

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

NEW COMMUNITY

SITUATED IN A VERY DIVERSE COMMUNITY MADE UP MOSTLY of Latinos, but also African-Americans, whites and Asian-Americans, New Community has made it their goal to intentionally gather across racial, social and cultural differences to seek the heart of God and build relationships that will impact Chicago and then the world.

"Studies have shown that increasingly, many in this generation prefer multicultural settings versus 'mono-cultural' settings," pastor Peter Hong said. "They're not just 'putting up' with multiculturalism—they're seeking it! ... And so some churches have effectively used a 'multiethnic' church culture to do evangelism. This is the approach that we have taken in order to reach a community like ours."

About a year ago, a small group of people began to pray toward developing an authentic community that valued openness, honesty and acceptance and that would serve as Christ's hands and feet to

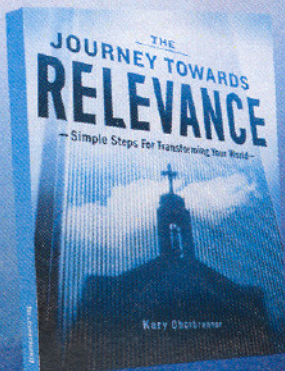


hurting people. From that prayer, New Community emerged.

The ministry has taken strides to foster a worship atmosphere with which most people can relate, regardless of their cultural background. "Through weaving different styles of music, implementing various worship expressions of other cultures, and being sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit, we have tried to create a congregational culture that 'speaks' to most people," Hong said.

But although New Community has grown and now provides multiple outlets for service and connection, Hong recognizes that there is always more to learn. "It's critical that those of us engaged in multicultural ministry not only acknowledge, but continue to learn from other Caucasian, Black, Korean and Hispanic churches," he said. "They are a part of the larger Church of Jesus Christ where Christ is the Head, and we are just a small but vital member." **RL**

THE MOVEMENT IS BEGINNING



Fuzzy thinking has dominated the paradox between the black and white, and more and more Christians are confused on how to live an effective, culturally relevant life. Transformation is needed. *The Journey Towards Relevance* empowers the reader to follow Christ's example and to live their lives fully engaged in the culture around them.

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