



For Immediate Release

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A New Sense of Hope

Urban church presents familiar message with a new method

Harrisburg, PA - Chris and Carol Green were all smiles following the opening session of their [What NOW Series](#) of lessons that started on Valentine's Day with the topic '[Once in a Lifetime LOVE!](#)'. The **What NOW Series** involves ten weeks of lessons to help people navigate through seasons of transition, trials and change. It is hosted by Urban Life Church as part of their weekly Sunday Café.

Still on an emotional high from his role as MC and giving closing remarks at the annual African American History Month Celebration on Thursday, February 11, 2010, at Pennsylvania's Department of Education, Chris was already hyped up before the first session began. A small, but enthusiastic audience, most of whom were young adults, listened, laughed and then huddled in groups ranging from two to four people, to talk about the gift of God's love that was being revealed to them.

Chris and Carol shared their personal journey citing the day Chris missed his high school class reunion because that was the day they had to move out of their home. They carried their audience through a series of events and life revelations that led them to realize that God has provided once in a lifetime love expressions all around them: special moments that seemed like disaster at the time, but there was a hidden treasure in that difficult season of life.

From Proverbs 25, they explained that it is the glory of God to conceal a thing, but it is the glory of kings to search out a matter. They allowed the group to settle into the reality that these precious gifts have not been hidden FROM them, but hidden FOR them. The gifts are wrapped in circumstances or situations, but if they keep digging past the wrapping, they will discover the gift; the once in a lifetime expression of love from God.

The one hour session was preceded by a continental breakfast which allowed time for participants to break the ice and get prepared for the word of the day. One first-time attendee said she really liked the setting because it was not like the rigid church structure and rituals from her past. She felt this kind of ministry would really benefit other young adults who are looking for something practical like this. She added that the Sunday morning breakfast really worked well with their weekly schedule and was something she felt others would enjoy, too. One young man said he knew of friends who were going through some pretty tough times right now and that he would be inviting them to come to the sessions.

"We were beginning to wonder if this was really going to work in Harrisburg," the lead instructor, Chris Green, confessed. "We had a great desire to reach Harrisburg's young professionals, but we just didn't see any way of being able to reach or connect with them. Today was very encouraging to see that the style of ministry that God has given us truly relates to them and their lifestyles."

Just in time for this new outreach, Chris and Carol released a revised edition of their book titled [*What NOW: Navigating the Maze of Transition, Trials and Change*](#). Each week they will teach from one chapter in the book and allow the attendees the opportunity to discuss the material in their own groups. Couples are encouraged to discuss the topics with one another.

All books and material are provided free of charge because this church views the weekly sessions as their outreach/ investment into the Harrisburg community. Although donations can be made, there is no solicitation of any kind.

As the Urban Life team packed away the equipment and supplies, following a very successful start of the What NOW Sessions, it was easy to see that a new sense of hope has been revived.

"This has been a week of surprises," Chris explains. "I was honored to be able to MC and give closing remarks at the African American History Month Celebration last Thursday. Then a few days later, we experience this wonderful day with our Sunday Café. Something has happened and I believe a breakthrough is taking place. We are very excited and we are looking forward to seeing what will happen next."

For more information visit www.urbanlife-church.org or www.fruitful-life.net

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