



**Dear Youth Leader:**

Are you tired of trying to make your summer plans recreational? Why not make them **RELATIONAL!!** Stretch your group and bring them this summer to "serve in the city" with **CityConnexx**. Our vision is to "connexx" urban and suburban youth groups in relational missions. We want to cross cultural, economic and racial barriers. How about you?

In a 1963 speech to the students at Western Michigan University, Dr. Martin Luther King said, "We must face the fact that in America, the church is still the most segregated major institution in America. At 11:00 on Sunday morning when we stand and sing and Christ has no east or west, we stand at the most segregated hour in this nation. This is tragic. Nobody of honesty can overlook this." Sadly, not much has changed in 43 years.

But you and your group can help change that! *This summer we're inviting you to work, worship, pray and stay for a week with an urban ministry congregation* as part of **CityConnexx** in **Chicago** or **Denver**, on their turf and on their terms. Our urban ministry partners need your time and talents to help them in their frontline fight over physical and spiritual poverty. Everyday, 24/7 they are dealing with all the urban problems you read about everyday. Most of all, they are working with very few resources to keep the most vulnerable assets of these communities, namely our at-risk children and youth, safe from drugs, gangs, sexual and physical abuse.

Come and "**get connexed to Christ's body in the city**". Show how much you care, show your love for Jesus in action, right here in the inner-city. Give your students a life-changing experience as you rub shoulders with other urban youth and as you lift children on your shoulders in city parks and playgrounds. Come experience life as they see it and feel it and live it. Who knows, along the way your group just might love it.

Everyone is talking about "relational evangelism" but are they really walking it? For six intense days and nights you'll be walking and talking and showing and being Jesus this summer to urban kids that need to see that Christians are more than what the media or culture says they are. Change agent? Salt & Light? City set on a hill? Then, in the words of Jesus, "**Come and See**" for yourself.

See you this summer. Bring your heart of compassion to the heart of the city.

**Rev. Dean Cowles**

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