Urban Mission

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Abstract: The city side is often incomprehensible where there can be both grandeur and deterioration in life. Inadequate life, very high social inequality, and economic inequality make the rich getting richer and the poor worse off in poverty. When faced with a mission, often people think of a field in a remote area and alienated people, people who do not know outside life, people who are primitive, who are not educated, and people who have never heard the truth The word of God. Mission can not only be done in a remote village or area, but in a life that is not far away, many people who need the Truth, who are thirsty for the Word of God, those who are poor, abandoned, who do not have a decent living and do not believe, but it is often unthinkable by the church. So the mission is not only in the village but around the church itself many people need to be served. God has prepared many fields to cultivate and harvest, just how can those who believe even those who have been called respond?

Preliminary

Cities according to the Merriam Webster¹ Dictionary: places where people live larger or more important than cities; an area where many people live and work. "Dictionary" in Indonesia defines the city as a large complex, full of densely populated buildings and areas; Can include several independent administrative districts or city centers or administrative districts that are established based on state charter or people living in a large population intensive municipality.

City Calls In Mission Scope

Acts 1: 8 But you will get power if the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. According to this verse, witnessing begins in the city of

¹William Webster Dictionary meaning of City, <https://www.merriamwebster.com/dictionary/city> di unduh, July 2018

Jerusalem. The first city was written by Luke as the starting point for reaching another part.

In his quote on the Mission of Roger S. Greenway said "Cities are the concentration of people who live close to and interact with each other in the form of corporations and governments. Cities are often used to show urban or metropolitan areas."²

A biblical perspective on the City

God Gives the Church the right key and strategy to occupy and control the city and the Right Approach for the church to conquer the city. "I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. What you tie in this world will be bound in heaven and what you release in this world will be released in heaven." (Matthew 16:19). Our cities have been given to us by the work of Christ on the cross and promises in the Word of God. We have an open door for us to enter: "Because there are many opportunities for me to do big and important work, even though there are many opponents, in English it says the door of great opportunity is opened (For a great and effective door has been opened to me, and there are many adversaries (1 Cor. 16: 9). The integrity and destiny of the city are often mentioned throughout the Bible.

According to Frank Damazio³: Every city has a unique city and city destiny, as well as seven cities in the Roman province of Asia, addressed in Revelation. The church in the city of Tiatira, for example, was warned about tolerance for immoral teaching: (Revelation 2: 19-20; see also Revelation 2-3). Every city has its own cry that rises to heaven - God hears that cry. (Genesis 18: 20-21; see also Isa. 14: 3) God measures, limits, and evaluates the integrity of each city. (Matthew 11: 20-22; see also Matt. 11: 22-24; 23: 35-38).

God uses various ways to speak clearly to each city. (Micah 6: 9; see also Proverbs 1:20, 21; 8: 1-7) God prepares, anoints, and sends certain services to certain cities. (Jonah 1: 2; see also Luke 9: 51-56). God has the main key for every city. (2 Corinthians 2:12; see also John 4; Acts 14:27). God

² Heibert. *Cultural Anthropology*. 1997, hal. 269

³ Frank Damazio A Strategic Vision to Reach Cities and Nations, Regal **Books** (July 1999)

sets the Church to stand in the gap and intercede for the city. (Ex 32: 11-14; see also Ezekiel 9: 1-7; 22:30, 37). God deals with the Church about how it relates to the city. Through the apostle John, he sent a message to the church in the Roman city of Philadelphia: (Revelation 3: 7-8; see also Revelation 2-3). God holds the elders of the city responsible for his spiritual condition. (Deuteronomy 19: 11-12; see also Daniel 21: 1-9; Eze 3: 17-21; 33: 1-9) God weeps over the spiritual fate of the city. (Luke 19:41). Therefore, this city is an important biblical image.

Understanding the biblical emphasis on cities is important. The most commonly mentioned for the word city in the Old Testament is the word 'eer' which comes from the word meaning in Hebrew 'stay' (sojourn/dwell). It has been recorded in references to cities in the Bible as many as 1200 city references and 119 cities that are named. Some prominent Bible figures were built, governed and lived in the city. The city was built for refuge, a thought that was in harmony with the purpose of building Bible cities. The New Testament word for the city is 'policy' which is recorded about 160 times, especially in Luke and Acts. In the New Testament, the concept of the city is associated with a population density that is covered by a protective wall. The New Testament era was an urban era, especially when it came to the life and ministry of the apostle Paul. Cities continue to dominate the world of the New Testament. The New Testament story shows amazingly the use of cities for penetration of the gospel.⁴

Urban Apostle

Paul was an urban Apostle who evangelized city dwellers and planted churches in several cities in the Roman Empire. Paul was born in Tarsus, known as the fertile queen city of Cilicia under Rome. Paul studied under the teacher Gamaliel, a famous scientist in the city of Jerusalem.

Damascus is the Capital of Syria. Roman Highway Vicus Rectus, the road called Straight, divides the city from east to west.⁵ Paul met Jesus Christ on the Damascus road, as he went to persecute believers in Jesus Christ. He

⁴ Atul Y. Aghamkar, 2000, *Insights Into Openness*,: Encouraging Urban Mission, hal 4

⁵ Monakaran.2005: hal 24

was baptized by Ananias in the city of Damascus (Acts 9: 3-18).

Mission and Understanding

According to the Big Indonesian Dictionary, the word strategy has the following meanings: strategy/ n 1 science and art use all the resources of the nation (nation) to carry out certain policies in war and peace; 2 science and the arts of leading armies to confront enemies in war, in favorable conditions: as a commander he really mastered - an officer on the battlefield; 3 careful plans for activities to achieve specific goals; 4 good places according to war tactics.⁶

Understanding Mission

The Mission term in the Big Indonesian Dictionary, means "the activity of spreading the Good News (the Gospel) and establishing local congregations, which are carried out on the basis of mission as a continuation of Christ's mission".⁷ While the term "missioner" is a verb meaning "missionary". Or in other words, the mission is the goal and focus that continues to be done/done. The word Mission (Mission) comes from the Latin "mission" which is derived from the basic word "mittere", which is related to the word "missum", which has the meaning "to send" (send/send), "act of sending, being sent or delegated by authority/persons sent, etc. "While in Greek is apostello". The word "apostello" does not mean sending/sending in general. This term means sending with authority.

Implementation of Mission Outreach

The implementation of outreach to souls can be seen in the mission model that Jesus did. The mission that Jesus did was the Mission of the Kingdom of God. Jesus' mission is the New Testament mission, model. He formed the community to live under God's rule. In Matthew 4: 13-17 the writer reports that Jesus began His call to convert the unbelievers in Galilee, to fulfill the prophecies in Isaiah 28:23 and 9: 2, that "those who walk in great darkness" above it was called the territory of the Gentiles, "had seen the great Light" of

⁶ <http://kbbi.web.id/strategi> di sadur 2 September 2018

⁷ *Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia*, edisi kedua, (Jakarta: Balai Pustaka, 1991), hal. 660

Jesus (Matthew 4: 15-16). It is from Acts 1: 8 that the Early Church began to go witness and preach the gospel. Mortality proof of the Early Church starting from:

1. Jerusalem Acts 1: 8; 1: 4; Luk. 24:47.
2. Judea Acts 2: 9, 14; 8: 1, 40; 9: 31-43; Articles 10-11.
3. Samaria Acts 8 to 10.
4. The ends of the earth Kis. 11: 19-26; Article 13 to 28.

At first, the Early Church only focused its evangelism in Jerusalem, but the persecution of the Early Church made the church in Jerusalem scattered throughout Judea and Samaria (Acts 8: 1). This event made the Gospel preached to areas outside Jerusalem (Acts 8: 4). R. Dixon said that: Article 8 began with the result of Stephen's murder, which was a great persecution of the early church of God. Then chapter 8 tells some of the events in the history of Stephen's co-worker. Stephen and Philip were chosen and appointed as deacons (chapter 6). Stephen testified, then martyred (chapter 7). In this chapter 8, we see Philip's experience when he dares to testify.

1. "Stephen's death was linked to general hatred of the new teaching of Christianity. On that day a great persecution arose against Christians. (verse 1) At that time the leader of the pursuit was Saul who later became the apostle Paul. Saul was a cruel pursuer, like the devil of the Devil. But God uses the pursuit for good.
2. The scattered people of the Lord Jesus preached the gospel everywhere in the area.
3. Philip went to the region of Samaria and preached the gospel in one of the cities there.

Conclusion

A city is a strategic place in carrying out and disseminating the gospel. The city has its own magnet for people to live in, but behind the magnificent urban life, there is poverty not only a physical problem but also spiritually. When the church must face the challenges of life in the city, the church strives to carry

out its mission not only in remote places but also around it. The city is the center of the village. Lifestyle in the city often affects lifestyles in remote areas. As a special note, so the church actually experiences the city, reaching people in the city to be educated and brought to true truth. The church is responsible for shaping quality human resources through the city so that the message of "the great commission" of the Lord Jesus is fulfilled.

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