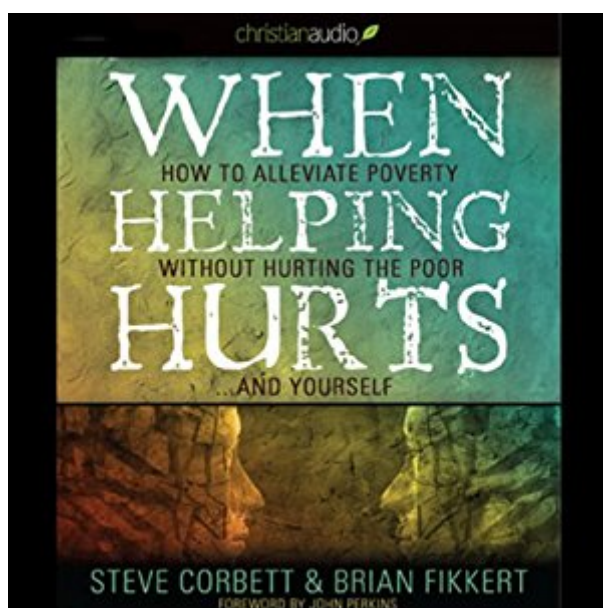


The book was found

When Helping Hurts: How To Alleviate Poverty Without Hurting The Poor...and Yourself (2009 Edition)



Synopsis

Churches and individual Christians typically have faulty assumptions about the causes of poverty, resulting in the use of strategies that do considerable harm to poor people and themselves. When Helping Hurts provides foundational concepts, clearly articulated general principles and relevant applications. The result is an effective and holistic ministry to the poor, not a truncated gospel.

--This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Excellent book that cuts straight to the heart of very difficult and complex issues related to help and aid work. It is thorough enough to be studied like a textbook but still very readable and approachable. It is written with great wisdom and backed by decades of experience but maintains a beautiful heart of humility and compassion for those in need.

Corbett does a good job with this complex subject. As a reader and a church leader I would have liked to have more concrete solutions, but the poverty problem is a complex one and every case is unique. Corbett offers lots of different tools and approaches. Addressing poverty is a long, messy, roll-up-your-sleeves effort. My only disappointment with this book is that it spends a LOT of time dealing with the "majority world" (impoverished in other countries). My church struggles to deal with the impoverished right here in the USA. Even then, many of the tools/techniques/suggestions are applicable in the US. A nice read on a subject that very few churches address well.

How many times have we witnessed well intended short term missions off to South America or Africa leave with a fire in the heart and end up causing more harm than anything? Corbett unpacks themes like the Great Reversal, the effects of social dependence of missionaries and proper discipleship when alleviating poverty. The 2nd edition includes more practical ways of going about in applying the principles discussed in the book.

The people who wrote this book know the international development business. I sense they are the children of those of us who went out in the 60's and 70's to either save or convert the world.. My only criticism of the book is that the focus is narrow, but expected. The book is written for the new breed of Christian people in the world who are not there to convert people to a church but to the message of Jesus Christ. They are to be lauded - these people go out for years, become part of their communities, they listen, they love. But a lot of good people who were not Christian based have gone out in sympathy and empathy to help the world, and they have done a lot of good. That cannot be forgotten. Programs of foreign aid, domestic attempts to alleviate poverty -- yes, there have been many failures. But not all of us who tried failed because we did not first convert people to Christ. A lot of progress has been made by non-Christians, but even for them these lessons are good.

This book can help you understand how to be an effective doer of the Word and not just a hearer. It clearly shows you ways to help others without harming them, by not focusing solely on financial quick fixes but by sacrificing our own precious time in getting to know other individuals and communities so that we can understand their capabilities and help them employ those capabilities to alleviate their own communities' needs and problems. This book is not about how to "fix" the materially poor. Its about how we can walk together, asking God to fix us both. It explains how the typical provider-recipient dynamic can harmfully affirm the provider's sense of superiority and the recipient's sense of inferiority. Its also very encouraging by pointing out things like the explosive growth of christianity in Africa in predominantly poor communities. (I love how this book recognizes that the fall really happened and that it is wreaking havoc in all of our lives.)

Very insightful book on the pros and cons of the traditional methodology for helping the poor. It offers alternatives to 'giving' that are designed to help the community climb out of their hole rather than just letting them dig deeper and become buried. Primary emphasis is on long term organizations and programs both here in the US and abroad. From a short term mission

perspective, especially where the local language is not spoken, the book provided great insights into potential problems and perhaps ways in which we might influence the people on the ground but has left me wondering what I can do differently when I go overseas to support a local missionary. Overall a good read. This is a must read for all social workers and politicians involved in helping the poor.

I recommend this book as a requirement for ALL short term and long term teams who's goal and ambition is to care for the 'needy', the 'poor' and those experiencing hardships of any kind. I especially like the way the author has the readers examine their own thoughts and actions at the forefront of each chapter and then reevaluate at the end of each chapter. He not only gives gives very tangible examples through stories of others who have learned from their mistakes, but gives concrete examples of how to move forward in a healthy and more productive way. My singles group studied this book together, making learning and application very interesting and fun.

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