



CHRIST THE VICTOR CHURCH

Can CTV go into the Suburbs or into Rural Areas?

The explicit call of CTV is to the darkest, hardest, and poorest places of our cities. It is our primary ambition to see church-planting movements in the impoverished urban centers of our world. The urban poor will always be the main target for CTV.

This focus does not necessarily mean that a suburban or rural CTV Church is impossible. While most of our literature will be written to leaders in the city, it is possible that a non-urban church could be fully CTV. In such a case, however, the following principles would need to guide the life of the church as it seeks to embody CTV in a suburban or rural setting.

- 1. Represent God's heart for the poor, broken, outcast, and hurting in society.**

People are hurting and broken. This is true not only in urban centers, but everywhere. A CTV Church, no matter its context, should find ways to connect with and serve these people. Rural churches should seek out and serve the rural poor. Suburban churches should look for the hurting and broken in their area. Non-urban churches should also find ways to connect with urban CTV Churches.

- 2. Empower the least in the world's eyes to be great in the kingdom of God.**

CTV is deeply committed to empowering leaders, no matter their social, economic, or educational status. A non-urban CTV would need to maintain this strong commitment. It will never be the case that a CTV pastor is required to have an advanced degree from an accredited theological school. Leaders should be equipped and empowered from within the church and sent to plant new CTV Churches.

- 3. Never take the path of least resistance.**

CTV is deeply committed to the hard work of advancing God's kingdom in dark places. This takes intentional and concerted effort on the part of a church. There are a number of easy paths that a church could end up taking. It is easy to fall into ministering to those whose lives (and finances) are largely stable rather than being a light in the dark chaos of poverty and brokenness. Many churches settle for growth by gaining Christians from other churches rather than through evangelism and discipleship. One of the most common easy paths is maintaining a functioning church and growing one large body rather than constantly equipping and empowering new leaders and multiplying churches. CTV churches must avoid these paths of least resistance.