

Interaction Paper - Rynkiewich Chapter 12 “Urbanization and Globalization”

This chapter discussed the topics of urbanization and globalization. Urbanization is an unavoidable trend of the modern world; however, globalization is widespread through nearly every city, but it is resistible.

Sometime in the mid-2000s, for the first time in history, more than 50 percent of the world’s population lives in urban areas. However, the author argued that we are lacking a theology of city today. The author pointed out that Christianity was birthed in the city, spread from city to city, and grew to maturity in the city. That is where the people are, and the people need a Savior and a friend. The city is a prime location for mission.

One of the characteristics of urban/city is diversity/complexity. Urban ministry is that seeks to enhance the quality of life for all residences. Urban ministry emphasizes the diversity character, especially for the poor, marginal people. For mission in an urbanizing globalizing world, the author suggested that churches and missionaries should become knowledgeable and realistic about the world; and put themselves in a position to enter the global marketplace.

My perceptions of the city include both good and bad perspectives. The good perspectives of the city are convenient transportation, abundant resources, and diversified cultures. The bad perspectives are higher rate of crimes, noise, dirty street, and alienation of people. What interests me about this topic are the meaning of urban ministry, how it related to my church ministry, and how can I effectively apply to my future ministry.

Two questions for further engaging this topic: 1. How can urban church ministry be done properly in New York City? 2. How can urban church conduct mission in a globalizing world?