THE INNER-CITY MINISTRY
of
FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH
Corona, Queens, New York

Welcome to the foreign mission field of New York City. A city noted for its majestic skyscrapers. Its renowned department stores. Its elite offices and businesses. And its mammoth advertisements. A city of over 11 million people. From all walks of life. An empire built by man and in need of God.

I'm Pastor Vincent Sawyer. Together with my wife Terri, and our daughters Katie, Laura, and Becki, we serve Christ in Queens, NY. It was no glamor that brought us to what is called "The Big Apple," but people. People with eternal souls in need of the eternal salvation of God.

The city is filled with people. Lonely people. Discouraged people. Lost people. Fearful people. Angry people. Confused people. And religious people. All searching for meaning and direction in life, but few finding it. New York is a city where street vendors strive to make a living. And the homeless like scavengers hunt for another meal. In New York, like most major cities, vandalism is commonplace. Thieves and drug users abound. And city detention centers and penitentiaries fill the boroughs.

Sin is everywhere that man is, but is intensified in the inner city. The streets are riddled with adult bookstores. Witchcraft and occult shops. And the world's cinema theaters. In the city, teenagers can be seen hanging out, wasting the days of their youth. And leaving their mark behind on private and public property.

New York is noted as a city that never stops moving. And a "city that never sleeps." neither does our Adversary, the Devil. Satan has infiltrated the city with cults, such as the Jehovah Witnesses headquartered in Brooklyn. The Moonies, busy accumulating wealth and converts for their beloved Sung Yung Moon. Along with the cults, every major and minor world religion exists in the city such as Hinduism, Islam. Judaism. And Romanism. On every street, religion exists; and the more religion, the more confusion. The city is flooded with charismatics, Pentecostals, and other store-front churches - bearing the semblance of Christianity but in most cases missing the reality.

It is for this reason that Faith Baptist Church exists. A light house in the midst of darkness. Faith Baptist Church is located in the borough of Queens, near Shea Stadium. [pause]

New York, being predominantly the first stop for foreigners coming to America, is a melting pot, a place where the world meets. The United States is the largest multi-ethnic country in the world, and New York City is the largest multi-ethnic city in America. It is a city of diverse cultures [Pause] various ethnic backgrounds [Pause] and different languages. The people of Faith Baptist Church, like the cosmopolitan nature of the city, come from all parts of the world. The miracle of the Gospel is its ability to unite people of various colors and backgrounds

together with the common bond which comes "in Christ," just as Paul declared to the Ephesians.

Faith Baptist Church has a membership consisting of people from the countries south of the United States. Such as the Dominican Republic. Puerto Rico. And Jamaica, West Indies. The Lord has blessed the church with Spanish people from South America. People have come to Christ who are from Peru. Columbia. And Equador. Believers serve Christ in America from the Middle East, Asia and India. We have the opportunity to minister to those from China and others with oriental blood. God is harvesting people from Africa. Such as Muslims from West Africa. And the French-speaking Africans from Chad. Europeans also come to America and find Christ as their Savior in New York.

People of all ages, and colors, come to Christ when the Gospel is proclaimed. New York City is made up of five boroughs - Manhattan, the Bronx, Staten Island, Brooklyn, and Queens. The mission field for Faith Baptist Church is the borough of Queens, which is sectioned off into townships such as Corona, where our church building is located. New York is a mission field which has for a long time been neglected, yet is still ripe for evangelism. Evangelism consists of sharing the Gospel either through personal contact, street work, or door-to-door.
After converts have come to Christ, they are followed up in a new Believers' course and discipled to serve Christ. To reach the Spanish community, the messages presently are translated from English into Spanish by use of headphones for both the Sunday morning and evening services.

The church is blessed to have some faithful families and servants who minster to our teenagers

and children. The Lord Jesus said: "Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of Heaven." God's promise stands: "Train up a child in the way that he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it." Many children, though coming from difficult home situations and various backgrounds, find refuge in a Sunday school class with a caring teacher. God has blessed Faith Baptist Church with some faithful workers, and teachers. Please pray that God will raise up more laborers who will serve Christ in our inner city church.

In September, 1989, the Faith Bible Institute was started to equip laymen and future pastors.

Our goal as teachers is to reproduce ourselves; to multiply servants for Christ, and to see other churches started at home in New York City and abroad.

To meet this end, courses are taught in Bible Doctrine and Practical Ministry so that, by God's grace, people from various backgrounds, cultures, and languages might be equipped to reach their own people with the Gospel. The Lord has blessed us with some eager students who desire God's will for their lives.

There is gold for God in the city of New York, but more laborers are needed to dig for it. Of course, if God is going to do anything, it will be the result of fervent prayer and faithfulness. God exhorts us to "be steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."

The statement on this brochure is more real than the advertisers realized. Multitudes are dying and departing into a hopeless eternity. Many of whom never heard a clear presentation of the Gospel. But all their lives were shackled by deceit and corruption and locked behind the bars of

sin. The answer was Calvary, but they never realized it. Spanning the waters that separate each borough in New York City are bridges. But only one bridge spans from earth to Heaven's shore. And that bridge is the old rugged cross. Multitudes are walking the wide Madison Avenue that leads tot he fires of hell. They need someone to point them to the cross of Christ.

Millions are in need of the Gospel. Will you pray that God would help us as we minister in New York. The sun is soon setting upon a city that has forsaken God. The night is coming when no man can work. The day of the Lord's wrath is around the corner. The time we have to reach the lost world is now. Now is the time to preach the Gospel to every creature, and to make disciples of all nations!