OPENING EXERCISE

Consider the following scenario:

The tsunami that hit Indonesia in December 2004 wiped out many of the small businesses. These small businesses are owned by poor people and serve as their primary source of income. Most of the shops, equipment, materials, and inventory were destroyed. Four months after the tsunami, your church has decided to send a team to assist with the restarting of these small businesses.

Discuss the following questions in groups of approximately five people. If you are reading this book individually, then consider these questions on your own.

1. What will you do to plan and prepare for your trip?
2. What resources will you bring with you?
3. Whom will you choose from your church to go on this trip?
4. What will your team do once it gets there?
5. What will be the specific components of your ministry?
6. How will you implement each component?

Please write down your responses to these questions and store them in a safe place. You will be asked to reflect upon your responses later in the book.

NOTES

CHAPTER 1
Why Did Jesus Come to Earth?

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CHAPTER 2

What's the Problem?

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2. As quoted in Deepa Narayan with Raj Patel, Kai Schafft, Anne Rademacher, Sarah Kock-Schulte, *Voices of the Poor: Can Anyone Hear Us?* (New York: Oxford Univ. Press for the World Bank, 2000), 65.

3. Ibid., 37.

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6. Ibid., 39.

7. Ibid., 35.

8. Ibid., 43.

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10. Ibid., 50.

11. There are many different locations and types of poverty in North America, including inner-city ghettos, rural communities, immigrants, and the new suburban poverty.

12. Cornel West, *Race Matters* (New York: Vintage Books, 1993), 19–20.

13. Defining what is a "sufficient" level of material things is a nontrivial exercise that goes beyond the scope of the present discussion.

14. There is solid scriptural support for the foundational nature of these four relationships. Matthew 22:37–40 teaches us to love God and then others as much as we love ourselves, saying that all the law and the prophets hang on these commands. And the first command

to humans in Genesis 1:28 is to steward the rest of creation.

15. Bryant L. Myers, *Walking with the Poor: Principles and Practices of Transformational Development* (Maryknoll, N.Y.: Orbis Books, 1999), 86.

16. Jayakumar Christian, *Powerlessness of the Poor: Toward an Alternative Kingdom of God Based Paradigm of Response* (Pasadena, Calif.: Fuller Theological Seminary Ph.D. thesis, 1994).

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CHAPTER 3
Are We There Yet?

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CHAPTER 4

Not All Poverty Is Created Equal

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CHAPTER 5

Give Me Your Tired, Your Poor, and Their Assets

1. John P. Kretzmann and John L. McKnight, *Building Communities from the Inside Out: A Path Toward Finding and Mobilizing a Community's Assets* (Chicago: ACTA Publications, 1993).

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5. Bryant, "Broken but Beautiful."

CHAPTER 6

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CHAPTER 7

Doing Short-Term Missions Without Doing Long-Term Harm

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9. See Ruby K. Payne and Bill Ehlig, *What Every Church Member Should Know About Poverty* (Baytown, Tex.: RFT Publishing, 1999).

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CHAPTER 9

And to the Ends of the Earth

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6. An excellent discussion can be found in Gailyn Van Rheenen, *Communicating Christ in Animistic Contexts* (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker, 1991).

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19. The Chalmers Center's Global Fellowship of Trainers program equips people to become trainers of trainers. Find more information at www.chalmers.org.

CHAPTER 10

Excuse Me, Can You Spare Some Change?

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CHAPTER 11

On Your Mark, Get Set, Go!

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2. In particular, see Nicol Turner, John L. McKnight, and John P. Kretzmann, *A Guide to Mapping and Mobilizing the Associations in Local Neighborhoods* (Evanston, IL: The Asset-Based Community Development Institute at Northwestern University, 1999). See especially chapters 1–2.

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4. In particular, see Nicol Turner et al., *A Guide to Mapping and Mobilizing the Associations in Local Neighborhoods*. See especially chapters 3–4.

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6. Robert D. Lupton, *Compassion, Justice, and the Christian Life: Rethinking Ministry to the Poor* (Ventura, CA: Regal Books, 2007), 104–09.

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16. See Mersland, "Innovations in Savings and Credit Groups—Evidence from Kenya."

17. The Chalmers Center is exploring a similar model in West Africa, albeit with some important modifications as well in its ASSET (Advancing Stewardship, Social Enterprise, and Training) Program. Go to www.chalmers.org.

18. See Francis Njoroge et al. *Umoja: Transforming Communities Facilitator's Guide and Co-ordinator's Guide.* Stages 2–5 in this guide are particularly relevant for guiding the community organizing process. Additional helpful PLA tools can be found in Jules N. Pretty, et al., *Participatory Learning and Action: A Trainer's Guide.*

A Final Word: The Most Important Step

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2. Ibid., 107, 132–33.

APPENDIX

The Community Organizing Process in North America

1. This section draws heavily on Mike Green with Henry Moore and John O'Brien, *When People Care Enough to Act: ABCD in Action* (Toronto, Ontario: Inclusion Press, 2006).

2. Ibid. 96–100 discusses the qualities of a good community organizer.

3. Ibid. 102–04 describes the key elements of a learning conversation and provides examples.