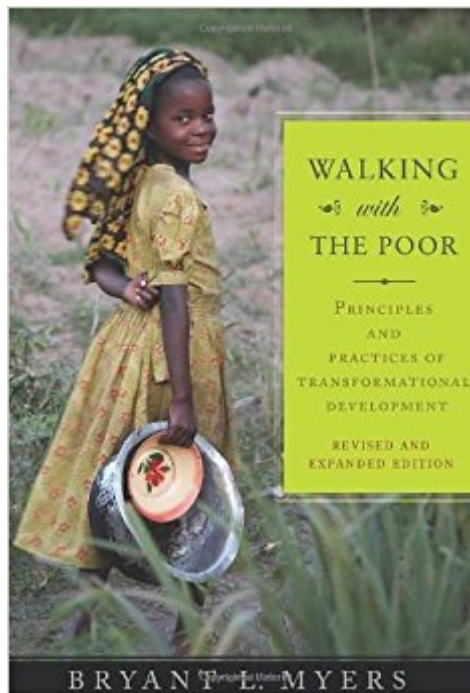




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Walking With The Poor: Principles And Practices Of Transformational Development



Synopsis

In this revised and updated edition of a modern classic, Bryant Myers shows how Christian mission can contribute to dismantling poverty and social evil. Integrating the best principles and practice of the international development community, the thinking and experience of Christian nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and a theological framework for transformational development, Myers demonstrates what is possible when we cease to treat the spiritual and physical domains of life as separate and unrelated.

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Customer Reviews

Bryant Myers is professor of transformational development at Fuller Theological Seminary. A lifelong activist dedicated to Christian relief and development work around the world, Myers served as Vice President for International Program Strategy at World Vision International, where he worked for thirty years. His other books include *The New Changing Context of Global Mission*, and *The Changing Shape of World Mission*

If you're interested in transformation and community development, this is a rich resource, packed with ideas, practical suggestions, methods, and resources, and thought provoking discussion. Myers distinguished transformational from traditional development in terms of his concern for "seeking positive change in the whole of human life materially, socially, and spiritually" (p. 3). Christian witness represents Myers realization that "core values and beliefs of where we get our

understanding of who we are and what we are for. . . these guiding principles shape our understanding of what a better human future is and how we should get there" (p. 3). He noted that his is a Christian in contrast to other belief and/or faith traditions. Topics included: Theology particularly a Biblical framework; poverty including why it exists, various views, causes for poverty and what we know about poverty; Development - survey of what it is and what it does; Synthesis of Biblical perspective, understanding of poverty, and survey of development thinking. Finally, chapters 6 and 7 provide practical tips, tools, and methods for practitioners. A really wonderful compendium of thinking on development and set of practical resources in a single volume!

Myers gives a balanced and holistic view of a Christian approach to transformational development, which focuses on the local community not the agencies "helping", and acknowledges and addresses the whole person within the community (and within aid agencies). Though obviously not a literary classic, this is well-written and readable. Theologically it is orthodox and reformed (though not overtly so, and very accessible to other traditions). If you want to know more about how Christian agencies like World Vision (for whom Myers worked when he wrote the book) can be effective in poor and struggling communities around the world, this is a great starting point.

Very thorough account of the issues and problems in effective transformational development from a Christian perspective. The wisdom and insight offered here are valuable for those seeking to shape a ministry as well as those who want to inspire the people who work within it.

Used this for a semester abroad in Nicaragua where I took a poverty-themed sociology class. Very great book with so much to take in. I would highly recommend it to anyone interested in missions, whether that be in the U.S. or outside of the country.

If you go to the mission field, particularly if you are American and have never been abroad, this is an excellent book to give you an awakening of how to deal with poverty in nations that are not as blessed as we are. Because of our abundance, I feel very guilty when exposed to the poverty and disadvantages that these people are living in and my tendency is to give everything I have because I don't get it. Things come so easily here in the US but not abroad. Well, if you give a man a fish you have fed him for the day, but if you teach him how to fish, then you are feeding him for life. I give myself away, everything knowledge wise that I have learned, so, I give of my time, but I hesitate very much to give money, it does not help the local population to learn to survive in the environment

they are in. I don't want them to become dependent on me. I want them to be able to feed themselves. Catastrophies are another matter, natural disasters, same thing, a helping hand is definitely needed and should be given if you have the ability to provide. I would recommend this book to anyone who is considering going into the mission field for the first time, be it a short term or longer term trip.

This is a very helpful revision and update of a favorite text. We are at present using it during a current course and will be using it again for another course in November. It is helpful for students and teaching staff and will be referred to multiple times by each user. It has wide application for anyone working cross-culturally. Highly recommended.

Opened my mind to development as a holistic ministry in both physical and spiritual realms. Solid work and case studies of World Visions continuing impact on various people groups around the world. Praise the Lord!

Myers begins at the core of developmental work: the developmental worker. By going through the sources and worldviews of developmental workers, depicting the various understandings of poverty, and finally addressing holistic development, Myers gives a great layout for work amongst the poor and non-poor. I want to purchase copies for all of the development organizations and development workers I know!

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