

PRINCESS COOMBS

This is an interaction paper from chapter twelve of the book: *Soul, Self, And Society A Postmodern Anthropology for Mission in a Postcolonial World*. The book was published by Cascade Books; and the publishing date is 2011 in Eugene, Oregon. The author of the book is Michael Rynkiewich.

My focus in this paper consists of four specific areas such as: a one sentence thesis statement, a one paragraph summary, personal interaction with specific themes in readings, and two questions for further engaging this topic. The title of this chapter is Urbanization, and Globalization.

THESIS STATEMENT

“Churches and missionaries should put themselves in a position to enter the global marketplace with a reasonable chance of doing well.”¹

SUMMARY - PAGES 214-242

In his introduction, Rynkiewich addresses the urbanization across the globe, including its history. To support his argument, Rynkiewich provides the reader with data of the various countries and their population of residents in the cities of these countries;² In addition, Rynkiewich documents the negative stereotypes of the city, and its impact that these negativities have on antropologists, and missionaries as well.³

PERSONAL INTERACTION

I am one of the migrants from the city of New York to the rural area of the Pocono Mountains in Pennsylvania; and where I currently reside is called rural-residential. Although, I was born and raised in Kingston, Jamaica (Kingston, the capital city) It was

¹ Pg. 241

² pg.214-217

³ pg.217

always my heart's desire that whenever I grow up, and have my profession, that I would build my home in the "country" (suburb). When I came to the U.S.A. (from Canada) to further my studies, and obtained my profession, I had my home built in 2005, here in the pocono mountains. I moved to the Poconos because my desire was to enhance the quality of my life, including to experience the fresh air, the gift of peace, and tranquility which I do experience(thank God for His blessings, towards me).

However, it has its negativity regarding my evangelistic efforts and missionary work. For example, when I was building my home, and would come up from New York occasionally, I would just see the shopping malls as good grounds for evangelism, regarding the flow of people. However, whenever I finally moved here, (rented a house here in the poconos while my home was being built), I spoke with the leaders of the church I attended here, concerning their methodology regarding evangelism, and was told that it was against the law here, to evangelise. I was hurt to say the least, to be told that, that was the law here. Eventually, I went to another church here, in another town, (same county), this was a C&MA Church. By this, I was in ATS seminary, and this was how I knew about the C&MA Church. I went to the pastor, and asked him about his method of evangelism, he responded in a very quiet tone. He stated: "I am not coming up here to break any law." This church celebrated its 100th year shortly after I went to the church. It is a very small church was planted by a slave. The membership is very small too. I remember saying to the Lord that is this what I have come to? that I am here to live only to live for me and mine? (meaning living only for myself). I said to the Lord: Lord, where are the souls Lord? Thank God that He has open ways form me to go into the market places at least twice per week in my ministries, evangelize to the

people, and most days when I go out to evangelize, two-three souls would come to the Lord. It is not like in the city when I can stand on a corner freely, in the subways, etc. however, souls come to the Lord and I assist them in finding a Bible believing, and Bible preaching church.

This is why as an evangelist, and missionary I love the city. Some people go where the jobs are, etc. I look for the souls that need to be saved. I agree with Rynkiewicz when he states that:

In missiology we need to engage the the world as it is,full of cities that are all products of urbanization and globalization.⁴

TWO QUESTIONS

1. Should missionaries be “cherry picking,” when it comes to winning souls for the kingdom of God, by avoiding the cities because of negative stereotypes?⁵
2. Should missionaries who are financially stable, partner with missionary agencies that they are a part of, and provide financial support to the organization, instead of depending on the local church so that they can channel the local offerings to the local missions?⁶

⁴ pg.216

⁵ pg. 117

⁶ pg.242

