



JOIN US IN PRAYER

**We're so grateful for your faithful support—and we invite you to lift up these important areas in prayer:**

*Faith-Based Teen Trauma Healing*

Trauma is everywhere, and teens in our urban centers are especially vulnerable. Many are silently carrying deep pain. Pray for our Teen Trauma Healing Facilitator Trainings, where leaders are being equipped to use the Life Hurts, Love Heals curriculum to create safe spaces for healing and hope.

*Evangel Church Planting School*

We're believing God to train 30 more church planting teams by the end of the year! Please pray for both our program staff and the future teams—that the Lord would prepare hearts, minds, and communities for this transformative work.

*Praise for TUMI's 30 Years*

We celebrate 30 years of TUMI (The Urban Ministry Institute) equipping urban leaders for Gospel impact! Pray with us for exciting new developments that will expand TUMI's reach to even more local church leaders around the world.

**Thank you for standing with us in prayer and mission. Stay connected—God is on the move!**



Donate Online Today!  
[worldimpact.org/raysofhope](http://worldimpact.org/raysofhope)  
Your support provides hope where it is much needed.

*Without you, communities experiencing poverty wouldn't be served as effectively by trained leaders who declare and demonstrate Christ.*

*Our partners, trainers, and workers also would struggle to grow their ministries without adequate training.*



**Get Monthly Email Updates**  
*Discover God at work through urban leaders and how you can partner with them:*  
[worldimpact.org/bethelight](http://worldimpact.org/bethelight)



Inspiring stories of hope, healing & redemptive transformation in communities experiencing poverty

IN THE CITY

VOL 2, ISSUE 2 — WORLD IMPACT



## Planting Hope: How Your Support Equips Urban Church Leaders to Thrive

Starting a church in the city is not easy. Many leaders feel called to serve their communities, but they often face overwhelming challenges—limited resources, spiritual opposition, and the weight of trying to do it all alone. That's where World Impact's Urban Church Planting program comes in. And thanks to the faithful support and prayer of friends like you, leaders like Pastors Celathia and King David Cox are finding the help they need to move from overwhelmed to empowered.

The Coxes, a husband-and-wife team, recently attended the Evangel School of Urban Church Planting in Louisville, Kentucky. This training is part of World Impact's broader mission to equip leaders in under-resourced communities to plant healthy, Gospel-centered churches. For the Coxes, the experience was life-changing.

**"We all started off at ground level. Seeing others who had planted churches successfully gave us hope."**

— Pastor King David

At the Evangel School, the Coxes joined a group of church planters from across the country. They came from different cities and backgrounds, but they shared a common goal: to bring the love of Jesus to their neighborhoods through church planting. The training gave them more than just information—it gave them a plan, a coach, and a community.

*Story continues inside.*

## PLANTING HOPE, CONTINUED

Pastor Celathia found the experience deeply healing. "It was very emotional for me," she said.

**"Being in a room with those who had gone through the pitfalls but were still resilient and going forward was profoundly helpful."**

— Pastor Celathia Cox

She realized she wasn't alone. Others had faced the same struggles—and had found ways to keep going.

This kind of transformation doesn't happen by accident. It happens because people like you choose to pray, give, and stand with leaders on the front lines of ministry. That support makes it possible for World Impact to host training events like the Evangel School, provide coaching, and walk alongside church planters long after the training ends.



Because of your generosity, leaders like the Coxes are being equipped to plant churches in places where the Gospel is desperately needed.

The Urban Church Planting program is built on a simple but powerful idea: local leaders are the best people to reach their communities. But they need support. Many of them don't have access to formal seminary education. Others are bi-vocational, juggling ministry with full-time jobs. Some are planting churches in neighborhoods affected by poverty, violence, or spiritual confusion. That's why World Impact's training is designed to be practical, affordable, and deeply rooted in Scripture.

At the Evangel School, leaders learn how to develop a vision for their church, build a launch team, disciple new believers, and serve their communities with compassion



Your gifts and prayers have made a difference for King David and Celathia Cox, who now have the confidence and support to plant a church in their community!

and truth. They also receive coaching and encouragement from experienced church planters who understand the unique challenges of urban ministry.

For Pastor King David, one of the biggest surprises was how much he valued the relationships he formed during the training. "I'm kind of an isolated person," he admitted. "But I actually enjoyed the fellowship and the connections." That sense of community is one of the most powerful parts of the program.

**Church planting can be lonely—but it doesn't have to be.**

Today, the Coxes are moving forward with renewed confidence. They're not just dreaming about planting a church—they're doing it. And they're doing it with a clear plan, a support system, and a deeper sense of calling. Their story is just one example of how your support is making a real difference.

Every time you give, pray, or share about World Impact, you're helping leaders like the Coxes bring the hope of Jesus to their communities. You're helping churches get planted in places where the Gospel is desperately needed. And you're helping to build a movement of empowered, equipped leaders who are changing the world, one neighborhood at a time.

So thank you. Thank you for believing in the power of the Gospel. Thank you for investing in leaders who are stepping out in faith. And thank you for being part of the story—from overwhelmed to empowered.



## Celebrating 30 Years of The Urban Ministry Institute (TUMI)

This July marks 30 years since the founding of The Urban Ministry Institute (TUMI), a ministry born from a shared vision to equip urban leaders for the work of the Gospel. In the second week of July 1995, Rev. Dr. Don Davis met with Rev. Terry Cornett, World Impact's Mission Studies Director in Los Angeles. Their families gathered in Wichita, Kansas, where they spent the next year articulating the theological and structural foundations of what would become TUMI. By 1996, they launched the Hope School of Ministry in Wichita, piloting the Capstone Curriculum and Foundations for Ministry courses—resources that would become the backbone of a global training movement.

**TUMI was created to meet a critical need: accessible, affordable, and effective theological education for leaders in communities experiencing poverty.**



Traditional seminaries were often out of reach for many urban pastors and church planters. TUMI's church-based seminary model changed that. With a curriculum designed specifically for the urban context, TUMI empowers leaders—many of whom have not had formal theological training—to evangelize, disciple, plant, and pastor



churches in their neighborhoods. The Capstone Curriculum, now used in cities, prisons, and international settings, has become a vital tool for equipping laborers to declare and demonstrate the Kingdom of God.

Three decades later, TUMI's impact spans continents and cultures, but its mission remains the same: to raise up leaders who can transform their communities through the Gospel. From its humble beginnings in Wichita to its presence in places like Romania, India, and Africa, TUMI continues to be a spiritual "boot camp" for those called to serve. This incredible growth was made possible through the generous support of our donors and the partnership of churches, organizations, and denominations. These partners use our Church-Based Seminary model to establish TUMI centers for learning, providing affordable, accessible, and effective training for church leaders and lay leaders.

As we celebrate this milestone, we honor the legacy of Dr. Davis and Rev. Cornett, and the thousands of students whose lives and ministries have been shaped by TUMI's vision. The next 30 years hold even greater promise as new leaders rise up to carry the torch of urban ministry forward. In the coming months, we'll be announcing some major developments with the Church-Based Seminary program that will expand our impact! So, please continue to pray that God uses TUMI to equip and train church leaders in cities around the world.