

Faith-Rooted Organizing

Following the Jesus who Transforms the World



Abundant Life

Pay close attention now: I'm creating a new heaven and a new earth. All the earlier troubles, chaos and pain are things of the past, to be forgotten. Look ahead with joy. Anticipate what I am creating; I'll create Jerusalem as sheer joy, create my people as pure delight. I'll take joy in Jerusalem, take delight in my people. No more sounds of weeping in the city, no cries of anguish; No more babies dying in the cradle, or old people who don't enjoy a full lifetime. One hundredth birthdays will be considered normal – anything less will seem like a cheat. They'll build houses and move in. They'll plant fields and eat what they grow. No more building a house that some outsider takes over. No more planting fields that some enemy confiscates. For my people will be as long-lived as trees, my chosen ones will have satisfaction in their work. They won't work and have nothing come of it; they won't have children snatched out from under them. For they themselves are plantings blessed by God, with their children and grandchildren likewise God-blessed. Before they call out, I'll answer. Before they finish speaking, I'll have heard.

Isaiah 65:17-24 (The Message)

Abundant Life – How to Get There

- What does the Lord God require of you, Oh Israel, but to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with your God?
- Good at acts of mercy
- OK at humility
- Concretely doing justice?
- In Scripture, Justice and mercy kiss...if we follow mercy all the way, it takes us to justice

Following mercy to justice...

HOW DOES THE
WORLD
BREAK YOUR HEART?



APOYEMOS AL PASTOR NOE CARIAS QUE ENFRENTA DEPORTACIÓN



Matthew 25
MOVEMENT

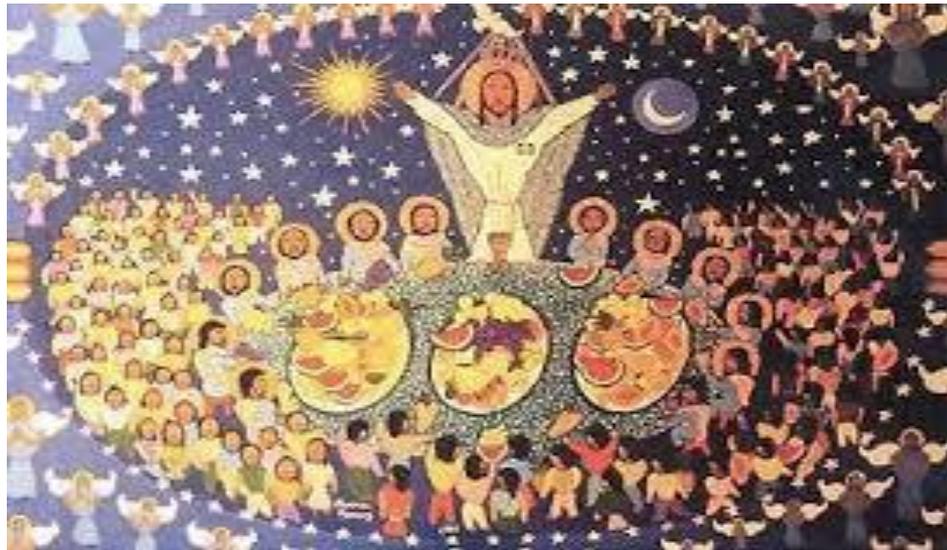


God's Broken Heart

Seeing through the eyes of Jesus

- Matthew 9:35-37: Com-*passion* – Seeing through Jesus' eyes...
- Not invisible any more...Luke 16
- Fully Visible -- Entertaining angels (Hebrews 13:2) and calling the outcasts (Mk. 2:17)
- Brothers and sisters in one Family (Ephesians 3:14-15)
- Now you are the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12-26)
- Seeing the **crowd**
- ❖ How did Jesus respond? He gave it all
- ❖ Intelligent and effective love
- ❖ Not what are we required to give-- What do we have the capacity to give? – the heart of stewardship...

Familia Justice



Leviticus 25

- You shall count off seven weeks^[a] of years, seven times seven years, so that the period of seven weeks of years gives forty-nine years. ⁹ Then you shall have the trumpet sounded loud; on the tenth day of the seventh month—on the day of atonement—you shall have the trumpet sounded throughout all your land. ¹⁰ And you shall hallow the fiftieth year and you shall proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you: you shall return, every one of you, to your property and every one of you to your family.

Isaiah 58

- Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?
⁷ Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them,
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?
⁸ Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;

Luke 4:16-21

- ¹⁶ When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:
- ¹⁸ “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”
- ²⁰ And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

Acts 2:44-47

- All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵ they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds^[i] to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home^[k] and ate their food with glad and generous^[l] hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Responding to a World that Breaks our Hearts -- Tools for Change

- **Giving a Fish** – Direct Service -- doing “for”
- **Teaching people to Fish** – Individual Development
- **Fishing Together** -- Community Development (people doing it for themselves together – alternative systems)
- **Removing the Barrier around the Pond** – Organizing and Advocacy (engaging the systems that affect our lives)
 - ❖ **Systems**– laws, policies, structures
 - ❖ **Democracy** = Participation in public decision-making about systems – vote, voice, influence
 - ❖ **Advocacy** = influencing public decision-making



Giving it All

Direct Service **Community Development** **Broader Systems**

Donations	Tamale Business	Matthew 25
Soup Kitchen	Community Garden	School Lunches
Tutoring	Charter Schools	Equal Quality
Job Training	Coops/Incubators	Redlining
Shelter	“Sweat Equity”	Affordable HD
Parish Nurse	Community Health Clinic	Health Access

Beyond Development - Changing Systems

What is the Problem?	How do you Solve it?
People don't know how to access the services, resources and opportunities that the system provides	Education on how to use civic processes to access legal rights (services, resources and opportunities) –
The people who are most affected do not have the personal support and training necessary to utilize the system	Support group to equip and support the affected to utilize the system, impacting it in the process
The system does not work as justly as it should because different sectors have not worked together to improve it	Collaboration between different sectors to create new policies and structure
The system does not work because the powerful focus on their interests, excluding others from the process	Community works together to move powerful people through critical mass of pressure – confrontation and negotiation
The marginalized are excluded from economic resources	Do all of the above in order to move economic resources into the control of the marginalized – <i>Own the pond</i>
The system is completely ineffective and broken	Transform the processes used to make public decisions through cultural change, popular education and direct action

Components of Organizing

- Goals
- Analysis
- Strategies
- Recruitment
- Leadership Development
- Sustaining the Struggle

Building the Body – 1 Cor. 12:12-27

Justice in the Process

- ² Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For we were all baptized by^[a] one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. ¹⁴ Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.
- ¹⁵ Now if the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸ But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. ¹⁹ If they were all one part, where would the body be? ²⁰ As it is, there are many parts, but one body.
- ²¹ The eye cannot say to the hand, “I don’t need you!” And the head cannot say to the feet, “I don’t need you!” ²² On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³ and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, ²⁴ while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, ²⁵ so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. ²⁶ If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.
- ²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

Power Sharing Acts 6:1-7

- In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jews^[a] among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. ² So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, “It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. ³ Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them ⁴ and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word.”
- ⁵ This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. ⁶ They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.
- ⁷ So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.

Courageous Assessment

Metrics of Power Sharing

- James 1:22-25 – ²² But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. ²³ For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves^[a] in a mirror; ²⁴ for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. ²⁵ But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.
- Who participates and how often?
- Who has decision-making power? How are decision-makers chosen?
- When and where are decisions made?
- Who shares life together? (Who shares secrets?)
- What cultural rituals are observed?
- Are you intimate enough to tell hard truths?

Leaders are part of the Body

FRO Strategies – Divine Purpose of Government

- ¹ Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to a king's son.
² May he judge your people with righteousness,
and your poor with justice.
³ May the mountains yield prosperity for the people,
and the hills, in righteousness.
⁴ May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,
give deliverance to the needy,
and crush the oppressor.
- ¹² For he delivers the needy when they call,
the poor and those who have no helper.
¹³ He has pity on the weak and the needy,
and saves the lives of the needy.
¹⁴ From oppression and violence he redeems their life;
and precious is their blood in his sight. (Psalm 72)

FRO Goals/Analysis

- Beyond issues to power, beyond power to the purpose of power
- Spiritual values/principles and dreams/visions
- Turning problem language into dream language
- Naming the lie and the divine truth that combats the lie

Strategies

Case Study:

- Philadelphia tows the cars of people stopped without drivers' licenses or insurance, leaving families stranded in the middle of the night and costing them \$1,000 to pick up the car. In other parts of Pennsylvania, people are given a 30 minute grace period to have a friend pick up the car.
- Richard Ross Jr., Police Commissioner

Mt. 10:18 – Wise as Serpents and Innocent as Doves

- Serpent Wisdom – Luke 18:1-8:
- And he told them a parable, to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart. ² He said, “In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor regarded man; ³ and there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, ‘Vindicate me against my adversary.’ ⁴ For a while he refused; but afterward he said to himself, ‘Though I neither fear God nor regard man, ⁵ yet because this widow bothers me, I will vindicate her, or she will wear me out by her continual coming.’” ⁶ And the Lord said, “Hear what the unrighteous judge says. ⁷ And will not God vindicate his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? ⁸ I tell you, he will vindicate them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of man comes, will he find faith on earth?”

Serpent Power

1. Power = Force of law, Wealth, Influence, Numbers
2. Self-Interest and the Negotiation of Interests
3. Constituency, Connections and Case
4. Direct Communication
5. Indirect Communication
6. Escalation

2 Samuel 12:1-12

- ¹ The LORD sent Nathan to David. When he came to him, he said, “There were two men in a certain town, one rich and the other poor. ² The rich man had a very large number of sheep and cattle, ³ but the poor man had nothing except one little ewe lamb he had bought. He raised it, and it grew up with him and his children. It shared his food, drank from his cup and even slept in his arms. It was like a daughter to him. ⁴ “Now a traveler came to the rich man, but the rich man refrained from taking one of his own sheep or cattle to prepare a meal for the traveler who had come to him. Instead, he took the ewe lamb that belonged to the poor man and prepared it for the one who had come to him.”
- ⁵ David burned with anger against the man and said to Nathan, “As surely as the LORD lives, the man who did this must die! ⁶ He must pay for that lamb four times over, because he did such a thing and had no pity.”
- ⁷ Then Nathan said to David, “You are the man! This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: ‘I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul. ⁸ I gave your master’s house to you, and your master’s wives into your arms. I gave you all Israel and Judah. And if all this had been too little, I would have given you even more. ⁹ Why did you despise the word of the LORD by doing what is evil in his eyes? You struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and took his wife to be your own. You killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. ¹⁰ Now, therefore, the sword will never depart from your house, because you despised me and took the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your own.’
- ¹¹ “This is what the LORD says: ‘Out of your own household I am going to bring calamity on you. Before your very eyes I will take your wives and give them to one who is close to you, and he will sleep with your wives in broad daylight. ¹² You did it in secret, but I will do this thing in broad daylight before all Israel.’”
- ¹³ Then David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the LORD.”
- Nathan replied, “The LORD has taken away your sin. You are not going to die.

Dove Power

- Frederick Douglas – power never cedes power without a struggle vs. the struggle in the soul
- Becoming an ally of the Holy Spirit
- Human beings not targets
- Poor have the power already



Dove Power

- Prayer
- Pastoral Support – Chaplaincy – encouragement
- Prophetic Call:
 1. Re-member the Poor
 2. Dreams and Visions
 3. Exposing and Combatting Lies
 4. Reaching both sides of the Brain (rainbows)

Engaging the Local Church: Discerning your Issue(s)

- Direct Service to Empowered Direct Service to Community Development to Community Organizing and Advocacy
- Finding the sweet spot between you and your neighbors...
- Whose problem? Luke 6:20 -- The prioritization of the perspective of the poor (anawim) for the sake of the common good
- Step #1: La Caminata -- what do you see? Needs and opportunities...

Community Assessment

- Prayer – two by two
- Neighbors
- ❖ What concerns you about this community?
What is the most important problem?
- ❖ What are your dreams for this community?
- ❖ What would you like to see the church do?
- ❖ What could you offer?

Community Assessment

Leaders

- What is the most important problem in the community?
- **What are their dreams for the community?**
- What are the roots of the problem?
- What is the history of solutions and attempts?
- What is being done well? What is not being done?
- Who else is working on this – who are potential partners?
What opportunities do they see?
- Who are the key decision-makers and decisions?
- What would they like to see the church do?
- How could they help?

Sweet Spot Assessment

- ❖ Invite community members to join you
- ❖ Prayer for Discernment
- ❖ Your pieces of fish and bread – assets/debits
- ❖ Kairos/lies/divine truth
- ❖ Niche – who will you partner with?
- ❖ First Steps

Recruitment – Motivating Participation

- Understanding the barriers
- Mobilization vs. Strategic Conversations (vs. Manipulation)
- Faith-Rooted One-on-Ones – Kitchen Table/House Meetings

Called by Name :

- When and where did you first realize that there was a connection between faith and justice?
- Whose pain moves you most?
- What makes your heart sing?
- Where is the connection between your own deep gladness and the world's deep hunger?
- What have you been given that you want to share?
- Are you carrying on a legacy? Passing one on?
- Exercise

Sharing Your Story

- If I am not for myself, who will be? If I am only for myself, who am I? And if not now, when?
Rabbi Hillel
- The Story of Me
- The Story of Us
- The Story of Now
- Suffering, Hope/Dreams, Faith (why I believe it can happen and what sustains me until then)

Developing Leaders

- Risk/Investment/Sacrifice, Support, Acknowledgement
- Training and Mentoring
- Healing the wounds created by oppression and privilege that perpetuate the system – “It” to “I”, “I” to “We” (popular education)
- ❖ Dying before your time – not having the opportunity for abundant life – stunted plant
- ❖ Low self-esteem, fatalism, cycles of denial and explosion, mutual sabotage and support, other species dynamic
- ❖ Entitlement, masks, useless guilt, patronizing
- ❖ Seeing yourself through God’s eyes – curse and blessing exercise

Developing Leadership Teams

- Body of Christ Exercise
- Reflection/Action Cycles/CSE , Laboratory – e.g. public speaking, leading meetings), & Intentional Power-Sharing (strategizing)



Sustaining Leaders

- The Long View
- Supporting Families
- Creating Sabbath
- Victory, Lamentation and Hope
- Renewing Relationships

