



COVENANT
Global Cities Initiative
September 9-11, 2009

Purpose

As leaders from many cities, assembled at the Global Cities Initiative conference, we seek the renewal and transformation of our cities as the gospel is proclaimed and displayed, churches established and communities served through sacrifice and generosity. Through networks and movements of gospel-centered churches, we strive to make our cities faith-filled.

The purpose of this covenant is to focus our vision, strengthen our resolve and commit ourselves to advance God's kingdom as the gospel is applied to all areas of life for His honor and glory.

We recognize that, as God has moved over half the human community into cities, this is an historic opportunity to see global cities reached and renewed. Due to globalization and urbanization, these cities are now more influential, accessible and connected. Yet these cities have immense spiritual and physical needs as they are home to the un-churched and the destitute.

First, we sense that this is in His providence – a God-appointed moment to raise our eyes and see the fields “white for harvest” (John 4:35). We desire that the name of Jesus be lifted up and glorified so that the nations might be glad, rejoicing in Him.

Second, we come together despite our cultural differences to acknowledge our great Savior Jesus Christ and the joyous message we proclaim. The time will come when people from every tribe, tongue, people and nation will come together before the throne singing a new song and worshipping the Lamb of God (Rev. 5:9f). We are experiencing a foretaste of what is to come. We desire to affirm our commitment and make a covenant together before our Lord, the church and the world.

Third, we covenant to be focused and driven by the gospel as central to our theology and ministry, pursuing not only evangelism and discipleship, but also social justice and cultural renewal. Deep change in individuals and churches comes through the dynamic of grace, rather than through moralistic striving or the mere application of techniques. We stress both individual renewal dynamics (repentance, faith and spirituality) and corporate dynamics (experiential, Christ-centered preaching and kingdom-centered prayer).

Fourth, we covenant to reach cities, realizing that they are today's mission frontier. You can reach the world by reaching cities. We endeavor to be strategic in our efforts, believing that the kingdom started in a garden but ends in a city. Cities, for good or ill, are places where ideas are formed and transmitted. We desire to impact not only the



spiritual and emotional lives of people, but also their intellectual lives. We want to encourage a discipleship of both heart and mind because we are called to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, strength and mind. By impacting leaders and thinkers in cities, we aspire to influence the life and thought of that city, that country and the culture of which they are an integral part.

Fifth, we covenant to plant and establish gospel-centered churches in global cities. We realize that the planting of new congregations is the most effective way of reaching new people with the gospel. These churches need to be faithful to Christ, rooted in an unwavering affirmation of the authority of Scripture and resolved to hold fast to the faith “once delivered to the saints” (Jude 3). These churches must teach the “whole purpose of God” (Acts 20:27), applying this truth to every area of personal and public life.

Sixth, we covenant together to pursue this task, looking to God for His confirmation. We realize that “unless the Lord builds the house, the laborer labors in vain. Unless the Lord guards the city, the watchmen watch in vain” (Ps. 127:1). We pray to the Lord to “confirm the work of our hands. Yes, confirm the work of our hands” (Ps. 90:17). To God, not to us, be the glory.

Seventh, we covenant to prepare and develop the key players required to reach our cities: servant catalysts, church planters, marketplace leaders, and kingdom prayer leaders that seek the peace and prosperity of cities (Jeremiah 29:7).

Faith and Life

We covenant to uphold the truth that there is one God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – to which we give all worship, faith, trust, and obedience.

We covenant to refuse to compromise with idolatry of any kind, whether religious, economic, political, or cultural, that would distract, diminish, or dilute our commitment to Jesus Christ.

We covenant to unhesitatingly affirm the full authority of the Old and New Testaments following Jesus’ unequivocal trust in Scripture and those who have gone before us in church history.

We covenant to teach the “whole purpose of God” (Acts 20:26-27), applying the Word to every area of personal and public life.

We covenant to love God more fully with our heart, soul, strength and mind as well as strive to love our neighbors as ourselves.

We covenant to live a life oriented towards our Lord through regular reading of Scripture, prayer, fellowship and service – nurturing our hearts from these streams of living water.



We covenant to lead a life of daily prayer, as well as other spiritual disciplines, realizing that our success depends not on our might, power or ingenuity, but on His Spirit.

We covenant to seek a clear conscience before God and before people (Acts 24:16), confessing our sins and reconciling with others as soon as we can.

We covenant to forsake any racism, ethnocentrism or tribalism that would prevent us from working together in unity.

We covenant to regularly put on the whole armor of God (Eph. 6:10-19), realizing that our battle is not with flesh and blood but with spiritual forces in the heavenlies.

We covenant to be faithful in our marriages and in our family responsibilities.

We covenant to be open to wise criticism and accountability to others, not lording it over others or being motivated by money or power (I Pet. 5:1-8).

Gospel Driven

We covenant to be focused and driven by the gospel as central to our theology and ministry, pursuing not only evangelism and discipleship, but also social justice and cultural renewal.

We covenant to look to the gospel of grace, being changed from the inside out, as the source for renewal in our personal and corporate lives through regular repentance, pursuing God in prayer, Christ-centered preaching and immersion in biblical truth about ourselves and the world.

We covenant to ponder more deeply the implications of the gospel, believe it through and through and to live out the gospel in our churches.

City Focused

We covenant to set forth a positive theology of the city, realizing that as the city goes, so goes the culture.

We covenant to use the resources of the church to seek the good of the city, desiring not so much to build great churches as to build great cities.

We covenant not to neglect the cities' poor or to neglect, as God gives us opportunity, the rich, powerful leaders that shape that cities' life and culture.

Ministry Balanced

We covenant to pursue a balanced ministry characterized by worship, evangelism, community formation, justice and service.



We covenant to enlarge our concept of God's calling to include all areas of work, including art, business, government, media and scholarship.

We covenant to encourage those believers who want to engage the culture using their distinctive gifts to produce excellent products in the arts, music, media, movies and other culture-making arenas.

Outward Faced

We covenant to make our message contemporary and intelligible to our hearers whether secular, post-modern or of different religious persuasions, without compromising the content of the message.

We covenant to seek a deeper understanding of the context in which we minister so that we can build bridges to engage those who are lost and alienated from Christ.

Movement Minded

We covenant to pursue church planting as an effective means of advancing the kingdom in cities, reaching out to unreached people and working alongside established churches.

We covenant to train leaders to plant churches as well as equip cultural leaders with a biblical vision for impacting their cities.