

SUMMER MISSION TRIP APPLICATION—**FOR ADULTS**

GOD & THE CITY

July 10-16, 2011

THIS APPLICATION IS DUE TO PASTOR BILL HODGEMAN NO LATER THAN SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2010

INTRODUCTION:

God loves the city. God told the Israelites, through his servant Jeremiah, to “seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.”

When we look at the city we see lots of things—diversity, immensity, complexity, culture and beauty. We might also see crime, poverty, injustice, racism and ugliness. It is easy for those of us in Suburbia to seek the peace of our towns, and use or appreciate the city for what it has to offer us. To seek the peace and prosperity of the city seems a large and daunting task—and one that requires dreams bigger than we often dare to dream.

But God has a dream for the city.

Etched on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s tombstone in Atlanta are the riveting words from the book of Genesis, “Behold, here comes the dreamer...Let’s kill him and see what becomes of his dream.”

We know what happened to that dreamer—and we know the mark his dream has left on our country.

God has a dream for the city. You might have a role to play in the building of that dream. But more importantly, as you lend yourself to that dream, God might turn you into a dreamer.

PURPOSE:

To seek to understand the unique challenges and opportunities of ministry in an urban context and to work to build God’s Kingdom by seeking the peace and prosperity of the city of Camden through the ministry of Urban Promise.

COST:

\$450 (does not include spending money)

OUR PARTNER: URBAN PROMISE USA – CAMDEN, NJ (in their own words)

Camden New Jersey is the poorest city in America. What kind of challenges do Camden’s youth face?

| | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Per Capita Income: | Camden--\$9, 815 | US Avg--\$21,587 |
| Children Living Below Poverty | Camden—46% | US Avg—16% |
| Births to unwed mothers | Camden—80% | US Avg—34% |
| Graduated from High School | Camden—51% | US Avg—80.4% |
| Graduate from a 4 Year College | Camden—Less than 1% | |

“Close to 20 years ago a small community of God’s people dreamed a dream. We dreamed of creating a ministry to inspire a new generation of Camden’s young people to reach their God-given potential—academically astute, hope-filled, visionaries who would be grounded in Christian faith and desiring to make a difference in Camden and the world.” -Bruce Main

What does Urban Promise do?

Urban promise's mission is to equip Camden's children and young adults with the skills necessary for academic achievement, life management, spiritual growth and Christian leadership. This is accomplished through a variety of programs:

The **CamdenForward School** (K-8) and the **UrbanPromise Academy** (9-12) use low student/teacher ratios, a family style learning environment, personal accountability, community service and Bible classes to prepare kids for life. Since it was founded in 1997, there has been a 95% graduation rate (compare with 51% for the rest of Camden) from the Academy. 75% of the cost for students to attend is subsidized by Urban Promise.

Urban Promise has created **FIVE After School Programs** around the city that serve 200 children daily

They run **SEVEN** 6-week long **Summer Camps** that serve 400 children daily

They provide **Retreats** and **Spring Break Trips** that involved over 200 children

They provide **7,200 Volunteer Hours** per year to the city of Camden

They have a **StreetLeader Program** which provides training, mentoring, paying jobs and leadership opportunities for over 100 teens per year. *Streetleader Alumni have graduated from or attend Eastern, Cornell, Princeton, Bennett, Rutgers, Rowan, Virginia, Kean & others.*

They recruit, train and employ between 15-20 **interns** for year-round work, and an additional 20-30 over the summer (*Intern alumni have initiated urban ministries in Vancouver, Malawi, Buffalo, Aberdeen and a host of other cities around the world.*)

Over 800 **volunteers** come to UrbanPromise every year to serve, love and learn
Including primarily High School and College students from all over the US and Canada

Graduates of UrbanPromise are now teaching in Camden Public Schools, working at the Department of Youth and Family Services as social workers, attending seminaries, studying for Master's degrees, starting careers in the work-force, and planting urban youth ministries.

"Young people are fulfilling their dreams. Young people are fulfilling God's dreams for their lives." – Bruce Main

FIND OUT MORE: www.urbanpromisearg.org

What have others said about Urban Promise?

"Without a doubt, UrbanPromise is one of the best urban ministries in the United States." --Tony Campolo

"UrbanPromise is on the cutting edge of urban ministry. The quality of students they send to our university is remarkable and has enriched our academic community." --Dr. David Black, President Eastern University

What does a typical Work Group day at Urban Promise look like?

Early Morning

Breakfast
Devotions

Late Morning

Children's Camp (*Bible Studies, Arts & Crafts, Music, Sports & Activities, Field Trips and more*)

Afternoon

Work Projects to sustain the ministry and add value to the city and neighborhoods of Camden
(*construction and renovation, maintenance, landscaping, neighborhood clean up projects, etc.*)

Evening

Dinner

Various opportunities to be stretched culturally, interpersonally and spiritually, including:

- Movie Night with discussion
- Social Justice Workshop
- Round-table discussion between inner-city and suburban teens
- Cultural, Urban and Historical tours through Metro-Camden

ELIGIBILITY & REQUIREMENTS:

- You must be a current high school student or an adult.
- You must be:
 - Flexible, teachable, responsible, cheerful and willing to follow directions
 - Willing to sacrifice a week of your summer vacation to pay to be a slave to others
 - Willing to abandon your agenda for the sake of the mission of God
 - Willing to serve others, no matter how different, no matter the task—without complaining
 - Willing to come alongside students to listen, encourage and teach/instruct with patience and care
- You must raise at least \$200 of the total trip cost, on your own, through work that is fairly paid for. You can raise over \$200, but not less. Group fundraisers or support letters do not count toward this \$200.
- You must commit to participating fully in all of the following (unexcused absences* will not be tolerated):
 - Team Fundraising Dinner, Date: TBD (February)
 - Movie Night & Discussion: “CRASH”, Date: TBD (March/April)
 - Urban Ministry / Team Building Day: Date: TBD (May)
 - Reading and discussing Why Jesus Crossed the Road by Bruce Main: Date: TBD (June or July)
 - Packing Party, Friday or Saturday, July 8 or 9 (details: TBD)
 - Mission Team Commissioning: Sunday, July 10, 10am, Sanctuary
- You must make every effort to attend the following:
 - Mission Team Testimonies: Sunday, July 24th, 10am
 - Mission Team Reunion: date: TBD (August)

TRIP COSTS (DETAILED)

- The cost of the trip is \$450 and must be paid in full by Sunday, July 10, 2011.
- A \$50 non-refundable deposit must be paid upon submitting your application (*this will be applied to your total trip cost*)
- You must raise at least \$200* of the total trip cost, on your own, through work that is fairly paid for. You can raise over \$200, but not less. Group fundraisers or support letters do not count toward this \$200.
- Every team member has the option of cashing in on his/her share of team fundraising—which will be raised primarily from the Team Fundraiser Dinner and from free will offerings.

PLEASE NOTE: THE TOTAL TRIP COST (\$450) INCLUDES A \$300 DONATION TO URBAN PROMISE USA AND THEIR MINISTRIES IN THE CITY OF CAMDEN. THAT MEANS THAT EVERY PARTICIPANT WILL LEAVE BEHIND \$300 THAT WILL CONTINUE TO BLESS CAMDEN’S CITIZENS LONG AFTER WE RETURN HOME.

TRIP ITENERARY (BASIC)

- Depart on Sunday, July 10 at approximately 10:30am (after being commissioned during the worship service)
- Return to Pleasant Street on Saturday evening, July 16th.

* An unexcused absence is anything that could have been prevented by more careful planning and more stringent priorities. Unexcused absences would include: sleeping in, going to a friends house, forgetting, not having a ride, having too much homework, etc. Excused absences would include: a non-negotiable family vacation, an illness, a family emergency, a non-negotiable work day. *It is expected that you will put these dates on your calendar and, insofar as it depends on you, avoid scheduling vacations and work shifts on top of these dates. Translation: ask you boss for the day off or switch shifts with someone; if you parents ask for your input, let them know that you would prefer not to miss one of these events.*

3) What challenges do you anticipate a trip like this will create for you personally? How can you, and how can the team prepare to meet those challenges?

4) What questions do you have for me?

DISCLAIMER

I have read through this packet and understand what will be required of me during this Mission Trip and also during the months leading up to it. I have counted the costs, and want to serve others in Jesus' Name.

Signature

Date

*****REMINDER: THE DEADLINE TO APPLY IS SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31st. YOU MUST RETURN THIS COMPLETE APPLICATION, PLUS YOUR \$50 DEPOSIT, TO PASTOR BILL BY THAT DATE!*****