



NORTH AMERICAN MISSIONS?

North America is now one of the biggest mission fields in the world. **Last week, 250 million Americans were not in church, making the US the second largest unreached nation in the world.** From 2000—2007, there wasn't a single state in the union that saw an increase in the percentage of the population attending church. All this, and yet North Americans are seeking spirituality more than ever. What's going on?

Revelation 7 says that the story ends with people from every tongue, tribe and nation worshipping God. That means that every people group in North America will be included in that joyous occasion!

Mission Chicago is committed to seeing a **vibrant family of God emerge in close reach, culturally and geographically, of every person on earth.** We prayerfully engage with God's mission in transforming hearts into the image of God, and inviting others to follow the Way of Christ in community from every people group in Chicago.

PARTNERS

Mission Chicago is just another way of describing a fellowship of friends who have a heart to live for Christ in the urban context of Chicago.

We'd love to get to know you and swap God-stories, or just brainstorm on ways to partner together. Below are some ways of getting in touch.

If you feel a special desire to give financially, we are connected to a 501(c)3 organization that helps train domestic mission teams. 100% of what you send them funnels to us. Make checks payable to:

**JESUS FAMILY NETWORK
(MEMO: CHICAGO 08)
602 GREEN VALLEY DR.
ABILENE, TX 79601**

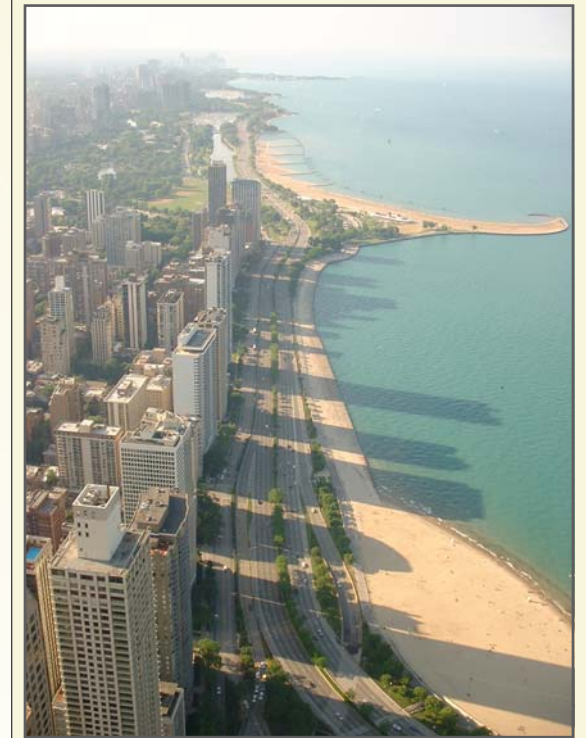


CONTACT US

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MISSION

CHICAGO 2008



WHAT WILL IT TAKE?

What will it take to see a vibrant family of Jesus in close reach of every person in this city?



“Go into all the world...”

REVOLUTIONARY HEARTS

A spiritual revolution starts with a revolution of the heart. Becoming centered on Jesus ourselves, we then have something to share with the desperate city of Chicago, and the whole world. **Our mission work aims to develop sane lifestyles in those we interact with in Chicago.**

Mission Chicago is developing training in raising healthy families, rhythms of sane living in an insane world, eco-consciousness, and resources for a vibrant devotional life.

We believe that Jesus was a world-changing revolutionary; and so are his followers today. Because of this, **Mission Chicago prioritizes missional living as it constructively engages with the non-Christian culture.** This is achieved through proximity spaces (a simple church praying and meeting on a floor of an apartment complex), shared projects (church communities working alongside the unreached for common goals like city clean up, or justice for the oppressed), and indigenous faith communities. We are forming marketplace ministries, urban renewal projects, missions coaching, and year-long apprenticeships in urban missions.

CHURCH PLANTING

The central work of Mission Chicago is in saturation church planting; developing healthy, vibrant, families of God in close reach of every person in the city of Chicago. Rather than a church in the city, our goal is to see the whole city churched. We know that the only statistical growth in churches over the last seven years has come from new churches, and we believe there needs to be LOTS more of them in Chicago.



CHURCHES IN CLOSE REACH

Every single person on earth deserves to hear and see a gospel that speaks their language, and a community of faith close enough to display “Jesus with skin on” in their own context.

Since Greater Chicago has a population of over 10 million people, of which only 11% are even loosely connected to a church, we have a lot of work ahead of us. That is why we seek to plant simple, organic churches.

Our communities of faith will meet in homes, apartments, storehouses, coffee shops, and parks. They are intensely relational; never getting much bigger than a family room can hold. It is in this intimate setting that people can be real, and empowered to develop into mature followers of Christ.

These churches are also the seedbed for mission.

They grow organically, meaning through natural relationships. These churches meet in their mission field, and before long they are multiplying and moving into new pockets of people. Much like yeast, it starts slow, but grows and spreads, leavening the whole city with Good News. (Mt. 13:33)



Mission Chicago seeks to plant simple, authentic communities of faith anywhere life happens. Instead of saying, “come to us” we go to them, and live as Christ among unbelievers. These relationally connected churches serve as outposts for God’s Kingdom all over the city. Much like the early church, they emerge as a network of loving relationships that profoundly change the city and the world!

Toward this end, **Mission Chicago digs deep into sociological realities, drawing a spiritual map of the entire city.** Working in conjunction with other churches and ministries, we seek to uncover where the truly unreached groups are, and intentionally plant missionaries in that context. Whether it is the skaters in Oak Park, or the single nurses of Pilsen, we pray for a community living out the gospel in close reach for them to experience it!

Our dream is big, but so was Abraham’s. The myriad stars God promised to match with descendants must’ve seemed overwhelming, but through his faith and commitment a revolutionary new age began.

