



Dear Leaders/Parents,

Throughout scripture, God makes it clear that Christians to care for the poor and needy (Deuteronomy 15:11; James 1:27). We are to bring the good news of Jesus Christ to those who are despairing. To our dismay, the message of caring for the poor has been lost in many middle-class American churches. City on a Hill believes the best way to bring awareness is through education, reflection and experience!

This unique experience is called an Urban Immersion or Poverty Simulation. Lasting for 40-hours, it is designed to help teach and train the participants about poverty, God's concern for the poor, and how we can fulfill his commandments by caring for the poor. Since the summer of 2006, City on a Hill has had many groups learn compassion for those immersed in poverty through this intensive experience. We assure you this is a safe activity. No one has ever been injured during this experience. But, ALL have been stretched out of their comfort zones to face their own materialism and cultural values. And ALL have left changed.

Our goals are that each participant will:

- Have a better understanding about poverty (causes & overcoming)
- Be more grateful for the blessings they have
- Learn about God's heart for the poor
- Learn practical ways to reach the poor in their community

How do we do it? All students will be living at the median income of the families in our neighborhood, \$9250/year. That means that life as they've known it will change, (sleeping accommodations, food, clothing, items). With the combined impact of their daily life being radically changed, planned activities, times of reflection & scripture reinforcement, students come face to face with the realities faced daily by those caught in poverty. We would rather not reveal too much information; doing so would ruin the impact of the simulation. If you have additional questions that are not answered in the provided materials, please call Brooke Chapman at 414-931-6670. **Please do not reveal any additional information to the participants, it really will take away from their experience.** The more the participants remain in the dark, the better the experience they will have!

City on a Hill thanks you for allowing each participant the opportunity to develop in this vital way. Please pray that God will do amazing & life changing things during the Urban Immersion!

Thank you,

Brooke Chapman
Urban Missions Coordinator

The Statistics

- Median income for families within one square mile of City on a Hill is \$9250.
- Milwaukee is the 7th poorest city in the USA.
- 3 out of 4 homes within 1 mile of City on a Hill are headed by single parents.
- More infants die in our zip code, 53233, than any other zip code in America
- According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 35.9% people live below the poverty line in America
- In the world, 30,000 children under the age of 5 die each day from hunger related illnesses.
- If you have sufficient food, decent clothes to wear, roof over your head, and any form of reliable transportation, ***you're in the TOP 15% of the world's wealth!***
- Half of the world lives on less than \$2 a day.

What others have to say about City on a Hill's poverty simulation...

"I thought my eyes were open – they were not! I realize I, personally, need to do more and as a youth pastor. I need to keep my kids aware so they will grow up with a greater awareness and sensitivity. Why should God bless me if I am not obedient to do what he asks?"

-Sharon (Youth Pastor) Appleton WI

"As a staff member of my church, I can help bring awareness to our local church. I think every pastor should go through this to gain compassion and inspire them to do more in their community."

-Brenda (Youth Pastor), Belgium, WI

"You owe it to yourself to become educated in the culture of poverty that so many of God's people live inside of. You can't effectively lead a person out of their mess until you have walked into their mess and looked around."

-Jason (Youth Pastor), Kingsford MI

"I realized how much God has given me, how uncomfortable I am giving up my lifestyle for just one weekend and how easily I can forget the blessings in my life. It really puts things in a Godly perspective. It helps to shatter the selfish "all about me" view point /mentally."

-Brenda, Waukesha WI

"They should learn that the world is bigger than them. It helps to break the barriers that we, as Americans build between ourselves and the poor. You never know what it's like to be poor until you've experienced it".

-Kristin, Kingsford MI

"I came to a fuller understanding of the love and concern that God has for the poor. We all need to forget about ourselves and start thinking about others. If Jesus interacted with the poor and met their needs, then we should too."

-Daniel, Port Washington WI



Poverty Simulation

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

(For Leaders & Pastors)

What should they bring?

Have students pack like they're going on a weekend retreat (bedding & clothing). They will want to bring a sleeping bag, pillow, toiletries...etc.

What are our arrival & departure times?

If students are attending a short-term urban missions trip, the poverty simulation starts Wednesday PM. If you're attending a weekend Urban Immersion, all participants need to arrive no later than 8pm Friday night, and will be leaving at 2pm on Sunday.

What to tell the parents if they have questions?

Please give each student a copy of the letter from City on a Hill & testimonies from previous participants. This should answer most of their questions. If they need any additional information, they can let you know or they can call Brooke at City on a Hill. **Please remind them that they SHOULD NOT relay any additional information they receive to the other participants.** Having too much information will greatly diminish the participant's & group's experience!

How safe is this, really?

Your safety is very important to City on a Hill. All activities & accommodations are planned with the safety of participants in mind. When students are not on the grounds of City on a Hill they are always accompanied by leaders who have cell phones. We've never had an incident or situation arise that has needed additional attention.

Will I be able to keep my cell phone?

Leaders should bring cell phones on the poverty simulation. There are specific activities during the simulation for which leaders' will need their cell phones. Students are unable to have or access a cell phone during simulation (This is harder than you would think☺).

What is the emergency contact information that can I give parents & family members?

Please give parents the number for City on a Hill, 414-931-6670. You can also give them Brooke Chapman's (coordinator) cell number, 414-339-2771.

Can students with health issues come?

We have had participants on the trip who have had health conditions (diet restrictions, diabetes). As a leader, you need to be aware of any health concerns and communicate those issues to City on a Hill **prior to trip**. Because participants are older, they typically know their limitations. Leaders just need to keep an extra eye on them. If students have diet restrictions, they should bring special items for meals.

What is the age limitation for participants?

We ask that all participants be at least in or entering 9th grade. Adult participants are always welcome & encouraged to come. (SPECIFIC WEEKS)

Can I have junior higher students come?

We have had junior high students on a poverty simulation before. Because each student is at a different maturity level, we've seen some junior high students thrive & others struggle. We do have age limitations in place for that reason, but if you would like to bring a student that you believe would be able to not only handle the experience, but learn & grow from it, please call Brooke @ 414-931-6670.