

# CCDA Conference

## September 7-10, 2010

### Notes: Cheryl Broetje



This was the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of CCDA: Christian Community Development Association, founded by Dr. John Perkins, a contemporary of MLK and the civil rights era. CCDA is founded upon a 3 R's philosophy: relocation, redistribution, reconciliation. He is of the belief that it takes an average of 15 years to undo the dysfunctional impact of generational poverty, racism, societal breakdown that impact individuals and families. Are you up for that level of obedience to God?

This year, CCDA chose to focus especially on the theme of immigration, as the new civil rights issue facing us. I was invited to tell the story of Broetje Orchards/Vista Hermosa as part of that focus. 3,000 in attendance this year, in Chicago.

Each day the speakers also focused on one of three segments of the over-arching theme this anniversary year.

- Remember who you are
- Rejoice in the present
- Re-imagine the future

John Perkins taught bible study each morning. A few of his points:

- The best welfare in the world is a J O B. The Church must equip folks for jobs.
- To raise up indigenous leaders you got to touch them! (relocation into the community)
- Ps. 11:3...when the foundations are being destroyed, what can the righteous do?
- God calls us to enter into people's pain and lead them out of it
- Anywhere he sees a lot of churches, he says to himself, there is a place that needs a lot of help! Because most churches are only there for themselves.
- All human problems are solved by human energy. We tend to look at energy emotionally, but not intellectually to solve problems in the community. (**note:** Greenleaf wrote that spirit is energy and when we choose to use it to serve others, that is spiritual leadership-servant leadership).
- God is recruiting a labor force to carry out his will for the benefit of society.

Questions for Reflection:

1. Who are you? Who reminds you of who you are? Using the story of the Lion King, think of Simba and Rafiki, the baboon. Who is your Rafiki?
2. Remember that we are Christians first, citizens of the U.S second. What is our response of love?
3. It is 'cool' to go to Africa. It is not considered cool to try to love/serve the gay community; or the Native American community, or immigrants, or Muslims, or kids murdering kids in our inner cities (72% of their communities, have no father in the home). Are you willing to let God send you to one of these people groups?

Reading Resources:

- [Acts of Faith](#): Eboo Patel, 34, Muslim. Founder: Inter-Faith Youth Corp.
- [Christians at the Border](#): Daniel Carroll. (Guatemalen/American) prof. old testament
- [When Helping Hurts](#): Fikkert, Corbett, Perkins

CCDA Motto: *Go to the people, live among them, love them. Start with what they know. Build on what they have; But of the best leaders, when their task is done, the people will remark: "we have done it ourselves."*