

# HOPE OR

# DESPAIR?

## Urban Sunshine

### Educational Opportunity

Educational Access is improving in rural areas, but urban areas still have higher rates of school attendance:

- West and Central Africa have the most disparity in primary school attendance ratios - 79% urban and 57% rural.
- Least Developed Countries have primary school attendance ratios of 84% urban and 79% rural.<sup>4</sup>

## THERE IS HOPE FOR THE CITY!



Those who find economic prosperity and social mobility in the city still need the hope of Jesus to fill the deficit of the soul.



Mission in the book of Acts was urban-based (Antioch) and urban-centered.



Those who come looking for hope in the city and find despair are open to the gospel and benefit from the social connections that Christian community offers.

Globally 31% of urbanites live in slums.<sup>2</sup>

Cities are not improving over time. By 2050, 32% of urbanites will be slum dwellers.<sup>2</sup>

In Sub-Saharan Africa 72% of urban dwellers live in slums, the highest proportion in the world.<sup>3</sup>

Slums

By 2050, 71% of the world population will live in cities.<sup>2</sup>

Urban areas offer better access to health care for women and children than rural areas:

- Skilled attendant at birth - 85% urban, 55% rural.
- Proportion of underweight children under the age of five - 17% urban, 32% rural.<sup>4</sup>

### Economic Opportunity

Access to clean water—globally 96% of urban population has access to an improved water source.<sup>5</sup>

## Violence

There is a demonstrated correlation between rapid urban growth and higher murder rates.<sup>6</sup>

## Health Hazards

Access to sanitation—39% of South Asia's urbanites and 59% of Africa's lack access to improved sanitation.<sup>5</sup>

The future is urban. In 2009, for the first time in human history, **more than half** the world population resided in urban areas.<sup>1</sup>

Sources: 1. World Health Organization: Urban Health [http://www.who.int/gho/urban\\_health/en/](http://www.who.int/gho/urban_health/en/)  
2. *Future of the Global Church*, Patrick Johnstone, 2011

3. *State of the World's Cities 2006/7*. United Nations Human Settlements Programme. London: Earthscan Publications; 2006  
4. *State of the World's Children*, 2012, UNICEF

5. World Bank, World Development Indicators: Urbanization - 2014 (data for 2012) <http://wdi.worldbank.org/table/3.12>  
6. *Violence in the City: Understanding and Supporting Community Responses to Urban Violence*, World Bank, 2011, pp.18-19

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