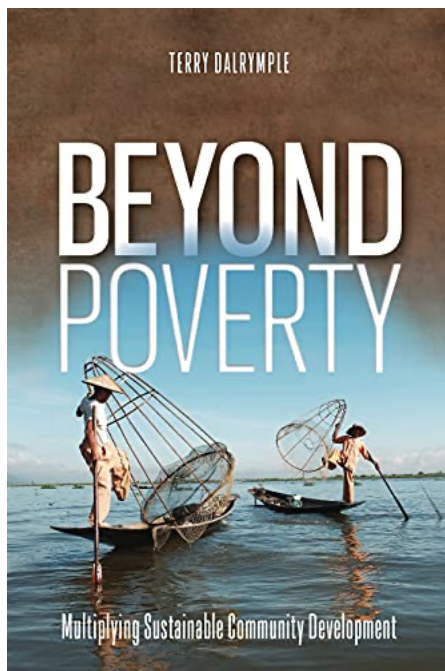


Beyond Poverty: Multiplying Sustainable Community Development

By Terry Dalrymple

William Carey Library, 2021, 222 eBook Pages



Summary

This book presents key principles, cases studies, and proven strategies for catalyzing movements that multiply disciples while lifting whole communities out of cycles of poverty and disease (page 15). The purpose of the book is to move beyond doing sustainable development in a single village to starting transformational movements that sweep the countryside. To facilitate such movements, the author discusses the Community Health Evangelism, which integrates Christian discipleship with disease prevention and community-owned development. The author also casts the Million Village Challenge, a vision that equips churches to alleviate poverty, heal the sick, and proclaim the good news of God in a million villages.

Best Illustration

Deborah Ajulu, an African researcher, identifies three kinds of partnerships between the Global North and the Global South: (1) a horse and rider which portrays a situation where the northern “rider” holds the reins and decides the course of action; (2) a cow and milker which portrays a partnership in which the southern farmer “milks” the north for everything he can get; and (3) two oxen equally yoked together which portrays a partnership in which both partners contribute, receive, and pull together toward the same goals. Page 67

Best Idea

The global church is uniquely positioned to meet some of the biggest challenges in the world today. In many remote places, the church is the only institution with the capacity to do what needs to be done. Page 42

Best Take Away

When those who are able-bodied or materially wealthy focus on others’ needs and overlook their strengths and abilities, they treat them as projects rather than people. In the process, they deprive them of dignity, worth, and opportunity. Page 45

Our Recommendation

We recommend this book to pastors, missionaries, and development practitioners. The book offers a balanced and integrated approach to word-and-deed ministry, poverty and disease alleviation with discipleship emphasis, sustainable development, and transformational movement. The book also provides numerous case studies and examples of how the principles and strategies are applied in different village contexts. A helpful feature of the book is an appendix presenting a brief history of the Community Health Evangelism.

Best Quotes

"Initial research using the Multidimensional Index of the United Nations Development Programme indicated that there were approximately 1.6 billion people in the world living in acute poverty and that 1.3 billion of those were living in rural poor villages." Page 14

"The current global poverty line at the World Bank is people living on less than \$1.90 per day." Page 21

"If poverty is a result of broken relationships (with God, self, others, and the rest of creation), then the process for alleviating poverty is a ministry of reconciliation." Page 24

"Wholistic ministry is a thoroughly biblical philosophy of ministry that aims at caring for the whole need of people and seeking transformation of whole communities." Page 26

"Transformation is God's kingdom work. It is a process and an ideal, a present experience and a future hope, a means and an end, a struggle and a victory." Page 35

"The church is God's agent of transformation." Page 39

"Someone has said, 'The worst thing about a disability is that people see it before they see you.'" Page 45

"As those sent to serve the poor, the last thing we want to do is reinforce a belief system that leaves the poor passive and dependent, believing they are victims rather than stewards." Page 48

"Transformational development is not just about improving yields and lengthening life. It is also about restoring dignity, purpose, and vocation in the human person." Page 49

"It is a lack of introspection that often causes the materially rich to be relationally impoverished." Page 54

"An experienced Christian community development worker from the Philippines observed that cleanliness and beautification are often among the first indicators that a community is transforming." Page 61

"While Americans tend to begin with projects and work toward relationship, the majority world begins with relationship and works toward projects." Page 68

"Jesus would take those who had been pushed to the periphery—the suffering, the alienated, and the marginalized—and move them to the center." Page 72

"UNICEF reports that as of 2019, roughly 13.8 million children under the age of 18 lost one or both parents to AIDS-related causes... In 2019, sub-Saharan Africa accounted for approximately 68 percent of people of all ages living with HIV and 88 percent of children and adolescents living with HIV worldwide." Page 75

"The five principles of wholistic transformational ministry are: (1) integration; (2) asset-based development; (3) local ownership; (4) multiplication; and (5) participatory learning." Page 93

"The development workers must avoid the question, 'What do you need?' and ask instead, 'What do you have?'" Page 106

"The problem in our country is that our people view development as something outsiders will do for them rather than something that they will do for themselves." (Liberia Vice President Joseph Boakai) Page 110

"Community ownership from a Christian perspective could be defined as people working together and claiming their God-given responsibility to steward their resources and care for the environment God has entrusted to them." Page 112

"Indonesia, with 265 million people, is the fourth-most populous country in the world, after China, India, and the United States. It has the largest Muslim population, comprising 12.6 percent of the world's Muslims, followed by India (11.1 percent), and Pakistan (10.5 percent)." Page 158

"The Joshua Project identifies 118 people groups in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, 67 of which are classified as unreached as of 2020. Over half (51.3 percent) profess to be Buddhist and 10.2 percent claim to be Christian." Page 167

"With 826 language groups but a total population of only 4.5 million people, Papua New Guinea is the most ethnically and linguistically diverse country on the planet." Page 176

"Many of the world's least reached, and a majority of those with no gospel witness among them, live in these million villages." Page 182

"When the multiplication of trainees stops, the movement stalls out." Page 184

"The four commitments of a change-maker are: (1) following Jesus; (2) bringing evangelism and compassion together; (3) committing to the poor and marginalized; and (4) collaborating with the Body of Christ." Page 189

"If my father's generation neglected social action in their fight against the social gospel, my son's generation will neglect evangelism in favor of social action." Page 192

"Collaborating together broadens our perspectives, reduces duplication of effort, increases efficiency, and gives us access to innovations and best practices.... Collaboration gives us the power to do together what no one of us can do alone." Page 195

"Organizations with the foresight and discipline to invest in partnerships with others will lead the way in the future." Page 196

[Listen to the interview](#) with the author here.

