

A vertical decorative bar on the left side of the slide, featuring a green background with various geometric shapes and colors. From top to bottom, it includes a white inverted triangle with a blue border, a red zigzag line, a blue square with a white border, a red zigzag line, a white triangle with a blue border, and a red square with a white border containing a white plus sign and a white arrow pointing right.

# Mentoring for Capacity-Focused Church Based Development

## KEY:

- students sent to locate all the available local assets;
- begin connecting them with one another in ways that multiply their power and effectiveness;
- begin harnessing those local institutions that are not yet available for local development purposes.

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# Three Characteristics of ABCD

1. make and list an inventory of local assets.
2. be Internally Focused.
3. be Relationship Driven.

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# First Characteristic :To make an inventory of local assets

- Inventory of gifts, skills and capacities of *community's residents*. (Including those who are labeled as deficient: disabled, elderly, youth, etc.)
- Inventory of community organizations recognize these groups as indispensable for development.
- Inventory of *institutions* – but they still need to be ‘captured’ for the community.
- *Physical characteristics* – land, buildings, infrastructure upon which the community rests.

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## **Second Characteristic: To be Internally Focused**

- **Concentrate first of all on the problem solving capacity of local residents, associations and institutions**
- **Does not minimize (i) the role that external forces have played in devastating local communities; nor (ii) the need to attract additional resources to these communities**
- **But, stress the primacy of local definition, investment, creativity, hope and control**



# **Third Characteristic: To be Relationship Driven**

- One of the central challenges for community developers is to constantly build and rebuild relationships between and among local residents, associations and institutions
- Challenges the forces that seek to divide on grounds of race, age, tribe, culture – and replaces the individualism of the client-professional relationship with the ‘neighbourhood’ concept





# **Common elements between ABCD and Christian faith**

- **Recognize that all people are made in the image of God. All people are equal and have innate value, whether they are young, aged, disabled, or illiterate**
- **Affirm that all people have a vocation. God has a calling on each person's life that requires them to be an agent - and not a client**
- **Recognise that all people have gifts and talents - which they use to the glory of God both in the Church and in the community**

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# Common elements cont...

- Appreciate the value of work in making us human. We work not just to earn money - but it is a fundamental way in which we participate in the activity of God in the world
- Believe in the fundamental importance of community. Human beings are constituted by belonging - and seek to solve their problems through communal action
- Accept that the church and Christians are 'assets' to the community - the light of the world and the salt of the earth
- Recognize the importance of changing people's attitudes or mind-sets or world-views



# Church as a community asset?

Be “the salt of the earth” (Matt 5:13).

If salt loses its saltiness “it is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot”.

If the church has nothing to offer to the community around it, there would not be much grieving if it disappeared. Salt without saltiness has no use!





# Church as an asset?

## Story of the feeding of the five thousand

Disciples ask Jesus to send the people away for it is late and there is no food... Jesus says: "you give them something to eat" (Matthew 14:16.)

Jesus believed that the disciples had the necessary gifts to feed the people  
Likewise today, the Church must start with what they have. God will multiply



# **Eight assets the Church should offer to the community**

- 1. Trained leadership with a calling and desire to serve people**
- 2. Trained, skilled and committed lay people**
- 3. The gift of moral vision, and a commitment to openness and transparency**
- 4. A primary commitment to people and their well-being**



# **Eight assets... cont.**

- 5. Property and materials that can be used for the benefit of many**
- 6. Economic power - do we spend our church money inside or outside the community?**
- 7. Wider networks of information and support that help raise concerns at a regional, national, and global level**
- 8. Good-will and respect shown by other role players towards the church and its leadership**



# **Building partnerships**

- Utilised in a selfish way resources lead to community conflict and disintegration!
- A church that wants to be 'the salt of the earth' needs to be linked to other resource centers in the community
- Mutually beneficial partnerships with other organizations, associations, institutions and individuals in the community necessary to turn the resources of the church into community assets
- Combat our selfish and imperialist desire to help the community only on our terms, and see our wider contribution in terms of networking and building relationships.



# Code of conduct and corrective discipline

- Why a biblically based code of conduct?
- Biblical criteria of 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1 for students
- The kind of challenges among students
- How to apply discipline on ethic misbehaviour in a positive corrective way. Examples?
- Involvement of churches when applying discipline?
- The man of God equipped for every good work