

Vital Church Planting Conference 2012

The Missional Road Map *Serving Needs*

Serve Needs

Build
Community

Disciple

Mature
Church &
Worship

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Context

Yours & Mine

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Serving Shaped By Jesus

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Incarnational

“The Word became flesh and blood and moved into the neighborhood.” – John 1:14

“Who being very nature God... he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.” – Philippians 2

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Relational

-Kingdom life is about people... loving, healing, forgiving, and meal sharing

-Never underestimate the power of hospitality in serving

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Relational

More and more, the desire grows within me simply to walk around, greet people, enter their homes, sit on their door steps, play ball, throw water and be known as someone who wants to live with them... simple ministry of presence.

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Relational

Still it's not as simple as it seems. My own desire to be useful, to do something significant or to be part of some impressive project is so strong that soon my time is taken up in meetings, conferences, study groups and workshops that prevent me from walking the streets. It is difficult not to have plans, not to organize people around an urgent cause and not to feel that you are working directly for social progress.



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Relational

But I wonder more and more if the first thing shouldn't be to know people by name, to eat and drink with them, to listen to their stories and tell your own and to let them know with words, handshakes and hugs that you do not simply like them – but truly love them.

- Henri Nouwen, Gracias!

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Serving Shaped By Jesus

Sacrificial

- Identifying with Christ in his sacrificial death
- Serving will sometimes require the struggle:
“...not my will, but yours be done.”

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Sacrificial

“Jesus as moral example is a domesticated Jesus, a kind of religious mascot. He doesn’t go about saying, “This is how it’s done; copy me.” He says, “God’s kingdom is coming; take up your cross and follow me.” – N.T.

Wright, After You Believe

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Resurrection & New Creation

“So, my dear brothers and sisters, be strong and immovable. Always work enthusiastically for the Lord, for you know that nothing you do for the Lord is ever useless.” – 1 Corinthians 15: 58

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Serving Shaped By “Blessing”

- The foundational call of the people of God...

Genesis 12 “and you will be a blessing to others”

- “Blessings are not just for the one’s who kneel.”

- City of Blinding Lights, U2

“Shalom: blessing, abundance and a far-reaching harmony that permeates and characterizes all our relationships.” - Brian Walsh.

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Serving Shaped By "Justice"

Serving the poor, oppressed, and marginalized

Think relational and
developmental

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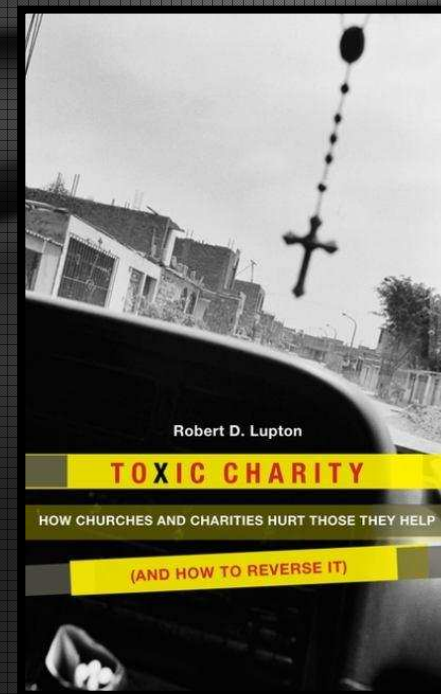
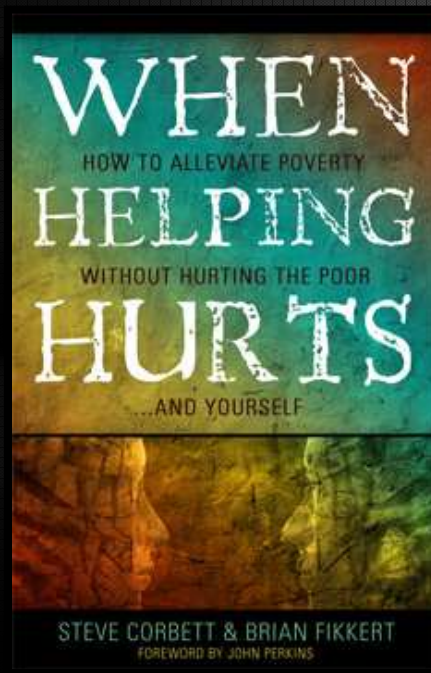
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Questions...

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Group Discussion:

- Where are the places in our neighborhood where we can “take on flesh and blood” to listen and learn and discover real needs to serve?
- How can we make our serving more “relational”?
Serving with our neighbors? Hospitality?
- What practices does our team currently have to ensure our serving is being shaped by Jesus?
- How can we “bless” our neighborhood?
- Who are the “poor” in our neighborhood and how can we build relationships?

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- *“The Christianly virtuous person is not thinking about his or her own moral performance. He or she is thinking of Jesus Christ, and of how to love the person next door.”* – N.T. Wright, *After You Believe*

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