

Into the land of deep darkness...

NYC, JUNE 7, 2023 - "Worst air quality in the world"

Royal Meteorological Society

Urban Hope NYC 2023
Mid-Year Report

A Light Has Shone!



Dear Friends, prayer partners and generous supporters of Urban Hope NYC,

It's hard to believe that we are half-way through 2023. It has been an extremely challenging and glorious first half for us and some of our biggest initiatives are just ramping up! We cannot thank you enough for your love, prayers, and support. You have lifted us, buoyed us, and blown wind in our sails. We pray that this report encourages you.

Most of you saw with horror the skyline of NYC when it was declared the most toxic city on earth. That was Wednesday, June 7th. In three days, we were scheduled to kick off Jesus Week 2023 in Times Square. The staging company was leaving from Ohio the next morning.

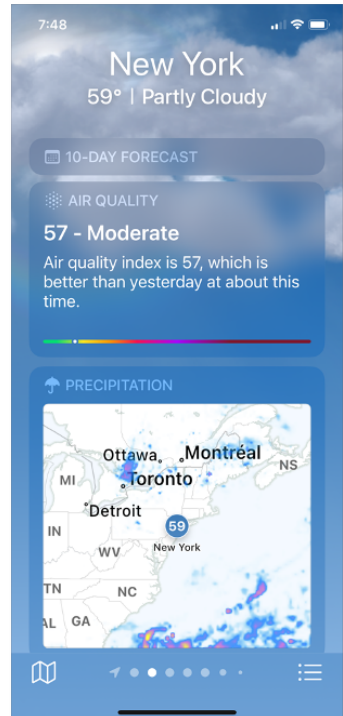
Artists were flying and driving in from Boston and Florida on Thursday. We had to decide if it was irresponsible to host an event that encourages people to stay outside for half a day when the city was cancelling events and asking everyone to stay indoors. Advisors were saying that nobody would attend and that there is no way the air would clear by Saturday... but God!

Times Square 2023



We have learned over the years that the evil one does whatever he can to discourage evangelism. Every hour, approximately 20,000 people stream through Times Square. Our six-hour event would impact in various degrees tens of thousands! If we cancelled, it was unlikely we would be able to reschedule this summer. We prayed, believed, and trusted that God would make a way. **Here is the screen shot for June 10th:**

It was one of the most beautiful days of the year, thousands lingered and listened to the sweet songs of heaven and the sweet story of salvation, our five prayer tents were swamped with people weeping, seeking God and asking for prayer...and **the air was crystal clear!**



Jesus Week 2023



Miraculously, **One Hope Ministry funded two Jesus Week ministers' retreats!** Over 300 powerful community leaders joined us in October and April for two extraordinary team building, vision casting, movement growing retreats. As leaders gathered from NYC, Philly, New Jersey, Connecticut and Delaware, our hearts were set on fire and joined as one.

The retreats launched a Jesus Week season like no other! The book of Habakkuk encourages us to write the vision on stone tablets so the hearers can run. Well, it wasn't stone tablets, but through Mick Richards amazing leadership and video production, the Saturate Worship Teams heavenly worship times and a new book designed to empower and train teams of churches to be community healers, the Northeast is running with passion!

Churches throughout NYC, PA, NJ and CT are collaborating to share the Good News and mobilize 5-15 churches in every zip code to build cities and communities where there are **“no sheep without a shepherd.”**



Cities of Joy 2023



Cities of Joy are rising, children are rejoicing and neighborhoods are experiencing healing as we simultaneously serve vulnerable communities and schools. By creating loving support systems to assist students and families we see a clear path to healing traumatized neighborhoods. Over the past six months, we have ministered to well over 6000 students and families through assemblies, festivals, leadership development trainings, literacy initiatives, kids' clubs and Easter Egg Hunts!

Our **"Read to Succeed"** literacy initiative has transformed the lives of hundreds of children. One first grader grew 7 reading levels (from below K, to above 2nd grade) through 12 one-hour sessions. His life will never be the same.

Our **"Hope Kidz Club"** blessed dozens of children in four different elementary schools. Joy, love, music, games and good news enriched each child who attended this wonderful after school program.

NYC Dept. of Education



A beautiful relationship has been growing between **Urban Hope and the schools of Staten Island**. After many years of serving and co-laboring with local principals and teachers, a door has opened wide to come alongside our beloved NYC DOE students. Hundreds of thousands are struggling to overcome family challenges, neighborhood violence and the pandemic educational loss that particularly devastated areas of deep poverty.

We are asking for unprecedented prayer and support at this juncture. This is by far our most ambitious new initiative, to create a church facilitated “**continuum of care**” for students that provides strategic intervention from K-12th grade. There is a long shadowy valley that our children need to navigate. Please pray that we can be instrumental in bringing them to green pastures and into the house of the Lord forever.

Sports World and John Maxwell



An amazing partnership with Sports World and John Maxwell's Transformation Tables Initiative, has widened and deepened our DOE impact. Sports World provides former pro athletes who inspire and encourage thousands of students through assembly programs.

During the assemblies we mobilize teams of students who want to make a positive difference in their school and community. These students are then



provided with world-class, values based, leadership training!

The Harvest is Beyond Plentiful.

Everywhere we go, there is a hunger for the hope, truth, love and peace that only Jesus can bring. We see open doors on all sides. Your love, prayers and support enable us to continue pressing forward.

*In Christ Alone,
David Beidel*



URBAN HOPE

CITIES
OF JOY

TRANSFORMING PLACES OF
SORROW INTO CITIES OF JOY

*Join the great movement to saturate and
transform cities with the love of Jesus.*

UrbanHopeNYC.org

JesusWeekMovement.org

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