

Robert C. Hepburn
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Education:

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| Candidate | Westminster Theological Seminary , Philadelphia, PA
Doctor of Ministry in Urban Mission |
| May 2009 | Westminster Theological Seminary , Philadelphia, PA
Graduate Certificate in Christian Studies |
| May 1992 | Westminster Theological Seminary , Philadelphia, PA
M.A. in Urban Mission (Missiology)
<i>Masters Thesis / Project:</i> "The Gospel / The Street: Bridging the Gap
between the Church and Street Culture"
Graduated with First Honors |
| May 1979 | Northeastern Bible College , Essex Fells, NJ
Th.B. in Biblical Studies
<i>Minor Field:</i> Pastoral Studies |
| Summer 1974 | Temple University , Philadelphia, PA
Summer course work (6 credits) towards a M.A. in Music Education |
| May 1973 | Rowan University (Glassboro State College), Glassboro, NJ
B.A. in Music Education (Certified K-12 in New Jersey)
Graduated Cum Laude |

Teaching Experience:

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| 1996-present | Center for Urban Theological Studies (Geneva College) , Philadelphia, PA
Adjunct Professor , teaching the following 3 credit undergraduate courses:

+ Foundations of Christian Thought - BIB 300C
+ Postmodern Urban Culture - HUM 212C
+ Gospel Studies: Luke / John - BIB 312C
+ Youth Ministry - MIN 240C
+ Old Testament Prophecy - BIB 301C
+ New Testament Epistles - BIB 310C
+ New Testament Studies - BIB 314C
+ Contemporary Apologetics - BIB 340C
+ Contemporary Adolescent Culture - MIN 319C
+ Ethics - PHI 112C
+ Introduction to Philosophy - PHI 110C
+ Biblical Theology - BIB 325C
+ The Gospel/The Street: The Church & Hip-Hop Culture - HUM 304C
+ Survey of American History - HIS 150C (predominantly Korean students)
+ Introduction to Theology - BIB 321C |
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Developed curricula for each of the above courses, lecturing and administering grades.

Teaching Experience (*continued*):

- 2003-present **Eastern University (The School for Social Change)**, Philadelphia, PA
Adjunct Professor of Urban Studies, teaching the following M.A. in Urban Studies courses:
- + Apologetics for the Urban Youth Context - YTHL 655 (Capstone course)
 - + Christ and the City - URBN 510 (Core course)
 - + Urban Youth Culture - YTHL 585
- Developed curricula for the above 3 credit courses, teaching and administering grades.
- 2010-present **Eastern University (Campolo School for Graduate and Professional Studies)**, Philadelphia, PA
Adjunct Professor, teaching the following 3 credit undergraduate course:
- + Biblical Literature in Contemporary Context - BIB 100
- 2010-present **Biblical Seminary**, Hatfield, PA
Instructor in the *ESLPlus* program (for Korean pastors and church leaders), teaching the following 2 credit courses:
- + American History and Culture - ESL 104
 - + Introduction to Philosophy and Worldview - ESL 204
- Instructor** in the ESL Camp (for Korean students), teaching the following course:
- + American Culture and History (July 2010)
- 2007 **Eastern University**, Philadelphia, PA (Eastern In the City)
Adjunct Professor of Theological Studies, teaching the following undergraduate course:
- + Foundations of Christian Spirituality - THEO 210
- Developed curriculum for the above 3 credit course, teaching and administering grades.
- 1991-1992 **Passaic County Community College**, Paterson, NJ
Adjunct Professor of Music, directed the College Gospel Choir, teaching, rehearsing, accompanying and concertizing.
- 1982-1985 **Eastside High School**, Paterson, NJ
Accompanist, Teacher Assistant and Substitute, worked with the nationally-recognized vocal music program (featured in the 1989 film, *Lean On Me*), teaching, rehearsing, accompanying, concertizing and touring.
- 1973-1975 **University of Maine at Fort Kent**, Fort Kent, ME
Adjunct Professor of Music, directed the College-Community Choir, teaching, rehearsing and concertizing.
- 1973-1975 **Community High School / School Administrative District #27**, Fort Kent, ME
Music Teacher, directed the instrumental and vocal music programs, grades 9-12.

Related Experience:

- 2008-present **The Campolo College for Graduate and Professional Studies of Eastern University**, Philadelphia, PA
Member of Curriculum Development Committee, reviewing and revising curriculum for the M.A. in Urban Studies (Economic Development, Youth Leadership, Arts and Community Concentrations)
- 2006 **Union League Bible Study**, Philadelphia, PA
Taught two lunch-hour Bible study for business professionals under the auspices of Westminster Theological Seminary at the historic Union League on S. Broad Street in Center City.
- 2002 **The Campolo School for Social Change of Eastern University**, Philadelphia, PA
Course Developer, wrote three 3-credit courses for the Master of Arts in Urban Studies (Youth Leadership Concentration)
- + Foundations for Urban Youth Ministry
 - + Apologetics for the Urban Youth Context
 - + Life of Christ (Communicating Christ within Urban Youth Culture)
- 1980-present **AIM International**, Pearl River, NY
Urban Youth and Young Adults Ministry Specialist -- YUBM Ministries -- based in Paterson, NJ (1980-1993) then Philadelphia, PA (1994-present). Researcher, practitioner and consultant -- developing, coordinating and conducting seminars and workshops for churches, conferences, conventions, colleges, community and ministry organizations -- helping people understand and work with postmoderns, particularly with those involved in hip-hop culture, working primarily in the Mid-Atlantic states region. Discipling, mentoring, training and ministering with church-based and street-based youth and young adults, youth leaders and musicians, including directing Gospel choirs in Paterson, NJ and Philadelphia, PA churches. Retreat and conference worship leader, musician, workshop presenter and/or speaker). Teaching undergraduate courses (at Geneva College at the Center for Urban Theological Studies and Eastern University) and graduate courses (at Eastern University) in theology, philosophy, youth culture and youth ministry.

Representative Ministry Events and Involvements:

The Gospel / The Street Seminar Presentations (up-to-date listing available online at <http://www.yubm.org/MinistryVenues.htm>):

- + Geneva College at the Center for Urban Theological Studies, Philadelphia, PA, Undergraduate Course (3 credit hours), Fall Semester 2009, Spring and Summer Semesters 2010, Spring Semester 2011
- + Cosmopolitan M.S. Bapt. Church Youth Retreat, Sandy Cove, MD, August 8-10, 2008
- + Montco Bible Fellowship (Youth Sunday), Lansdale, PA, April 29, 2007
- + Black Rock Retreat Summer Camp Staff Training, Quarryville, PA, June 10, 2006
- + Christian Growth Ministries, Wilmington, DE, June 18, 2005
- + Christian Fellowship Evangelistic Church, Philadelphia, PA, July 6-9, 2004 (2nd year)
- + Word Tabernacle Baptist Church (Youth Meeting), Philadelphia, PA, January 17, 2003
- + Philadelphia Area Ministries of BCM International, Philadelphia, PA, March 16, 2002
- + Labor Day Weekend Adult Retreat, Stroudsburg, PA, September 1, 2001
- + Willingboro Christian Assembly, Willingboro, NJ, April 30, 2000
- + Philadelphia College of Bible Missions Conference, Langhorne, PA, January 13, 1999

Related Experience (*continued*):

- + United Holy Church of America, Inc. Tri-Cord 10th Annual Convention, Harrisburg, PA, July 30, 1998
- + Christian Community Development Association Youth Leadership National Conference, Grand Rapids, MI, August 7-10, 1997
- + Christian Community Development Association Annual National Conference, Pittsburgh, PA, November 9, 1996
- + 2nd Annual Urban Youth Workers' Conference, First Baptist Church of Highland Park, Landover, MD, May 6, 1995
- + Streamside Pre-Summer Camp Training Program, Stroudsburg, PA, June 23, 1994
- + Bethesda Baptist Church Youth Leaders Training Session, Washington, D.C., January 16, 1993
- + Paterson City-Wide Inaugural T.G.T.S. Presentation, Faith Chapel Reformed Church, Paterson, NJ, March 14, 1992 (documented in an M.A. Missiology project done at Westminster Theological Seminary), 1992
- + Five Percent Nation Seminars presented at Canaan Baptist Church, Paterson Pastors' Workshop, community meeting at Madison Ave. Church, Concerned Parents for Head Start Staff Training, Faith Chapel Reformed Church, Paterson, NJ, 1985.

Retreats and Camps (planning, co-leading and ministering):

- + Annual J.A.M. Youth Retreat, First Baptist Church of Highland Park, Landover, MD, 1994-2007 (*worship leader*)
- + Annual Kids Camp, First Baptist Church of Highland Park, Landover, MD, 1994-present (*worship leader*)
- + Annual Labor Day Weekend Retreat, Philadelphia Area Ministries of BCM International, Stroudsburg, PA, 1981-present (*worship leader, workshop leader*)
- + Annual New Life Bible Institute Retreat, Philadelphia, PA, 2001-present (*worship leader and choir director*)
- + Annual Manna Bible Institute Retreat, Philadelphia, PA, 1983-present (*worship leader and choir director*)
- + Streamside Youth Retreats, 1995-1998, 2005 (*worship leader, choir director, speaker*)

Youth, Young Adult and Adult Choirs (directing and/or accompanying & ministering):

- + Adult Choir, Great Commission Church, Philadelphia, PA, 2006-2007
- + Children's Choir, Great Commission Church, Philadelphia, PA, 2006-2007
- + Young Adult Choir, Third Eternal Baptist Church, Philadelphia, PA, 1997-2002
- + Chancel Choir (Adult), Third Eternal Baptist Church, Philadelphia, PA, 1994-1997
- + Heavenly Voices Youth Choir, Germantown Christian Assembly, Philadelphia, PA, 1997-1999
- + Young Adults Ensemble, Calvary Baptist Church of Philadelphia, PA, 1997-1999
- + No Other Name (Young Adult Ensemble), Madison Avenue Church, Paterson, NJ, 1993-1997
- + His Glory (Young Men's Ensemble), Faith Chapel Reformed Church, Paterson, NJ, 1990-1992
- + Youth Choir, Faith Chapel Reformed Church, Paterson, NJ, 1985-1992
- + Voices of God, Madison Avenue Church, Paterson, NJ, 1981-1984 (*developed and performed two multi-media presentations with singing, rapping, drama and slideshow: "The Gospel / The Street" and "Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr."*)

Related Experience (*continued*):

Youth Groups (leading or volunteering):

- + Third Eternal Baptist Church Youth Group (P/T), Philadelphia, PA, 1996-2002
- + Faith Chapel Reformed Church Youth Group, Paterson, NJ, 1990-1991
- + Youth Alive, Paterson, NJ, 1977-1985 (*directed three different community-based youth groups [hosted at a ministry center, a housing development community center and a church] with regular weekly programs, plus retreats and camps*)

Miscellaneous Creative Endeavors (music, writing and photography):

- + Wrote the lyrics and music for "AMAGOH" (a rap-inflected chant), "1 Timothy 4:12" (a Gospel R&B song), "You're the One" (rap), "A Rap for the Rapper" (rap) and "Change Me, Lord" (choral anthem).
- + Wrote the lyrics and music for "City Psalm" (a blues-inflected lament based on Ps. 55), used in *Cry of the City* (AIM's professionally produced multimedia presentation highlighting urban ministry issues and personnel), 1981. The song was also later professionally recorded by Christian artist Tony Loeffler for one of his albums
- + Co-wrote and recorded (with Paul Jackson) a promotional rap for Timothy Academy at the WZZD studios in Philadelphia, PA (replete with human beat-boxing), 1985
- + Wrote a number of urban ministry promotional pieces published by AIM International

Professional Activities:

- 2004 Coordinated the *Hip-Hop Summit 2K4 (HHS2K4)* in conjunction with Canaan Baptist Church (Rev. Dr. Gus Roman, Pastor) in the Germantown section of Philadelphia. Developed a weekend relation-building program for reaching out to aspiring hip-hop artists in the community. Recruited and convened workshop leaders and panelists from several of the representative elements of hip-hop (rappers, lyricists, graphic artists, DJs, producers, record label owners, etc.).
- 2004 Host and facilitator for the *Contextualizing without Compromising: A Case Study in Reaching the Hip-Hop Culture* -- a 2004 two-day Student Missions conference held at Westminster Theological Seminary in conjunction with Cross Movement Ministries and Rock Soul Ministries. The program -- designed to initiate a dialogue between hip-hop and the theological academic community. Program consisted of three plenary sessions (addresses by W.T.S. professors John S. Leonard and Dr. William Edgar, and Cross Movement rapper William Branch (The Ambassador), four "breakout" sessions led by members of the hip-hop community ("The Worldview of Hip-Hop," "Message-Centered Outreach vs. Method-Centered Outreach," "Using Hip-Hop to Teach Doctrine" and "Strategies in Reaching the Culture") and a closing panel Q&A session with all presenters.
- 2002-2004 Produced, and recorded original music for "Cry No More" by Cross Movement's lead rapper, the Ambassador, for the *Urban Hip-Hop* soundtrack released in conjunction with the 2002 movie, *Left Behind 2 (Tribulation Force)*, followed by a second release on the Cross Movement compilation album, *Holy Culture* (2003) -- featured as the album's radio single -- followed by a third release on the *Higher Ground Hip Hop Reformed & Reborn* compilation album (2004) .
- 2002 Developed curricula for three (3) urban youth ministry courses for the M.A. in Urban Studies (Youth Leadership Concentration) for the Campolo School for Social Change of Eastern University: "Foundations of Urban Youth Ministry," "Life of Christ" (Communicating Christ within Urban Youth Culture) and "Apologetics for the Urban Youth Context."

Professional Activities (*continued*):

- 2002 Worked with curriculum development committee as a core faculty member at the Center for Urban Theological Studies.
- 2001 Recorded original musical samples for "We Go Together Like" from Florida-based rapper Urban D.'s album, *The Tranzlation*.
- 1999-2005 Did photography for the Cross Movement's *House of Representatives* album cover (1999) and Da' T.R.U.T.H.'s *Moment of Truth* (2004). Recorded original musical samples for the Ambassador's album, *Christology: In Laymen's Terms* (1999) and Tru-Life's album, *The Journal, Vol.1*. Appeared in the Cross Movement's "Know Me" video from the album, *Human Emergency* (2000).
- 1998 Developed, launched and maintaining a ministry Web site (www.yubm.org), geared to assist the church in understanding and more effectively reaching youth and young adults in hip-hop culture, as well as directly communicating to those within hip-hop.
- 1995 Worked on the Steering Committee with the *Urban Leadership Development for Youth Ministry* coordinating two pilot training sessions in Philadelphia, assisting in laying the groundwork for instituting a national urban youth ministry training program.
- 1995 Invited contributor for the *Working Conference on Urban Leadership Development for Youth Ministry* in Denver, CO, assisting in the design of a comprehensive training curriculum for urban youth workers nationally.
- 1995 Participated in the National Youth Gang Congressional Hearing and Reception in Washington, DC (in conjunction with the National Prayer Breakfast).
- 1994-1995 **South Camden Christian Fellowship, Inc**, Collingswood, NJ
Administrative and Program Director (P/T) at Fellowship House, Camden, NJ.
Co-managed a ministry staff, program and facility serving (predominantly unchurched African American youth - K-12 +) in a comprehensive holistic ministry. Responsibilities included handling personnel matters, innovative curriculum development, discipleship, counseling, evangelism, summer staff training, day trips, retreats, summer camp, etc.
- 1992 Organized an interdenominational Concert of Prayer at Community Baptist Church in Paterson, NJ.
- 1989-1991 Worship leader and minister of music for three of David Bryant's interdenominational North Jersey Concerts of Prayer (William Paterson College in Wayne, NJ, and Grace Church in Ridgewood, NJ), for one of Metropolitan Youth for Christ combined rallies (with Ron Hutchcraft) and for an interdenominational Prayer Rally for the Northern New Jersey Billy Graham Crusade (both held at Brookdale Baptist Church in Bloomfield, NJ).
- 1989 Organized *Youth Connection*, an urban youth workers' network bringing together leaders from a dozen churches from several different denominations in Paterson, NJ.
- 1986-1992 Founded and ministered with a semi-professional contemporary Gospel quartet called *His Will* based in Paterson, NJ, ministering in the New York metropolitan area, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania -- in churches, high schools, colleges, housing developments, youth rallies, street evangelism rallies, youth camps, retreats, in jail and prison, and concerts of prayer.

Professional Activities (*continued*):

- 1983-1985 Worked on the organizing committees and ministry teams of the Paterson Youth Crusades held each spring at Eastside High School and area churches, pulling together churches from various denominations from all over the city.
- 1983 **Steered Straight Pilot Program at Calvary Bible Chapel**, Newark, NJ
Volunteer Youth Leader, worked with "at risk" street-youth in a comprehensive church-based outreach program focusing on life skills development.
- 1982 Did a photographic expedition throughout New York City for *Here's Life, New York* (Campus Crusade for Christ) for their ministry promotional materials.
- 1981-1997 **Streamside Camp & Conference Center**, Stroudsburg, PA
Summer Staff Instructor and Program Administrator, trained staff for and assisting them in summer camp ministry with urban youth; developed, wrote and taught culturally-appropriate Biblical curricula (all ages), worship leader / musician / speaker and head men's counselor.
- 1977-1980 **Star of Hope Ministries**, Paterson, NJ
Urban Youth Worker, directed a community-based ministry for non-churched youth.

Published Articles:

"PRISM's Hip-Hop Roundtable" (participant) and "Psalm 23: The Remix" (featured visually and textually throughout the issue), *PRISM Magazine*, Kristyn Komarnicki, editor, Evangelicals for Social Action, Wynnewood, PA, ISSN: 10796479, Vol 13, No. 1, January/February 2006.

"Prophet Unaware," *PRISM Magazine*, Kristyn Komarnicki, editor, Evangelicals for Social Action, Wynnewood, PA, ISSN: 10796479, Vol 10, No. 4, July/August 2005.

"Hep's Spiritual Take on Hip-Hop Culture," Interview by Wilbert Crew / Story by Jeff Ertz, *Joy & Praise Magazine*, Crystal Morgan, editor-in-chief, Media, PA, ISSN: 15420825, Spring/Summer 2004.

"Winning the Hip-Hop Generation to Christ" (Interviewee), by Angela Mitchell, *City Flight News Magazine*, John Hilton, editor, San Jose, CA, Vol 3, No. 8, October 1999.

"Tales of Three Cities: Philadelphia" *AIM International*, David Duncan, editor, AIM International, London, England, December 1997.

"Penetrating an Urban People Group: The Street-Oriented Young Urban Black Male (Case Study #17) *Notes on Urban Studies and Christian Missions: A History and Case Studies* (published in manuscript form), Harvie M. Conn, compiler, Westminster Theological Seminary Bookstore, Philadelphia, PA, February 1995.

"Rap Music: Give Me My Respect, Man!" *Urban Mission*, Dr. Harvie M. Conn, editor, Westminster Theological Seminary, Philadelphia, PA, Vol. 10, No 1, September 1992.
<http://www.strategicnetwork.org/pdf/kb15789.pdf> Cited in *The Hip-Hop Church: Connecting with the Movement Shaping Our Culture*, by Efrem Smith and Phil Jackson, InterVarsity Press, 2005 (pp. 108 and 190-91).

Published Articles (*continued*):

"Rap Music: A Window Into a Culture," *Urban Mission*, Dr. Harvie M. Conn, editor, Westminster Theological Seminary, Philadelphia, PA, Vol. 9, No 5, May 1992.

<http://www.strategicnetwork.org/pdf/kb15780.pdf>

"Coming Alongside an Urban People Group," *AIM International*, Ted Barnett, editor, AIM International, Pearl River, NY, Vol.74, No. 1, Winter 1990.

"Penetrating an Urban People Group: The Street-Oriented Young Urban Black Male," *Urban Mission*, Dr. Harvie M. Conn, editor, Westminster Theological Seminary, Philadelphia, PA, Vol. 6, No 4, March 1989.

<http://www.strategicnetwork.org/pdf/kb15652.pdf>

"Urban Youth and the Street Institution," *AIM International*, Peter Stam, editor, AIM International, Pearl River, NY, Vol.70, No. 1, Spring 1986.

Statement of Specific Interests:

Professional Interests: creative interdisciplinary curriculum development of non-traditional ministry techniques and opportunities inherent among "hard-to-reach" groups.

Research Interests: urban youth issues, postmodern apologetics, the semiotics of hip-hop, exegeting cultural constructs, kismetology, exousiology, presuppositional sets within competitive truth claims, street prophetics.

Teaching Interests: urban youth ministry advocacy and also of ministry to historically under-represented, socially-marginalized and hard-to-reach groups.

Applied Interests: creative writing, Web and Internet technologies, Africana, photography, the game and culture of basketball, lobsters and lobstering (and the culture surrounding it), boat-building (one done, another to follow?), sailing, film exegesis, Ivesiana (the life and musical work of the 20th century American composer, Charles Ives) Scripture contextualization -- especially within street contexts.

Memberships:

Advisory Panel Member of "O, YES!" ("Our Youth Enlightened about Sex"), an annual Christian conference sponsored by the Center for Urban Youth Development at Eastern University for the purpose of enlightening middle school and high school students from Philadelphia and vicinity about topics related to sex.

Former Board Member of The Cross Movement, an alliance of Christian rappers based in Philadelphia, PA and Cross Movement Ministries.

Honors:

Recipient of the "2008 Commencement Faculty Award of Excellence" from the Center for Urban Theological Studies in Philadelphia, PA.

Recipient of an award from the Class of 2003 from the Center for Urban Theological Studies for being "an enthusiastic, innovative educator, encouraging students to be fervent in their studies, especially in the Word of God."