

Resources Related To Christian Community Development

2018-Dec

A. Core Principles of Christian Community Development

- ❖ ***Making Neighbourhoods Whole: A Handbook for Christian Community Development* by Wayne Gordon and John M. Perkins (with forward by Shane Claiborne)**

A powerful introduction to the principles of Christian Community Development by two of its most well-known pioneers, as well as vivid and inspiring real-life examples from a variety of community development practitioners throughout the world.

B. Getting Beyond “Toxic Charity” To “Helping Without Hurting”

- ❖ ***Toxic Charity: How Churches and Charities Hurt Those They Help (And How To Reverse It)* by Robert Lupton**
A foundational book about how to transform “toxic” charity into effective community development.

“In (North America), there’s a growing scandal . . . while we are very generous in charitable giving, much of that money is either wasted or actually harms the people it is targeted to help.”

Lupton has earned the right to make this critique, having spent over four decades working, and living, in inner city Atlanta “trying to develop models of urban renewal that are effective and truly serve the poor.”

“Personal responsibility is essential for social, emotional, and spiritual well-being. To do for others what they have the capacity to do for themselves is to disempower them. . . ***The effective helper can be an encourager, a coach, a partner, but never a caretaker.***”

Real transformation requires an **asset-based** approach that **focuses on a community’s strengths more than its needs, takes seriously the gifts and talents of the poor, and seeks to do ministry in the community with them rather than for them.**

- ❖ ***Charity Detox: What Charity Would Look Like If We Cared About Results* – by Robert Lupton**

An excellent book that goes the next step after Toxic Charity, with practical ways to “move the poverty needle.” “Lupton reaches the profound conclusion that wealth creation must replace wealth redistribution if poverty reduction is the goal. The implications for non-profit- and for-profit-minded individuals and organizations are enormous.” – John Coors, president and chairman of CoorsTek

- ❖ ***When Helping Hurts: How To Alleviate Poverty Without Hurting The Poor And Yourself* by Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert**

An excellent resource with many relevant examples of effective and ineffective crisis relief and community development.

As an online summary says, “Good Intentions Are Not Enough. Unleashing and equipping people to effectively help the poor requires repentance and the realization of our own brokenness. *When Helping Hurts* articulates a biblically based framework concerning the root causes of poverty and its alleviation, **A path forward is found, not through providing resources to the poor, but by walking with them in humble relationships.**”

- ❖ ***Helping Without Hurting In Church Benevolence: A Practical Guide to Walking With Low-Income People* by Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert with Katie Casselberry**

A short manual that provides a “practical toolkit containing principles for poverty alleviation in the local church context.”

- ❖ ***Helping Without Hurting In Short-Term Missions* by Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert**

Helping Without Hurting in Short-Term Missions: Leader's Guide guides team leaders through the process of planning and executing effective short-term trips, both international and domestic, by blending research, stories, practical guidelines, suggested resources, and reflective questions. Based on the core ideas of *When*

Helping Hurts, this two-book guide with free, online video content equips leaders to **design healthy short-term trips** and shepherd team members toward lasting engagement with missions and poverty alleviation. **This is an ideal resource for church leaders, mission directors, and youth pastors who are seeking to move beyond good intentions, doing short-term missions without doing long-term harm.**”

C. Kingdom Economics

- ❖ ***Practicing the King’s Economy: Honoring Jesus In How We Work, Earn, Spend, Save And Give*— by Michael Rhodes and Robby Holt with Brian Fikkert**

“Here is economic wisdom for humans with habits and desires, immersed in patterns and practices. Here is a model of economic discipleship that doesn’t just tell you what to think but how to practically live in an economy of the kingdom. Here is a book that refuses idealism but is fueled by resurrection hope. But you can’t pull this off on your own, so buy copies for your family, friends and congregation.” – James K. A. Smith, professor of philosophy at Calvin College

D. Reconciliation: A Core Value of Christian Community Development

- ❖ ***One Blood: Parting Words To The Church On Race And Love* – by John M. Perkins**

John Perkins, now at the age of 87, considers this new book his “Manifesto.”

As Rick Warren says in the foreword: **“John writes deeply about his recognition that the problems of reconciliation we face in our country, indeed the whole world, are ‘much too big to be wrestled to the ground by plans that begin in the minds of men. This is a God-sized problem. . .’** John Perkins is calling the Church to be the Church. He is echoing the message of God’s restorative work on our behalf and reminding us, pleading with us, to be reconcilers.”

- ❖ ***Faith For This Moment: Navigating A Polarized World As The People Of God* by Rick McKinley**

Shane Claiborne’s endorsement at the start of the book says: **“Rick offers some of his best wisdom on how to speak the truth in love, how to be prophetic and pastoral, and how to challenge evil without becoming evil.”**

Ann Voskamp says: **“Rick’s words will light a fire in your soul. Quite simply: we cannot afford to miss this book.”**

- ❖ ***Christians In The Age Of Outrage: How To Bring Our Best When The World Is At Its Worst* by Ed Stetzer**

“Are you tired of reading another news story about Christians supposedly acting at their worst?

Today there are too many examples of those claiming to follow Christ being caustic, divisive, and irrational, contributing to dismissals of the Christian faith as hypocritical, self-interested, and politically co-opted. What has happened in our society? One short outrageous video, whether it is true or not, can trigger an avalanche of comments on social media. **Welcome to the new age of outrage.** In this groundbreaking book featuring new survey research of evangelicals and their relationship to the age of outrage, Ed Stetzer offers a constructive way forward. You won’t want to miss Ed’s insightful analysis of our chaotic age, his commonsensical understanding of the cultural currents, and his compelling challenge to Christians to live in a refreshingly different way.” – from the Amazon website

Online Resources:

www.12neighbors.com

A free online 8-part video series with a variety of practical examples of what it means to love our neighbors. Includes a free downloadable study guide for each episode.

www.cdda.org

The Christian Community Development Association just celebrated 30 years of living out and developing innovative, practical and effective Christian community development principles and practices.