



Leadership that advances the common good and the vision of Jesus in cities in measurable ways.

GoodCities Ministry Report 2018

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 com-
Page 2

Measurable

Research Director, Wes Furlong on our Logic Model
Page 3



Hope Collective

City Coach, Reggie McNeal writes about the State College City Convene
Page 4



Flourishing Florence

An update on our work with Helping Florence Flourish
Page 4



The New GoodCities



GoodCities provides leadership development that advances the common good and the vision of Jesus in cities in measurable ways. This year

we are working with leaders in five cities. Our expanded work requires us to grow with depth and excellence in service. With this in (Continued on page 2)

Leaders Give

*Bernie Johnson, DMin
Development Director*

There is a reason why people are supporting GoodCities with their philanthropic giving. It's because GoodCities is succeeding in bringing Jesus' vision of life into view. It convenes leaders committed to making a difference for the common good in cities across the country.

Every sustainable movement addressing human need requires informed and committed leaders. The GoodCities pathway to leadership ends up changing lives, the lives of leaders, the lives of volunteers, the lives of people hungry

for hope in the midst of trying circumstances.

In a benchmark City Convene gathering in State College Pennsylvania I met women and men working on the front lines of human need. From a crisis pregnancy center to a ministry with women in prison, from an adoption ministry with at risk children to a serious movement to address racial reconciliation, people of faith joined hands over three full days to learn the critical skills for leading movements of hope. GoodCities brought informed inspiration and information to eighty-five people eager to make a difference in God's name right there where they live. (Continued on page 2)

WHAT IS A GOOD CITY?
(CONTINUED)

passionate 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. It's also a great place to make an online donation.

Leaders Give
(Continued from page 1)

It is an honor to join the GoodCities team in the role of Development Director. That's because I can say with confidence that your gifts end up making a difference in countless lives. The stories here are but a small sample of the spiritual return on investment (SROI) of giving to GoodCities. Personally, I've made GoodCities a stewardship priority. I encourage you to invest in hope through GoodCities.



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 2019. Please prayerfully consider a gift as you read about our work.

The New
GoodCities
(Continued from page 1)

mind, we've added Reggie McNeal as our City Coach; Wes Furlong as our Research Director; Bernie Johnson as our Development Director, and have hired Marc Leclerc to strengthen our website, blog, podcasts and communications.



We are leading discovery and engagement processes in Colorado Springs and in Minneapolis through an arrangement with Thrivent Financial to help their members serve communities in ways that advance the common good.



You'll read in this newsletter about our work with leaders in State College through the *Hope Collective* and in Florence, SC through *Helping Florence Flourish*. In Akron, we're consulting on a key leadership transition in a networking agency.

In addition, we are speaking to denominational leaders about the important missional role that churches can play in their cities and communities. In Houston, I spoke to Presbyterian leaders and met with the leader of Houston Responds, a work that has united over 200 Houston churches to rebuild homes and address community needs following Hurricane Harvey.

Thank you for your support and prayers for GoodCities. Leaders are the key factor in seeking the peace and prosperity of the city.

President of GoodCities

DISCOVER DREAM DESIGN DELIVER



Discovery and Engagement Logic Model



Inputs

1. Grants from individuals, churches, and foundations.
2. Supporting local congregations.
3. Training materials.
4. Volunteers to recruit interviewers.
5. Interviewers.



Program Components

1. Identify interviewers.
2. Train interviewers.
3. Assess local needs/assets.
4. Create City Report.
5. Host City Summit and release City Report.
6. Organize task forces.
7. Coach task forces.



Outputs

1. # of interviewers and interviews completed.
2. # of individuals who attend City Summit.
3. # of individuals who participate on a task force.
4. # of outcomes identified by task forces.
5. # of meeting hours for task forces.



Outcomes

1. Increased community wellbeing.
2. Increased generosity for local causes.
3. Increased confidence of how to personally contribute to community wellbeing.
4. Increased understanding of local needs and assets.
5. Increased cross-sector partnerships.

Building a Better Community



GoodCities' Director of Research, Wes Furlong, is a PhD candidate in the field of Social Science Research at Temple University in Philadelphia. Wes

has examined our model for developing leaders who advance the common good and the vision of Jesus for communities in measurable ways. He breaks it down in the above diagram, "Discovery and Engagement Logic Model."

Part of our process in cities involves helping leaders listen for the inner motivations of others in key leadership roles. We often use an interview process that involves questions such as the following.

On a scale of 1-10 (1: strongly disagree, 10: strongly agree), how

strongly would you agree or disagree with the following statements:

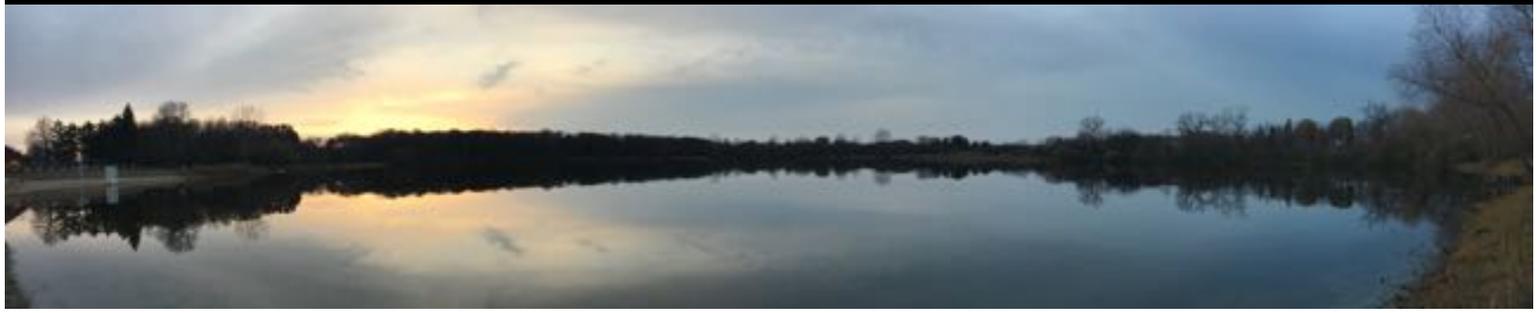
- 1) "I feel confident that I know the most pressing challenges facing our community."
- 2) "I feel confident that I am helping to solve those challenges in the best way possible."
- 3) "I feel well connected to others who share my passions and vision."



As these numbers go up, so does the health and wellbeing of the community. This is where the GoodCities "Discovery and Engagement" process fills a great need in local communities. It fosters two essential connections:

- Connecting people with similar passions and visions.
- Connecting local resources and necessary solutions.

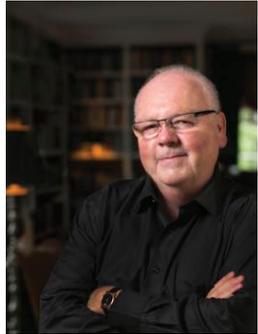
Here is a frequent scenario: During the interview process, a person shares a vision for a ministry or program (e.g., a way to support adolescents aging out of the foster care system). He or she is then introduced to others who are involved in similar work and share their vision. Together, with the help of support and coaching, these visions begin to take shape and change present reality. As a result of the 4-stage process, he or she has a better grasp of local assets and needs, is more directly engaged in the community's wellbeing, and has formed new and stronger relationships. Multiply this for many others and across all sectors of city life...this is our hope. It's one primary way that we are fulfilling the vision of 'Releasing the good in cities for the good of cities.'



Late fall sunset over Round Lake in Eden Prairie, MN. One of fifteen lakes in this suburb of Minneapolis, the City of Lakes, where GoodCities has its headquarters.

State College and the Central PA Hope Collective

In early October the GoodCities team resourced the inaugural HOPE COLLECTIVE event, involving 85 leaders from seven counties and



Reggie McNeal City Coach.

representing multiple congregations in central Pennsylvania. Calvary Church in Boalsburg (State College) hosted the meeting. Pastor Dan Nold

expressed the ultimate objective of the two-day gathering: “Imagine tens of thousands of Christians across Central PA working together to bring hope to their communities, a hope collective.”

The GoodCities team designed the event as an experiential workshop, combining high-octane content with team interaction. Glenn Barth kicked off the gathering by providing context, helping the assembled leaders understand they are part of a larger movement gaining momentum around the country. Reggie McNeal

explored the “why” of increasing church engagement with their cities by describing these efforts as a growing awareness of the implications of the church’s role in the kingdom of God.

Workshops by local leaders of community ministries acquainted participants with various ministry efforts already underway (including orphan care, neighboring efforts, prayer initiatives), coupled with workshops offering strategies for school engagement, racial reconciliation, and marketplace expressions.

The culmination of the HOPE COLLECTIVE experience involved local teams declaring their “so what” – what they intended to do with their new insights. Plans ranged from community re-engagement efforts to new initiatives across the region. Future gatherings will celebrate these efforts.

The GoodCities team met with State College area pastors as a follow-up to the experience, sharing some ideas for next steps for developing cross-domain collaborations for community development.

In events like this, GoodCities advances contextualized community solutions. Through our conferences and coaching, over 150 cities have been impacted by our work.

Helping Florence Flourish

GoodCities Board Chair Scott Myers and Glenn Barth teamed up to coach the leadership team of *Helping Florence Flourish (HFF)*, a new 501(c)3 agency that is bringing together Christian leaders from commerce, government, education, philanthropy, charitable nonprofits and the church to bless Florence, SC.



Scott Myers, Board Chair

Through our coaching and their own initiative HFF has established four leadership teams to move the needle in the areas of homelessness,



Rev. Chris Handley, HFF President

education, racial bridging and restoration of the family. Undegirded by citywide prayer, this leadership group has become a trusted partner

with the city when it comes to finding shelter for the homeless. A citywide program of regular meetings between black and white leaders is bringing reconciliation. Each year, a citywide meeting is held that focuses on this topic with leaders like Tony Evans and GoodCities Board Member, Neddie Winters as keynote speakers.

