

Session 7 (Re-entry Class 2)

How did the Poverty you saw on the trip affect you?

What feedback do you have for World Renewal?

What's Next?

Poverty Facts

1. There is a difference between poverty in developed countries and poverty in developing countries. For example, the poverty level in the USA is roughly \$12,000 a year, adding \$4,000 per person in the household. Minimum wage in Brazil is less than USD \$4,000, let alone those living in poverty. The official world poverty line is about \$2 a day/ \$750 a year.
2. There are different kinds of poverty: Eric Jensen's "Teaching With Poverty in Mind" lists:
 - a. **Situational** poverty (from a crisis or disaster),
 - b. **Urban and Rural** poverty (Each have their different needs),
 - c. **Generational** poverty (in the family for a while, not equipped to move out of poverty),
 - d. **Absolute** poverty (day-to-day survival),
 - e. **Relative** poverty (not meeting society's average standard of living.)
3. Some poverty is relative, as is wealth, as an internal measurement compared to those around you.
4. The solutions for each kind of poverty is different, and cannot be lumped together.
5. For those in deep global poverty, the main reasons are
 - a. **Decreasing national/local prosperity**
 - b. **Health/death shocks**,
 - c. **Natural disasters**
 - d. **Failure of initiative** (agriculture)
 - e. **Family problems/expenses**
 - e. **Asset depletion**
6. The main reasons for poverty in developed countries are:
 - a. **Divorce/separation**
 - b. **Out-of-wedlock child**
 - c. **Earnings fail.**
7. Poverty is often transient. Most people are in and out of poverty, or kinds of poverty, depending on circumstances, rather than it being a permanent place of destitution.
8. There are often **mind-sets** that go along with how well off you perceive yourself to be. Those in **poverty often value relationships and entertainment** first. Those in **middle class often value work, achievement, and material security**. Those who are **wealthy often value security, privacy, and maintaining their wealth**.
9. The "mind sets" might overgeneralize and stereotype, but everyone has their own rules and values from how they were raised, and they often hinder success in life. (for more, read "Bridges out of Poverty" by Ruby K Payne, Philip DeVol, and Terie Dreussi Smith).
10. To move from poverty to middle class or middle class to materially wealthy "mind-set," an individual may have to give up aspects of their relationships for achievement (at least for some period of time). This isn't easy, and isn't worth it to many people.
11. There are four common ways/reasons why people move out of poverty:
 - a. An **insight, goal, and determination** to change
 - b. A particular **talent or skill**
 - c. A **relationship** with someone who guides and supports them
 - d. The **pain** of living in poverty.
12. "Band-aid" help (go in, fix/build/change something, get out) doesn't help in the long run, although it is necessary in certain situations, especially situational poverty/health issues (ie disaster relief, war, etc.). It reinforces the idea that they can't do it alone (Relief vs. Development).
13. Understand, overall, how blessed we are. If the world were shrunk to 100 people, 7 would have a college degree, 17 couldn't read. 48 people would be living off of \$2 a day or less. 22 would not have electricity, 13 would not have safe drinking water. If you make more than \$35,000 a year, you are in the top 1% of world wealth (google for more)
14. Do you really want to know a little more about poverty? Take the rice and beans or living \$2 a day challenge for a week or a month. Read "Half the Sky."
15. You will (probably) never really know what poverty truly feels like. If you can read and understand this list, you have been given at least a basic education, skills, and resources. You can go out and "experience" poverty, but you always know that if it came down to it, someone would help or somehow you could provide for yourself. Those in deep poverty do not have that assurance.

Feedback

Notes:

Pre-Trip:

- How you heard about the trip
- Assistance with forms (application, tickets...)
- Assistance with fund raising
- Ease of communication when had questions
- Language learning help
- Training in how we think about Mission Trips
- Role delegation and preparedness
- Cultural preparation
- Testimony preparation
- Prayer base building
- Packing support
- Other

During Trip:

- Accommodations
- Transportation
- Food
- Translation help
- Devotions and Debrief
- Organization
- Other:

Post-Trip:

- Closure assistance
- Debriefing the trip
- Preparing for presenting your trip
- Poverty discussion/debriefing
- Practical steps for future involvement
- Other:

Thoughts/ideas on how to improve training for future trips:

CLASS 7 CONTINUING HOMEWORK

1. READ – Missionary blogs, biographies, and newsletters (see the resource list from class 1). Expand your vision of God's work in the world and see where you fit in. Sign up for the weekly newsletter from World Renewal. Follow/friend missionaries on social media.

2. PRAY – Make it a daily habit to pray for the missionaries and church leaders you worked with. Pray alone, and pray with others. Pray for specific people groups or countries. Attend the World Renewal prayer meeting in Greenfield (10am every Thursday).

3. LEARN – Devote yourself to learning more about one or two missionaries. Attend mission conferences. Ask lots of questions. Find out how people are going into unreached areas as tentmakers, using their secular jobs to declare Christ. Take a class on missions.

4. GO – Seek continued opportunities to serve. Perhaps God will lead you into future service as you seek His will, by being a missionary to the people around you where you are now. Maybe you can lead a trip in the future? Who are you advocating for?
(worldrenewal.org/represent-others)