

Theological Foundation for Community Development

- **Creation**
- **Fall**
- **Redemption**
- **Perfection**

- Not pie in the sky theory; VERY practical
- Gives context, understanding, purpose
- Holistic transformational community dev.

Creation

- It is a beautiful world
- We are stewards, caretakers
- Our world belongs to God
- Resources available for our use, well being
- Cultural mandate: to develop all aspects of creation, society; fill earth and subdue it

People Made in Image of God

- Inherent, intrinsic worth, dignity
- All people are equal before God
- All people have gifts, capacities, purpose
- All people have calling, vocation
- This identity needs to be restored

Fall

- Choose our own way; be like God
- All relationships are broken, distorted
- Self seeking behaviour everywhere
- Radical nature of evil; real Enemy
- Principalities and powers corrupted
- Injustice, oppression, neglect, abuse
- Only Jesus Christ can overcome

Redemption

The Liberation Story

- God keeps promises
- Death to Life; transformation
- New mindset, just society
- New creation
- Glorify God alone
- Cost of discipleship high for non-poor

Relationships

- With God
- With Self
- With Other People
- With Environment
- All are inter-connected
- All are distorted
- All need to be restored, redeemed; made just and right
- Greatest Commandment about relationships

The Bible

- Bible answers key questions of life
- -who, why, how
- Not just a book; living Word of God
- Speaks to every situation; reads us
- Provide opportunity for marginalized to interpret Bible for themselves; they have advantage
- Poor recognize God's Story as their own
- Starts in garden; ends in a City
- Ends in Victory; hard road
- Holy Spirit empowers

Holism

- All of biblical story reflects holism
- God cares about the details
- “Being With” must precede “Doing”
- With God first, then other people
- physical, emotional, spiritual, economic, political, social, psychological,

Christian Witness

- Christian faith is missionary faith
- Share the Good News
- Gospel message is invitation to relationship, not ideas
- Opportunity to choose new story
- We always witness to someone, something
- Who gets worshipped after development program?
- “Go and Tell” evangelism is top down
- Developmental Approach: provoke questions to which the Gospel is the answer

Christian Witness con't

- People made aware of new reality
- This is the work of God, the Holy Spirit
- Restored relationship with God through Jesus
- Jesus allows other person to set agenda
- Following Jesus; becoming more like Jesus
- Evangelism is process of letting the Gospel permeate every aspect of life
- “Live a life so mysterious that the only explanation is God” (Dorothy Day)