

a small urban community with **big city** needs

Easton, Pennsylvania



...a city ripe for a kingdom church plant

committed to the GOSPEL as being for the needs

and culture of the city

Easton is a little BIG city in the Lehigh Valley of eastern Pennsylvania. Allentown Bethlehem and Easton (ABE) combine to form the 'edge city' demographic of the Lehigh Valley. The valley is Pennsylvania's third most populous metropolitan area, collectively inhabited by more than a million people. Easton is almost equidistant from Philadelphia (60 miles to the south) and New York City (70 miles to the east). The big city issues that have enfolded Easton (overt mercy and justice redemptive needs) stem from its proximity to NYC on the I-78 corridor.

demographics (2000)

populations

City of Easton – 26,263

'Suburbs' –

Palmer Township: 16,809

Wilson Borough: 7,682

Forks Township: 8,419

ABE: ~1.25 million

poverty

16% of population

12.3% of families

21.3% of those under 18

11.2% of those 65 and over

ethnicity

White non-hispanic: 73.5%

Black: 12.7%

Hispanic: 9.8%

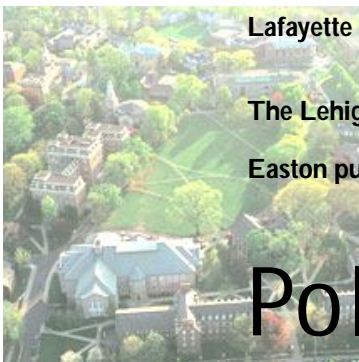
income

median household: \$33,162

per capita income: \$15,949



higher education versus easton public schools



Lafayette College (in Easton): www.lafayette.edu

"A strong reputation in the liberal arts, sciences, and engineering... among the top liberal arts colleges in the nation." - *Barron's Guide*

The Lehigh Valley as 'College Valley': www.collegevalleypa.com

Home to 20,000 college students attending 6 nationally recognized colleges

Easton public schools, "PA Great Schools" rating:

Easton HS – 4 (out of 10)

Easton MS – 4 (out of 10)

Polarity

City versus suburbs

Median family income for towns feeding the single Easton school district:

City of Easton (\$38,704)

Palmer Township (\$65,017)

Forks Township (\$70,587)

Societal gospel needs

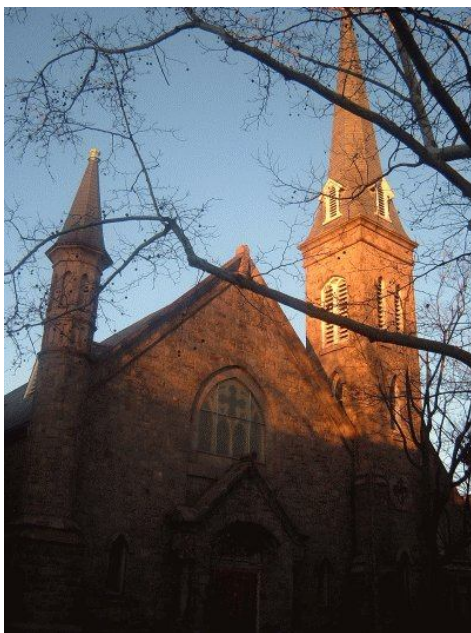
overflowing from individual hearts
(thus requiring more than a
social gospel solution)

"Eastern Pennsylvania's

222 corridor, stretching from Easton to Lancaster, has been named by the U.S. Justice Department as one of six sites in the country designated to participate in Project Safe Neighborhood, a new, comprehensive anti-gang initiative."

- U.S. Representative Charlie Dent
March 2006

For demographic data on the Easton
crime-need culture,
go to www.city-data.com.



Why is Easton ripe for a kingdom-purposed church plant?

**" Easton needs shalom borne
out of a kingdom worldview!"**

Terrence Miller, Easton resident
Hope Unseen

Easton has ministries working to address the
visible mercy, justice and violence needs.

What it does NOT have at present is a

" downtown kingdom worldview church"

that embraces and captures the liberal intelligencia that has recently converged to gentrify the city. People from the respective arts, gay, professional, and academic cultures need to be taught to be broken for the broken. Even more, they need to be taught that they are equally broken and in need of their own heart-gentrification.

That is the way to **redeem the city...**

through those who have already come to grow the city!

The city of Easton is ripe for shalom.

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