



Life in a Slum:

Stepping into Living as Good News to Those Who Suffer

#urbana15

Fire in the Slum



John Perkins suggests that three types of people are needed in order to see real transformation of an urban neighborhood:

- **Relocators**- not born in the neighborhood but move into the area to live incarnationally and tie their well-being to that of their neighbors.
- **Returners**- those who were born and raised in the community and then left for a better life. They are no longer trapped by poverty of their neighborhood, yet they choose to return and live in the community they have tried to escape.
- **Remainers**: they are the once who could have fled the problems of the community but have chosen to continue to living there incarnationally, becoming part of the solution to the surrounding problem.

Team effort in Fire Rehabilitation



World Slums

Number of urban slum dwellers
260 million in 1970 to over 1 billion
today. approximately one in six people in
the world.

Christian involvement in slums is disappointingly small.

Ex: largest Christian mission organization is devoting only around **7 percent of its budget to urban programs and less than 2 percent to slum ministry.**

Few Christian workers

1 in 500 Christian foreign missionaries works in slums. A tiny fraction (perhaps 1 in 10,000) of national workers (pastors, evangelists, and similar persons) work in slums in their own countries.

A Growing movement

- New Friars movement: Servants to Asia's Urban Poor, Servant Partners, Urban Neighborhood of Hope(UNOH), Word Made Flesh, Inner Change
- some like minded groups :Urban Expression in UK, Urban Vision in NZ, Waiters Union in Australia , maybe there are more groups developing at the moment.

Five signs of New Friars movement

- Incarnational
- Missional
- Marginal
- Devotional
- Communal

Incarnational

- Living among the poor means experiencing what is like to be poor
 - be a learner – knowing & understanding their culture & the language
 - to build better relationship which means we can understand them & then we work together for their transformation
 - doing ministry with the poor – comes out of this relationships

Missional

- a mandate to bring God's "shalom" in the urban poor communities, not only to "save souls" but bring the good news that would transform individuals, families, communities & structures and systems of human society.

Marginal

- the poor become our partners in the transformation by allowing them take the power back to themselves
 - poor have something to offer to world if we trust & empower them, the poor we serve becomes our teacher

Devotional

total dependence on God in all aspects of life

- developed a healthy spirituality that can sustain us amidst the rigors of slum life.
- trusting God who loves the poor will meet you there

A God who promise:

I will be with you always -Matthew 28:20...as long as you can

I will give you rest Matt 11:28...when its hard & tiring

I will be with you, ever present in the midst suffering

I will bless you to be a blessing to others even in your weakness

vulnerability &

Communal

- Communal - work together in supportive teams
 - * inter-dependent with other your co- workers in the field
 - supporting & caring for each other
 - allowing each one to graciously accepts each other weaknesses & vulnerabilities
 - give opportunity for each one to use & develop their gifts to achieve full potential
 - work, eat , celebrate, cry , pray, worship , enjoy life together
- Communal - work with people not for them
 - * We must be in community with the local people of peace
 - in supporting local initiatives
 - #urbana15 allowing them control their journey to wholistic transformation