

Pastoring the Urban Church

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UR641/ PMN456

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Field Notes

*Church Name: Redemption church

*Location: 27 Huntington Street, Red Hook Brooklyn

New York 11231.

The Red Hook neighborhood of Brooklyn serves as a microcosm of the struggle .In an effort to save public housing damaged by Sandy, which affected 80,000 residents in more than 400 buildings around the city, some areas of the neighborhood are undergoing gentrification.

Red Hook was the original Dutch name given to the area as it served as a useful navigational landmark for sailors navigating Brooklyn's coastline.

The waterfront district has crystal clear views of New York Harbor, excellent seafood, and an aged industrial look.

Red Hook is a community in need of this kind of restoration. Once considered to be the crack capital of the U.S., it has a history of crime, drugs, poverty, broken homes and fatherlessness, racism and socio-economic divides. The crime rate in Red Hook is considerably higher than the national average across all communities in America from the largest to the smallest, although at 19 crimes per one thousand residents, it is not among the communities with the very highest crime rate.

More than 20,000 residents live in Red Hook, which is 43 percent Hispanic and 36 percent Black/African American. Sixty-seven percent of children come from fatherless homes. These

and other issues prevalent among urban-poor communities are why Redemption Church exists in Red Hook.

*Congregation Size: Approximately 500

*Ethnic Background: black Americans

Participant Observation four Sunday services and Bible study groups.

-Begins For the past 15 years, Redemption Church has been in operation.

First week; I greeted everyone as I worked in and at the end of the service I was allowed to introduce myself to the congregations, the pastor introduced himself to me.

Observation: first Sunday 2/19/23

REDEMPTION CHURCH GENERAL ORDER OF SERVICE.

Ministers' Prayer Meeting- 9:30 am Workers'

Prayer Meeting- 9:40 am

Sunday School-9:40 am -10am

Worship His Majesty -10am; followed by singing worship songs.

Announcement- 10:15 am

Testimonies (At Thanksgiving Service) - 10:30

Special Number- Voices of Redemption

First Hymn - 10:45 am

Message: - 10:45am - 11:10 am By Pastor Regan

Tithes and Offering -11:20 am

Welcoming of Guests - 11:30am Prayer for Family of the Week 11:40am

Closing Hymn 11:55 am

Closing Prayers -12pm

My first day with Redemption church I attended their service which started at 10 am.

I realized that Redemption Church, in Red Hook Brooklyn NYC, is a different kind of church family.

The methods of the services was more of a family setting

I also realized that every church members are totally involved in church activities especially the elderly women

I noticed that sixty-seven percent of children come from fatherless homes.

I realized that the departure of the middle and upper classes has coincided with the rising tide of crime and homicide in Brooklyn.

Several families in need of the life-changing power of the gospel have found hope in

Redemption Church

The presence and ministry of Redemption Church in the Red Hook Brooklyn community has and continues to bring hope to many individuals in need of Christ LOVE .

Redemption has always called the congregation to have concern for the poor and oppressed in their midst. The Redemption offers greater opportunities to their members. Redemption also serves as a charitable organization. They share food with the hungry and they provide the poor wanderer with shelter, they clothe the naked.

Redemption believes in God's power to transform and renew broken communities and to restore relationships.