



Brazil International Development Institute: *Workshop Objectives*¹

Ted Ward

1. Social Analysis and Critical Reflection

To establish a more thoroughly biblical basis for our understanding the poor, and develop skills in analyzing and describing with a community their context along various dimensions (e.g., social, political, economic, spiritual), as well as interpreting the data:

- a) To examine the biblical data on poverty and poor.
- b) To describe and analyze the “culture of poverty” as found in Brazil.
- c) To evaluate several models of social analysis in order to develop a workable model for better understanding the Brazilian context.
- d) To conduct a community survey of the social, political, and economic sectors with community members, and develop skill in interpreting the survey data with them.

2. Theory and Practice of Development Assistance

To further construct a practice of development ministry that is thoroughly biblical, professional, and culturally appropriate:

- a) To explore the biblical principles related to growth and development on a personal and community level.
- b) To analyze the “barriers” to development in the Brazilian context.
- c) To analyze and evaluate different approaches to development planning in order to develop an integrated model in which evaluation is an essential ingredient in the planning and implementation of development ministry.
- d) To explore the role of the local church in evangelism and development, and evaluate the existing and alternate approaches for working with churches and partner agencies toward holistic development where evangelism is an essential component of the overall process.
- e) To gain skill and confidence in making initial contact with pastors and leaders of local churches, and how to win friends and influence pastors in a community without being “captured” by any single church, as well as how to pull pastoral leadership together for prayer, vision stretching, and goal-setting for holistic ministry in their community.
- f) To explore the role of the facilitator in the development process, and identify the skills most needed by project supervisors and committee staff.
- g) To analyze the concept and use of standards for evaluating ministry, and work through the process of developing standards for at least two areas of development ministry (e.g., Childcare, Evangelism, Development).

¹ Workshop Objectives: Brazil International Development Institute/World Vision International.
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3. Dynamics of Community Organizing

To see community organization as part of a larger “people transformation” process which begins by establishing relationships of trust, working with a community to identify and affirm “felt needs,” and forming a core group within the community to seek solutions:

- a) To develop skill in guiding a community’s reflection on their past, present, and future in a participatory manner which gives serious attention to their perception of needs, resources, barriers, and dreams.
- b) To analyze critical factors in creating environments which are conducive to small group interaction, and to develop skill in leading/guiding small group process.
- c) To develop sensitivity and skill in identifying and working with particular special interest groups (e.g., women, daily laborers, landless, drug addicts, prostitutes, street kids) in a community or region toward the larger long-term goal of facilitating balanced community development.
- d) To develop skill in creating accurate and appropriate evaluation indicators with community members, and equipping community and project members to be able to plan and conduct on-going measurement of community development and monitor progress towards mutually established goals.

4. Evangelism and Development.

To understand evangelism as a vital process component of the overall holistic development process, and to develop skill in facilitating the planning for evangelistic outcomes with community/partner agency members:

- a) See #2.d) and 2.e) above.
- b) To explore the barriers to planning cooperative evangelistic efforts in communities with partner agencies.
- c) To examine case studies of effective and ineffective approaches to integrating evangelism into development planning to discover guidelines and principles for improved practice.
- d) To write a draft of standards for development and evangelism which would guide the integrated planning of evangelism in projects.
- e) To identify the critical issues in planning effective evangelism in development for further exploration and study.

5. Community Cooperation in Economic Enterprise.

To identify and analyze the critical factors involved in helping a community develop cooperative efforts, linkages and structures which would facilitate economic development, and develop skill in helping organize such ventures:

- a) To identify and analyze the critical factors involved in helping a community develop cooperative efforts, linkages and structures, including barriers, along with partner agencies.
- b) To evaluate different types of cooperatives to determine which approaches are possible and best suited to childcare and development ministries carried out in partnership with local churches.

- c) To explore the philosophical/theological issues which arise in thinking through cooperativism (e.g., cultural features, administrative systems, etc.) with churches/partner agencies.
- d) To explore the critical “next steps” in initiating appropriate cooperative efforts and structures in communities.

6. Personal Development.

To examine the biblical principles undergirding our personal responsibility to grow and develop as Christians committed to people development ministry, and explore various approaches to pursue growth and effectiveness as development professionals:

- a) To examine the biblical principles undergirding personal responsibility and accountability for balanced growth in ministry.
- b) To explore various dimensions of our personality/temperament and spiritual giftedness as they relate to or “match” our ministry responsibilities.
- c) To explore various approaches to pursue growth and increased effectiveness as development professionals, including growth plans, study programs, skill building projects, and professional development.
- d) To analyze the limitations inherent within an organizational working environment, and explore ways of effectively dealing (coping) with these tensions, pressures, and changes.