

## “Why Chicago?”

Anyone who knows me, and have heard or knows my testimony, also is aware of the fact that the major catalyst for my journey to Chicago originated from a statement by one of my grandmothers who said to me, “Baby, you need to go to Pacific Garden Mission (Chicago) – you can find Jesus at the Mission.”

That statement changed my life as I took her word for it and came to Chicago where I did find Jesus. I believe that there are hundreds of thousands of Chicagoans (possibly even more) who, although living in the city, have not had the opportunity to be introduced to, or, even having the chance to experience the love of Christ as I have in my time in the Chicagoland area.

An interesting quote by Dr. John Fuder:

*According to the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life, 214 million people all over the world moved out of their country of origin. Of those, 20 percent (42.8 million) moved to the United States. In Chicagoland alone, more than 1.6 million of the population is foreign born.<sup>1</sup>*

This fact presents a wonderful opportunity for outreach – not only within the local neighborhoods and communities – but, also to the world. Not to be overlooked, the struggles of poverty, racial disparity, increasing crime rates, etc., that could benefit from the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ and a local assembly of believers who actually put into action what they believe – being in proximity to the lost and marginalized as the hands and feet of Jesus.

I truly believe that our Chicago neighborhoods are hurting because they have bought into the age-old lie of Satan (that there is a “better” or “another” way) and the only possible remedy for the destruction of the family and community is for us as a church to introduce the Truth of the gospel into those communities.

I believe that God has led me here and called us together as The Garden Church, Chicago for such a time as this.

---

1. John Fuder, *Neighborhood Mapping: How to Make Your Church Invaluable to the Community* (Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2014), 13.