

Tell me and I forget. Teach me
and I remember. Involve me
and I learn.

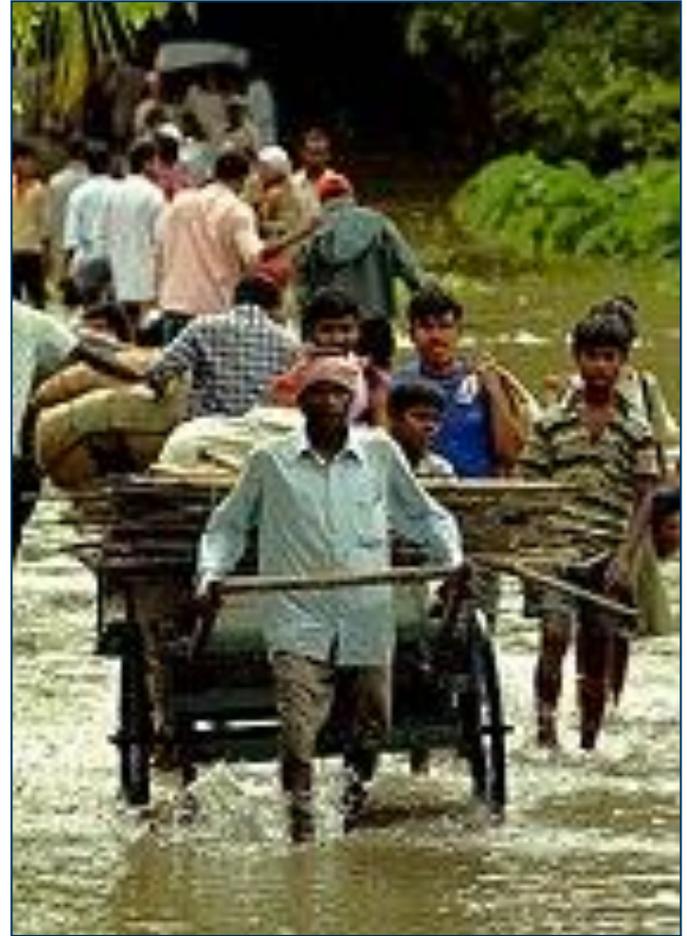
- Benjamin Franklin



1. DO WE COMPOUND THE PROBLEM?

“My own view is that you can change the physical surroundings of people but they can actually be worse off if the change does not also incorporate a continuity of positive and supportive relationships, and the enhancement of dignity.”

Andy Sexton



DO WE COMPOUND THE PROBLEM?

- Do we realise the capacity that exists within the refugees themselves?
- Do we create dependency because of our need to do something, run programmes and spend funds?
- Do we consider better longer term solutions?



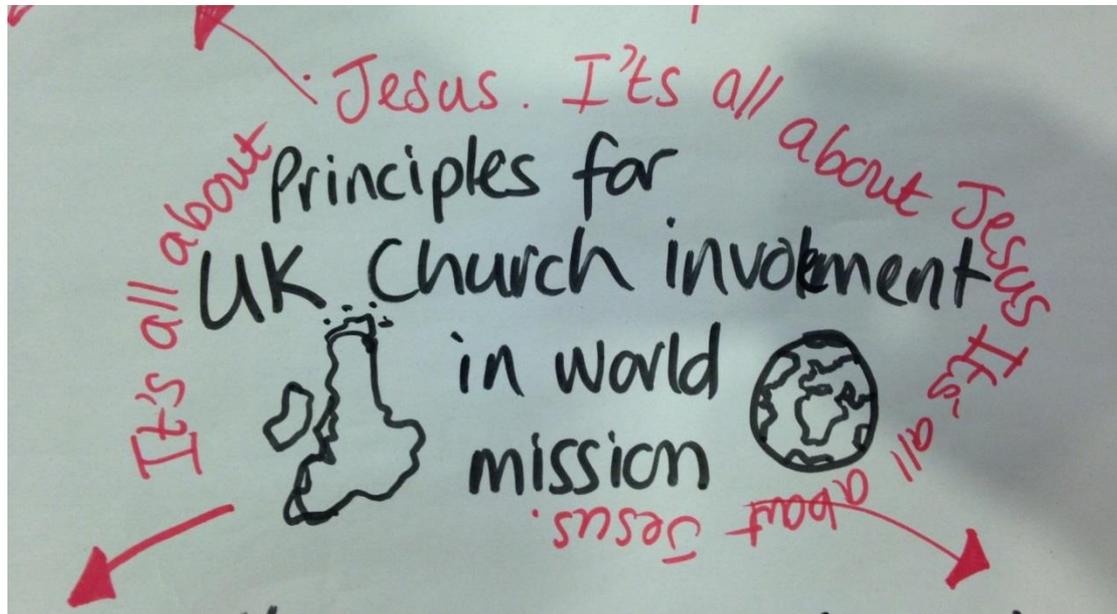
2. IDENTITY AND BELONGING?



Having to
hide who
you want
to be

Secret
Identity

3. THINK RELATIONSHIP/FRIENDSHIP



- Base our relationship with refugees on a footing of friendship, humility, respect, honour..
- Become a listener and a learner – not always the provider and teacher....

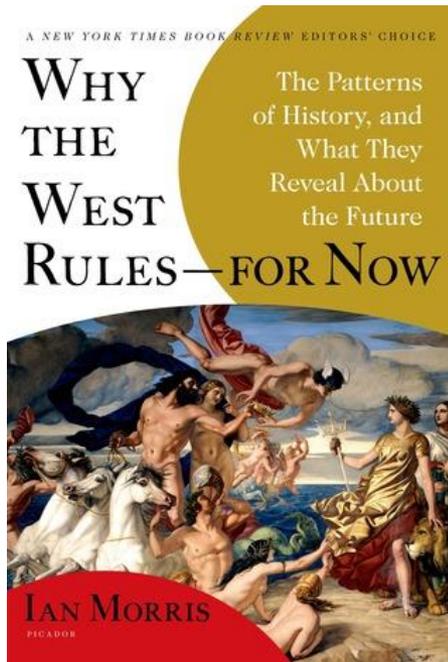
Build Real Relationships

- ***Listen*** to those we want to serve
- Real humility must be the basis of relationship
- Building friendships - put friendship first
- Recognise the power dynamics



The West Rules OK!

“Through all the ages to come the Indian church will rise up in gratitude to attest the heroism and self-denying labours of the missionary body.



You have given your goods to feed the poor. You have given your bodies to be burned.

We also ask for love.

Give us FRIENDS!”

VS Azariah – Edinburgh 1910

4. THINK INTERDEPENDENCE

- Interdependency is biblical - characterised by reciprocity and responsibility
- When does “inter-dependence” become dependency for those who have less money, resources and power?
- Dependency focuses on the power of the giver and the weakness of the receiver - reciprocity and responsibility are ignored
- The seeds of unhealthy dependency are planted when the only deal struck in a mission relationship is a one-way flow of resources, whether that be money, training, learning or people.

The Right Approach.....

- All people are made in God's image, with inherent capacity and gifts. Why do we assume that they lose this capacity when they are refugees?
- Why do we assume that we have nothing to learn from them ?



Think participation

- **Participation** is the process by which people are empowered.
- Participation is not really a means of development. It is the goal of development



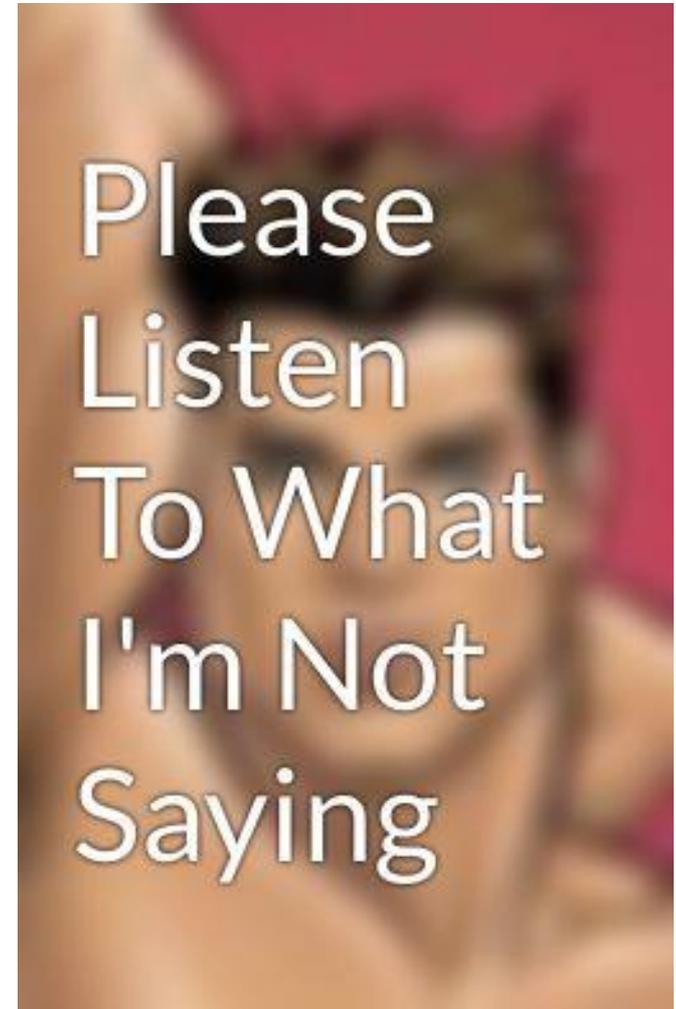
Active participation

- People taking an **active** part in decisions and actions that affect their lives
- Participation recognises that people have worth and dignity, and the capacity to engage



Participation and listening

“People's voices need to be heard and respected and a vision developed which might look very different from the one you come with initially. There needs to be risk taken that God will honor us in treating people with respect above the fear of them leading us down a path that strategically we might find uncomfortable.”



5. THINK SUSTAINABILITY

- Meeting the **needs** of the present without compromising the ability of the future generations to meet their own needs
- More than short or long term impacts
- More than something that will last
- It is about decreasing dependence
- It is about ensuring development goes on.....
- It is about storing treasure.....

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- How can we as a church help to enhance dignity when they are still unregistered, in limbo, have few material assets and dependent on others?
- We need to understand people's needs for identity and belonging. How can the church help in creating identity and belonging?
- How can the church walk alongside as friends, not as aid workers?
- Can the church model a new way of working enhancing people's self-worth?
- Can the church model a new way of meeting needs which is sustainable and maintains dignity?

LEARNING FROM EACH OTHER

- What principles of good practice undergird good refugee responses?
- What issues have you seen that cause refugees to be impacted negatively?