

# The Root of Poverty and our Response



Dr. Wess Stafford, the former Compassion International President, had this to say about poverty:

*“At its very core, poverty is a mindset that goes far beyond the tragic circumstances. It is the cruel, destructive message that gets whispered into the ears of millions by the enemy Satan himself: “Give up! You don’t matter. Nobody cares about you. Look around you: Things are terrible. Always have been, always will be. Think back. Your grandfather was a failure. Your parents couldn’t protect or take care of you. Now it’s your turn. You, too, will fail. So just give up!”*



# What is poverty?

- Physical/Economic (money/wealth, food, water, clothes, shelter)
- Emotional (self-worth)
- Social (healthy relationships)
- Spiritual (broken relationship with God)



There are 178 uses  
of the word poor in  
Scripture.



**Matthew 26:6-11** <sup>6</sup> While Jesus was in Bethany in the home of Simon the Leper, <sup>7</sup> a woman came to him with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, which she poured on his head as he was reclining at the table. <sup>8</sup> When the disciples saw this, they were indignant. “Why this waste?” they asked. <sup>9</sup> “This perfume could have been sold at a high price and the money given to the poor.” <sup>10</sup> Aware of this, Jesus said to them, “Why are you bothering this woman? She has done a beautiful thing to me. <sup>11</sup> The poor you will always have with you, but you will not always have me.”





What are some of the ways we see poverty being addressed around the world?





- Relief (short term aid)
- Handouts (short-term, often re-occurring)
- Development Projects (longer term in scope)



An aerial photograph of a body of water, likely a river or lake, heavily polluted with floating trash and debris. The water is dark and murky, with numerous pieces of plastic waste, including bottles, bags, and food containers, scattered across the surface. Some items are partially submerged, while others float on top. The overall scene conveys a sense of environmental neglect and pollution.

**What does the response/involvement  
of the church look like when it  
comes to alleviating poverty?**



- Short Term Mission Trips
  - Make us feel good
  - Give us exposure to global poverty, global needs
- Long Term Missions
  - Make us feel good
  - Time needed to understand culture
  - Language acquisition
  - Need to work with the locals to do this well
  - Culture Shock





- Fundraising projects
  - Make us feel good
  - Sometimes just putting a band aid on the problem
  - Contributing to others better suited to do “on the ground” work
- Acts of Service in the Community
  - Make us feel good
  - Helps us understand the face and plight of those affected by poverty
  - Builds and strengthens relationship
    - With Christ
    - With each other
    - With those who do not yet know Christ





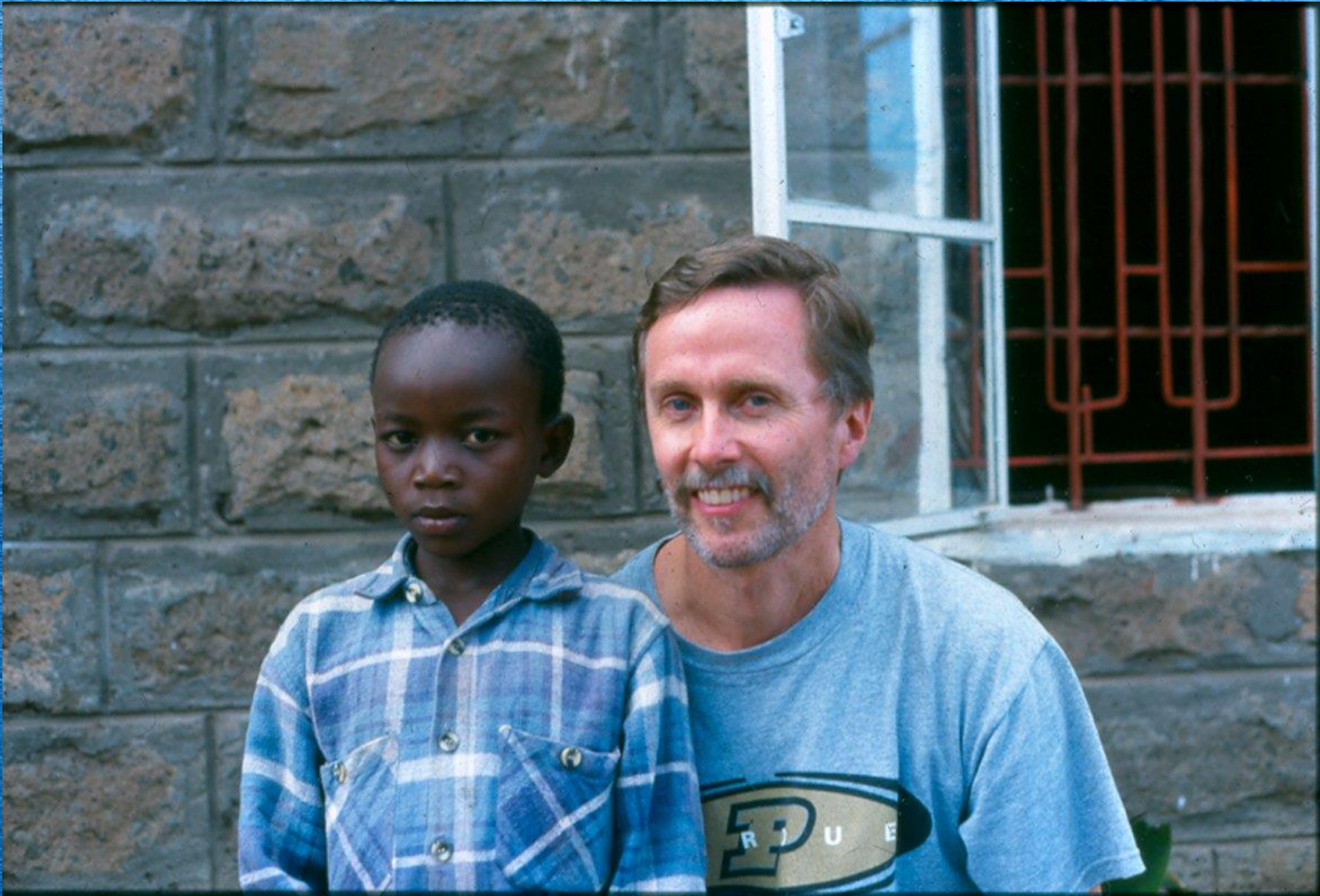
A group of six children are standing on a narrow wooden plank or platform in a slum. The children are of various ages and are dressed in casual clothing. The background shows a cluttered environment with corrugated metal walls, debris, and other structures. The text "Poverty was not a part of God's plan" is overlaid on the image in a white, sans-serif font.

Poverty was not a part of God's plan



# Genesis 3





Meet  
John





That's the  
difference

Hope  
brought  
through  
Jesus