

How to Help the Poor: Eight Key Components of Christian Community Development

There are many philosophies that seek to solve the problems of the poor, but most fall short of any lasting change. The most creative long-term solutions to the problems of the poor are coming from grass-roots and church-base efforts. The solutions are coming from people who see themselves as the replacements, the agents, for Jesus here on earth, in their own neighborhoods and communities. Those who see themselves as Christ's agents have formed a philosophy that is known as Christian community development. This philosophy is not a concept developed in the classroom, nor is it formulated by people foreign to the poor community. These are Biblical, practical principles involved from years of living and working among them. Christian Community Development has eight essential components that have evolved over the last 40 years. In this session the speaker will look at these eight and discuss the practicality of living them out.

Wayne Gordon is the pastor of Lawndale Community Church in Chicago. Gordon is a graduate of Wheaton College and Northern Baptist Theological Seminary. He received his Doctor of Ministry degree from Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his Wife Anne have lived in the inner city neighborhood of North Lawndale for their entire 34 years of married life and have raised their three children in this urban environment. Jointly, along with 15 local high school students started Lawndale Community Church in 1978. Together the church started Lawndale Christian Health center in 1984, which today has more than 150,000 patient visits yearly; Lawndale Christian Development Corporation in 1987, which has completed over 40 million dollars of housing. In 1989, Coach, as he is affectionately called, along with Dr. John Perkins and other urban leaders founded the Christian Community Development Association and continues to serve as President. Hope House, a residential transitional discipleship home for 50 men striving to overcome a drug addiction or returning to society from prison was begun in 1995. During 2009 the church established Lawndale Christian Legal Center to help the underserved of their community with Legal services focusing on Juveniles and young adults. Lawndale Community Church is a wholistic ministry that strives daily to "Love God and to Love their neighbors." Dr. Gordon is the author of numerous articles on Christian Community Development and several books including; *Real Hope for Chicago*, and *Who is My Neighbor?*. "Coach" is an Affiliate Professor of Urban Ministry and the director of a doctoral program at Northern Seminary.

1. COMMUNITY BASED: RELOCATION

- A. Live in Community

- B. Reweave the Community

- C. Lawndale

-Relocators

-Returners

-Remainers

2. RECONCILIATION

- A. Person to God
Evangelism

- B. Person to Person

- C. People group to people group

3. REDISTRIBUTION

- A. Economic Development

- B. Stewardship

- C. Social Justice

4. LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

- A. Christ Centered, Biblical

- B. From the People, For the People

- C. Discipleship

D. Youth Ministry

E. 15 Years

5. CHURCH BASED

A. Christ centered, Biblical

B. Worship and Prayer

C. Grass Roots People

D. Village Atmosphere

E. Spiritual Accountability

6. LISTEN TO COMMUNITY

A. felt needs

B. Ideas from People

C. Asset Based Development
-Good things in Community
-Build upon

- People
- Possibilities
- In the House

7. HOLISTIC APPROACH

- Mental
- Spiritual -Cultural
- Social -Emotional
- Economic -Physical
- Political -Justice

8. EMPOWERMENT

- A. Design a Plan with this person so that they won't need help in this area in a year.

- B. Do not do for a person what they can do for themselves

- C. Give people responsibility that is appropriate

SERVING THE PEOPLE

**Go to the people
Live among them
Learn from them
Love them**

Start with what they know Build on what they have: But of the best leaders When their task is accomplished their work is done the people all remark "We have done it ourselves".

--Chinese poem