

Harvey Drake, Sr. Pastor Emerald City Bible Fellowship

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Emerald City Bible Fellowship is a multi-cultural congregation located in Rainier Valley, Seattle's most ethnically diverse community. ECBF began as a Bible study in 1987, started meeting on Sunday mornings in 1990 but officially incorporated in 1993. The church focuses itself on proclaiming the gospel and demonstrating it in the community. As the church developed they sought to partner with other churches and non-profits in meeting the daily needs of the community around them. They have just recently developed a ministry entitled Urban Impact. This is a highly organized ministry employing an executive director, development person and what looks like several admin staff. In November they will break ground on a new 63 unit-housing complex adjacent to their current facility. (Much like our broader dream.)

Take Aways:

- Partnerships are the key
- 501 C3 status has given them credibility, track record and allowed them to receive monies from state, county and city. Most of the \$19 M project is being underwritten by these three streams of income
- In development of their board, Harvey says that it has always been important that the "church speak vision into the 501-C3 and not vice-versa.
- The role of a separate Executive Director has been to assess needs, create programs, network locally, participate in visioning, exercise entrepreneurial skills, be a voice for the ministry, and manage staff.
- Through several key individuals in their community they have become politically savvy. "The city has favorites – know the players, and it's not bad do know someone in the mayor's office."
- Participating in local community organizations has allowed them to know what is going on locally and provided goodwill and trust in the neighborhood.
- They are truly a part of their neighborhood.