

**TOWARDS A RELEVANT MINISTRY AMONG THE  
POOR.**

**DEVELOPING A COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY FOR MISSION  
IN INFORMAL SETTLEMENT COMMUNITIES WITH SPECIAL  
REFERENCE TO THE ORANGE FARM COMMUNITY**

**By**

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## SUMMARY

The topic for my study is: “*Towards a relevant ministry amongst the poor. Developing a comprehensive strategy for mission in informal settlement communities with special reference to the Orange Farm Community*”. The study aims at developing the best strategy the church can use in ministering effectively in the areas of the poor. The Orange Farm Informal Settlement has been used as reference.

The informal settlement communities in South Africa are mushrooming rapidly on a daily basis. There are millions of poor people who are staying in these areas. From the South African perspective, they constitute the largest unclaimed frontier Christian mission has encountered in recent history. They stay in houses made of plywood, corrugated iron, plastics, bricks, etc. The panoramic view of the informal settlement is unbearable and overwhelming. Most of the people are unemployed, illiterate, HIV-AIDS affected and infected, drug abusers, prostitutes, homeless, widows and orphans. The data given in this study shows that they are a diverse group and that their needs are deepening. This thesis attempts to develop comprehensive missionary strategies in addressing the problems of the poor in the informal settlement communities.

The church cannot, and should not relinquish its evangelistic mission in these areas, as it is obliged to minister in *word* and *deed*. It is called to

preach the good news to the poor. Christ's compassion for the poor was holistic, He was concerned with the poor and the marginalized, their sick bodies, empty stomachs, and perishing souls. Both his words and his works were expressions of his compassion for the poor people.

The church of Jesus Christ is called to bear witness in the present context of the poor. The kingdom of Jesus Christ is to be advanced in the informal settlement communities through a series of actions that are identifiably Christian in content and style and that bring overall health and healing to poor people in need

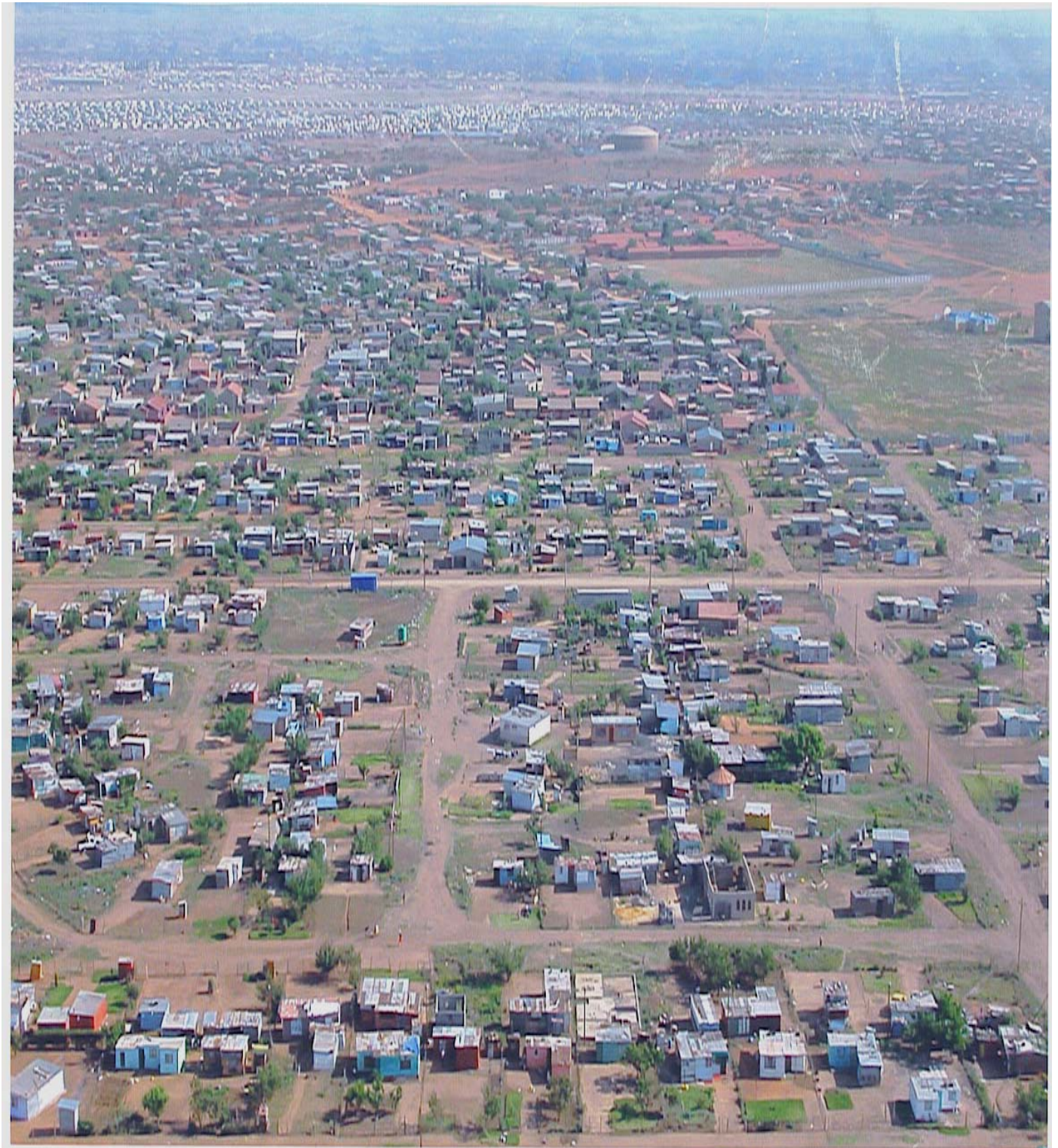
The church needs to develop authentic urban mission strategies to reach specific ethnic communities and multiply churches in the informal settlement communities. We need to remember that informal settlement communities are not single homogeneous units, but conglomerates of different groups and they require a specially designed missionary strategy.

The departure point for this thesis is biblical. Chapters Two outlines a number of biblical passages from the Old and New Testament and provides us with examples of outstanding urban ministries, which gives us important insight into God's will for serving the poor. Chapter Three illustrates that throughout history, churches have had a deep concern for the poor and the oppressed. Chapter Four explains that evangelism is part

of the mission of the Church. Chapter Five interprets the results and analyses the data of the empirical research that was done in Orange Farm. Chapter Six proposes models for ministering for the poor in the informal settlement communities. I conclude my study in Chapter Seven by referring to the research question that I introduced at the beginning of my study and further by looking at areas that need further research.



**ORANGE FARM INFORMAL SETTLEMENT PHOTOGRAPH  
(ARIAL VIEW)**



## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

### **CHAPTER 1**

<b>1. INTRODUCTION</b>	15
1.1 The Problem that calls for research	15
1.1.1 Migration to the cities	25
1.1.2 Push factors behind migration	29
1.1.2.1 Rural poverty	29
1.1.2.2 Weather factors	30
1.1.2.3 Unemployment	30
1.1.2.4 Money	31
1.1.3 Pull factors behind migration	31
1.2 The Purpose of the study	37
1.3 Research question	38
1.4 Methodology and some basic presupposition	39
1.5 Definition of terms	41
1.5.1 The concept Strategy	41
1.5.2 The concept mission	42
1.5.3 The concept informal settlement	43
1.6 Key words	43
1.7 Overview	44

### **CHAPTER 2**

#### **BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE OF MISSION FOR THE POOR**

2.1 Introduction	46
2.1.1 The Poor in the Old Testament	51
2.1.1.1 The Poor are the Pious	51
2.1.1.2 The Poor as a Partial Social Grouping	53
2.1.1.3 The Poor as those who left all	53
2.2 SOME GENERAL INSIGHTS ABOUT COMPREHENSIVE MINISTRY FOR THE POOR DERIVED FROM CERTAIN OLD TESTAMENT PASSAGES	



2.2.1 God's creation and His purpose for mankind	54
2.2.2 The fall of humankind and spread of sin	55
2.2.3 The Book of the covenant	56
2.2.4. The Deutoronomic Law Code	58
2.2.5 The Holiness Code (Leviticus 17-26)	60
2.2.6 The Prophetic Tradition	61
2.2.6.1 The Early Prophets: Amos, Hosea and Micah	62
2.2.6.2 The latter Prophets	63
2.2.6.2.1 Prophet Jeremiah	63
2.2.6.2.2 Prophet Nehemiah	65
2.2.6.2.3 Prophet Isaiah	66
2.2.6.2.4 Prophet Zephaniah	68
2.2.6.2.5 Prophet Habakkuk	68
2.2.6.2.6 Prophet Jonah	70
2.2.7. The Wisdom Literature	73
2.2.7.1 Psalms	73
2.2.7.2 The Proverbs and Ecclesiastes	77
2.3 SOME GENERAL INSIGHTS ABOUT COMPREHENSIVE MINISTRY FOR THE POOR DERIVED FROM CERTAIN NEW TESTAMENT PASSAGES	
2.3.1 Introduction	79
2.3.1.1 The Poor are the sick	79
2.3.1.2 The Poor are the naked	80
2.3.1.3 The Poor are the hungry	81
2.3.1.4 The Poor are the destitute	81
2.3.2 John the Baptist	82
2.3.3 Jesus proclaimed the Kingdom to the poor	83
2.3.4 Christ's presence among the poor	86
2.3.5 Jesus sending of the twelve (Luke 9:1-6)	88
2.3.6 The Poor and Poverty in the Church of the first century	89
2.3.7 The Primitive Christian community in Jerusalem	91

2.3.8 St. Paul and Poverty and assistance to the Poor	94
2.3.9 The Epistle of James	95
2.4 Conclusion	100

### **CHAPER 3**

#### **THE CHURCH AND THE POOR: HISTORIC OVERVIEW**

3.1 Introduction	104
3.2 The Early Church	107
3.3 The Apostolic Fathers	112
3.4 The Old Catholic Church (150-325)	113
3.4.1 Tertulian	114
3.4.2 Clement of Alexandria (c150-215)	114
3.5 Post- Constantine Era (313-590 A.D)	115
3.5.1 Augustine	116
3.5.2 St. Ambrose	117
3.5.3 St. Basil	120
3.6 The Early Medieval Church (590-1300)	122
3.6.1 Francis of Assisi	124
3.6.2 Peter Valdez	125
3.7The Carolingian Period: “The Economic Council”	125
3.8 The Bishop and the Poor: An Old Alliance	127
3.9The Twelfth century	128
3.9.1 Monks	128
3.9.2 Theologians	130
3.9.3 Hermits	130
3.9.4 Apocalyptic Messiah	131
3.9.5 Canons and Laity	132
3.10 The Renaissance and the Reformation (1300-1600A.D)	133
3.10.1 Late Medieval Church (1300-15000)	133
3.10.2 Protestant Reformation	134

3.10.2.1	Martin Luther	135
3.10.2.2	John Calvin (1509-1564)	139
3.10.2.3	Ulrich Zwingli	141
3.10.2.4	Anabaptist	142
3.11	The Evangelical Revival Movement	142
3.11.1	The Pietistic Movement	143
3.11.2	Moravians	145
3.11.3	The Wesleyan Revival in England	147
3.11.4	The Clapham Sect	152
3.11.5	The First Great Awakening in North America	154
3.11.6	The Second Great Awakening	154
3.12	The Protestant Missionary Movement	155
3.13	Walter Rauschenbusch (1861-1918)	156
3.14	Missionary strategy of the 19 <sup>th</sup> / 20 <sup>th</sup> Century	157
3.15	Liberal and Orthodox Polarization of the church	158
3.15.1	From Social Gospel to Salvation Today (1970-present)	159
3.15.2	Liberation Movement	161
3.15.3	A new global context for mission	162
3.16	Conclusion	164

## **CHAPTER 4**

### **NECESSITY FOR A COMPREHENSIVE/ HOLISTIC**

#### **APPROACH**

4.1	Introduction	170
4.2	A Comprehensive Ministry	172
4.2.1	The Ministry of Evangelism and Witness	172
4.2.2	The Ministry Fellowship	179
4.2.3	The Ministry of Service	183
4.2.3.1	Projects and Programs	189
4.2.4	The Ministry of Worship	192

4.3 Relief	196
4.4 Development	198
4.5 A need for a comprehensive and holistic approach	207
4.6 Conclusion	210

## **CHAPTER 5**

### **EMPIRICAL RESEARCH, DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS**

5.1 Introduction	212
5.2 Gathering of primary data and the sampling process	214
5.3 Quota sampling method	215
5.4 Responses	216
5.5 Qualitative Case study of Orange Farm community	216
5.5.1 Background of Orange Farm	216
5.5.2 The origins of Orange Farm	217
5.5.3 Services in Orange Farm	218
5.5.4 Empirical Research	219
5.5.4.1 Biographical information	219
5.5.4.2 Denomination	222
5.5.4.3 Community	229
5.5.4.4 HIV-AIDS	232
5.5.4.5 Abuse	239
5.5.4.6 Drugs	240
5.5.4.7 Literacy	243
5.5.4.8 Homelessness	245
5.5.4.9 Prostitution	247
5.6 Qualitative Research	248
5.6.1 Single Parenting	248
5.6.2 Child Adopting families	250
5.6.3 Orphans	252

5.6.4 Grand Parents	253
5.6.5 Child headed families	254
5.7 Conclusion	255

## **CHAPTER 6: DEVELOPING A MISSION STRATEGY**

6.1 Introduction	258
6.2 Developing mission strategies	259
6.2.1 Networking	259
6.2.2 Community organization	261
6.2.3 Mission Strategy	264
6.2.4 The need for incarnational ministry	266
6.2.5 Understanding the community strategy	269
6.2.6 The need for evaluation strategy	272
6.2.7 Developing a Holistic Ministry	273
6.2.7.1 Ministering to the community of the poor	274
6.2.7.2 Ministering to the HIV-AIDS sufferers	275
6.7.2.1 HIV-AIDS ministries	277
6.7.2.2 Church Based Care	277
6.7.2.3 Inter Faith Ministries	278
6.2.7.3 Ministering to the Homelessness	278
6.2.7.4 Ministering to the victims of Abuse	279
6.2.7.5 Ministering to the Street Children	280
6.2.7.6 Ministering to the Drug addicts	281
6.2.7.6.1 Teach right from wrong, respect for life and law, forgiveness and mercy	282
6.2.7.6.2 Stand with victims and their families	283
6.2.7.6.3 Reach out to offenders and their families, advocate for more treatment, and provide for the pastoral needs of all involved	283
6.2.7.6.4 Build community	284
6.2.7.6.5 Advocate policies that help reduce violence, protect the innocent,	

involve the victims and offer real alternatives to addiction	285
6.2.7.7 Ministering to the Illiterates	285
6.2.7.8 Ministering to the Prostitutes	286
6.2.7.8.1 Ministry of the local church to the prostitutes	289
6.2.7.8.2 Creating a hospitable climate	290
6.2.7.8.3 Some practical ways to develop a comprehensive ministry	290
6.2.7.8.4 Ministry that the local church can offer	291
<b>CHAPTER 7 CONCLUSION</b>	<b>293</b>
7.1 Main conclusions	294
7.2 Areas of further research	296
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>	<b>298</b>
<b>Annexure 1 – Quantitative Research</b>	<b>316</b>
<b>Annexure 2 – Qualitative Method</b>	<b>331</b>
<b>Annexure 3 – Letter to the Church Leaders</b>	<b>334</b>