



URBANISLANDS
PROJECT

THERE IS A
HOLE
IN OUR CITIES.

THE STORY BEHIND THE STORY



From the beginning,
the church was planted in the
urban core of cities. City planting was
Paul's strategy. Physical church buildings
dominated the center of cities, towns
and villages for most of the history
of the church.



URBANORIGINS



THE CHURCH AT THE CENTER OF THE CITY WAS
GENERALLY TRUE UNTIL THE DECADE OF THE 70'S.





+ SUBURBAN ORIGINS

In general, cities were not well planned to sustain millions of people living in close proximity. In 70's and 80's, the cities had become undesirable as crime and poverty rates rose and quality of life declined. Dense urban communities experienced a net migration out of the city centers and the rapidly growing suburbs boomed. As people moved out of the cities, the church followed. **Thanks to abundant land and new residents, the church thrived in the suburbs.**



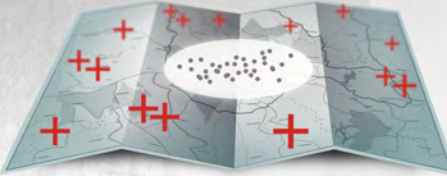
THEURBANO

When the people left, property values dropped in the city centers and the developers moved in. They rebuilt the city centers guided by well thought out strategic plans. **Beginning in the 90's, the exodus from the cities reversed. People came back to the city centers in droves. But the church did not.** This created a new reality - the Urban O. **When it comes to the presence of the church, our cities have a hole in the middle.**





URBAN COMPLEXITIES



Compounding the challenge, the newly reconfigured cities are larger and more complex than ever before.

In 1800, Beijing, China was the only city with more than 1 million people. Today, at least 350 cities exceed 1 million in population with at least 10 that exceed 10 million in population. This reality has created a context that the church has never seen before.

Over the past 2 decades, the church has attempted to return to the dense growing urban core neighborhoods with mixed mostly failed results.

The result is that as the density of the population goes up, the presence of the church goes down. This must not be the case.

URBAN ISLANDS

Urban Islands Project is a strategic plan to address the challenge of the Urban O. Just like the urban planners developed strategies to make cities livable, **Urban Islands Project** will **employ strategies that will successfully reseed the church back into the urban neighborhoods of our cities.**



MOVING FORWARD

Our plan is to work cooperatively with church leaders in the 40 largest metro areas of the United States to dramatically increase the presence of the church in the most populated segments of each city. The Urban Islands Project strategy was formed by combining the best practices of localized urban church planting efforts and building systems to support the rapid deployment of effective, custom built urban churches. Our strategic approach is a reproducible, self-sustaining endeavor that will result in hundreds of new urban churches across America.



4 systems that are activated over a 3-year process.



SYSTEM ONE - COHORT PLANTING:

on average, Urban Islands Project will assemble a cohort of 10 church planting teams who will all launch in different neighborhoods in the same city on the same day. The cohort approach deals directly with one of the greatest challenges of urban planting - loneliness. Urban Island Project planters will not go alone. Additionally, they and their families will enjoy a real-time peer group and learning community



SYSTEM TWO - URBAN ONE:

Each planting project will be supported by a team of college age students who are participating in a leadership development program in conjunction with the college or university they attend. Students will be able to stay on pace with their educational process through distance education, while serving on the church planting team.



SYSTEM THREE - PRE-LAUNCH:

Urban Islands Project leaders have assisted with the planting of hundreds of churches over the past decade. They will use their knowledge and experience to assist the cohort of planters to engage in the right activities to ensure a strong launch for each church.



SYSTEM FOUR - POST LAUNCH:

Urban Islands Project leader will stay with the cohort of planters after the launch to assist them with the creation of systems and organizational structures that will enable them to thrive for the long haul.

THE URBAN STRATEGY



HOW IT WORKS



- 1. Urban Islands Project must be invited to a city by key leaders** who are already serving in the candidate city.
- 2. A meeting with city leaders** will be held to answer questions and increase understanding of the Urban Islands process.
- 3. A memorandum of understanding** will be created and signed by all parties desiring to participate in the Urban Islands Project approach.
- 4. Year one** - Urban Islands Project will begin to recruit planters and students for the city.
- 5. Year two** - Urban Islands Project church planting teams and Urban One students will move into the targeted neighborhoods and begin building a relational network and preparing for the launch of the new churches.
- 6. Year three** - Urban Islands Project churches will launch on the same day and work together over the next year to develop sustainable systems for each church and a long term strategy for maintaining the benefits of the cohort.



HOW YOU CAN HELP

- 1. PRAY** - Without prayer, this effort is doomed to fail. WE NEED YOUR PRAYER SUPPORT. The great news is that EVERY believer can pray. Joining our prayer team is simple. Simply go to our facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/urbanislandsproject> and LIKE our page. You will receive daily updates on the Urban Islands Project progress and opportunities so you know how to pray.
- 2. GIVE** - Urban Islands Project operating budget need is \$500,000 annually which sounds like a lot, but with our vast network of friends it is a very attainable goal. We need 10 friends who will partner at \$1,000 per month, 20 who will partner at \$500 per month, 50 who will partner at \$200 per month, 100 who will partner at \$100 per month and 200 who will partner at \$50 per month. You can join our support team by going to <http://alturl.com/qcsna>

HOW YOU CAN HELP (CONT'D)



3. GO



CITY LEADERS - Contact us at steve@urbanislandsproject.org to begin the process of inviting Urban Islands Project to assist you in reseeded the church back into your Urban O.

CHURCH PLANTERS - Contact us at planters@urbanislandsproject.org to discover how you can become part of an Urban Islands Cohort.

STUDENTS - Contact us at students@urbanislandsproject.org or text Urbanone to 555888 to discover how you can be part of a one year urban adventure with an urban church planting team.



THE URBAN ISLANDS PROJECT TEAM



Steve Pike - Founder and President of Urban Islands Project

Steve has served as a planter, district church planting leader and founding director of the AG Church Multiplication Network. He is the author of *Leading Church Multiplication*.



Josh Escobar - Director of Urban One

Joshua Escobar is the founder of APEX Ministry Academy, a leadership development program for young adults. He has served as a Student Ministries pastor for 12 years.



Dave McNaughton - Pre-Launch Director

Dave has served as a planter and district church planting director. He currently is a professional coach, strategist and missional leader assisting churches and networks with multiplication strategies.



Cal and Cindi Swenson - Post Launch Director

Cal has planted new churches and effectively led existing churches toward multiplication. He currently serves as the church multiplication director for the Assemblies of God Illinois District.

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