

Report: New York City Sees Resurgence of Christian Faith

InterVarsity alumnus and former staff member Mac Pier is profiled in an article now appearing on the website A Journey Through NYC Religions. Pier's role in networking New York City pastors and churches is seen as one key contributing factor in the resurgence of Christian faith in the nation's largest city.

The article, written by Melissa Kimiadi, highlights Pier's dedication to breaking down barriers that had isolated churches from each other and hindered their mission of sharing the gospel message with their New York City neighbors.

The Impact of Urbana

InterVarsity's Urbana Facebook page and Urbana Twitter feed are currently highlighting the influence of Urbana 12, InterVarsity's latest Student Missions Conference, held in St. Louis one year ago this week. The article on Pier starts with his attendance at Urbana 79, highlighting the challenge by Billy Graham, John Stott and other speakers to Urbana attendees 34 years ago, to take the gospel message to the entire world.

Pier, raised in a small town in South Dakota, responded to the challenge at Urbana. He began working with InterVarsity students in South Dakota, then moved to New York City to become an InterVarsity area director.

Reaching the World from One City

Ultimately he realized that he *could* reach the whole world through commercial connections and the immigrant populations in New York City. He left InterVarsity and teamed up with another former InterVarsity staff member, David Bryant, to start networking New York City churches through a Concerts of

Prayer movement that began in 1988. The religious landscape in New York City has changed significantly since that time.

InterVarsity continues to have an active presence in New York City, with chapters on more than a dozen college and university campuses. In October InterVarsity hosted the Price of Life Invitational in New York City, which touched the lives of more than 12,000 students and residents of the city.

In early January InterVarsity staff will meet in St. Louis for a national staff conference. The theme is taken from the third and final portion of InterVarsity's Vision Statement: "To see students and faculty transformed, campuses renewed, and world changers developed." Mac Pier is one of InterVarsity's world changers.

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