

Message from James Youngdo Kang

If you've come across graffiti writing, breaking (also known as breakdancing), emceeing (or rapping), or deejaying, then you've encountered hip-hop. Many of those in this culture have often had Christ and the Gospel misrepresented to them or not brought to them at all.

From what they have seen or heard, they have a distrust of Christianity (e.g. it's about getting money), do not think it's relevant, or are afraid of being judged (it's happened to me).

The current stereotype of the hip-hop community is young, black, inner city youth who are involved with drugs, sex, and gangs. This is often wrong (it is very multicultural with people of all ages and economic statuses) and negative, but because of it, many people are afraid or unsure of how to go into their midst.



The hip-hop community needs Jesus and God has sent me to bring the Gospel to them, in their world. To do this, I founded City Lights. (@TheWordBecameFresh on Instagram and Facebook).

How did I get here?

Imagine someone growing up outside of the church world, enjoying hip-hop music, and not really knowing what to do with his life. Then imagine that person becoming a Christian after their second year in university (during a trip to Korea no less). This was me.

As school was coming to an end, older Christians suggested asking God what to do with my life. He said to be a pastor. After some reluctance (and a mission trip to South Africa), seminary followed and then ministry in local churches, both big and small, with various ethnicities and ages. I loved it!

While being a pastor, God placed in my heart the idea of reaching the hip-hop community with the Gospel and by giving me small opportunities to try. With much learning in the field and self-studying, both the church world and the hip-hop world started to become familiar.

After confirmation (via a conference in Australia), in 2013, I became a full-time missionary. I have been putting in the hard work and God has made it work: *People have grown in faith, people have shared the faith, and people have come to faith!*

Running the race

I have accepted this calling and have given my life to it. It's been a challenging ministry, but an enjoyable one. I'm thankful my family stands by me and that several different churches and dozens of individuals walk with me through their financial support. As this ministry grows, we need more people to come alongside us in this adventure.

The vision is to see Canada's hip-hop community being shaped by Jesus Christ. I am humbly asking you for your partnership in this unique ministry through financial support. By doing this, you will be a part of reaching those that don't normally get a chance to know the Father's love and find life in His Son.

Will you help?

You can join my support team via my Support Account at either SIM Canada (by [clicking here](#)) or SIM USA (by [clicking here](#)). For other countries or other payment methods, please send me an email and I will gladly send you that information.

The first steps

The hip-hop community are generally unreached when it comes to the Gospel and there was no blueprint for hip-hop ministry in Canada. Thus, starting City Lights in January of 2013, in Toronto, we tried several ideas and many of them worked:

- Q&A, Bible studies, and prayer meetings
- Inviting the hip-hop community to serve meals to the marginalised
- Providing spaces to practice their craft and/or find a listening ear
- An annual conference so Christians in the hip-hop culture can find encouragement and fellowship

The next steps

In 2020, the plans include:

- Continuing the weekly breaking sessions
- New weekly online Bible studies, where people can ask questions, discuss them, and be prayed for
- Mentoring/Discipling people one-on-one
- Continuing to be a presence at secular events and give out Bibles
- Hosting our annual summit
- Helping build a few more leaders and programs to equip and empower the hip-hop community

We do all of these (and more) with the hope of one day seeing those in the hip-hop culture follow Jesus so well that even the stereotypes change. Could you imagine if, instead of having a reputation for misogyny and violence, they became known for their generosity, kindness, peace, and helping others have a relationship with God?

Needing teammates

Through 2019, my goal was to fundraise \$3600 a month. (\$2000 going towards my living and family expenses, while the rest for ministry expenses, CPP, taxes, and admin fees). Around 80% of my goal was received – praise God! The goal now is to reach 100% by the end of 2020.

Donations have come in different amounts and different frequencies and all have been of great benefit and encouragement. Your gift will be handled by SIM Canada. Their motto is “Serving where Christ is least known” and are fully supportive of this “pioneering” mission. They have vetted me and partner with me, providing prayer, wisdom, and tax receipts or letters of recognition.

(Another big blessing is that an anonymous donor has agreed to match every new donation dollar for dollar, up to \$10,000 until the end of May 2020!)

Finishing the race – together

It would be great to have you on my support team.

This is God’s mission. The desire is to make disciples of Jesus Christ within the hip-hop community. It’s not easy, but with your help, City Lights will be a life-giving, impactful ministry for the Kingdom.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach me at youngdo@thewordbecamefresh.ca.

Thank you for your consideration,

Youngdo