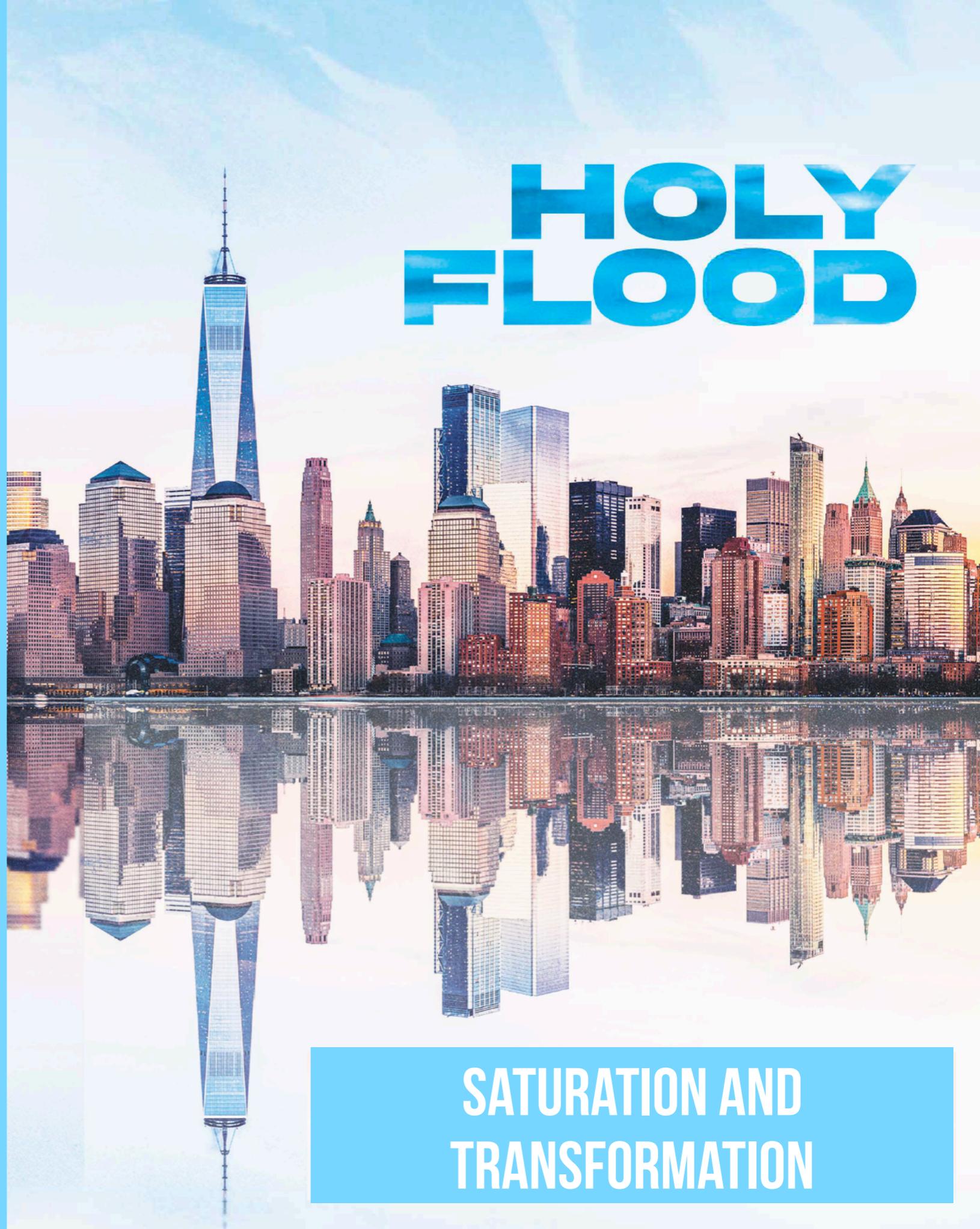


**WHEREVER
THE RIVER
FLOWS IT
BRINGS
LIFE**

URBAN HOPE 2022 REPORT

**HOLY
FLOOD**



**SATURATION AND
TRANSFORMATION**

URBAN HOPE

LIVING WATER

We are so thankful to all of you who pray for and support the work of Urban Hope. Millions of people in the most vulnerable communities in the Northeast have been profoundly blessed and often dramatically rescued because of your prayers and generosity. We pray that this report will fill your holiday season with joy!

Most of the pictures have video links in the bottom right hand corner that look like this: 

We also embedded QR codes for paper reports that can be scanned with your phone camera. We pray that you enjoy seeing and hearing the incredible blessing you have been to millions.

If you only received a paper report, we may not have your email address, please send it to us at and we will send you an "E-Version" shortly.

A LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

There is a fascinating vision in the Bible about water that flows from the inner sanctuary of the House of the Lord. It starts as a trickle, but the further out it goes, the deeper it gets until it becomes a mighty river. Wherever the river flows, it brings life. Even the Dead Sea, the ultimate symbol of hopelessness, awakens to become a place of glorious life through its living waters. (Ezekiel 47)

As we began 2022, we felt the Lord impress this vision deeply on our hearts. We kept feeling called to reach out further than seemed reasonable or even possible, but everywhere we put our feet, God flooded the endeavor with living water.

- **The Cities of Joy dream to see healing for nearly a million people in our NYC public housing communities is now rapidly expanding into many cities.**
- **Our relationship with the NYC Department of Education has been deepening and widening at an amazing pace.**
- **At the same time our Jesus Week and Joy to the City outreach initiatives in multiple cities continued to flourish!**

It all seemed like too much, yet the needs were so great and the doors were wide open. Just like Ezekiel's vision, the further we reached and stretched, the greater and richer the blessing.

Many of our initiatives over the past seven years have saturated millions with the love of Christ. It has been wondrous to see thousands of churches bring Good News, inspirational gifts and lovingkindness to neighborhoods throughout the Northeast. Now we are seeing a ground swell from our network of churches to continue collaborative initiatives on a consistent basis in order to move the needle in our cities from **Saturation to Transformation!**

We are in awe as we see hope, healing, and joy constantly rise from many of the most challenging cities and communities in America, living water is transforming and renewing the "Dead Seas" of our nation. Thank you for your faithful prayers, love and support.

In Christ Alone,

David Beidel

LIVING WATER

HAS FLOWED WIDELY THIS YEAR!

MILLIONS HAVE HEARD THE WONDERFUL NEWS OF
GOD'S AMAZING LOVE IN CITIES NEAR AND FAR!

NEW YORK CITY
LONG ISLAND
CAMDEN, NJ
PHILADELPHIA, PA
ALTOONA, PA
BRIDGEPORT, CT
WILMINGTON, DE
DOMINICAN
REPUBLIC AND
SOON HAITI !



LIVING WATER flows best when churches and caring community members serve together to bring love, tangible assistance and Good News. Our capacity to reach millions is a result of building, strategically aligning and equipping our very large network of churches to saturate their cities with the knowledge of Jesus and transform them through His power and love.

LIVING WATER

HAS FLOWED DEEPLY THIS YEAR!

OVER 70 THOUSAND PERSONS HAVE BEEN DEEPLY
IMPACTED WITH LOVE AND SUPPORT!

MENTORING, TUTORING,
LITERACY ENGAGEMENT,
BASKETBALL LEAGUES,
TOWN HALLS,
COMMUNITY BUILDING
CELEBRATIONS, CITIES OF
JOY INITIATIVES,
PASTORAL RETREATS,
DOOR TO DOOR
NEIGHBORHOOD
AMBASSADORS, MEDICAL
INTERVENTION, SCHOOL
ASSEMBLY PROGRAMS,
HOLIDAY OUTREACH

EVENTS, CHILDREN'S CHOIRS, VACATION BIBLE SCHOOLS,
AFTER SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY CENTER HOPE KIDS
CLUBS

OUR DREAM IS TO SEE: **every neighborhood, school and public housing/vulnerable community** prayed for and cared for by networks of local churches, until there are **"no more sheep without a shepherd"** in our cities and world.

JESUS WEEK

Saturation to Transformation Movement

Last year, over 500 churches in **NYC, Philly, Camden, Delaware and Bridgeport Ct**, hosted hundreds of Jesus Week outreaches in the most challenging corners of their cities.

In NYC we kicked off the 2022 season of joyful high impact outreach from **Times Square** with six hours of worship and ministry to tens of thousands.

Mayor Eric Adams joined us to share a word of encouragement with those gathered.



Week is the primary engine we employ to build neighborhoods where there are no sheep without a shepherd. What began as an exciting week of love, prayer and outreach in NYC has blossomed into a city healing movement!

Hundreds of churches are connecting through worship, prayer and a shared vision of collaboratively caring for the neighborhoods, schools and public housing communities that surround them. It's been our honor to co-labor with the entire network for the last seven years. Miraculously, God has enabled us to supply our partners with a constant stream of vital resources from Gospel's of John and inspirational literature for entire families to Christmas gifts, hygiene supplies and household appliances!

Jesus Week is an "easy on ramp" opportunity for churches to operate as ONE to bring the love of Jesus to entire cities and to build long term relationships to serve together towards city transformation.

We are excited to announce that in 2022 we held our first international **Jesus Week in the Dominican Republic!** Half a million Gospels of John in Spanish were prayerfully distributed door to door throughout the DR. Right now another 500,000 Gospels of John in Creole are being printed for **Jesus Week Haiti** in the New Year.

JESUS WEEK PHILLY

One of the sweetest moments of this year took place on a forgotten street, in what the FBI labels **“the most blighted neighborhood in America.”** We parked our big yellow stage truck on the cross street, set up a few canopies, turned on the worship music and threw a block party with Pastor Ron and his lovely wife. They have lived, loved, served and raised their children on that narrow and troubled street. Everyone knows and loves them: from the youngest to the oldest, and even to the drug dealers, they are the incarnation of Jesus. On this day, they grilled hotdogs and hamburgers and invited everyone to the party.



It was nearly 100 degrees, but around twenty-five neighbors joined us under the canopies to sing silly and heavenly songs with the children and hear the good news of Jesus' love.

As we were packing up, a young woman and her daughter lingered. We spoke to her for several minutes when she said to us, **“I'm the black sheep of God's family.”** We began to share with her that God has no black sheep in his family, only beloved sons and daughters. As we ministered to her, she began to cry.

Then a song began playing, in the background: [“You Know My Name,”](#) by Tasha Cobbs. She said, **“That's my song!”** Then we saw Jesus minister to her soul like no one else can. Without a word, she began to dance in worship before the Lord. It was as if she was transported to a heavenly place and like the “black sheep” of the city who poured out her alabaster jar of perfume on Jesus and wiped his feet with her tears, she was oblivious to everyone and everything around her (Lk. 7:36-39). She wasn't in Kensington anymore; she was in the most holy place with her Beloved Savior.



READ TO SUCCEED!!!

During the pandemic, students from areas of deep poverty experienced 6x the educational loss compared to the general population. This is a sociological crisis that, if not addressed, will have catastrophic impact on our most vulnerable children for the rest of their lives.

Currently we are facilitating three literacy initiatives in local schools and Public Housing Communities in the Bronx, Harlem and Staten Island. Nearly 150 Children and many parents are experiencing the love of Christ in a tangible way as they overcome illiteracy.

Although our literacy program faced many obstacles, due to COVID fears and restrictions, this critical ministry is flourishing again! We are so thankful to **The Staten Island Foundation** for funding our SI Literacy Director, Soraya Ruiz. She has done a fantastic job mobilizing new volunteers, while building wonderful relationships with most of the schools in our district.

Many of our children were so far behind, they needed a miracle to bring them up to speed. THE MIRACLE CAME: CHRIST IN YOU AND CHRIST IN US WORKING TOGETHER!

- One 1st Grade Boy who was at a Level C (high kindergarten level) went up 7 Reading Levels to a Level J (2nd Grade



level). Not only did he achieve reading at grade level but surpassed it and is reading at the next grade level!

- A 2nd grade girl who was reading below kindergarten level, advanced four reading levels, progressing an entire grade.
- Two 2nd grade boys advanced 5 reading levels!

In the Bronx and Harlem, our Read to Succeed programs are being facilitated in Public Housing Communities. Parents are integrated into the program. Not only is it helping them to read, they are joining the churches that facilitate the initiative!

Your generosity and compassion is healing families and communities.

SPORTS WORLD

There is a mysterious power that professional athletes have to grab the attention of students in order to speak life and hope into their hearts. Unfortunately, very few ministries that serve in vulnerable communities can afford their speaker fees. UNTIL - THE MIRACLE OF SPORTS WORLD! Their heart for healing and renewal is as big as their athletes.

Over the last year they have sponsored ten athletes to speak at 50 assembly programs and powerfully minister to over 5000 students on Staten Island. The stresses on these students due to cultural chaos, the terrors of school shootings, racial violence, and international crisis, has brought depression, anxiety and suicidality to an all time high. Two educators told me that they called in ambulances several times that very week because of student suicide attempts.

One of the biggest men I have ever met, nine-time World Wide Wrestling Champion, Carmine Azzatta (Blast from Demolition Team), often starts his message with this statement: ***"I've wrestled the Undertaker, Stone Cold Steve Austin and..., but the hardest wrestling match of my life was against depression, addiction and thoughts of suicide."*** So many students opened up and shared their struggles, enabling us and school counselors to provide the critical care needed.

We are preparing for a 2023 Sports World Blitz - to engage nearly every school in our district and launch a **transformational John Maxwell leadership development initiative** across Staten Island. We are also preparing for a meeting with **Mayor Adams and Chancellor Banks** to potentially roll this out throughout NYC.



HOPE KIDS

We are excited to announce that in 2022 through the generosity of an anonymous donor, we were able to hire a **Children's Outreach Director!**

Valerie Ambrister and our fantastic intern Corban Rice have been a powerful force on our team. Together they launched **seven Hope Kids Clubs in four Elementary Schools and three Public Housing Communities.**

Throughout the summer, they spearheaded **six amazing weeks of Vacation Bible School** in six Housing Communities. Right now they are getting the Joy to the City Children's Choir ready for their performance at our the **Joy to the City Christmas Winter Wonderland!**

They have also been sharing the Gospel door to door with hundreds of Housing residents through our **Community Ambassador's** initiative. As ambassadors of Christ, they visit,



pray, share the Good News, assess need, offer help and invite families to Urban Hope outreach events.

Hope Kids Clubs utilizes the wisdom and amazing curriculum of the **Mailbox Club.** This wonderful children's resource is packed with lessons of joy, hope, virtue, character and

leadership development that are blessing children across the North Shore of Staten Island.

Last week the same **children's choir** that prepared to perform at our upcoming Christmas party were rushed into the cafeteria and told to hide under the tables because of the **active shooter crisis right outside the doors of the center.** Bullets sprayed their

neighborhood and a man lay dead on their sidewalk the evening before we gathered them together to practice singing Jingle Bells and Silent Night.

CITIES OF JOY

Last year we officially launched the Cities of Joy initiative with a dream to develop systems of healing to overcome generations of devastation. Since then we and our City of Joy network have facilitated 332 outreaches from Christmas Parties to Hope Day Festivals to weekly Parent/Child Literacy programs in four NYCHA developments. Vacation Bible Schools, Book Fairs, Basketball Leagues for boys, girls and children, Children's choirs, teen mentoring programs, Easter Egg Hunts, Community Ambassador visitation programs, Hope Kids Clubs and so much more than can be told. Wherever the river flows – there is life and joy.

began expanding cities of joy teams in each community where we served simply by asking the question, **“we are putting together a city of joy team in the community, we are looking for anyone who wants to make the community a better place.”** Dozens have joined so far!



Our program has grabbed the attention of the Mayor and Commissioner of the Dept. of Youth and Community Development (DYCD). In our conversations we shared openly that churches truly want to help the city in this time of crisis, but city agencies have regulations that disallow collaborating with faith based organizations. We were told this was going to

change. We expected local, incremental and quiet moves. Last week we were blown away to see this letter sent from the Commissioner of the DYCD to NYC agency leadership..

Dear Community Partner:

Mayor Adams has instructed me and Chancellor David Banks to make existing community centers, schools, and other city

facilities available to small community-based and faith-based organizations. With this space, small organizations can offer a safe place for the New Yorkers they serve, and host a range of public events including meetings, health fairs, toy and clothing drives, turkey giveaways, recreation, and enrichment programs.

We see a clear path to transform these places of historic sorrow. into Cities of Glorious Joy. Please pray and support this exciting endeavor.

JESUS WEEK SATURATION TO TRANSFORMATION RETREAT

We just experienced an **October Miracle**. After seven years of co-laboring with an extraordinary company of pastors who serve in many of the most challenging neighborhoods in America, a dream came true.

Most of the ministries we serve struggle to keep the lights on. Serving the under-resourced often equates to being under-resourced as a church. Yet, we often dreamed of having a time when we could all come away to rest, laugh, strengthen our communion, and worship as one.

OneHope made this dream a beautiful reality for nearly 200 pastors last month!

An amazing team gathered from all over the Northeast for renewal in their lives, enrichment for their marriages, and transformation on their struggling streets. One pastor shared that the night before he arrived, he was called on to offer comfort to a family whose daughter was just murdered. Another pastor who has lived and served in the most blighted neighborhood in America for over 40 years, told me that he and his wife have never had a vacation.

It was our great joy to welcome these heroes of the faith to the Jesus Week Retreat. The joy, encouragement, fellowship, and depth of worship we shared together will forever be one my sweetest memories. The oneness was particularly spectacular. We came from the five boroughs of



New York City and five other cities, but delineations were nonexistent. We were one.

We felt the pouring of Aaron's anointing oil flowing in and over everyone. We experienced worship bonding and shared mission bonding immediately. And after 24 hours together, a deeper shared trauma

bonding melted and molded us into one family.

So many of us have served in communities that have been devastated for generations. We have all experienced the mighty hand of God saving, healing, delivering, and restoring, but we also bear many scars from the vicious attacks of the enemy. **We have all seen glorious signs and wonders and yet lost far too many kids to the streets.** We have all poured out our lives for hundreds of families, yet too often, the challenges in our own homes were the hardest.

Only one thing has held us together and kept us at our post: the love of Christ that compels us. It is the love of Christ that propels us. **It is the love of Christ that heals, renews, and restores us. It is the love of Christ that has captured us and commissioned us to see His dreams for our devastated cities come true.**

The next page is a promise God spoke over us very early in the year. We have gone back to in many times as we see "God's Decree" unfold daily.

LET THE RIVER FLOW

“Holy Flood” is the only term we can find to explain what is happening. As I attempt to give an account of the last year, my mind races with thousands of moments and stories that would be impossible to record. It has never been more evident, a mighty river of healing is flowing.

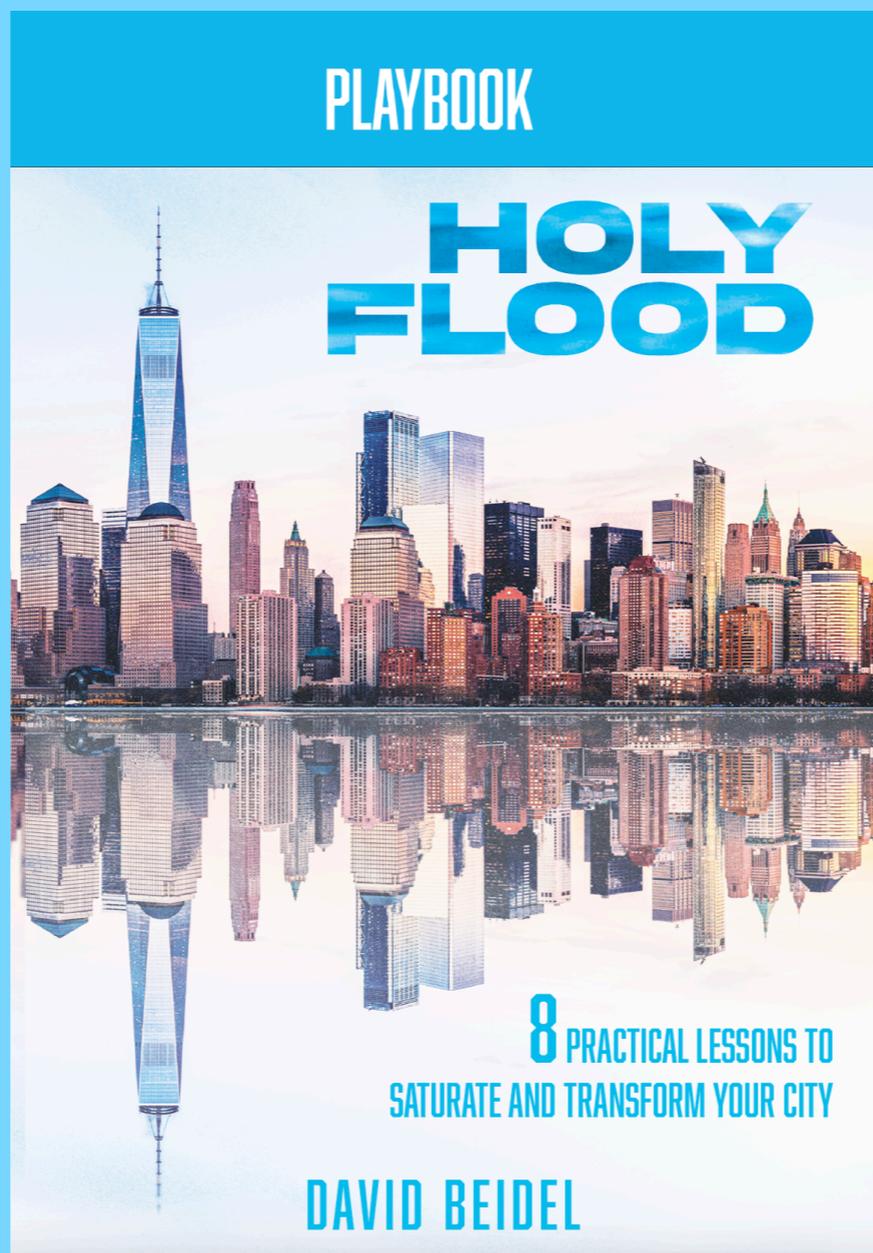
I encourage you to join the Holy Flood.

- **PRAY FOR US**
- **VOLUNTEER**
- **SUPPORT US FINANCIALLY**

We have been serving in blighted communities for over thirty years and have learned much. Your generosity will have transformational impact in our nation and far beyond.

I recently wrote a book that is obviously the theme of this year's report. If you are interested in engaging in similar work in your community and context, we believe

this small group playbook/devotional will be of great value to you and your ministry. Early this year, the Lord gave us this promise. I pray it encourages you as it has blessed us.



“Yes indeed, it won’t be long now.” God’s Decree.

“Things are going to happen so fast your head will swim, one thing fast on the heels of the other. You won’t be able to keep up. Everything will be happening at once—and everywhere you look, blessings! Blessings like wine pouring off the mountains and hills. I’ll make everything right again for my people Israel:

“They’ll rebuild their ruined cities.

They’ll plant vineyards and drink good wine.

They’ll work their gardens and eat fresh vegetables.

And I’ll plant them, plant them on their own land.

They’ll never again be uprooted from the land I’ve given them.”

God, your God, says so.

Amos 9:5-8

THANK YOU 2022 LEGACY PARTNERS!

HELP US MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Financially partner with us through an end of the year gift, stock donation or a 2023 monthly pledge!

Any size monthly gift creates long term sustainability!

This is easily set up on our PayPal @ UrbanHopeNYC.org

Please also prayerfully consider being an

URBAN HOPE LEGACY PARTNER

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Gold Legacy Partner:	\$25,000-\$99,999
Silver Legacy Partner:	\$5,000-\$24,999
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URBAN HOPE
BUILDING A HOUSE OF HOPE IN A
WORLD OF PAIN

**Together we can build cities
where there are
no sheep without a shepherd**

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