

Bauer: Editorial
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For too long Seventh-day Adventists in their mission to the cities have been under the influence of a compilation put together by those who had no desire to give a balance view of what Ellen White had to say about work in urban areas. That book, *County Living: An Aid to Moral and Social Security* has done its damage by creating very negative pictures of city life and has skewed the way many look at urban mission. Perhaps in recognition of that imbalance the Ellen G. White Estate published in 2012 a more comprehensive book, *Ministry to the Cities* that is much more balanced.

For whatever reasons, 2014 finds the Adventist Church disproportionately represented in rural areas with the result that many cities have few Adventist congregations and fewer members as a percentage of the population when compared with members in the countryside. An example of that imbalance is the comparison of the Adventist membership in the Michigan conference. The metropolitan Detroit area has (or had) approximately half of the population of Michigan but only ten percent of the Adventist membership.

This issue of the *Journal of Adventist Mission Studies* focuses on missional models of urban churches. Many of the articles were presented at the September 18-20, 2014 Mission Models of the Church in Urban Contexts Conference at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University. A few other articles on urban mission were added to give a more complete picture of some of the issues facing Adventist mission in the cities. Of special importance is the article by Rick McEdward and David Trim and the one by Clyde Morgan. These two presentations highlight the challenges the Adventist Church faces in reaching out to the millions of people in the world's large cities.

At the September conference Jerry Moon made a presentation that looked at three city approaches of a hundred years ago, contrasting styles, methods, personalities, and theologies. That article and the others in this issue of *JAMS* should challenge the church to redouble its efforts in developing creative approaches to more effectively share God's good news with urban dwellers.

Bruce Bauer, editor