

Urbanization and Globalization

Chapter 12

Historically, for the first time, more than 50% of the population of the world now live in urban areas. With the world situation as it is, one would question where is the provision for missions? The availability for missions is in the urban cities where the people live. Urbanization relates to or the characteristics of a town or city. Urbanization is nothing new. It has been in the world for thousands of years and is constantly evolving. We have seen more and more people venturing to cities. In times past, urbanization was tied to regionalism. This is seen in the British empire and great court cities of England, Rome, Roman Empire, South Asia, Africa and others. Cities have become twisted together in globalization. The cities provide the stamp of approval for modern culture, capitalization and globalization. As per Rynkiewich, "Globalization is the widespread engagement of people with an expanding world-wide system of communication, commerce and culture that is producing broad uniformities across selected sectors of many societies, as well as generating multiple hybrid cultures in various stages of reception, rejection, and reinvention of innovations" pg. 234, 2011. There are masses of urban cities with populations of more than a million people. The ten largest cities such as New Delhi, Tokyo and others are ready to be engaged in mission work for such cities of Bele Horizonte, Korno, Surabaya and the like. All of these cities have more than 3 million people. As noted, Asia has the command influence of the whole world. In today's society, anthropologists do not see the world as villages where everyone is the same e.g., Making a living, speaking the same language, kinship to each other and share the same culture. We see this dynamic in countries that have large rain forests, such as Brazil. In missionology, the world is to be engaged because it is flourishing with cities that are the result of urbanization and globalization. We certainly know, that cities, cultures, and societies are forever evolving. Cities also have negative stereotypes. Both missionaries and anthropologists realized that they were missing the enormous urbanization going on world-wide. They also felt that the formally colonized people were pulling back their friendly welcome. These two groups wanted to bring the word of God to virgin territories/areas. We see in the bible that culture began in the garden of Eden and branched out to cities, e.g. Story of Abraham and the famous story of Sodom and Gomorra. In modern cities today, sociologists have revved up its studies of cities with publications of articles and books. The response of the Chicago school states, "The contacts of the city may be indeed face to face, but in impersonal, superficial, transitory and segmented", Rynkiewich pg. 219 and 211. He reminds us in recent years, immigrants flocked to cities and created formal associations where they settled. An excellent example of this is the immigrants in the Chinese Diaspora, and West Africa as well. In conclusion, in the U.S., as cities grew and after WWII, which pulled us out of the Great Depression and soldiers returning home, the U.S. took another look as to how they viewed the poor/poverty.