

8 Principles of Christian Community Development (CCD)

CCD is a bible-based practical approach to poverty alleviation. The strategy was developed by John Perkins in the 1960s. During these early years, Perkins established its three foundational principles: relocation, reconciliation, and redistribution. Today, after 40 years, CCD has eight essential components.

#1 Relocation: Living Among the People

CCD is incarnational ministry. "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us." (Jn 1:14a) Jesus relocated to walk among us in our poverty and need. Likewise, the most effective ministries to the poor require that those who minister to the poor live among them.

#2 Reconciliation: People To God, People To People

Reconciliation is at the heart of the gospel. First, the gospel brings people into right relationship with God, then with other people. This can be summed up in the two commandments: Love God and love your neighbor. (Mt 22:37- 39) Both of which are the hallmarks of any long-term transformative ministry.

#3 Redistribution: Just Distribution of Resources

Relocation infuses a community with new skills, new relationships, and new resources. As this happens, the resources will naturally grow and spread amongst the community, creating avenues to develop jobs, schools, health centers, homeownership, and other long-term enterprises

#4 Leadership Development

Leadership development helps restore the vacuum of moral, spiritual, and economic leadership that is so prevalent in poor communities by raising up indigenous Christian leaders willing to remain in the community, long term. Youth development is essential to this work.

#5 Listening to Community

Initiatives to the poor are often developed by people outside of the community. CCD prioritizes listening to community members. Listening, combined with a focus on current assets and dreams of the indigenous people, produces hope and energy around future initiatives.

#6 Church-Based

The local church is essential. No other "organization" is better suited to whole-person ministry.

#7 Wholistic Approach

Evangelism and discipleship are the most essential element of CCD. However, CCD focuses on more than the spiritual. It also cares for social, economic, political, cultural, emotional, physical, moral, judicial, educational, and familial issues.

8 Empowerment

Empowering people to meet their own needs instead of creating dependency is an important element of CCD and true biblical empowerment.