

Book of the Month

June 2010

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

SUN

**When Helping Hurts: How to Alleviate Poverty Without Hurting the Poor and Yourself.
Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert. Moody Publishers. Chicago. 2009.**

Political conservatives and evangelical Christians often get nervous when anyone begins to get passionate about working to alleviate poverty. Won't this lead to socialism, or humanism or a social gospel void of all spiritual impact? Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert have done a great service in calling us again to the biblical mandate to help the poor. They remind us that the narrow road Christ calls us to follow has ditches on both sides. On the left are those who seek a kingdom with the King. On the right are those who seek the King without the kingdom. We must avoid both ditches and respond biblically to the call to remember the poor in our midst.

This book will make many uncomfortable, exposing the naïve ways Christians like us often minister to the poor, using methods that are both unhealthy and unbiblical. Striking close to home, the authors candidly discuss how many of our most cherished outreach efforts (food pantries, care funds, short term missions, disaster assistance, etc.) are deeply flawed in their conception and implementation. Sometimes in our zeal to do good, we actually do more harm. Far from merely criticizing the church, however, the authors are pleading with us to develop ministries that are more biblically sound and socially effective.

I wish every ministry leader in our church would read this book. It will confirm that many things we do at LCC are right on, but it will challenge us in many other areas to pause and reflect and find more biblical ways to help the poor both across the street and around the world!

Pastor Stan Key