: Church planting in Shadwell. One bed Council house flat for three. One Bengali family have 14 in two-bedroom, taking sleeping bag turns. Urban Expression's first 8-member team to work alongside those faithful beacons (in situ churches) Small groups help alienated from church and other-faith members.