



# Glocon

...the Global and Local Community Conversation

**WEEK 19**  
**USA-Atlanta**  
**November 9<sup>th</sup>-11th, 2012**

## **Foreword: appreciating, encouraging and sharing local community story**

**United States of America** is the 17th country for Glocon. This is a local community story of personal initiatives, adding to 34 other local community stories so far. Each shows responsiveness of people in communities and organisations. The 'themes and sub themes that matter to us' are the core of the Glocon learning. We offer sincere thanks to local and country host John Needham, and to the local communities of Pittsburg and Adair Park, south Atlanta. which show us the future.

The **background to Glocon** is described in the concept note, on 'Affirm' website.



See [www.affirmfacilitators.org](http://www.affirmfacilitators.org);  
[www.facebook.com/glocon.affirm](http://www.facebook.com/glocon.affirm);  
[www.facebook.com/GloconParticipants](http://www.facebook.com/GloconParticipants)

From beginning March, the first Glocon Update was available through the [www.affirmfacilitators.org](http://www.affirmfacilitators.org) website, the facebook page, and facebook group. Email [robin@radermail.net](mailto:robin@radermail.net) to receive the Glocon Update directly to your email address

## **Key Sections**

- Glocon visit team members
- Glossary
- Timeline and SALT
- Going deeper: themes and sub-themes that matter to us

## Glossary

TSA-The Salvation Army

### Glocon team members .....

Pictures, clockwise: Phil Needham; John Needham; Damon Rader; Alison Campbell; Brad Bailey; Ian Campbell; Heidi Bailey



**...and friends...** Marty Needham; Ron Busroe; Carol Busroe; Keitha Needham



## Background

Pittsburg and Adair Park are two neighbourhoods in south Atlanta that have a long history of pride and hard work, but over the past 50 years have struggled with losses of industry, businesses, and employment. Longtime residents have seen drugs and violence change the community and now many homes are boarded or burned.



The Salvation Army has a seminary here that has also seen many changes, and has maintained a relationship with the community expressed in various ways. Ian and Alison visited in 2004 and 2005, and they were impressed by people's determination and hopefulness.

A community center church with services for the whole area was opened in 2010 and hosted the Glocon visit. Thanks to Ashish and Sandra Pawar for welcoming a large group of visitors into the Salvation Army center and the neighbourhood.

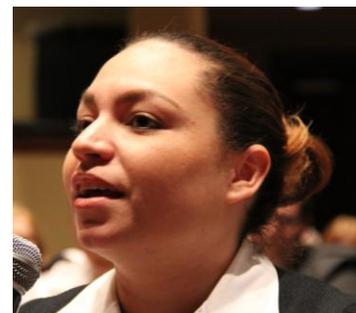
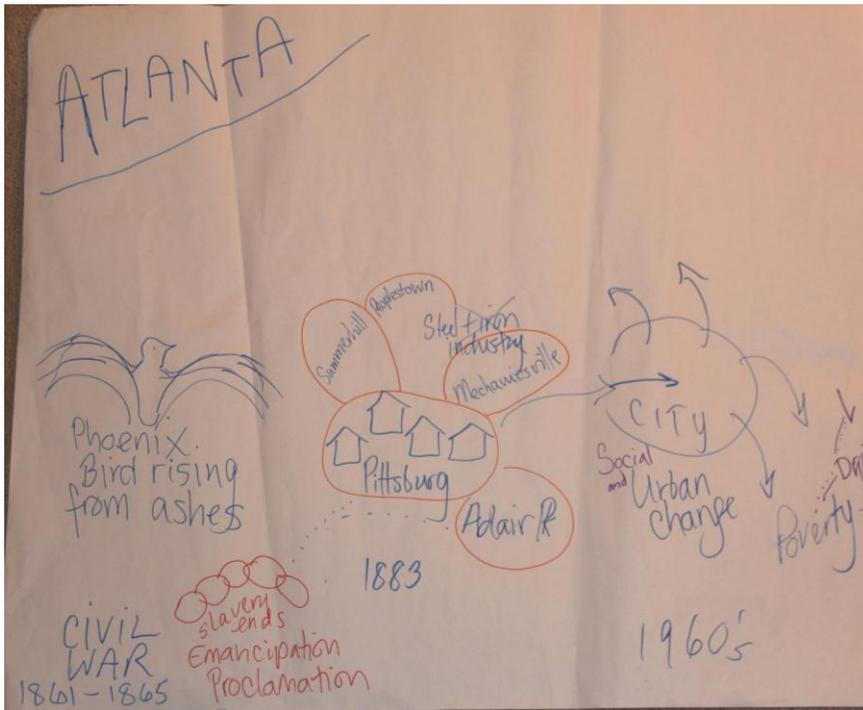
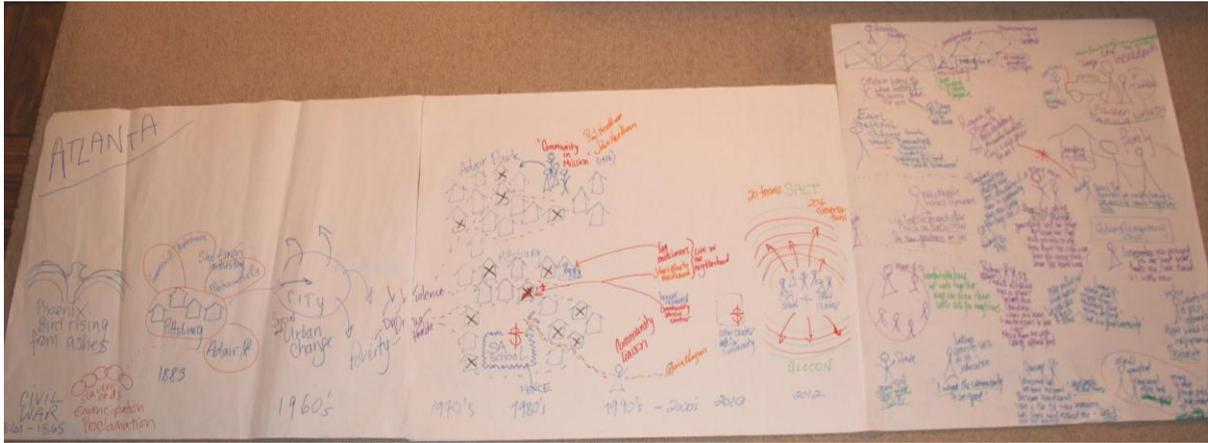
***What is Glocon?*** A revelation of local movement through dialogue; facilitated connection; happening in many countries; a global and local community conversation which explores strengths for response to HIV and critical concerns

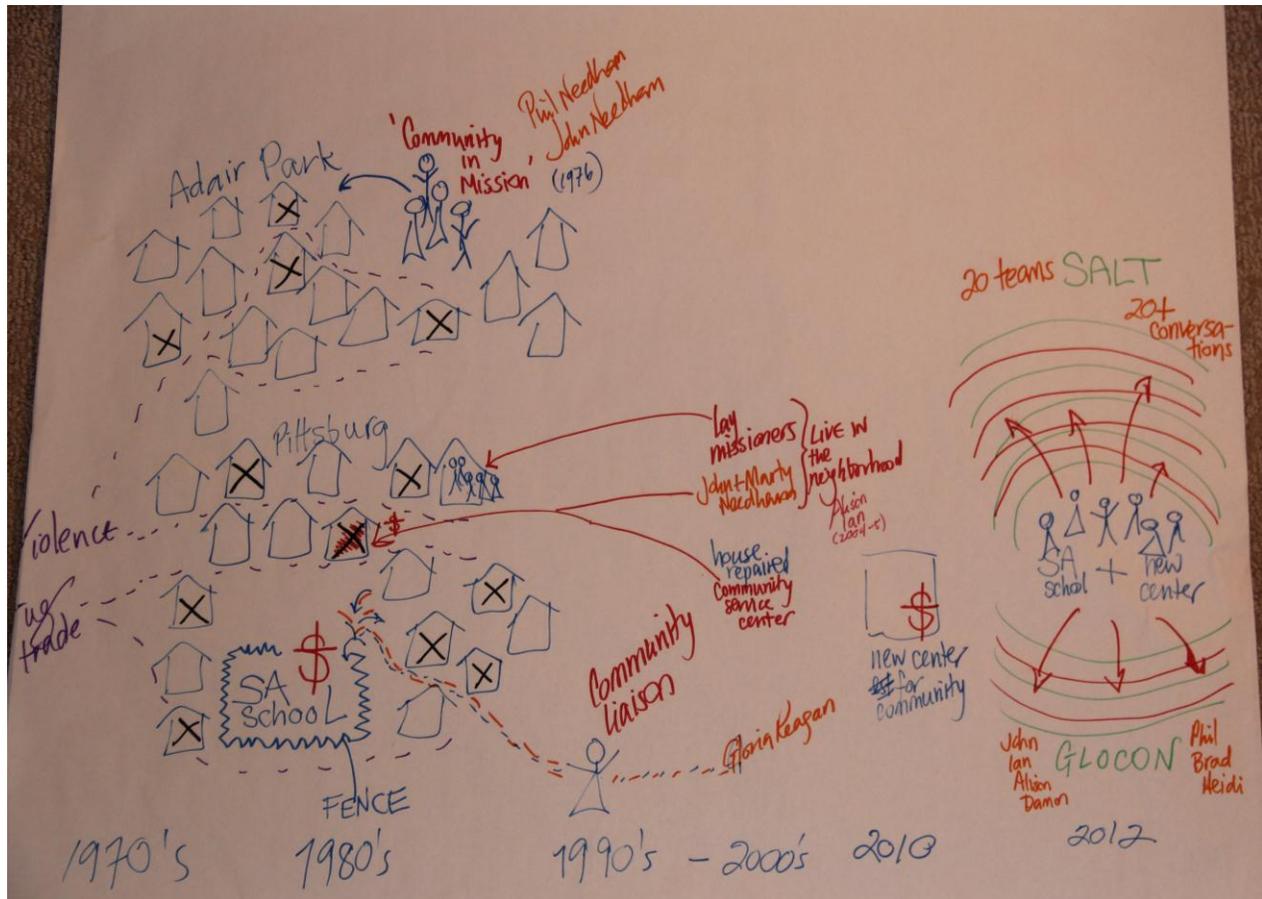


## Timeline through SALT –Pittsburg and Adair Park communities



# History and the emerging story...





### What are people saying?

*Let's get to know each other.*

*When we talk together we have hope.*

*I have been asking God to send someone to me – I am trying to recover from addiction.*

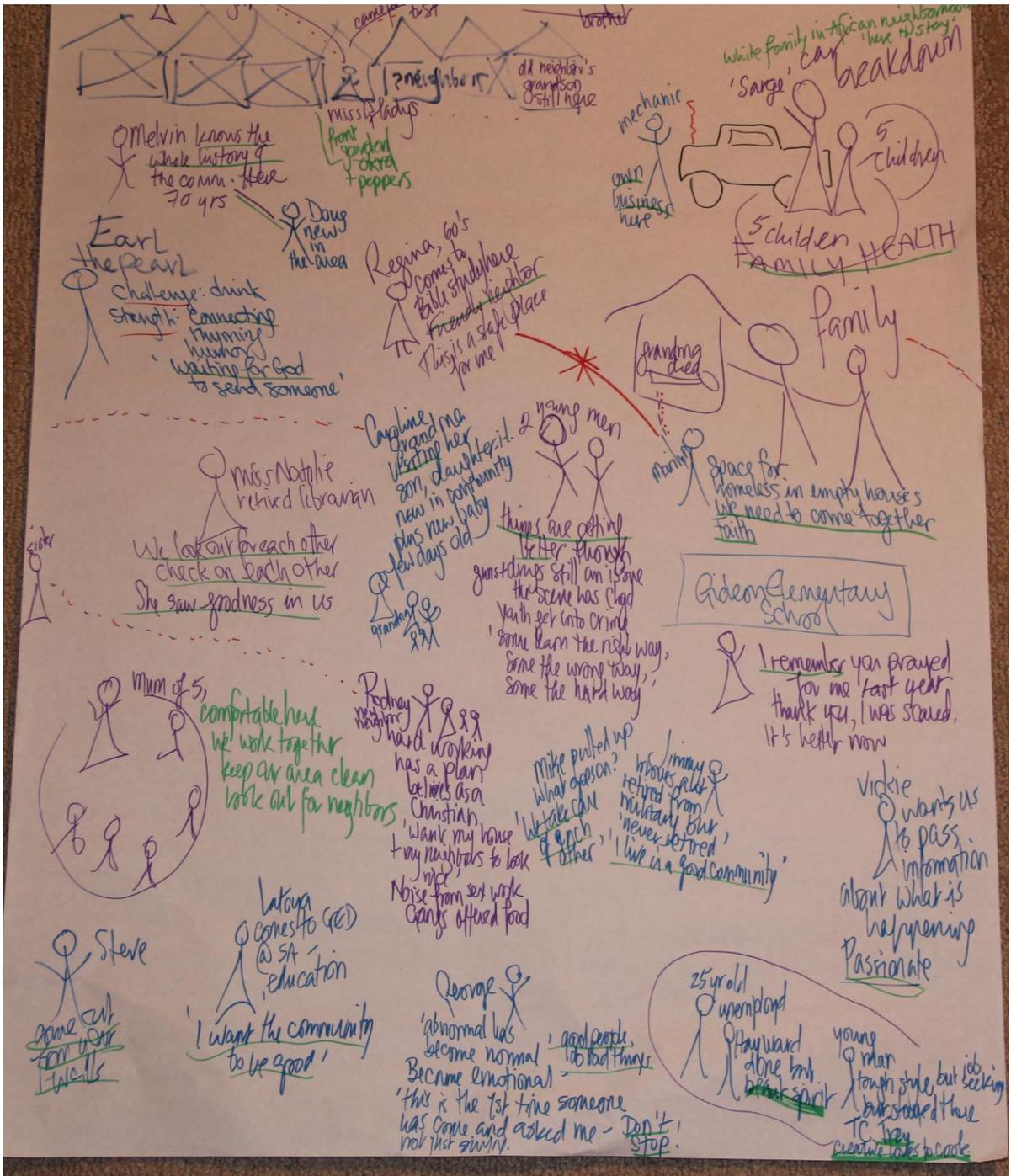
*We need to get together!*

*Come out from your walls, don't stop coming to visit.*

*Come again.*



## 20 teams...20 conversations...20 stories...



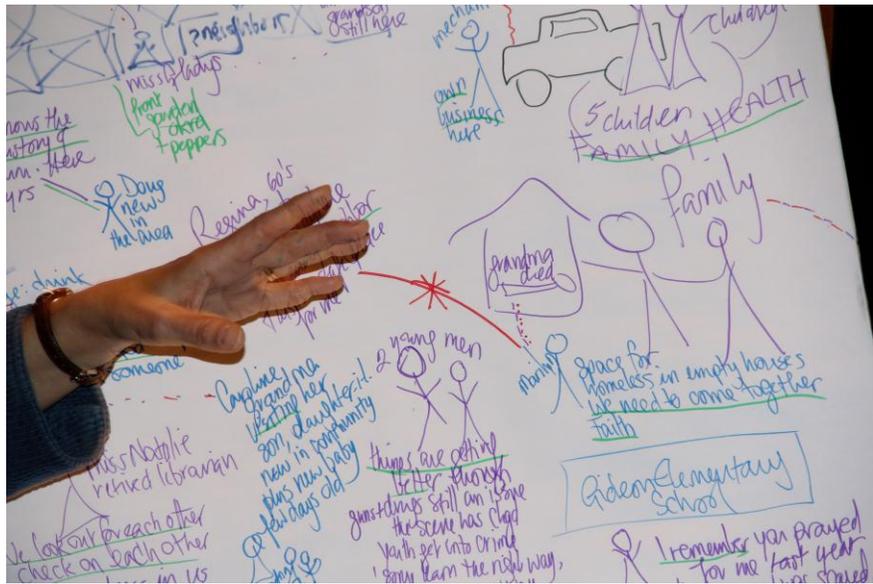
## What did we learn from our conversations?

*The graciousness of this community.*

*Fear comes from what we think we see – overcome fear with love.*

*Relationship must come before program.*

*Don't hide behind institutional authority.*



*We are learning how to engage to the heart and the issues of this community – it is simple and profound.*

*We are not starting from ashes.*



# Going deeper: themes and sub-themes that matter to us

Note that each visit will add to the analysis of a theme or themes

## Indicators of movement(s)

- Local community initiated action, self -assessment, and transfer
- Invitations back home

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Here in the community people are sitting, waiting, some looking for help, some looking for partners for action. They are not empty of hope, though they see houses burned, boarded up, neighbours die or move away, partial recovery of buildings then abandoned, and squatters move into empty shells to do businesses that don't help. When we visit, listen, appreciate them for their tenacity and resilience, we hear invitations....

*'I haven't invited you in, I have to be careful'....becomes....'stop by again'*

*'Talking together gives us hope....come visit again'*

- Community to community transfer
- Adaptable organizational strategies
- Spiritual and faith motivated initiative
- Children, youth, family, adults, elderly: Inter-generational accompaniment
- Health and social and community change

## Care to change

- Ownership
- Home, suffering, hope, neighbourhood
- Caring presence which motivates expanding change
- Shared confidentiality

## Transfer

- Community to community
- Global SALT
- Leadership acknowledgment

## Faith foundations

- Caring by being with

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For over 20 years efforts to reach out into a troubled neighbourhood have happened from a seminary placed in the middle of the neighbourhood. Relationship of trust was hard won, and made progress when a 'going out and listening to learn' approach took root about 10 years ago. Efforts to meet

need were not enough –living with and accompanying and talking and listening has made a difference. Programmes have emerged through a center that seems tuned to local feeling and reality. The combination seems to have nurtured respect and ready invitation back into the neighbourhood. Poverty and risk is there, but respect, trust, invitation, spiritual response, and local leadership is forming more explicitly from inside the community. Caring by being with people has become more visible. Change is happening.

- God present in situation in grace
- Responding to loss, pain –pathways to trust, faith, hope

#### **Facilitation team**

- Organisational transition
- Discovering shared concerns with partners (common ground)
- Community as lifestyle
- Mentoring by participating

#### **Learning from local experience (SALT)**

- Humility-disposition and character
- Connecting local community and organizations
- Facilitating movements
- Based on strengths