



Transforming Cities
Week 1: A BLESSING strategy
Sunday 11th March 2018
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Gen 22:18

“And through your descendants all the nations of the earth will be blessed—all because you have obeyed me.”

“Without contact there can be no impact.”

Larry Osborne

Isa 61:4 ESV

“They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.”

Isa 61:4 MSG

“They’ll rebuild the old ruins, raise a new city out of the wreckage. They’ll start over on the ruined cities, take the rubble left behind and make it new.”

Jer 29:7 ESV

“But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.”

Jer 29:7 NLT

“And work for the peace and prosperity of the city where I sent you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, for its welfare will determine your welfare.”

Jer29:7 NIRV

“Also work for the success of the city I have sent you to. Pray to the Lord for that city. If it succeeds, you too will enjoy success.”

- From the very beginning, God’s way for reaching and restoring the world and transforming cities has always been through _____.

Gen.22:18 NIRV

“All nations on earth will be blessed because of your children. All these things will happen because you have obeyed me.”

Gen 12:1-3

*“Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. (2) And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. (3) I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, **and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.**”*



- All who _____ in Jesus Christ are true spiritual descendants of Abraham.

Gal 3:7

"The real children of Abraham, then, are those who put their faith in God."

Gal 3:29

"And now that you belong to Christ, you are the true children of Abraham. You are his heirs, and God's promise to Abraham belongs to you."

- His plan is to restore creation, to renew creation, to BLESS creation leading to TRANSFORMED CITIES – through the _____ MANDATE OF the local church.
- Nick Vujcic: "It took me years of depression and even suicide attempts before I understood that I was not God's mistake but that God had a purpose for His "perfectly imperfect child." You are part of God's plan too. And He calls each of us to be His hands and feet on earth."

*"Christ has no body but
yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks
Compassion on this world,
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good,
Yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the
world."
Teresa of Avila (1515–1582)*

- BLESSING: "First, a blessing was a public declaration of a favoured status with God. Second, the blessing endowed power for prosperity and success... Three common themes are present in formal Old Testament blessings. First, the greater blesses the lesser... Second, the blessing is a sign of special favour that is intended to result in prosperity and success (Deu 28:3-7). Third, the blessing is actually an invocation (petition) for God's blessing: "May God Almighty bless you and make you fruitful" (Gen 28:3). William E. Brown <https://www.biblestudytools.com/dictionary/blessing/>
 - So how did God bless Abraham and how does he want to BLESS the families of the earth?
1. _____ **into His family.**
 2. **Abundant** _____.

*"For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ."
Rom.5:17*

- B.L.E.S.S Strategy:

B:Begin with Prayer. **L:**Listen **E:**Eat **S:**Serve **S:**story