



WITHREACH

Connecting Beyond The
Limitations of Outreach

On the following pages you'll find the first in a series of positioning papers prepared for our Partners on **WithReach** and the values and principles guiding the development of the **Community of Dreams** city-reaching strategy.

***WithReach** is an incarnational paradigm of mission that begins with honor of all people made in the image of God, and humbly seeks a place of commonality to reach together for the purposes of God, and is willing to nurture faith in contextual community, wherever faith is found. The following comparisons help us understand the contrast between traditional outreach and WithReach*

declining emerging

Outreach	With Reach
Confrontational	Incarnational
Unchurched are nameless faces and numbers	People are unique and vital treasures
We do good things for people	We do good things for people by doing things with them
Transformation imposed from the outside	Transformation created from within
Monologue	Conversation
Arrogance	Humility
Church speak	Human voice
Religious jargon	Language of dreams (aspiration / spiritual purpose)
Paternalistic overtones	Honor and respect
Impatiently look for quick fix	Patiently take the long view
Seek conversion, have narrow set of goals	Seek relationship for multifaceted vision
Love shown with an agenda behind it	Love without strings attached
Great Commission priority	Great Commandment is the engine of mission
We have what you need / you have nothing to give	We both have much to give / we both have much to learn
You cannot contribute until post-conversion	You can experience God in giving and serving
Of the world but not in it	In the world but not of it
Fearful of differences	Honoring of and dependent on diversity
Clergy - laity split	Priesthood of every believer
Sunday AM priority	24/7 community and holistic life
Church is as domain of the sacred	Church is catalyst for God's rule in every sphere of life
Target segmented group	Create holistic community
Image of community	Authentic community
What would Jesus do?	What is Jesus doing?

The following comparisons help us understand the contrast between a church-growth /church-centric paradigm and a holistic, city-reaching, community transformation / Community of Dreams paradigm:

<i>declining</i>	<i>emerging</i>
Build the church	Transform the city
Clubhouse church	Church without walls
Independent congregations	Inter-dependent Church of the City
Every church tries to provide everything	Focus on unique abilities and area of service
Build a church	Build people
Vertical structure	Horizontal network
Recruit to the inside	Commission to the outside
Sunday AM priority	24/7 community and holistic life
Assembly-bound worship	Worship evangelism
Performance	Participation
Departmentalized ministry	Synergistic mission and ministry
Protect what you have	Risk for greatness
Spend	Invest
Work harder	Leverage more
Raise money	Create wealth
Addition	Multiplication
Program	Purpose
Short term perspective	Community legacy
Domain of the sacred	God's rule in every sphere of life
Target segmented group	Create holistic community
Follow trends	Create the future
My church	God's dreams
Pastoring a congregation	Pastoring a parish•
Building walls	Building bridges•
Measuring attendance	Measuring impact•
“Serve us”	Serve the community•
Duplication of ministries and services	Community partnerships*
Ceremonial city unity	Practical, authentic city church unity•
Condemning the city	Blessing the city*
Our city is filled with problems and issues	Our city is filled with assets and creative opportunities
Speculation and pre-conceived ideas	Factual community intelligence•
Hit and miss plans and isolated events	Holistic transformational strategy

* Special thanks to Eric Swanson, Project Director for the Leadership Network for some of these points of definition.

WITHREACH in context of the Community Of Dreams 5-year Plan.



Your life
did not begin
at conception,
it began in the
heart of God.

You are a
Dream of God,
singularly unique,
in design and
purpose.

The world
awaits that
for which
only you
can give.

With-Reach *Connecting Beyond The Limitations of Outreach.*

In many ways outreach is no longer working. And in the way we generally do it, maybe it shouldn't. With Reach, as we've come to think of it, moves beyond a paternalistic, we've-got-the-goods, you-have-nothing-we need attitude to an incarnational mission of humility, which views each person as a treasure who already has much to give. With-Reach seeks out those treasures, to come along side people, to discover the story of God being played out in their story, and together reach for the purposes of God. In this way people come into the Kingdom naturally and with a better understanding of God's heart and ways, as they work together in the context of real-life community. With-Reach is multi-dimensional and has many implications and applications for how we 'do' ministry and transition 'out' of the outmoded practices of outreach. With-Reach is expressed so clearly in God's promise, "If my people will humble themselves...I will heal their land."

Love, as end, not just means. Recovering servant authority, or the right to speak, will come as we recover the right view of Love itself. God is Love, and the community of Love is His end goal. Acts of compassion and With-Reach are not means to some imagined goal of gaining converts or filling pews. God did not create love, He is Love. Programs will pass, but Love will remain. If we're ever going to see real transformation, the Great Commandment has to become the heart and engine of the Great Commission. Isaiah 58 and Jeremiah 22:16 have become key scriptures for this.

The Language of Dreams *Common Spiritual Journey and Prime Mover.*

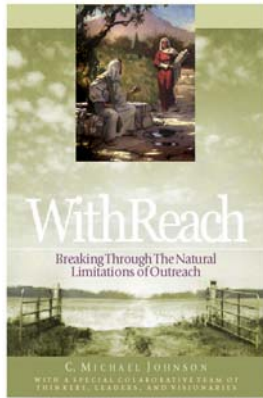
The path to transformation goes through people's dreams. After an initial first impression and trusted relationship that is built (using With-Reach strategies like Neighborhood Connections), there is a need to make what we Christians call the "spiritual connection." There probably isn't any part of the strategy that we've given more thought to than this.

Unless there is a specific need present (physical, emotional, etc.) the best conversation you can initiate is a "dream conversation." It's the one common motivation you can always count on. Whether its a burning flame or smoldering ember, the search for meaning, significance, and direction is an ever-present, driving force. We've also labeled it as ambition, drive, passion, creative spark, inspiration, longing, genius, gifting, high calling, aspiration...or for our purpose, generalized it as the Dream. It's all part of the same focus on the seed deposit of the image and spirit of God that will always be restless until it finds its rest in God AND the destiny to which He calls. When we become a Christian we can find peace in our relationship with God, but there's still a certain restlessness that keeps us moving on in the journey. So, in effect it is the one universal thing we have in common with pre-Christians and Christians alike, and great common ground for *With-Reach!*

Symmetry. There's an old saying that says, "If you divide a cow, you don't get two cows." And anytime we isolate into fragmented parts something God designed, we cannot truly understand the whole system and consequently the whole solution to its restoration. This is the fallacy of the 20th-century's scientific approach to dissect, analyze, and treat in isolation every human problem. Issues of personality, integrity, holiness, unity, justice, reconciliation, family, and community can never be solved in isolation of their whole systemic order and the original intent of their Designer. We believe there is a revival coming, characterized by a realignment of the foundational importance of wholeness in every sphere of life, mission, and ministry. Only a holistic, systemic city-reaching strategy will have the impact we seek.

Community of Dreams. *Living On Purpose.*

The object of the vision is the community and it's transformation according to the heart and purposes of God. The church is understood as a group of people (a community of faith) who, although they have institutional supports, are themselves the incubators of the transformation of the whole of society. The partner churches and lead pastors we are working with have an intense desire to be a church without walls and to create community in the context of where people live. In this paradigm, they see the church of the future taking on hundreds of new creative forms as the Kingdom of God transforms the community itself, where our neighborhoods and marketplace, our communities of interest and communities of place, in the context of a long term vision and developmental strategy, are transformed into Kingdom villages....incubators for the purposes of God...becoming a *Community of Dreams*.



Coming...

With Reach Position Papers

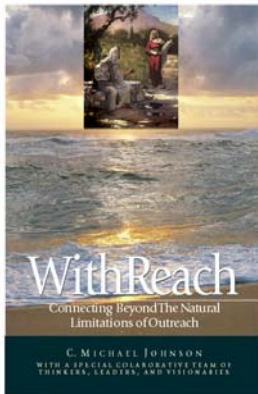
With Reach Articles, Sermon Outlines and other Training Materials (as free downloads)

Book One: **WithReach** / Connecting Beyond The Limitations of Outreach

Book Two: **Community of Dreams** / The WithReach Field Manual for a Purposeful Community

Book Three: **Living Our Dreams** / A Book of WithReach Stories and Essays

Book Four: **City of Glory** / The Dream Within Our Reach



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