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Things to Remember in Urban Ministry

1. Don't just give money to anyone who asks. Your gift could make matters worse. Learn how to be a good steward of your gifts to the poor.
2. Handouts can hurt. Work to empower people and respect the God-given dignity of each person.
3. You have as much to learn as you have to give.
4. Remember God is at work, and has invited us to join Him. He's the main character in the story.
5. We are all sinful, and there is only one Savior.
6. God uses foolish things so don't think that your education or privilege will result in success. God will use the broken people and circumstances of the inner-city to teach you the sweet truth of his word and his ways.
7. There are a lot of highs and lows, peaks and valleys, so pray that God would give humility and grace.
8. Don't recreate the wheel. There are many saints who have trod the path of urban ministry for decades. Be teachable and learn from them.
9. Be aware that dancing, good food, and laughing will be involved.
10. God cares for the poor and commands that we should also.
11. Remember that the inner city is in the condition it is today because of sin, both from within and outside the community.
12. Racism is still very much alive in our country and hinders the Gospel from going forward.
13. Your preaching of the Gospel must be both in word and deed.
14. Your work should be relationally driven and your relationships marked by mutual indebtedness.
15. Recognize that there are way more gifted people in an impoverished community than you think. Work to identify and engage them.
16. In your attempts to change the community, one of the most important things to do is raise up godly indigenous leaders to lead the transformation movement.
17. In urban ministry, there will be tough times and glorious times that God designed to be shared. It's not wise to do it alone.
18. It may take generations to see major changes so be committed and pray for patience and long-suffering.