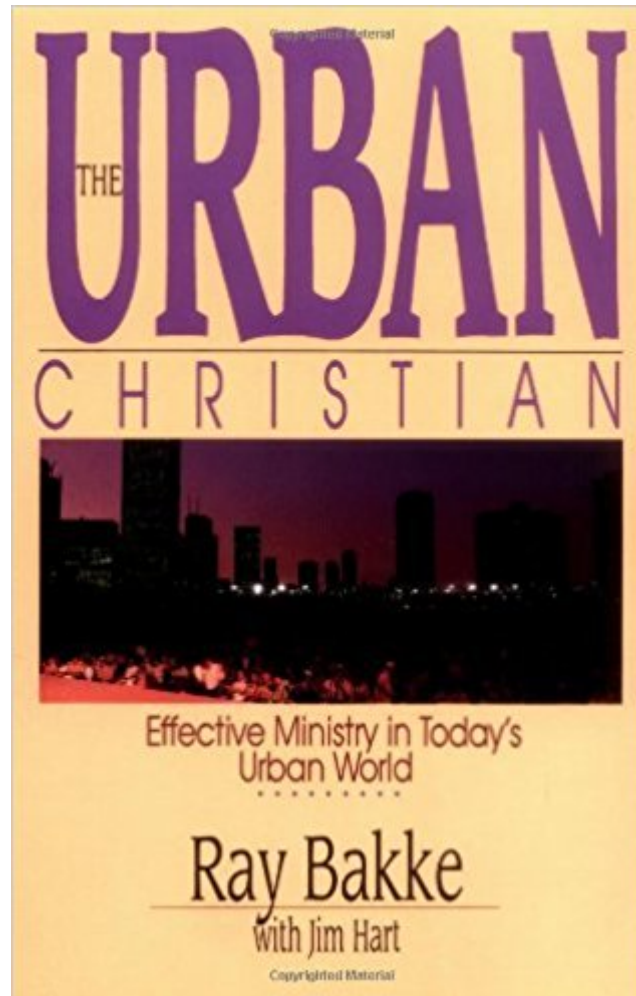




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# The Urban Christian



## Synopsis

An Eternity 1988 Book of the Year! There are millions of opportunities for the gospel. With half of the world's five billion people in cities, there is almost no end to the exciting challenges that await us. Ray Bakke has been there. For over twenty years he and his family have worked with and love the people of today's cities, bringing a message of faith and hope. He knows how the city works and how it can be used to the advantage of the gospel. He knows how people hurt too, and he knows how Christianity can heal and make whole. Now he offers us the basic building blocks we need to live this young, rootless, mobile, media-tuned population. Here is practical, time-tested wisdom on what the church can and is doing in worship, work and witness. Bakke's biblical perspective is enriched by years of study and worldwide travel. He believes the church can and must train people to live with and minister to the hurting rich and the hurting poor of the city. The opportunities are our for the taking.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book, as nearly as I can tell, was formatted for Kindle in 2009, but the book itself was written in the late 1980's, meaning that the data points are not current. The philosophy of urban Christianity

and the theological reflections are priceless, and 5star+. I took out one star just because I expected the book to have a 2009 perspective instead of being date beyond that by at least 2 decades. Read other 5 star reviews for more information about the great content of the book.

I have been in urban ministry for almost a decade - halfway through that decade I was introduced to the ideas Ray penned nearly twenty years ago and found them as water to a thirsty soul and as relevant today as they were twenty years ago. Ray Bakke lives what he promotes in this book and through this book he takes you by the hand and helps you discover how to really understand and truly empower your community to know Christ. If you haven't read this book are in urban ministry - you must! Also a must read for those considering life and ministry in the city, especially if you didn't grow up in the city or are familiar with the way life works there.

excellent

As a required book for ministerial school, it is an excellent choice. Many of us live and worship in cities and are unaware of the diversity and sometimes difficulties of ministering in an Urban environment. very informative

Very good book and well written to inspire Christian hearts to seek the good of the city.

Ray Bakke is the gold standard when it comes to urban ministry. I found this book to be well-written, well-edited and packed full of practical ideas. My only critique is his "world class cities" map which (for Africa) includes only Cairo. Nairobi, Dakar and Lagos even in 1987 (when the book was published) should have been included on such a map. Still, this book is an excellent introduction to God's call to the city. It manages to be hopeful while maintaining gritty realism. Cities are tough places to live, but God is already there. Will we join in?

You cannot read this book without capturing God's heart for the city! Dr. Ray Bakke simply and clearly communicates the lessons God has taught him in his ministry in Chicago and in the world-class cities around the globe. Bakke identifies the apparent irrelevance of Christianity in our cities as a failure on the part of the church. After pointing out the reasons for this failure and barriers to urban mission, Bakke lays out his challenge to embrace cities by developing a theology of the city and implementing God's agenda for the city. He argues that "existing churches will not reach these

huge and rapidly growing populations [in cities] without cross-cultural missions at home" (45). Also: "It is only by living in a city, with a theological vision for the city, that we can attempt to reach the city's people" (85). While every chapter is significant, Chapter Six: "Into the Community" is excellent and should be studied and practiced by every pastor across the United States. Chapter Ten: "Do It Yourself" offers practical models and strategies to get started, including a checklist for each of the preceding chapters. Bakke's vision of the church as an "Expeditionary Force" where every believer ministers to their worlds or relationships needs to be embodied not only in urban centers, but across the nation. As he notes: "most pastors would need immense mental transformations" to allow this model to work (133).

I don't have many books in my library that I go back to over and over again; here are some... Bible Commentaries Lexicons The Divine Conspiracy (Dallas Willard) The Sermon On The Mount (John Stott) The World Is Flat (Thomas Friedman) After finishing it, I will be adding one to that list; The Urban Christian by Ray Bakke. This is a thoughtful, insightful, forward-thinking, broad, faith filled perspective on leading ministry among more than half of our population, those in urban areas. Of course, I also feel like his perspective and ideas would translate well in certain sub-urban areas. Anyone who is a leader in ministry would benefit from reading this once and then using it as a reference continuously.

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