

Article Review

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What is one concept that stood out to you in this article?

Andy Crouch's, *A New Kind of Urban Ministry* provides a theological perspective for missionary work in Urban communities. In this article, Andy explained that many people have moved away from the city and live in the suburbs to escape issues presented in Urban Communities. Crouch highlighted that black churches remained even when their members left. Also, ethnic communities started to form their churches. Crouch used biblical references from the gospel and Exodus to defend his perspective. Crouch believed that even if Christians leave the cities, it does not relieve them of the responsibility of supporting the cities. Crouch believes that the missions in Urban areas should be community development focused.

What implications does this concept have for Missions?

Crouch explained that cities look prosperous does not mean that they have shalom. He believes that the most important aspect of the community is shalom. Crouch states, “[Jesus] understood that prosperity is different from peace.” (Crouch, 24) Crouch's emphasis on peace shows that even though communities may look prosperous, they need to have peace. In many urban communities, they do not have peace. Crouch explained that even though people leave urban communities for a suburban lifestyle, they must not be disdainful towards the Urban communities because those communities have people that God would like to reach.

Crouch explained that as Christian move out of the city, the greater goal is for Christians to bring Christ to the suburban communities. Christians that reside in the Sub-Urban community need to have a mission mind-set as they surround the urban communities. He uses the word “comprehensive flourishing”; comprehensive missions seek to address all the issues in and out of the Urban communities. Comprehensive flourishing addresses law, business, and education in and out of Urban communities.

What needs to change in your life as a result?

Crouch's article addresses the responsibility of Christians living in the suburbs to the Urban community. He believes that the work of a Christian is not only charity towards the urban community, but the responsibility of Christians is to seek "comprehensive flourishing" in all neighborhoods. As I reflect on the article, I think about my own experiences with urban communities and the suburbs. I live in the city currently and attend church in the Suburbs. The perspective of the Urban community from Christians living in the suburbs is important. People living in the suburbs work in the cities and participate in the resources of the city. Christian Suburbans may take advantage of the resources of the city, with no responsibility for community development within those urban communities. The "Comprehensive flourishing" concept pushes me to reflect on the responsibilities of suburban residents to urban communities. As I reflect, I could hold my church-mates responsible for their participation in community development in the cities.

References:

Crouch, A. (2011). A new kind of urban ministry: Christians no longer want their communities fixed. They want them flourishing. *Christianity Today*, 55(11), 22–25.