

Love Manhattan
Jeremiah 29; Titus 3

It's our conviction as a church that the normal Christian life involves freely giving our lives away to others. This is the example set for us by Jesus, who came into this world not to be served, but to serve and to give His life away (Mark 10:45). To help us move in this direction, Faith has launched what we are calling, *Love Manhattan*. This week we are taking a break from our study of Hebrews to consider a biblical foundation for *Love Manhattan*.

Read Jeremiah 29:1-14

1. How would you summarize the message to the exiles living in Babylon?

2. If you were an Israelite living in exile in Babylon, how would verses 4-7 sound to you?

3. What does it mean to "seek the welfare of the city" (v. 7)?

Steve said:

You might be thinking, "What in the world does this letter to the exiles in Babylon have to do with us here in Manhattan, Kansas?" Great question. The short answer is "everything." The NT uses the imagery of living in exile to describe all believers because this world is not our home. For example, in Philippians 3:20 Paul writes that "our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior." There's a sense in which we will always be out of place and out of step in this world. . . . If you belong to Jesus this world is not your home. We are all living in exile. As exiles, we are supposed to seek the *shalom* of our city. We are supposed to pray to the Lord on its behalf.

4. Have you ever thought about this for Manhattan – that God wants us to seek the *shalom* of Manhattan? Explain.

Read Titus 2:14; 3:1, 8, 14

5. Paul repeatedly gives the admonition that believers are to be involved in doing good deeds. What are some of the qualifying descriptions that are found in these passages about doing good deeds?

6. Why do you think Paul says that we need to learn to engage in good deeds (3:14)?

7. What are some of the “pressing needs” that you see in our city?

Steve said:

Love Manhattan will involve sacrifice. We’re ***not*** saying that you should find some type of outreach that will be easy and that won’t cost you anything. We’re actually encouraging you to find something that you’re so passionate about that you gladly pour out your life on behalf of others. Pouring out your life will inherently involve sacrifice and “dying to self”; following Jesus and ministering to “the least of these” will be costly. . . .The most vibrant, fulfilled people I know are freely giving their lives away to others. My point is that when we talk about pouring out our lives on behalf of others, we’re talking about “the normal Christian life.” We’re talking about being apprenticed to Jesus who said, “The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve and to give His life a ransom for many.”

8. How do you respond to what Steve says here?

9. What might it look like for you/us to seek the *shalom* of Manhattan?

10. If you had a chance to check out some of the ministries at the ministry fair on Sunday (or see the following list), were there any to which you felt especially drawn?



Below are some of the organizations and efforts that we are pleased to promote. The “champions” listed below will be available to visit with you in the north end of the building this morning after each service. Please take this list home with you and inquire of Jesus whether He would have you join in any of these efforts. Will you join us in praying for the success of these organizations as they too seek to bless our town?

Adult Learning Center

Champion: Annie Stuke, ars1983@sbcglobal.net

The Adult Learning Center offers classes to assist students with bettering their English language skills, pursuing a GED and improving basic math, reading, and writing skills.

Athletes in Action

Champions: Paul & Wendy Scheele, paul.scheele@athletesinaction.org

Athletes in Action reaches out to college student athletes and athletic department staff to see a Christ follower on every team, in every sport, and in every nation.

Big Brothers Big Sisters

Champion: Steve Ratliff, steve@faithmanhattan.org

Big Brothers Big Sisters matches adult volunteers (“Bigs”) with children (“Littles” - ages 6 through 18) with the goal of helping Littles thrive in life.

Bike Repair

Champion: George Gardner

Join a group of friends to collect and repair used bicycles for International Students.

CASA

Champion: Cheri Wickham, cheriwickham@cox.net

Our mission is to advocate for victims of child abuse and neglect and to provide services to children and families in crisis.

Developmental Disability Community

Champions: Jim & Meri Parker, jsparker2000@yahoo.com, mlpnurse@cox.net

Faith is partnering with a couple of organizations in the Manhattan area that serve the developmentally and physically disabled.

Flint Hills Community Clinic

Champion: Barb Hartnett, ttentrahbi@yahoo.com

Flint Hills Community Clinic serves the uninsured in our community by providing free health care to residents; both medical and non-medical volunteers are needed.

Friends of Go Teacher

Champion: Kristal Channel, kchannel@ksu.edu

This program reaches out to Ecuadorians who are participating in K-State’s Go Teacher program, providing mentors who will help them improve their English skills and integrate into the Manhattan community.

Habitat for Humanity

Champion: Roxann Janes, director@mahfh.org

Volunteers to complete assigned tasks for house under construction in Ogden. Job skills will be varied and require none to some to little basic construction experience; jobs may include siding, retaining wall construction, sheetrock installation, all under direction of skilled leader.

Hammer & Nails

Champions: John Ankerson & Darren Emery, john.ankerson@gmail.com

Volunteers with ability to initiate and complete projects, correct safety issues and code compliance problems to create safe living conditions for those in need. (Scope of work could be small, seasonal maintenance completed by an individual to multi-faceted repairs requiring several volunteers.)

Life Choice Ministries

Champions: Julie Hagedorn, jhagedorn2@att.net and Emily Weddle

Life Choice Ministries is a private organization. LCM exists to meet the needs of women & families dealing with issues of sexual activity & pregnancy related crisis. LCM is a non-denominational source for help.

Mentoring for Success

Champion: Chad Wormstadt, cwormstadt@hotmail.com

Faith is partnering with Mentoring4Success to provide mentors for men at the Ellsworth Correctional Facility who are being paroled to Riley and Geary County.

Mow & Snow

Champions: Ben Lemmons & Darren Emery, darrenemery@gmail.com

Opportunities for individuals or teams to do various outdoor yard care projects for those in need and requesting assistance (scope of work can be small or large).

Red Cross

Temporary Champion: Michael Welsh

The American Red Cross prevents and alleviates human suffering in the face of emergencies by mobilizing the power of volunteers and the generosity of donors.

School Partnership Program

Champion: Chris Barker, chris@faithmanhattan.org

Faith is partnering with 2 or 3 local elementary schools to help them provide basic school supplies and clothing to children in need.

Shepherds Crossing

Champion: Beverly Olsen, director@shepherds crossing.info, shepherd@interkan.net

Shepherd's Crossing is an ecumenical ministry that offers: budget counseling, referrals, financial support (for utilities, rent and prescription medication)

Sunset Zoo

Champion: Lowell Bliss, lowell@edenvigil.org

Friends of Sunset Zoo (FOSZ) shares the mission of the zoo which is "to inspire conservation of the natural world." FOSZ volunteers work as docents, fundraisers and on the newly formed conservation team of which Lowell is the director.

World Friendship

Champion: Jan Carnes, janmariecarnes@gmail.com

World Friendship is an organization established for American and international women in Manhattan and the surrounding area to make new friends, and help with the transition to a new home through targeted programs, practicing English, developing creative skills, and sharing cultures.

Any questions about our commitment to Love Manhattan? Any other organizations you'd like to see promoted at Faith in the future? Wondering how to go about getting involved? Please email Robynn Bliss at rob@allyns.net or Steve Ratliff at steve@faithmanhattan.org.