

# SDG 11 AND SEEKING GOD'S SHALOM IN THE CITY

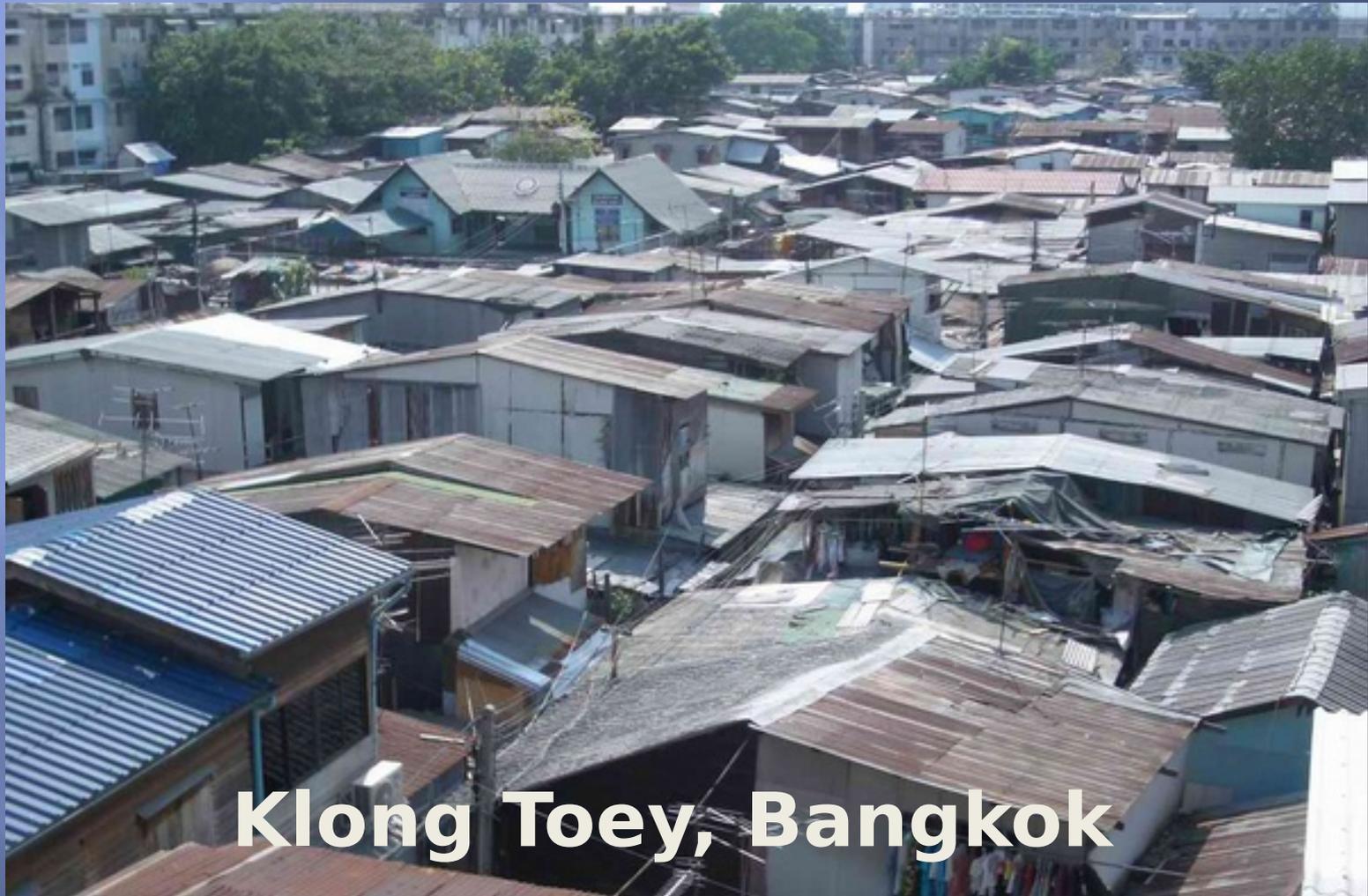
DR ASH BARKER



[www.NewUrbanWorld.org](http://www.NewUrbanWorld.org)

[www.NewbiginHouse.uk](http://www.NewbiginHouse.uk)

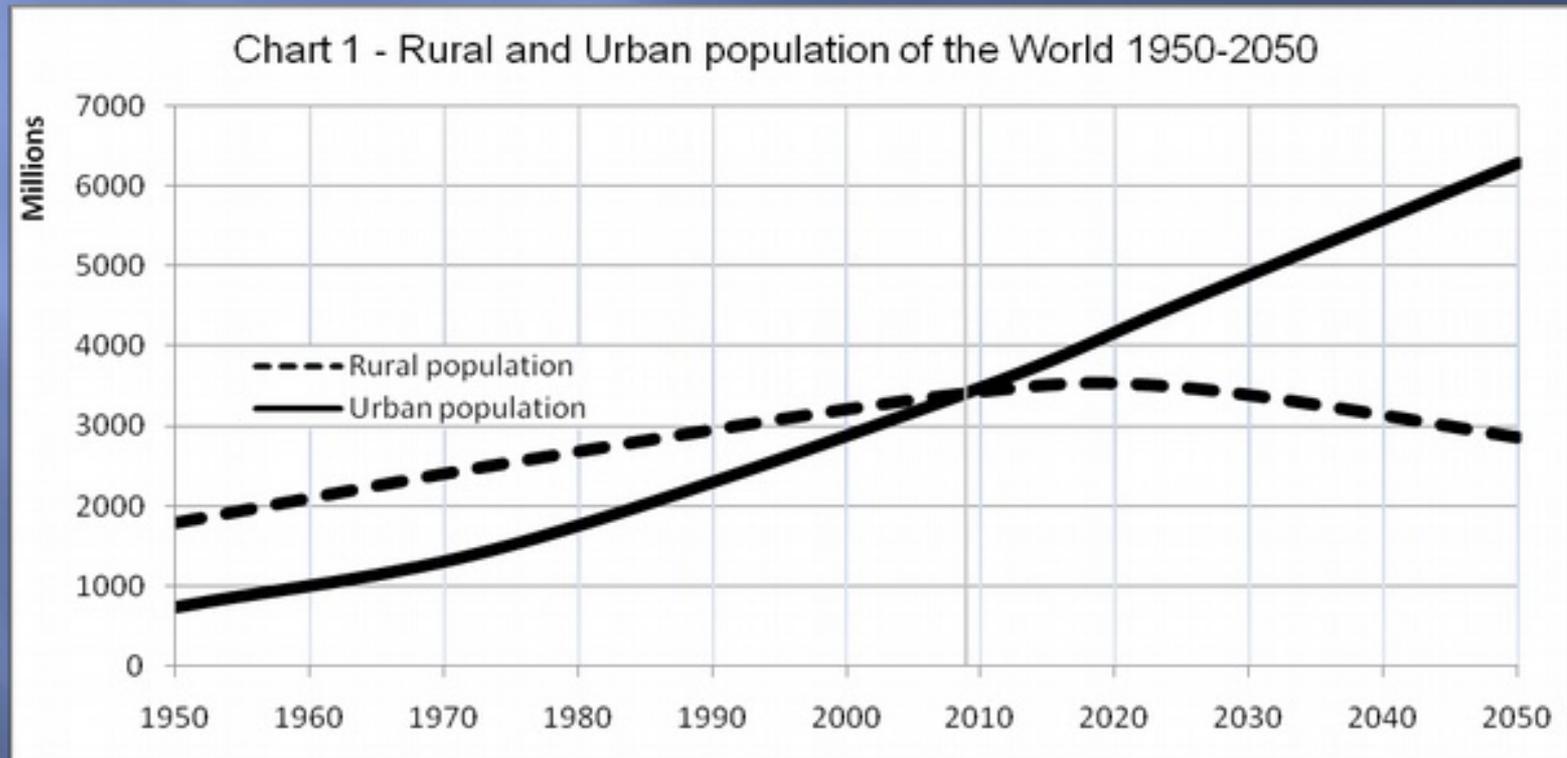
# My Love and Hate Relationship with Slums



**Klong Toey, Bangkok**

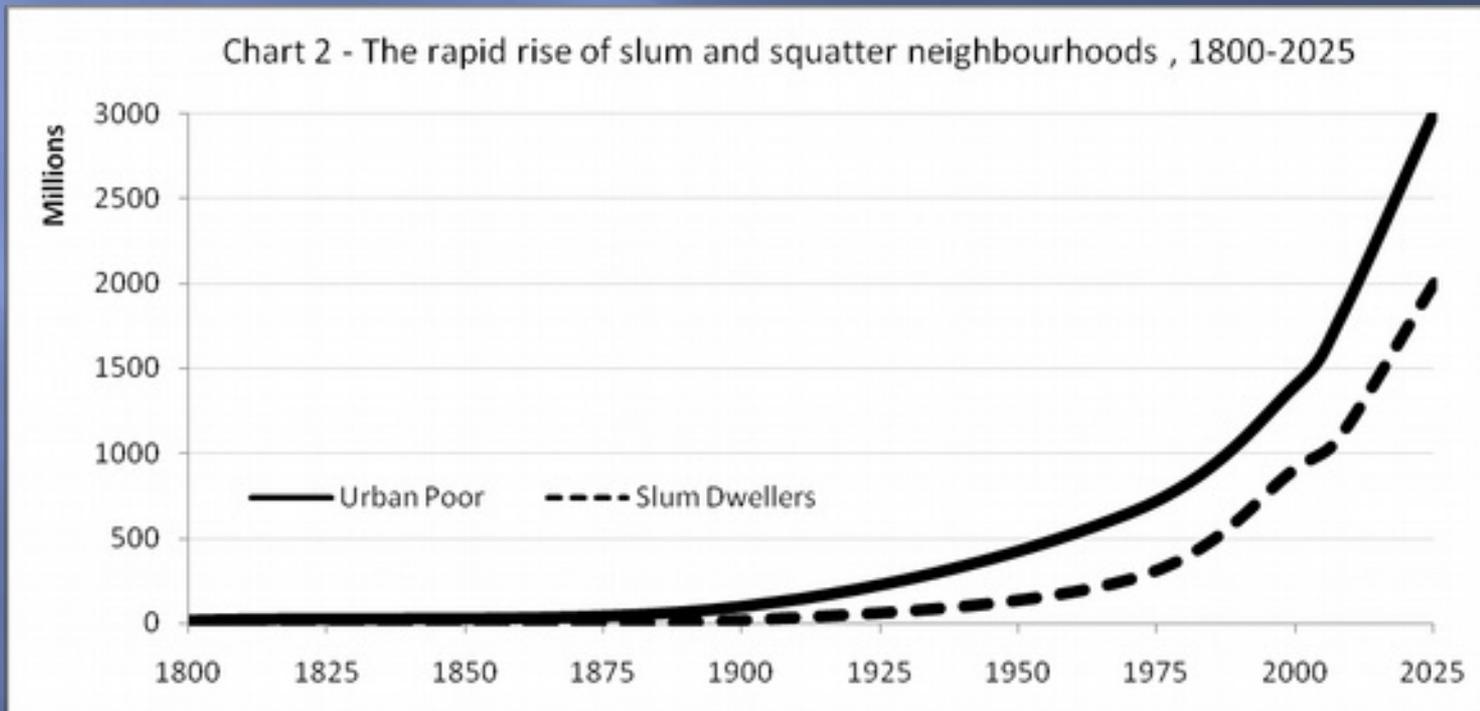
# Two People Tipped the Balance of Human History in the Last Few Years

2009: First Time More Urban than Rural People



# Two People Tipped the Balance of Human History in the Last Few Years

2008: First Time One Billion Residents in Urban Slum and Squatter Neighbourhoods



# What is asked right now?



## SDG Goal 11: Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

Cities are hubs for ideas, commerce, culture, science, productivity, social development and much more. At their best, cities have enabled people to advance socially and economically.

However, many challenges exist to maintaining cities in a way that continues to create jobs and prosperity while not straining land and resources. Common urban challenges include congestion, lack of funds to provide basic services, a shortage of adequate housing and declining infrastructure.

The challenges cities face can be overcome in ways that allow them to continue to thrive and grow, while improving resource use and reducing pollution and poverty. The future we want includes cities of opportunities for all, with access to basic services, energy, housing, transportation and more./

# What is asked right now?

Some of the urban Facts and Figures getting attention

- Half of humanity – 3.5 billion people – lives in cities today
- **By 2030, almost 60 per cent of the world's population will live in urban areas, around 75% by 2050**
- 95 per cent of urban expansion in the next decades will take place in Majority World
- **Over 1 Billion people live in slums today and the number keeps rising by 1 million people a week**
- The world's cities occupy just 3 per cent of the Earth's land, but account for 60-80 per cent of energy consumption and 75 per cent of carbon emissions
- **Rapid urbanization is exerting pressure on fresh water supplies, sewage, the living environment, and public health**
- But the high density of cities can bring efficiency gains and technological innovation while reducing resource and energy consumption

# What is asked right now?

## Goal 11 Targets

- By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums
- **By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons**
- By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries
- **Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage**
- By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations
- **By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management**
- By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities
- **Support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning**
- By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, holistic disaster risk management at all levels
- **Support least developed countries, including through financial and technical assistance, in building sustainable and resilient buildings utilizing local materials**

# The Cities We Need?

The UN Habitat's World Urban Campaign partners "need to pursue the global debate and build widespread consensus on 'The Cities We Need' in order to prepare for the Habitat III Conference"

- 1. The city we need is socially inclusive*
- 2. The city we need is well planned*
- 3. The city we need is a regenerative city*
- 4. The city we need is economically vibrant and inclusive*
- 5. The city we need has a singular identity and sense of place*
- 6. The city we need is a safe city*
- 7. The city we need is a healthy city*
- 8. The city we need is affordable and equitable*
- 9. The city we need is managed at the metropolitan level.*

# How Can Christians Answer?

Scriptures that can inform and inspire answers today?

- Jeremiah 29 'Seek the shalom of the city..'
- Isaiah 65 'New Heavens and Earth...'
- Rev 21 'New Jerusalem....'

# What can we do?

## 'Urban Shalom Project'

*(World Evangelical Alliance's Creation Care Taskforce and Micah Global's International Society for Urban Mission)*

- To help Christians engage with the UN Habitat III process for the 'Cities We Need' through lobbying, gatherings and publications.
- To set up a grass roots, global campaign to help Christians seek urban shalom through awareness, neighbourhood based actions, solidarity and helping keep governments accountable for the Cities We Need (as identified in Habitat III process).

# Key Urban Shalom Project Dates 2016

- 'Urban Shalom Project' website, facebook page and Summit pr launch (April 1<sup>st</sup>)
- Submission to be in UN Habitat III Village (April 15<sup>th</sup>)
- Submission to UN Habitat side event, South Africa. (March 10)
- UN Habitat III side event on 'Informal Settlements', <https://www.habitat3.org/pretoria> (April 7-8)
- ISUM's 'New Urban World' journal introduces urban shalom theme (May 30)
- First draft of Micah Paper; 'Urban Shalom and the Cities We Need' (June 5)
- 'Urban Shalom Project' track at Micah/CCD Gathering, Germany (May 30-June 5)
- Place at the table of 'UN Habitat III pre Com 3' for lobbying and quiet influence, Jakarta, Indonesia  
<https://www.habitat3.org/the-new-urban-agenda/preparatory-committee> (July 25-27)
- 'Urban Shalom Project' track at Christian Community Development Association, LA, USA (Aug 31-Sep 3)
- UN Habitat III with ISUM Summit, launch Micah Paper 'Urban Shalom and the Cities we Need' and 'Urban Shalom Project' awareness/action/advocacy campaign, Quito, Ecuador (October 15-20)
- New Urban World journal with Urban Shalom Project grass roots campaigning

# What are Urban Slum and Squatter Neighbourhoods?

Urban: Density, diversity and disparity of population and cultural 'way of life'

Slum: Living conditions

Squatter: Legal rights and protection from the law



# Characteristic Challenges

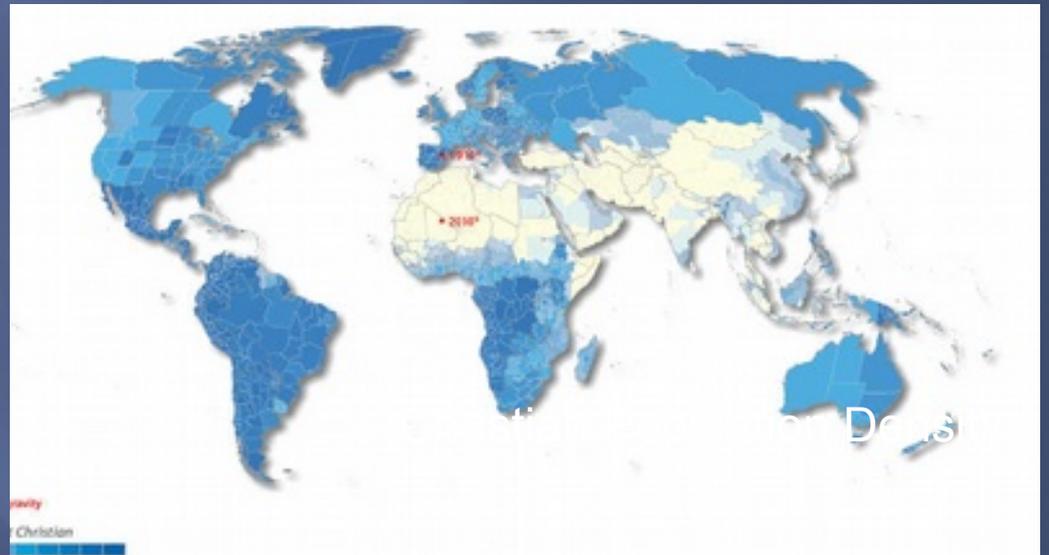
- 1) Housing security and threat of eviction
- 2) Homes can be built poorly or dangerously
- 3) Lack of long-term planning for neighbourhood development
- 4) Over-crowding
- 5) Sanitation and related health issues
- 6) Flood and fire proneness
- 7) Lack of secure employment
- 8) Organised crime and corruption
- 9) Lack of quality schooling
- 10) Inadequate and dangerous roads and transportation systems
- 11) Dangerous 'dumping grounds'
- 12) Despair and the 'culture of poverty'



# How is Christianity Doing in Slums?

**Two out of three slum residents live in 10/40 Window where Christianity is often a small minority.**

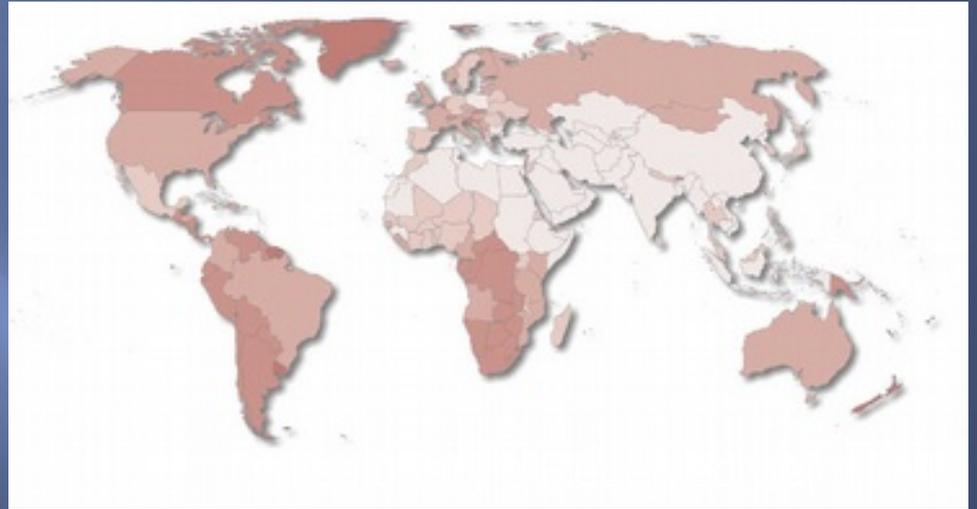
**Christian International Development Agencies overall may have a rural bias despite Slum MDGs.**



# How is Christianity Doing in Slums?

Center for Global Christianity estimated that:

- **1 in 500 international Christian workers focus on slums**
  
- **1 in 10,000 national Christian workers focus on slums**

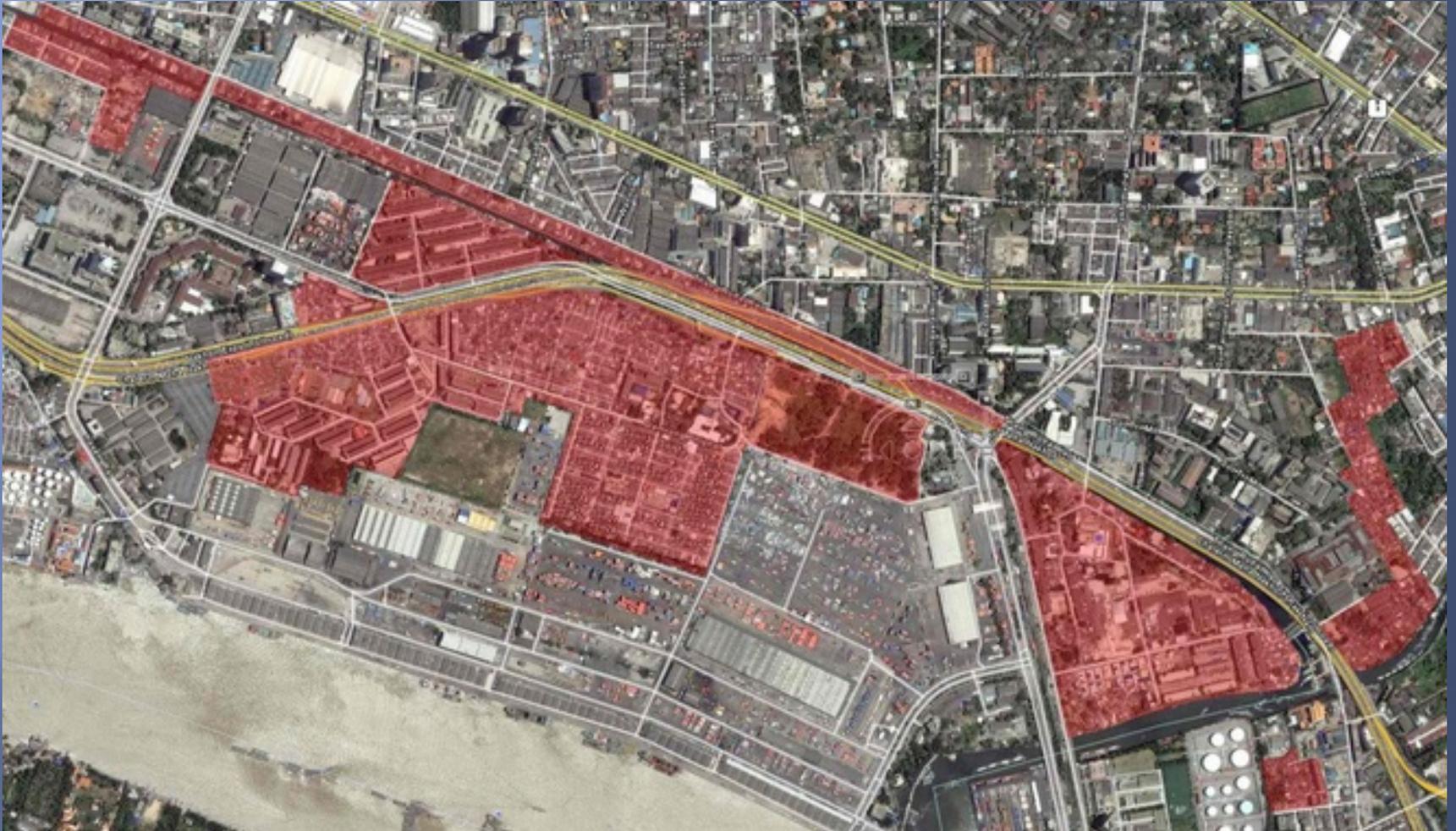


# What Will It Take To See God's shalom transform cities?

- It will take committed communities
- It will take incarnational involvement
- It will take holistic strategies
- It will take collective co-ordination

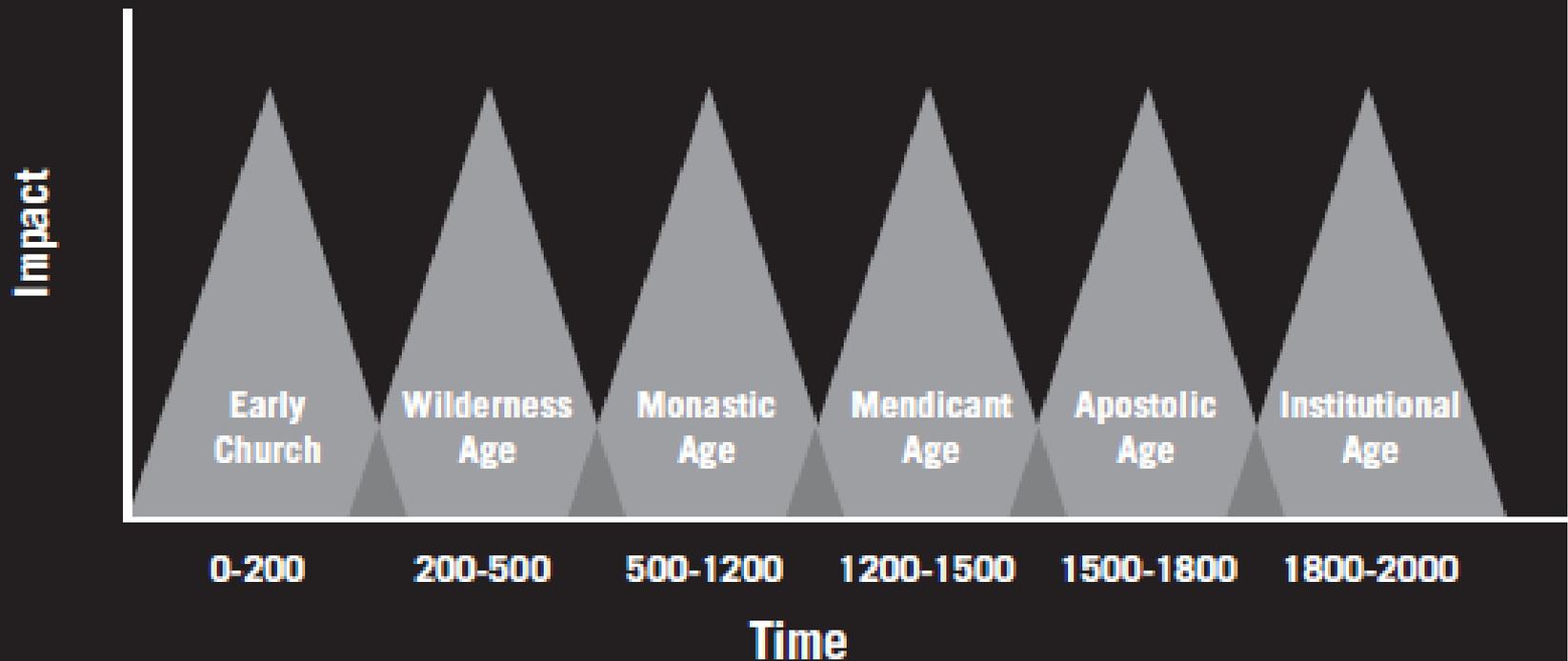


# Klong Toey Case Study



# Committed Communities Through the Ages

## DIFFERENT WAVES OF COMMITTED COMMUNITIES





# What Did Jesus Do about Poverty? Holistic Strategies

- > Relief: Give a fish
- > Education: Teach how to fish
- > Protest: Ask why no fish?
- > Model: Show a new way to fish
- > Transform: New way to fish multiplies

Which did Jesus think was most/least important?

Which does the Church do most/least of?

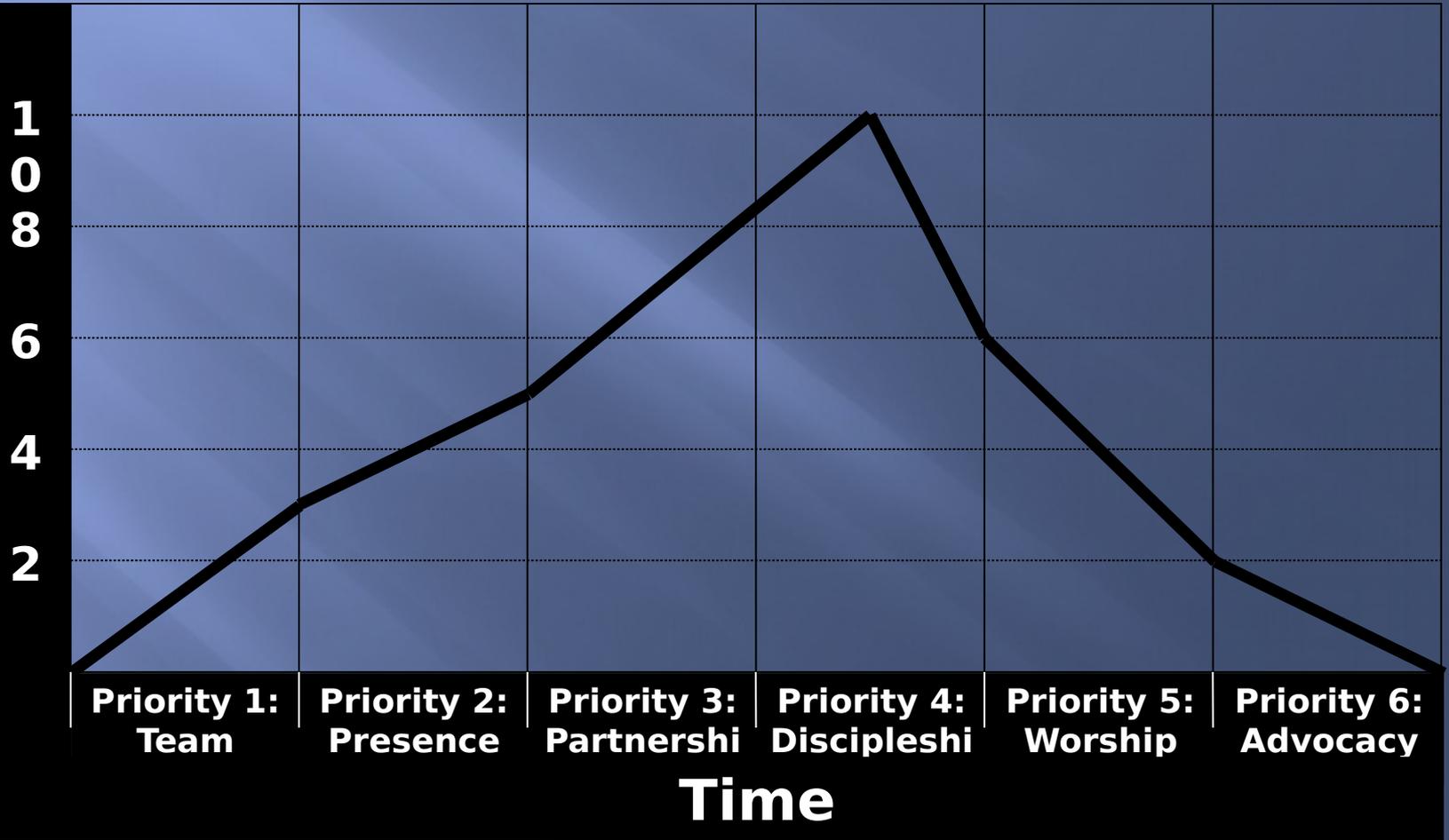
Why?



# Key People:

'Relocators', 'Remainers' and 'Returners'

No. Relocator-workers



# What's Next?

**What most inspired and disturbed you about this session?**

**What is one thing you can do to make urban poverty more personal to you?**

*'If there is a problem somewhere' he said with his dry chuckle, 'This is what happens. Three people will try to do something concrete to settle the issue. Ten people will give a lecture analysing what the three are doing. One hundred people will commend or condemn the ten for their lecture. One thousand people will argue about the problem. And one person - only one- will involve themselves so deeply in the true solution that they are too busy to listen to any of it.'* Now he asked gently, his penetrating eyes meeting each of ours in turn, 'which person are you?' Elias Chacour