**Responding to Poverty: When Helping Hurts (Visual book summary)**

*How to Alleviate Poverty without Hurting the Poor... and Yourself*  
(Steve Corbett & Brian Fikkert, © 2009)  
(compiled by Crystle Numan, CRWRC)

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**What’s Wrong?**  
Four Foundational Relationships:  
- with God  
- with ourselves  
- with others  
- with the creation  
Sin has caused brokenness in all of these

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**Why did Jesus Come?**  
- Save us from our sins  
- Redeem the world  
- Restore relationships

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**What’s Poverty?**  
The result of relationships that do not work, are not just, are not for life, are not harmonious or enjoyable. It is the absence of shalom in all its meanings.  
As we define poverty, always keep in mind:  
- sin is real  
- causes of poverty are both individual and structural  
- poverty is multi-faceted (more than material)  
- the story of the Bible: Creation – Fall – Redemption

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**Poverty Alleviation**  
is the ministry of reconciliation – moving people closer to glorifying God by living in right relationships.

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**Types of Intervention**  
Hurt comes when we apply the wrong intervention.  
1. **Relief**: urgent and temporary provision of emergency aid to reduce immediate suffering  
2. **Rehabilitation**: restoring people to the positive elements of their pre-crisis conditions  
3. **Development**: process of ongoing change that moves all people involved closer to being in right relationship to God

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**How do we respond?**  
**Start with people’s assets**, not needs. Look for resources (think more than financial!) inside the community first before outside help.  
**Participation** is not just a means to an end, but rather a legitimate end in its own right. This must be done in a culturally appropriate manner (language, structure, etc.)

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**Locally**  
Most people in North America are capable of participation in the improvement of their lives, so we should always be doing **development**.  
Look for **systemic issues** and then also focus on advocacy. (eg. working (helping yourself) while on social assistance means reduction in benefits.)  
The **design, implementation and evaluation** should be done by all participating.  
Offer the good news of the gospel. The church, as a long term entity, is uniquely positioned for transformation.

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**Internationally**  
Collaborate and partner with the local church and other trustworthy organizations.  
If you go, **go more to learn and less to do**. Short term teams especially need to be careful. Prepare well in advance, and **spend twice as much time** debriefing and following up among trip participants.