City Transformation 101

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What is a City Transformation movement

A city transformation movement is the integration of the good news and the good deeds of Jesus resulting in spiritual and societal transformation.
How are cities transformed?

Spiritual transformation occurs when an increasing number of people are loving God with all their heart, soul, mind and strength.

Societal Transformation occurs when an increasing number of people are loving their neighbors as themselves.

Matthew 22:37-39
Boston Collaborative—Jua Robinson

• Mission: CONNECTING CHRISTIANS AND OTHER PEOPLE OF GOODWILL, HELPING THEM UNDERSTAND WHAT’S ALREADY HAPPENING IN BOSTON AND ENGAGING THEM IN WAYS THAT LEVERAGE THEIR TIME, TALENT AND TREASURE TO IMPACT UNACCEPTABLE REALITIES IN OUR CITY.
COS I Love You—Stu Davis

• Our mission:
  • To unite and ignite the local Church to love the city.

• The vision:
  • That every woman, man and child would experience the tangible love of God.
ForCharlotte—Rob Kelly

Mission: "FORCLT exists to connect pastors for personal, church, and city renewal."

FORCLT’s purpose is to Unite the Church to Transform Our City.
ForColumbus—Nick Nye

• “The Church of Columbus [working together] for the city of Columbus.”
One Body Collaboratives—Mary Cacciopi

• Mission
  • Our mission is to mobilize, coordinate and further develop church and community resources to rebuild lives and transform our community.
Houston Responds

OUR MISSION

• To unite, empower, and mobilize churches to multiply collective impact on critical needs in their community.

OUR VISION

• A coalition of interconnected churches and partners in every community of Greater Houston working together, loving their neighbors, and transforming their city.
What does a transformed city look like? (What is the goal?)

If God had the chance to build a city, what might it look like?
I will create Jerusalem to be a delight and its people a joy. “Never again will there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not live out his years; the one who dies at a hundred will be thought a mere child; the one who fails to reach a hundred will be considered accursed.

They will build houses and dwell in them; they will plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

my chosen ones will long enjoy the work of their hands.

They will not labor in vain, nor will they bear children doomed to misfortune,

they and their descendants with them.

Before they call, I will answer; while they are still speaking, I will hear.

The wolf and the lamb will feed together…They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain,” says the LORD.
### When God builds a city from scratch (Isaiah 65:17-25)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What specific things to look at today in your city</th>
<th>What is the current reality in your city?</th>
<th>What could you do to make things a bit closer to life as God intended it?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The city is a delight, and the people are a joy (18,19)</td>
<td>There are places of celebration, fun and beauty</td>
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<tr>
<td>Residence and visitors love your city (Google “I love (your city)” &amp; “I hate (your city)”</td>
<td>People of all ethnicities delight in the city</td>
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<td>Elderly are living long and full lives (20)</td>
<td>Infant mortality rate</td>
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<td>Elderly are living long and full lives (20)</td>
<td>Pre-school readiness</td>
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<td>Elderly are living long and full lives (20)</td>
<td>Number of children in Foster Care System</td>
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<td>Elderly are living long and full lives (20)</td>
<td>High school graduation rate</td>
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<td>Elderly are living long and full lives (20)</td>
<td>“Orphans” with mentors</td>
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<td>Elderly are living long and full lives (20)</td>
<td>Average life span</td>
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<td>Elderly are living long and full lives (20)</td>
<td>Quality and availability of health care</td>
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<td>Elderly are living long and full lives (20)</td>
<td>Activities &amp; relationships for elderly</td>
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<td>Housing (22)</td>
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<td>Elderly are living long and full lives (20)</td>
<td>Number of chronically homeless</td>
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<td>Elderly are living long and full lives (20)</td>
<td>Number of homeless students</td>
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<td>Elderly are living long and full lives (20)</td>
<td>Renting v. ownership ratios</td>
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<td>Elderly are living long and full lives (20)</td>
<td>The opportunity to own my own home</td>
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<td>Elderly are living long and full lives (20)</td>
<td>Food (22)</td>
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<td>Elderly are living long and full lives (20)</td>
<td>Food anxiety / Food deserts / Food rescue</td>
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<td>Elderly are living long and full lives (20)</td>
<td>Number of hungry students</td>
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<td>Elderly are living long and full lives (20)</td>
<td>Community gardens</td>
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<td>Elderly are living long and full lives (20)</td>
<td>Meaningful work (22,23)</td>
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<td>Elderly are living long and full lives (20)</td>
<td>Systemic generational poverty</td>
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<td>Elderly are living long and full lives (20)</td>
<td>Intentional job creation</td>
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<td>Elderly are living long and full lives (20)</td>
<td>Number of chronically unemployed</td>
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<td>Elderly are living long and full lives (20)</td>
<td>Strong family structure (23)</td>
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<td>Elderly are living long and full lives (20)</td>
<td>Marriage rate / Divorce rate</td>
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<td>Intergenerational family support</td>
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<td>Single parents</td>
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<td>Elderly are living long and full lives (20)</td>
<td>Hopeful future (23)</td>
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<td>Elderly are living long and full lives (20)</td>
<td>People are hopeful about the future and the future of their children.</td>
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<td>Elderly are living long and full lives (20)</td>
<td>Upward mobility</td>
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<td>Elderly are living long and full lives (20)</td>
<td>Educational opportunities</td>
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<td>Elderly are living long and full lives (20)</td>
<td>“I can be more than my parents”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elderly are living long and full lives (20)</td>
<td>People connected to God in community (24)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elderly are living long and full lives (20)</td>
<td>Percentage of people who have relationship with Christ</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elderly are living long and full lives (20)</td>
<td>Number / percentage of people actively connected to a faith community</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Elderly are living long and full lives (20)</td>
<td>Absence of violence / racial reconciliation &amp; justice (25)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elderly are living long and full lives (20)</td>
<td>Domestic violence</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Elderly are living long and full lives (20)</td>
<td>Crime rate</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Elderly are living long and full lives (20)</td>
<td>Number in jail / prison</td>
<td></td>
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Flourishing: “a state in which all aspects of a person’s life are good...complete human well-being.”

Tyler J. VanderWeele
When is a city transformed?
Like personal transformation…

• I have been transformed—2 Cor 5:17
  • “…a new creation…”

• I am being transformed—Rom 12:2, 2 Cor 3:18
  • “…be transformed…” “…are being transformed…”

• One day I will be transformed—Phil 3:21
  • “…who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.”
How Transformation Occurs
"I think you should be more explicit here in step two."

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City transformation occurs when...

the whole church
takes the whole gospel
to the whole person
in the whole city
The Whole Church

Doesn’t include every church but can’t exclude any church
Unify around purpose not program

Unity of Family
Ephesians 4:3-5

Make every effort to keep the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace...one body...one spirit...one hope...one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all who is over all....

Unity of Fellowship
Romans 15:5-7

May God...give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify God...Accept one another then...

Unity of Function
(purpose) John 17:23

May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me (proclamation) and have loved them even as you have loved me (demonstration)

“All churches are part of city transformation. Some of their leaders come to some of our meetings”
How many churches in Houston?
How many churches in Houston?

One church…
meeting in ~4000 congregations/locations around the city
What if…
THESE FIVE FINGERS...INDIVIDUALLY, THEY'RE NOTHING, BUT WHEN I CURL THEM TOGETHER LIKE THIS INTO A SINGLE UNIT, THEY FORM A WEAPON THAT IS TERRIBLE TO BEHOLD!
Do you believe like we believe?

"Bounded Set"

Do you care about what we care about?

"Centered Set"

People of good faith working together with people of good will
A city movement...

...is a collection of centered sets
They unify around blessing

This is what the Lord...says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon... “seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because as it prospers, you too will prosper.”

Jeremiah 29:4-7
Cause / Effect

Seek the peace and prosperity ("shalom") of the city.

And pray to the Lord for it

As the city prospers

You too will prosper
Where to begin

“Needs and Dreams” of your city (Interview, research & prayer)

Mandates and Desires of God for your city
Isaiah 65:17-25 & Matthew 23:37

Calling and Capacity of the Church in your city
Matthew 22, 25 & 28

“Common Grace”

Evangelism

Control

Mandates and Desires of God for your city
Isaiah 65:17-25 & Matthew 23:37
The Hope:
“The Church is the only institution capable of re-civilizing broken urban environments.”

The Problem:
“The Church is the most fragmented institution in every city.”

The Solution:
“We must apply the principles of partnership and collaboration, creating a seamless Church partner to work with other sectors in improving the City.”

Peter Drucker—Father of Modern Management
31% of lapsed Christians and 29% of religious non-Christians say they would be more interested in learning about Christianity if they saw various churches in their community working together more.

We're passionate about seeing the Church of Evansville unified, and it turns out people outside the church are interested in seeing that too.

Data from Barna’s recent Cities initiative found that over than half of unchurched U.S. adults (56%) expect churches to provide homeless services, followed by roughly half (47%) expecting companionship for the elderly and two in five (42%) expecting counseling services.
The Whole Gospel  The integration of the good news and good deeds of Jesus
Acts 10:36-38

You know the message God sent...telling the good news...through Jesus Christ...how God anointed Jesus...with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good ...because God was with him.
Paul, the Apostle

“I am eager to preach the gospel” (Romans 1:15)
“I am eager to remember the poor” (Galatians 2:10)
The reason why we need both wings of the airplane

*Good deeds validate* the good news

*Good news clarifies* the meaning behind the good deeds.
The reason why
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>+2</td>
<td>Initiation into the church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+1</td>
<td>Evaluation of decision</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-1</td>
<td>Repentance and faith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-2</td>
<td>Challenge and decision to act</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-3</td>
<td>Awareness of personal need</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-4</td>
<td>Positive attitude toward the Gospel</td>
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<tr>
<td>-5</td>
<td>Grasp implications of the Gospel</td>
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<tr>
<td>-6</td>
<td>Awareness of basics of Gospel</td>
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<tr>
<td>-7</td>
<td>Interest in Christianity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-8</td>
<td>Initial awareness of Christianity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-9</td>
<td>No awareness of Christianity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-10</td>
<td>No awareness of Supreme Being</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

I think I shall humbly call this… the “Engel Scale”
Moving people toward Jesus

I think I will humbly call this… “Gray’s Matrix”

Knowledge

Attitude

Able to Teach Others

A
Less knowledge / closed

B
Less knowledge / open

C
More knowledge / open

D
More knowledge / closed

Enthusiastic

Antagonistic

Knows Nothing of the Gospel

Good deeds most often times creates good will which moves people from closed to open
The Whole Person

Body, Soul, and Spirit
The Whole Person

Body, soul & spirit-1Thes. 5:3
(This leaves room for people of all
domains to be involved in
this spiritual movement—artist,
Creatives, business people, etc.)
The Whole Person

In ministry we can address body, soul, & spirit
Moving conversations from external to internal to eternal
The Whole City … Every Sector … Every Domain
PRIVATE SECTOR

PUBLIC SECTOR

SOCIAL SECTOR

Taxes

Donations

Wages
Christians in the City

- Business
- Religion
- Family
- Education
- Government
- Celebration
- Communication / Media
A city movement…

…is a collection of centered sets
Strategic Initiatives

Partial City

• Local Congregations
• Parachurch Organizations
• Mission Agencies

Tactical Initiatives

Whole City

I

II

III

IV

• Vacation Bible Schools
• Outreach events to the different domains
• Age group ministries

City Transformation Leadership of Houston

• Art of Neighboring
• Share Fest—city-wide service event
• Ending homelessness Initiative
• Foster care / adoption initiative
City Transformation 101

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