Urban Evangelism is Wilson

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The growing number of people residing in the world's cities -- more people live in cities today than in rural areas -- signifies a clarion call for urban evangelism, Pastor Ted N. C. Wilson, president of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, declared October 8 during Sabbath worship at the world headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland.

Taking his theme from Luke 19:41-42, Wilson noted that Jesus, on His final entry to Jerusalem, wept over the city where He was to be falsely accused, tried and crucified.

"Jesus wept for the city, [and] for the people of the city," Wilson said. "He knew what was to happen in a matter of days. ... He did not become angry or resentful. He wept! He wept for the people of the city!"

From that example, Wilson said, Christians can draw the conclusion that the people of the cities are important to God and to the fulfillment of the Gospel commission to take the good news into all the world.

"Our humble goal will be to reach approximately 650 major cities of the world before the next General Conference Session in 2015 all based on the power of the Holy Spirit through revival and reformation," he said.

"God is calling us to go into the cities of the world where the laborers are few and the harvest is plentiful," Wilson told the congregation of 500 world church leaders and guests. "Are you willing to weep and work for the people of the great cities? He calls for us to proclaim His love, His righteousness, His Three Angels' messages, His warning to a dying world, and the powerful announcement of His soon second coming!"

Wilson said, "Our Biblical message to the cities will unite us as a worldwide people and guard us from isolating ourselves from society and from each other. Our message to the cities of the world is that another city is coming: the New Jerusalem, a city of safety, hope and refuge with God at its center."

In a message simultaneously broadcast by the church's Hope Channel, Wilson said Jesus has issued a call to work in urban area, reflected in the writings of the denomination's co-founder Ellen G. White: "For over a hundred years, He has been asking His people to work the cities according to His methods. The Spirit of Prophecy [her writings] is replete with instruction about the work to be done for the cities ... it is a sustainable, careful, and comprehensive work ... a work that unites every aspect of church work in its approach to reaching the multitudes of the cities and will receive God's blessing when done according to His will with a humble heart."

He then quoted from White's book, "Medical Ministry," page 304: "The work in the cities is the essential work for this time. When the cities are worked as God would have them, the result will be the setting in operation of a mighty movement such as we have not yet witnessed."

Wilson recalled White's account of the "beehive of activity" Adventists created in San