

Missions & The Poor

Christian Ministry Class
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Four Questions

- ◆ What does it mean to be poor?
- ◆ What is the basis for our concern?
- ◆ What are the best ways to help?
- ◆ What is Xenos doing?

Books on Poverty

Walking With The Poor
(Bryant Myers)

When Helping Hurts
(Steve Corbett & Brian Fikkert)

Beyond Charity
(John Perkins)

The Hole in our Gospel
(Richard Stearns)

Money, Possessions & Eternity
(Randy Alcorn)

What does it mean to be poor?

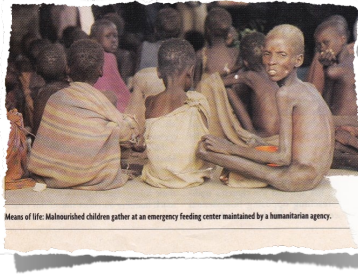
2013 POVERTY GUIDELINES FOR THE 48 CONTIGUOUS STATES AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Persons in family/household	Poverty guideline
1	\$11,490
2	15,510
3	19,530
4	23,550
5	27,570
6	31,590
7	35,610
8	39,630

For families/households with more than 8 persons, add \$4,020 for each additional person.

What does it mean to be poor?

The poor are people.



Means of life Malnourished children gather at an emergency feeding center maintained by a humanitarian agency.

Face in a Magazine

A symbol of injustice
Skin and bones without meat
Are you a real person
Or a face in a magazine?

What substance hides under
Your skeleton, gaunt and hollow?
A spirit, I guess, that outlasts the
body,
A soul and a mind, full hopes and
desires,
Just like mine.

But why the injustice?
It fills me with rage
Grief
Guilt
Helpless hopelessness
For the moment.

It's easy to turn away
To close my eyes
To shut it out
To name you the face in the
magazine.

How many suffer in ways beyond
belief?
How many others haven't I seen?
Are you the only face in a magazine?

Lord Jesus, come soon, redeem
Us from ourselves, our rage
Grief
Guilt
Helpless hopelessness
Forever.

What does it mean to be poor?

The poor are people.

"The world tends to view the poor as a group that is helpless; thus we give ourselves permission to play god in the lives of the poor. The poor become nameless, and this invites us to treat them as objects of our compassion, as a thing to which we can do what we believe is best... Whenever we reduce poor people from names to abstractions we add to their poverty and impoverish ourselves." (Meyer 57-58)

What does it mean to be poor?

The poor are people.

"...many Americans look at the poor with disgust.... As Susan Fiske, a Princeton professor who has studied people's attitudes toward the poor for more than a decade, told me on Friday:

'The stereotypes of poor people in the United States are among the most negative prejudices that we have. And people basically view particularly homeless people as having no redeeming qualities — there's not the competence for anything, not having good intentions and not being trustworthy.'

Fiske's research shows that people respond not only to the poor and homeless with revulsion, but they also react negatively to people they perceive as undocumented immigrants — essentially anyone without an address." ("A Town Without Pity" - NYT, Charles Blow, August 9, 2013)

What does it mean to be poor?

The poor are people.

Teach those who are rich in this world not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which is so unreliable. Their trust should be in God, who richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment. Tell them to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works and generous to those in need, always being ready to share with others.

1 Timothy 6:17-18

What does it mean to be poor?

The poor are people.

For what gives you the right to make such a judgment? What do you have that God hasn't given you? And if everything you have is from God, why boast as though it were not a gift?

1 Corinthians 4:7

What does it mean to be poor?

The poor are people.

My dear brothers and sisters, how can you claim to have faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ if you favor some people over others? For example, suppose someone comes into your meeting dressed in fancy clothes and expensive jewelry, and another comes in who is poor and dressed in dirty clothes. If you give special attention and a good seat to the rich person, but you say to the poor one, "You can stand over there, or else sit on the floor"—well, doesn't this discrimination show that your judgments are guided by evil motives? Listen to me, dear brothers and sisters. Hasn't God chosen the poor in this world to be rich in faith? Aren't they the ones who will inherit the Kingdom he promised to those who love him? But you dishonor the poor!

James 2:1-7

What does it mean to be poor?

The poor are people.

Then he said, "Beware! Guard against every kind of greed. Life is not measured by how much you own."

Then he told them a story: "A rich man had a fertile farm that produced fine crops. He said to himself, 'What should I do? I don't have room for all my crops.' Then he said, 'I know! I'll tear down my barns and build bigger ones. Then I'll have room enough to store all my wheat and other goods. And I'll sit back and say to myself, 'My friend, you have enough stored away for years to come. Now take it easy! Eat, drink, and be merry!'"

"But God said to him, 'You fool! You will die this very night. Then who will get everything you worked for?'"

"Yes, a person is a fool to store up earthly wealth but not have a rich relationship with God."

Luke 12:15-21

What does it mean to be poor?

The poor are people.

Jesus said, "There was a certain rich man who was splendidly clothed in purple and fine linen and who lived each day in luxury. At his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus who was covered with sores..."

Luke 16:19-20

What does it mean to be poor?

The nature of poverty is fundamentally relational.

For a poor person everything is terrible—illness, humiliation, shame. We are cripples; we are afraid of everything; we depend on everyone. No one needs us. We are like garbage that everyone wants to get rid of.

— MOLDOVA

What does it mean to be poor?

The nature of poverty is fundamentally relational.

When I don't have any [food to bring my family], I borrow, mainly from neighbors and friends. I feel ashamed standing before my children when I have nothing to help feed the family. I'm not well when I'm unemployed. It's terrible.

— GUINEA-BISSAU

What does it mean to be poor?

The nature of poverty is fundamentally relational.

During the past two years we have not celebrated any holidays with others. We cannot afford to invite anyone to our house and we feel uncomfortable visiting others without bringing a present. The lack of contact leaves one depressed, creates a constant feeling of unhappiness, and a sense of low self-esteem.

— LATVIA

What does it mean to be poor?

The nature of poverty is fundamentally relational.

When one is poor, she has no say in public, she feels inferior. She has no food, so there is famine in her house; no clothing, and no progress in her family.

— UGANDA

[The poor have] a feeling of powerlessness and an inability to make themselves heard.

— CAMEROON

What does it mean to be poor?

The nature of poverty is fundamentally relational.

"Poverty is the result of relationships that do not work, that are not just, that are not for life, that are not harmonious or enjoyable." (Meyer 86)

The poor are despised even by their neighbors, while the rich have many "friends."
Proverbs 14:20

What does it mean to be poor?

The cause of poverty is fundamentally spiritual.

“Sin is what distorts these relationships. Sin is the root cause of deception, distortion, and domination. When God is on the sidelines or written out of our story, we do not treat each other well.” (Meyer 88)

“There should be no poor among you, for the LORD your God will greatly bless you in the land he is giving you as a special possession. You will receive this blessing if you are careful to obey all the commands of the LORD your God that I am giving you today.”

Deuteronomy 15:4-5

What is the basis for our concern?

OT: *God has a special concern for the poor.*

Those who oppress the poor insult their Maker, but helping the poor honors him.

Proverbs 14:31

What is the basis for our concern?

OT: *God has a special concern for the poor.*

Give generously to the poor, not grudgingly, for the Lord your God will bless you in everything you do.

Deuteronomy 15:10

What is the basis for our concern?

OT: *God has a special concern for the poor.*

Sodom's sins were pride, gluttony, and laziness, while the poor and needy suffered outside her door. She was proud and committed detestable sins, so I wiped her out, as you have seen.

Ezekiel 16:49-50

What is the basis for our concern?

OT: *God has a special concern for the poor.*

6 "No, this is the kind of fasting I want: Free those who are wrongly imprisoned; lighten the burden of those who work for you. Let the oppressed go free, and remove the chains that bind people.

7 Share your food with the hungry, and give shelter to the homeless. Give clothes to those who need them, and do not hide from relatives who need your help.

8 "Then your salvation will come like the dawn, and your wounds will quickly heal. Your godliness will lead you forward, and the glory of the Lord will protect you from behind.

9 Then when you call, the Lord will answer. 'Yes, I am here,' he will quickly reply. "Remove the heavy yoke of oppression. Stop pointing your finger and spreading vicious rumors!

10 Feed the hungry, and help those in trouble. Then your light will shine out from the darkness, and the darkness around you will be as bright as noon.

11 The Lord will guide you continually, giving you water when you are dry and restoring your strength. You will be like a well-watered garden, like an ever-flowing spring.
Isaiah 58:6-11

What is the basis for our concern?

Gospels: *God demonstrates his love for the poor through the teaching and ministry of Jesus.*

You know the generous grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty he could make you rich.

2 Corinthians 8:9

What is the basis for our concern?

Gospels: *God demonstrates his love for the poor through the teaching and ministry of Jesus.*

But Jesus replied, “Foxes have dens to live in, and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place even to lay his head.”

Matthew 8:20

What is the basis for our concern?

Gospels: *God demonstrates his love for the poor through the teaching and ministry of Jesus.*

When he came to the village of Nazareth, his boyhood home, he went as usual to the synagogue on the Sabbath and stood up to read the Scriptures. The scroll of Isaiah the prophet was handed to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where this was written: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, for he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free, and that the time of the Lord’s favor has come.”

Luke 4:16-19

What is the basis for our concern?

Epistles: *God calls the body of Christ to love the poor.*

We know what real love is because Jesus gave up his life for us. So we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters. If someone has enough money to live well and sees a brother or sister in need but shows no compassion—how can God’s love be in that person? Dear children, let’s not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions.

1 John 3:16-18

What is the basis for our concern?

Epistles: *God calls the body of Christ to love the poor.*

Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means caring for orphans and widows in their distress and refusing to let the world corrupt you.

James 1:27

What is the basis for our concern?

Epistles: *God calls the body of Christ to love the poor.*

In fact, James, Peter, and John, who were known as pillars of the church, recognized the gift God had given me, and they accepted Barnabas and me as their co-workers. They encouraged us to keep preaching to the Gentiles, while they continued their work with the Jews. Their only suggestion was that we keep on helping the poor, which I have always been eager to do.

Galatians 2:9-10

What are the best ways to help?

“...one of the biggest problems in many poverty-alleviation efforts is that their design and implementation exacerbates the poverty of being of the economically-rich - their god-complexes - and the poverty of being of the economically poor - their feelings of inferiority and shame.” (Corbett & Fikkert 65)

What are the best ways to help?

Since poverty is a relational & spiritual issue, we can substantially help the poor by...

- leading them to a healthy relationship with Christ
 - helping them to develop a network of healthy relationships within the body of Christ
- and
- equipping them with skills to support themselves and their families

What are the best ways to help?

Relief vs. Development

Relief: *urgent* and *temporary* provision of emergency aid to reduce immediate suffering from a natural or man-made crisis

Development: a *process of ongoing change* that moves both the 'helpers' and the 'helped' closer to right relationship with God, self, others and the environment

What are the best ways to help?

“Churches should help the needy. But ‘helping’ means more than just giving them money or a sack of food. It requires personal attention - our time, skills, and interest. A widow doesn’t just need a check; she needs someone to take her shopping, sit with her, pray with her. She may need someone to mow her lawn, fix her fence, drive her to church. She needs not only material support but also personal support...”

(Alcorn, Randy. Money, Possessions, and Eternity. Tyndale House Publishers. Kindle Edition.)

What are the best ways to help?

Relief vs. Development

Relief: *urgent and temporary* provision of emergency aid to reduce immediate suffering from a natural or man-made crisis

Development: a *process of ongoing change* that moves both the 'helpers' and the 'helped' closer to right relationship with God, self, others and the environment

What are the best ways to help?

Development requires a long-term commitment to **reconciliation**.

... to God “There can be no practice of transformational development that is Christian unless somewhere, in some form, people are hearing the good news of the gospel and being given a chance to respond.” (Meyer 88)

What are the best ways to help?

Development requires a long-term commitment to **reconciliation**.

... to others



What are the best ways to help?

Development requires a long-term commitment to **empowerment**.

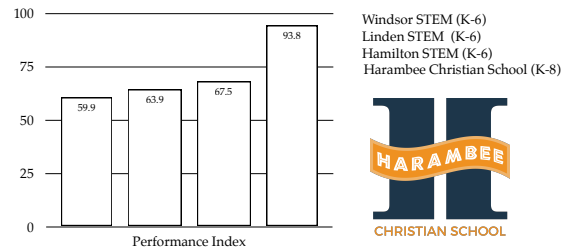
Principle: Do not do for others what they can do for themselves.

Strategy: Train the poor to be aware of their assets and to use them to participate in their own poverty alleviation.

Goal: Reconciled relationships and the ability to earn enough to survive through their own labor.

What are the best ways to help?

Development requires a long-term commitment to **empowerment**.



What are the best ways to help?

Chinese Poem

Go
To the People;
Live among them;
Love them;
Learn from them;
Start from where they are;
Work with them;
Build on what they have.

But of the best leaders,
When the task is
accomplished,
The work completed,
The people all remark:
"We have done it ourselves"



What is Xenos doing?

The Authentic Church

- Absorbs pain
- Proclaims hope in a despairing world
- Points to God's authority
- Brings people together
- Spends lavishly on the needy
- Reflects God's character
- Protects the vulnerable

World Vision

What is Xenos doing?

<http://www.xenos.org/ministry/>

What is Xenos doing?

Bhutanese Refugee Ministry



Kim Geiser
614-823-6500
geiserk@xenos.org

What is Xenos doing?

Central Ohio Youth For Christ **CITY LIFE**

City Life staff and volunteers connect with at-risk teens in Franklinton to share God's truth and to equip them with the tools to experience real life change.



40 Chicago Ave.
Columbus, OH 43222
(614) 410-1898

What is Xenos doing?

Renegade

Mike Sullivan
sullivanm@xenos.org

Patty Young
youngp@xenos.org



What is Xenos doing?



Free Medical Clinics

Bruce Robinson - Xenos
740-403-6857
clinic@xenos.org

Fourth Street Clinic - Mondays - 5:30-9:30pm
Optometry Clinic - 1st & 3rd Monday

West Side Clinic - Tuesdays - 5:30-9:30pm

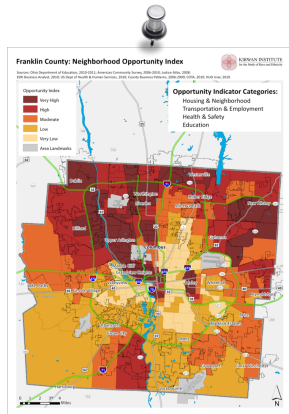
Vineyard/Xenos Dental Clinic - Thursdays - 5:30-8:00 - 171 East 5th Ave.

What is Xenos doing?



*helping inner city youth to overcome
challenges and thrive in the body of Christ*

Michael Larson
larsonm@urbanconcern.org



What is Xenos doing?

All who follow Jesus are called to love and serve the poor.

How is God calling you?
