



BEYOND THE WALLS

OUR 2020 FOCUS



Sermon Title: Peace to the City

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JEREMIAH 29:7

"Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper..."

THE CITY WAS BABYLON....

- Taken the Jews captive then trafficked them.
- Hostile towards the Jewish God.
- Throughout the Bible, is the personification of evil.



The message of Jeremiah to his countrymen...

Instead of hoping to be
SAVED FROM Babylon,
hope to **SAVE** Babylon



Ever been bitter?

- You want them to be miserable and fail.
- You feel like the victim.





- We aren't **victims**, we are **vehicles** of God's blessings.
- We aren't those who have been **wronged**, but **called**.



GENESIS 37-50

The Story of Joseph

HOW DOES JEREMIAH 29:7
SPEAK TO US:

**1. We are in our
region for a reason.**



HOW DOES JEREMIAH 29:7
SPEAK TO US:

**2. We are called
to bless our region.**



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**"53 PERCENT OF
CALIFORNIANS WANT TO
LEAVE THE STATE,
ACCORDING TO NEW
SURVEY..."**



JEREMIAH 29:7

“Seek the peace and prosperity of the city...”

SEEK: *DARASH* means to care, investigate, and discuss.


PEACE and PROSPERITY: *SHALOM* means wholeness, soundness, completeness, health, harmony, reconciliation, justice, and welfare – both personal and social.

(Eldin Villafane)




ACTS 8:8

“So there was **great joy in that city.**”



“I don’t want to be like these white Christians here. They sing about the love of Jesus and the joy of heaven. But they don’t care about justice in South Africa.”



College Student, South Africa, 1970s



"If I become a Christian,
would I have to give up the
heart for justice for my
country?"

College Student, South Africa, 1970s





“Goodness no...Jesus wants to strengthen your passion for justice for all people in South Africa, not take it away.”

Professor Ronald Sider,
"Good News and Good Works"



**EXCLUSIVE CLUB
OR
EXCITING CAUSE?**

**- 2019: A SAFE PLACE IN
LIFE GROUPS**

**- 2020: BRING SHALOM
BEYOND THE WALLS**



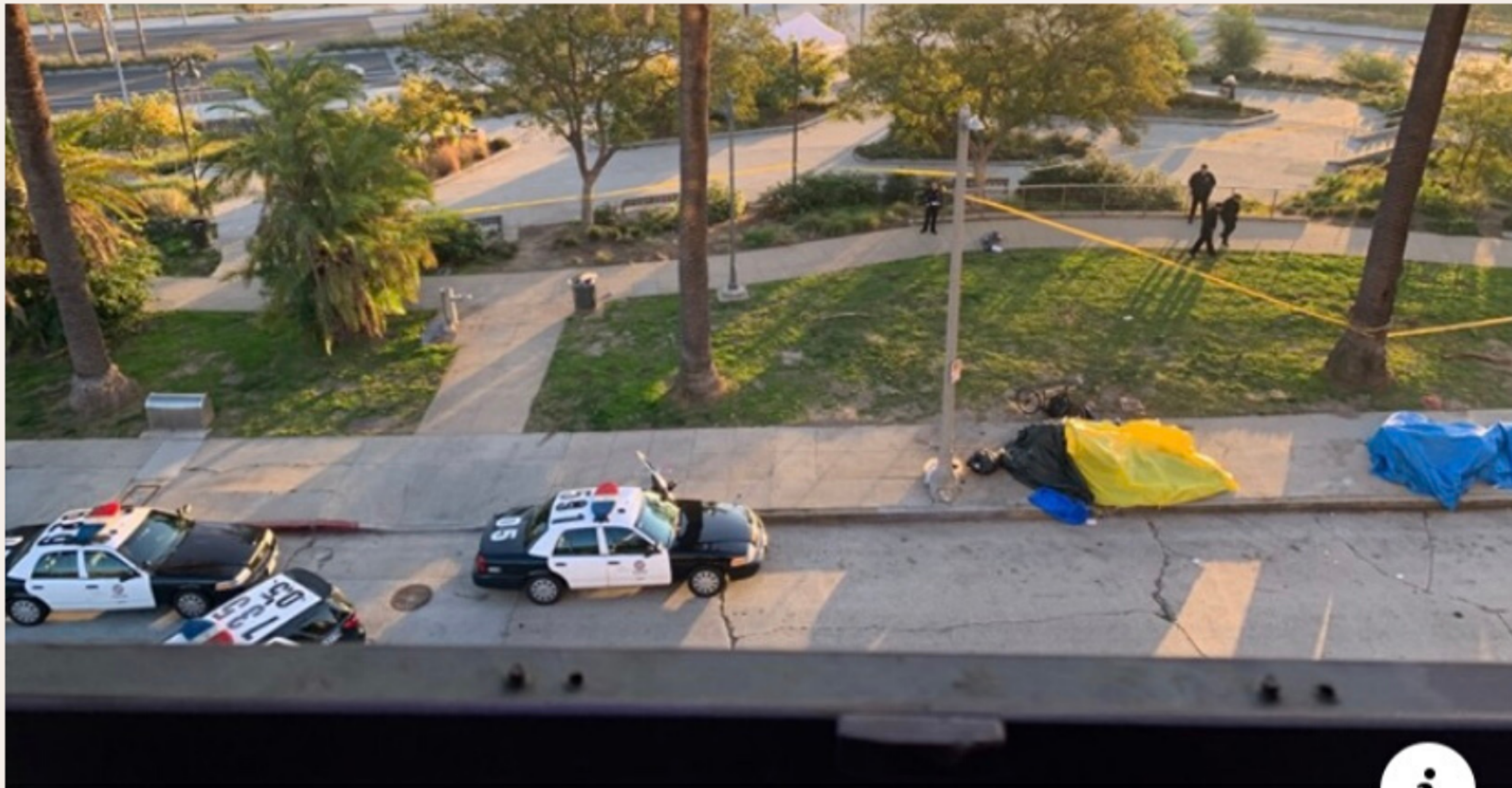


Caring for the
church

Caring for the
city







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Man found stabbed to death near homeless encampment in San Pedro



How can we bring peace and prosperity to the South Bay?

Seek (darash): investigate, discuss, care





Can we as a church
bring shalom to our
city?



JEREMIAH 29:7B

**“Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers,
you too will prosper.”**

**Vision will lead to PRAYER
and PRAYER will lead
to more vision.**



**“Government institutions
and programs cannot
address the issue of
hopelessness...”**

- John Perkins



OFFENSE OR DEFENSE?





MATTHEW 16:18

“the gates of hell will not overcome
(the church)”

We are on the
offensive....

