



Developing Leaders From Below

CASE STATEMENT
2009-2010

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*"I know nothing except what everyone knows.
If there when grace dances, I should dance."
W.H. Auden*

Opportunity

"It takes grace to see grace."
Karl Barth

CTM recognizes the most powerful and renewable resource in high-risk communities resides within the communities themselves – the web of people, relationships and institutions that sustain the life of the community. The critical need is to recognize, network and train indigenous leaders to activate these resources in a way that is sustainable.

Unfortunately, the leaders who are closest to the needs are often overlooked and overwhelmed. They do not receive the encouragement or training they deserve. As a result, high-risk communities are vulnerable to well-meaning but unsustainable solutions that are artificially imposed from the outside. Solutions that are not owned and led by the communities themselves suffer along with the people. They fail to experience transformation from the inside out.

Therefore, CTM is committed to offering affordable and accessible training that inspires and equips indigenous leaders to be agents of transformation in the context of chronic poverty and violence.



Standing by an open sewer in Kibera, Africa's largest slum

Mission

"The glory of God is humanity fully alive."
St. Irenaeus

Our Mission is to develop communities of grassroots leaders to serve high-risk youth and families in hard places.



Camden, NJ North America's poorest and most violent city

Vision

"Two things awaken our hearts to God - beauty and affliction."

Simone Weil

Our vision is to see 10,000 high risk youth and families in the next three years encounter the liberating Word of Jesus through at least 1,000 leaders who are equipped to teach and preach Good News among those whose lives are marked by poverty and violence. We share the vision of the prophet Zechariah that "One day the city shall be full of children playing in its streets."



Graffiti Art From Urban Street Prophet

Objectives and Programs

"God is working in the world and it is the task of the Church to know how he is working...the Church will exclaim, "Behold, here is Christ. This is where God is at work!"

John Howard Yodor

Train

CTM is committed to transformational training for grassroots leaders which includes:

- Theological Intensive Series
- Leadership Training Series
- Vision Trips

Sustain

CTM is committed to ongoing encouragement and formation of the leaders and partners that we serve which includes:

- Web-based Resource Center www.CTMnet.org
- Trainer of Trainers
- Street Psalms Community

Model

CTM is committed to modeling transformation in high-risk communities which includes:

- Demonstration Projects: (i.e. Gang Chaplaincy Initiative)
- Internships
- City Mapping



Resident of urban North America

Where We serve

"God weeps with us so that one day we might laugh with him."

J. Moltmann



CTM's training targets leaders who serve in the most challenging urban communities in the U.S. and internationally. Poverty and violence are the two primary indicators that determine where we serve. They are barometers of larger social concerns and the context in which we help leaders teach, preach and bear witness to the Gospel. In each of the contexts in which we serve, we equip leaders to map the pain and the hope of their community as well as the heart of God - such is the geography of grace.

- **North America:** We currently serving in seven North American Cities including: Tacoma, Seattle, Philadelphia, Camden, Denver, Phoenix, Los Angeles as well as a rural initiative in the Yelm area of Washington.
- **Latin America:** Our Latin American office is located in Guatemala City and serves four Central American Countries including Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Honduras where we train more than 300 volunteers youth leaders and pastors. In January of 2007 we started a gang chaplaincy initiative in which we have hired six chaplains to minister to gangs in Guatemala's prisons. We have also hired a coordinator in the Dominican Republic to network and train leaders in Dominican Republic, Haiti and Puerto Rico. Our work in Latin America is a partnership of CTM and Christian Reformed World Mission
- **Nairobi, Kenya:** This year we hired a coordinator in Nairobi to network and mentor the leaders who serve in many of Nairobi's 199 slums including Kibera, Africa's largest slum. More than 150 leaders attend our training twice a year and 30 pastors are enrolled in the masters degree program.
- **Marghita, Romania:** Through our partnership with Mile High Ministry, we are working in a government orphanage in Romania. Our specific role is to train leaders who serve the orphans and develop themes for the camp experience. Each year a CTM associate leads a trip to the orphanage working in partnership with a Romanian foundation who has more than 60 staff serving the orphans.

Three Year Goals

"Perfection of means and loss of goal is the chief characteristic of our age."
Einstein

10,000 high-risk youth and families are served by trained leaders and experience the transforming power of the Good News of Jesus.

1,000 grassroots leaders enrolled in three year training.

50 Masters of Theology students in partnership with Bakke Graduate University.

25 Associate Trainers certified to teach CTM intensives

15 sustainable partnerships with organizations serving grassroots leaders.

10 "Listening Posts" who share common practices of CTM.

1 community of chaplains ordained to a life of discernment and action.



Nairobi, Kenya

Leadership Outcomes

"I will show you a more excellent way..."

St. Paul

The following outcomes are the measuring stick of success. They are the sub-structure of the Center's work with leaders and they are keys to transformation that stand the test of time. At the end of the day, "These three remain..."

Faith – Faithful leaders are visionary. They are not driven by the certainty of their own success, but the transforming vision of Gods redeeming love for those they serve. It is this vision that gives them the dogged endurance necessary in vulnerable communities. Because we have *faith* we are visionary leaders whose visions are sustainable.

Hope – Hopeful leaders are practical. They are relentless about real and radical change, even if it is only realized in glimpses. Because we have *hope*, we acquire the skills to creatively translate visions into concrete actions that make a difference.

Love - Loving leaders are servants. They are free to place the interests of others above their own. They are able to give away power. Authentic and genuine community is the result. Because we have *love* we can help build transformational communities that are, themselves, filled with faith, hope and love.



Chaplains for gang prison initiative, Guatemala

Youth and Family Outcomes

"If we saw now, what our enemies will one day be in heaven we would be tempted to worship them."

C.S. Lewis

The youth and families served by leaders trained through CTM will be:

Embraced by Local Churches: Local congregations will embrace high-risk youth and families as part of a welcoming and inclusive community that honors those at the margins.

Transformed by Good News: The liberating work of the Gospel will radically transform lives.

Empowered To Be Agents of Change: High-risk youth and families will be ambassadors of peace and justice.



MS 13 gang member, in Boqueron Prison, Guatemala

Partnerships

“Tell me what company you keep and I’ll tell you what you are.”
Cervantes

- 1. Bakke Graduate University** (www.BGU.edu) Bakke Graduate University is a graduate level university designed for leaders serving vulnerable people and places throughout the world. CTM began as an initiative of the Bakke Graduate University in 2001 where we designed and developed a grassroots masters of theology program.
- 2. World Vision** (www.worldvision.org) World Vision is the largest Christian relief and development organization in the world. Their U.S. Programs division contracted CTM from 2002-2006 to offer the Transforming Mission Intensives in 9 U.S. cities for their Vision Youth program. Cities include: *Seattle, Tacoma, New York, Los Angeles, Washington D.C., Chicago, Philippi, West Virginia, Minneapolis/St. Paul and Albany, GA.*
- 3. Northwest Leadership Foundation:** (www.northwestleadership.org) The Northwest Leadership Foundation (NLF) is located in Tacoma, WA. It is part of the Leadership Foundations of America movement (www.leadershipfoundations.org) that is committed to the social and spiritual renewal of cities. CTM is the primary training partner of NFL for its initiatives based in Tacoma as well as a training partner of the LFA movement.
- 4. Strategy of Transformation** Our work in Latin America is an initiative called the “Estrategia de Transformacion” with is a leadership training initiative shared through a three-way partnership between CTM, Christian Reformed World Mission (www.crcna.org) and Leadership Training Ministries/Liderazgo Juvenil (www.lideresjuveniles.com)
- 5. Mile High Ministries** (www.milehighmin.org) Mile High Ministries is based in Denver. Their mission is to mobilize and equips people to connect their lives to God's active concern for the poor. Mile High Ministry uses the CTM curriculum for training in Denver and partners with CTM in Nairobi, Kenya and Marghita, Romania.
- 6. Neighborhood Ministries** (www.neighborhoodministries.org) Neighborhood Ministries is a holistic Christian outreach to low-income families and at-risk children in inner-city Phoenix, Arizona. NM networks leaders throughout the Southwest region of the country and has been critical in introducing CTM to the Navajo Nation.
- 7. Fuller’s Center for Youth and Family Ministry** (www.cyfm.net) CYFM exists to translate RESEARCH into RESOURCES that TRANSFORM youth and family ministry.
- 8. Centre For Urban Mission** (www.carlilecollege.org/CentreProg.htm) Our work in Nairobi is done in partnership with the Centre For Urban Mission which is a training center located in Kibera, Africa's largest slum. The center is part of Carlile College which is an international Anglican college dedicated to training African church leaders.
- 9. Urban Grace** (www.urbangrace.net/Urban_Grace_Tacoma.html) Urban Grace is an ecumenical church located in Tacoma, WA. CTM is UG's primary expression of mission.
- 10. Seattle Collaboration:** This collaboration includes, Yes Foundation, Mt. View Presbyterian Church, New Horizons Ministry, The Urban Family Center and The Union Gospel Mission.
- 11. Tierra Nueva:** (www.peoplesseminary.org) Tierra Nueva and People's Seminary share the good news of God's love and liberation with peasants in rural Honduras and Mexico and with immigrants, inmates and Hispanic residents in western Washington.



One of 11,000 residents of garbage dump in Guatemala City

*"...If we deny our happiness, resist our satisfaction,
We lessen the importance of their deprivation.
We must risk delight. Not enjoyment. We must have
The stubbornness to accept our gladness in the ruthless
Furnace of this world. To make injustice the only
Measure of our attention is to praise the Devil..."*

Jack Gilbert