Editorial

This issue of the *Journal of Adventist Mission Studies* looks at the challenge of urban mission. Many Adventists struggle with an anti-city bias for a number of reasons. High on the list of reasons is the book, *Country Living*, published in 1946 in which a very unbalance a view of what Ellen White had to say about cities was presented as the ideal. In the article "Country Versus City Tension: Historical and Socio-religious Context of the Development of Adventist Understanding of Urban Mission" Allan Novaes and Wendel Lima provide excellent background material that should help Adventists better understand the basis of that anti-city bias.

Another way of looking at the urban challenge facing Adventist mission is to note the makeup of the ten largest cities in 1900 compared with 2010. In 1900 nine of the ten largest cities were Christian cites with most of them actively involved in sending missionaries to other parts of the world. In 2010, only three of the ten largest cities were Christian, with the other seven being Muslim, Buddhist, and Hindu cities.

1900			10 Largest Cities	2010		
#1	London	6.48	Christian	#1 Tokyo	36.7	Christian
#2	New York	4.24	Christian	#2 Delhi	22.2	Christian
#3	Paris	3.33	Christian	#3 Sao Paulo	20.3	Christian
#4	Berlin	2.70	Christian	#4 Mumbai	20.0	Christian
#5	Chicago	1.71	Christian	#5 Mexico City	19.5	Christian
#6	Vienna	1.69	Christian	#6 New York/Newark	19.4	Christian
#7	Tokyo	1.49	Buddhist	#7 Shanghai	16.6	Buddhist
#8	St. Petersburg	1.43	Christian	#8 Calcutta	15.6	Christian
#9	Manchester	1.43	Christian	#9 Dhaka	14.6	Christian
#10	Philadelphia	1.41	Christian	#10 Karachi	13.1	Christian

With over half of the world's population presently living in urban centers it is imperative that the Seventh-day Adventist Church develop a more balanced view of city work. A step in the right direction was the 2012 publication by the E. G. White Estate of a much more evenhanded approach to urban ministry titled, *Ministry to the Cities*.

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