



# good cities

*Leadership that advances the Kingdom and works toward the common good of the city.*

**GoodCities Ministry Report 2017**

**What is a Good City?**

*A good city is a place where people find meaningful employment, create families, live in neighborhoods, engage in the arts, education, government, and live out their faith. In a good city, unjust systems are confronted and compassionate*

**Reggie McNeal  
City Coach**

Author and speaker, Reggie McNeal joins GoodCities.  
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**A City Set in a Valley?**

*In Happy Valley, PA, City Church brings purposeful unity.*  
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**City Impact Accelerator**

A Leadership Journey - Page 3



**Dallas City Convene**

350 Pastors united with purpose Page 3



**City Gospel Movement Team -**

Collaborating for kingdom results. Page 3



## The GoodCities Process

What makes GoodCities stand apart from the rest is that our total focus is on leadership development in the local context. This means that what matters to the leaders of a city or community matters to us.

We start with a corps of leaders from the Christian community and we ask them questions revealing their inner drive to serve. We help them learn processes that expand their circles of engagement to bring those they influence into critical places of service as well. This is known as leveraging *social capital*.



Good Cities brings alignment of people and resources as we teach leaders to work  
(Continued on page 4: GoodCities Process)

## Businesses Doing Good...

GoodCities provides leadership development that advances the gospel of the Kingdom and works toward the common good of the city.



In my writings and my work, I've been a big advocate of uniting around what we care about. This brings a sense of purposeful unity, a shared mission, and vision for what could be. Into this mix we bring who we are because of what we believe.

(Continued on page 2: Businesses Doing Good)

WHAT IS A GOOD CITY?  
(CONTINUED)

*help is offered to those in need.  
It is a place where God's  
redemptive plans are experienced  
by its citizens and sojourners.*

*A good city offers the experience of  
God's common grace, the  
opportunity to experience God's  
salvation, and a future filled with  
hope.*

*"If you want to hang out with people  
who are on the front lines of the city  
movements in the US, the GoodCities  
meeting is the place to be."*

*Jim Herrington, President of  
FaithWalking*

*"City Convene creates space to hear  
from God and one another. It's a place  
to learn emerging 'best practices' from  
the leaders of the growing numbers of  
Gospel movements in cities across the  
US."*

*Kevin Palau  
President of the Luis Palau  
Association*



For videos and stories about city impact visit our new website [www.goodcities.net!](http://www.goodcities.net!) It's also a great place to make an online donation.

**Businesses Doing Good**  
(Continued from p.1)

I've recently started a community of practice that helps me live out this kind of unity. It's called *Businesses Doing Good*.

It started when Scott Myers sponsored my involvement at the UN's Fourth Global Forum on Flourishing Business at Case Western Reserve University's Weatherhead School of Management

Our aim is social and spiritual transformation through the gospel of the kingdom.

held June 14-16. The speakers made it clear that businesses are moving from reducing their ecological footprint to proactively doing good in cities and communities. In

some cases, solving a social problem has become the center of their business model. People are now being employed full time where once only very part time volunteers were working.



In August we launched a series of conference calls held on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 10 a.m. Central with a guest interview and an open forum featuring a different business example each time. Check our website for

recordings of previous calls and for upcoming call topics and guests. On January 18, two of the top executives with Caribou Coffee will discuss Rainforest Alliance Certification.

When we held our first face-to-face meeting on October 20-21, it became clear that both people of faith and people of good will are interested in ways that businesses can benefit local communities. This was a rich meeting where ideas and beliefs were openly shared as we discussed different ways

that each of the participants were working to have their businesses benefit their community.

Scott Myers of Akron has taken a family company and turned it into GoodPlace Holdings, a business that incubates start-ups and provides a stable back office for social entrepreneurs seeking to provide employment to some of the most vulnerable populations in their city.



Scott Barr sees himself as the Steward of Southwest Siding in San Antonio. He has started a shared administrative and bookkeeping center for contractors that he calls Our Father's Business.

Leaders are key to our future. It is a privilege to serve in the ways we do. Your gifts make all the difference. We are seeking to raise \$50,000 before yearend to complete this year and to start strong in 2018. Please prayerfully consider a gift as you read about our work.

Grace and Peace,

President of GoodCities



GoodCities is a dba for our 501(c)3 CitiReach International.



Front Row L-R: Glenn Barth, Chuck Proudfit, Dave Robinson, Craig Sider, Phil Miglioratti, Will Plitt, Charlie Self, Lizzie Ng, and Ebony Small.  
 Back Row: Eric Swanson, Rebecca Walls, Tom White, Fred Conklin, Stephanie Wieber, Bishop Claude Alexander, and Neddie Winters. Not pictured Kevin Palau and Reggie McNeal

## City Impact Accelerator

### Building a Better Community

GoodCities is offering a major building block for building good cities: the City Impact Accelerator. In two cities twelve locally-selected teams from multiple domains (e.g. churches, government, businesses, nonprofits, education groups, etc.) will experience a proven collaboration process that speeds problem-to-solution innovation and implementation. This will result in positive impacts on societal issues such as literacy, job creation, healthcare, and other issues of interest to the cohort.

These cohorts will be led by Glenn Barth and Reggie McNeal. GoodCities is excited about this approach that weds the strengths of anchor churches with marketplace and community leaders to serve the city. GoodCities leads through results-based conversations that facilitate an appreciative inquiry process to bring deeply-owned results.

### City Gospel Movement Team

At GoodCities, we not only teach collaborative leadership, we practice it. In recent years, a number of significant organizations have recognized that God is doing a great work in bringing Christian leaders together to impact cities with the gospel of the kingdom.

May 15-17, 2017, leaders from fourteen ministries influencing leaders of gospel movements in cities gathered in Estes Park, CO to form the City Gospel Movement Team. These leaders are pictured above. Together we are collaborating to better understand and serve this movement that God is growing.



During our time together we got to know each other better and came to understand more deeply how we can work together. I'm thankful for these fellow workers in God's field and am glad to know that we are on this journey together.

### Unite Greater Dallas City Convene

Unite Greater Dallas held a City Convene that began with breakfast at the Westin Galleria. Mayor Mike Rawlings (pictured with Unite's Executive Director, Rebecca Walls) spoke to the 350 pastors, business and nonprofit leaders with a spirit of gratitude for the healing work that pastors entered into following



the tragic ambush and murder of five police officers on July 7, 2016. By 3 a.m.

on July 8,

a decision was made to have a prayer vigil at noon. Mayor Rawlings said, "One of the most uplifting days of my life was when we had that interdenominational prayer meeting!"

"Out of it came a reconciliation process between the police and Black leaders." He urged the leaders to keep showing the bigger church to the city.

Reggie McNeal  
GoodCities new  
City Coach.



The backdrop at Case Western Reserve's Weather Head School of Management's Fourth Global Forum on Flourishing Enterprise held June 14-16, 2017.

## Introducing Reggie McNeal

Doesn't it feel great when someone chooses you! That's how I felt when my friend, Reggie McNeal, decided to join our team at GoodCities.

Dr. Reggie McNeal enjoys helping people, leaders, and Christian organizations determine and experience epic wins with Kingdom impact. Prior to this position, he served for ten years as the Missional Leadership Specialist for Leadership Network of Dallas, TX. In recognition of his work Leadership Network has awarded him the honorary position of its first Senior Fellow.

As City Coach with GoodCities, he empowers community leaders around the country to build cross-domain collaborative efforts that can move the needle on big societal issues. The individuals and teams he works with become more missionally focused and Kingdom-biased in their ministry approaches.

Reggie has helped to shape the church leadership conversation through his extensive speaking schedule and work as an author. Among his notable titles are:

*The Present Future* (Jossey-Bass, 2003)

*Missional Renaissance* (Jossey-Bass, 2009)

*Kingdom Come* (Tyndale 2015)



## GoodCities Process (cont'd from page 1)

with existing effective initiatives and to create new initiatives that harness the power of collective impact.

In this way, people of faith gain the confidence they need to work together with people of good will for the good of their city. Through this process, friendships are formed and Christians begin to have an incarnational witness.

Last year in Springfield, MO, the City Manager and a few of the leading Pastors called together the pastors of over 150 churches, who committed themselves and their congregations to serve school and education initiatives in underperforming districts, to form partnerships with churches already serving poor neighborhoods, and to provide workforce development opportunities.

Our work has lasting impact. Processes we initiated with leadership teams seven to ten years ago continue to bear fruit today. In Modesto, CA churches team together with the County Department of Mental Health to help people leave drug and alcohol addictions through Recovery Modesto. In Atlanta, Unite is strengthening families, fighting child sex trafficking and improving educational outcomes.

To date, through our conferences and coaching, over 150 cities have been impacted by our work. In short, GoodCities is uniquely suited to advance community solutions in our time.

## *A City Set in a Valley?*

In Happy Valley, City Church of State College lets its light shine without being "...a city set on a hill." Dan Nold, Senior Pastor of Calvary Church and the leader of City Church says that the valley really resembles its name. It is a smaller city (population 42,034) in the center of Pennsylvania. The population swells each year with the influx of approximately 32,000 students at Penn State University. State College and the surrounding cities and towns together have a population of 236,577 in Centre County.

I met with Dan over coffee at the Good Day Cafe in Minneapolis. City Church is really a fellowship of church leaders in State College who have developed a rhythm of meeting and serving together. Dan is confident and humble, and with some prodding, he told me about some significant spiritual and social impacts of this group. Here are a few he mentioned.

- Rhythm of Prayer — 12 pastors meet weekly for prayer for the city.
- Monthly strategy sessions — 18 to 20 participants
- City Serve — 18-20 churches cancel their church services on a designated Sunday to serve their community
- Center County Orphan Care Alliance 30 to 40 churches offering foster care and adoption working with Centre County DHS.
- Out of the Cold — 15 to 20 churches providing housing, meals, and employment, for the homeless.