

## **10 Major Issues for Christian Folk in Small Towns**

Gary Farley

Center for Rural Church Leadership

Carrollton, Alabama

[gary@pickens.net](mailto:gary@pickens.net)

Phil. 2:14-16

1. Salvation and Spiritual Growth for the people of the land.  
Message of the prophets, mission of Jesus
2. Living out the Christian lifestyle and philosophy of history  
Agape love informing relationships  
Awaiting the return of the Christ  
Modeling true community in the life of the local church
3. Strong, healthy family relationships. Eph. 5:21
4. Environmental Stewardship. II. Chron. 7:14
5. Economic Justice. Amos 5:24
6. Rechurched the countryside.  
Add missional to the parish serving focus
7. Education for the children. Luke 2:52
8. Care for the elderly. Psl. 37:25f
9. Job creation  
Do not really need cities anymore.  
Life can be calmer and less expensive by encouraging folk to live in towns.
10. Community redevelopment  
Old patterns of community life have broken down.  
Racial justice is a problem in many places.  
We must model community in our churches.

Small town ministry is challenging. It demands creative and committed persons.

People who are both Great Commission (Matt. 28:16-20) and Great Command (Matt. 22:37-40) persons.