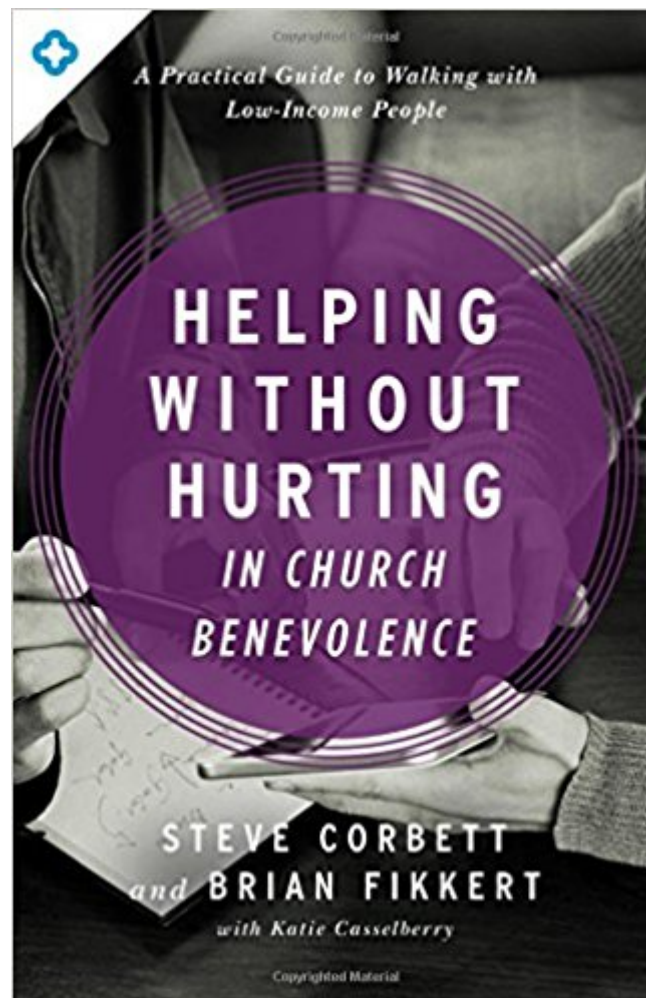




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Helping Without Hurting In Church Benevolence: A Practical Guide To Walking With Low-Income People



Synopsis

When a low-income person asks your church for help, what do you do next? God is extraordinarily generous, and our churches should be, too. Because poverty is complex, however, helping low-income people often requires going beyond meeting their material needs to holistically addressing the roots of their poverty. But on a practical level, how do you move forward in walking with someone who approaches your church for financial help? From the authors of *When Helping Hurts* comes *Helping Without Hurting in Church Benevolence*, a guidebook for church staff, deacons, or volunteers who work with low-income people. Short and to the point, this tool provides foundational principles for poverty alleviation and then addresses practical matters, like: How to structure and focus your benevolence work; How to respond to immediate needs while pursuing long-term solutions; How to mobilize your church to walk with low-income people. With practical stories, forms, and tools for churches to use, *Helping Without Hurting in Church Benevolence* is an all-in-one guide for church leaders and laypeople who want to help the poor in ways that lead to lasting change.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

GOOD INTENTIONS ARE NOT ENOUGH Poverty is extremely complex. So is poverty alleviation. When low-income people seek help, they usually need more than just material goods; they need lasting change. This book helps you address both. **WHEN A LOW-INCOME PERSON ASKS YOUR CHURCH FOR HELP, WHAT DO YOU DO?** From the authors of *When Helping Hurts*, this practical toolkit contains principles for poverty alleviation in the local church context. With resources, tools, and scenarios to help you apply the book, it is an all-in-one guide to the critical parts of achieving

lasting change: Seeing the individual, systemic, and spiritual roots of poverty
Responding to immediate needs while pursuing long-term solutions
Mobilizing your church to walk humbly with low-income people
Designed especially for groups directly engaged with people seeking financial assistance, *Helping Without Hurting* in Church Benevolence will help teams, individuals, and even parachurch ministries tangibly demonstrate the love of Christ. ã

STEVE CORBETT is the Community Development Specialist for the Chalmers Center at Covenant College and an Assistant Professor in the Department of Economics and Community Development at Covenant College. DR. BRIAN FIKKERT is the Founder and Executive Director of the Chalmers Center at Covenant College, as well as a Professor of Economics and Community Development at Covenant College.

This book is very useful IF you are a larger church that can implement a thorough screening process for those seeking funds, with the staff and volunteers ready to "walk alongside" people. Especially if you get a lot of requests from your own members, as opposed to people walking in the door. (The general idea is that this process is so thorough that through-the-door people will be deterred.) The actual worksheet content is included in the book, which is nice, though you'll need to have some hard internal conversations before implementing (Is it really appropriate to ask people to write down their prescription medications?). However, if you don't have the resources to help individuals go through their actual spending receipts, then this book isn't for you. If you're looking for an overall philosophy, the original "When Helping Hurts" book should work for you.

The authors extend their participative redemptive theory of development they set forth in *Helping Without Hurting*, 2nd ed, to one of the most practically difficult arenas of church life today. They strongly resist the default position of just giving handouts to those who come asking for help, especially those who come regularly with the same need or are making the rounds of local churches. While their aim is to get beyond enabling the demeaning, dysfunctional cycle of handouts alone, some thoughtful church stewards of benevolence funds might find the suggestions for ways to ensure that giving actually promotes change to be beyond the time and resources available. What the book does do well is stimulate thought and discussion among those who want to do more for the economically poor than merely throw money at them. I imagine that their ideas for "development" in a community might be more effective if undertaken by a group of local churches who want to agree on an approach. At any rate, the authors are to be commended for an ultimately

compassionate, reasonable approach to an overwhelming need.

These guys know what they are talking about when it comes to serving and helping others, but then actually hurting them. The whole series of these books are amazing and if you are in any role at a church should be read by someone. For some reason money is the focus on everyones mind when we think of helping someone out, this will help you realize it is so much more!

I have been involved in homeless services via a weekly meal for at least five years. Our church hosts an overnight shelter for women and children and every morning our church hosts a warm up breakfast for street people. One of my frustrations has been that it appears that these types of ministry seem to be ineffective at rehabilitation. It is not totally a loss as just yesterday one of our long term guys stated that it was time for him to get sober. But these small victories are rare (for us). I've also always felt that the church should not have to reach out to retailers and government for a hand outs. We should be going to the government offering to help solve the problems of poverty. After all we serve a good and generous God. I've also felt there should be a way truly rehabilitate these guys and gals. Well there is, and the way is outlined in this book. I also recommend the book "Charity Detox" as a companion to this. My biggest take away from this book is learning that I have been misdiagnosing the symptoms and responding in the wrong way.

The book gives you a lot of insight as well as directions for setting up a benevolence ministry. However, if you really really want to get into understanding poverty you must read *When Helping Hurts* by the saame authors. I've learned that there is so much more to poverty and to alleviating it. I look at it now like a cancer we will never be rid of it. Only by the grace of God can poverty be elliminated, and by His power we can minimize it's impact on His followers. Jesus tells us in John 12:8 "You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me."

I like how how everything comes back to restoring relationships, especially people's relationship with God. It is filled with practical suggestions to not only get started in a more comprehensive benevolence ministry but also to develop a fully functioning benevolence ministry. This book is for church staff and lay leaders who want to do more than just help the materially poor pay rent, utilities or buy food.

Anyone interested in serving the poor abroad or locally should read this. I'm reading it now as a

daily devotional to help me stay focused. I love the stories, and looking forward to reading the next book on this topic (When Helping Hurst) by this author. Definitely recommend this.

Very helpful specifics provided in this book that stops entitlement mentality & steps to really help individuals/families walk out of their financial deficit into spiritual & financial wholeness

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