

Course: UR 541 – Urban Evangelism

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Professor: Dr. Tice

Topic: Integrative Paper – Describe how you will answer Christ’s commission (Matthew 28) and his call to be a witness (Acts 1) personally and vocationally within the urban context

Introduction:

Statement of Problem

Jesus Christ gave the Great Commission to the Church in Matthew 28:18-20 and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”¹ This is an assignment for all who are in the church including me but the concern is how are we fulfilling the Great Commission. Jesus in the book of Acts of the Apostles 1:8 said “but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”²

This is a mandate given by our Lord Jesus Christ to all believes to be witness of him in the world. This suggests that we ought to engage in intentional evangelism to fulfill the great commission but is that the case in all churches? I worship at Charismatic Evangelistic Ministry in the Bronx, New York. The Bronx is a typical urban area with a dense population of people

¹ Life Application Study Bible (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan, 2011), 1599.

² Ibid., 1799.

from all racial and ethnic backgrounds. I serve in Charismatic Evangelistic Ministry as a Pastor. The Church has been in existence for over a decade.

My dream is to see this church become very instrumental in transforming the lives of the people in the community (South Bronx) and be a witness of Jesus Christ. The church has made some significant contributions in its community – evangelizing, sharing food, clothes, linens, pillows, comforters and sheets to deprived members of the community. It has touched the community in some ways but how can the church improve on its outreach program in ways that will draw many souls to the Kingdom of God?” Evangelism has been sporadic and there is no structure in place to ensure that it is consistent, enduring and a sustainable ministry in the church. Michael Frost argues that while we have gifted evangelist in the church, all believers are to pray like crazy and to conduct themselves in word and deed, in such a way as to provoke unbelievers to question their beliefs and enter into evangelistic dialogue.³ This suggests an all-inclusive activity so while those who are gifted in the ministry of evangelism are doing their work, others are engaging in Christlike lifestyles that will provoke other to ask them the reason for their faith. Robert Coleman on the other hand advocates for having a plan in place to train and equip few people like our Lord Jesus did so they could carry out the evangelistic assignment.⁴ How then as a church do we move forward to fulfill the call to be witnesses for Christ?

³ Michael Frost, *Surprise the World – The Five Habits of Highly Missional People*, (Colorado Springs: NavPress, 2016), 4-5

⁴ Robert E. Coleman, *The Master Plan of Evangelism*, 2nd Ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Revell, 1993) 24-25