

WHAT WORKS?

EVIDENCE ON THE ROLE OF FAITH IN POVERTY REDUCTION

September 20 & 21, 2016 // Yale University



AGENDA: TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

Maurice R. Greenberg Conference Center

TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER(S)
8:00am	Welcome	Matthew Frost , Chair, Joint Learning Initiative on Faith & Local Communities (JLIFLC), former Chief Executive, Tearfund
8:15am	The Need for Evidence Innovations for Poverty Action	Dean Karlan , Professor of Economics, Yale University; Founder and President of Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA)
	<i>In recent decades, trillions of dollars have been spent on programs designed to reduce global poverty, but clear evidence on which programs succeed is rare, and when evidence does exist, decision-makers often do not know about it. IPA exists to bring together leading researchers and these decision-makers to ensure the evidence we create leads to tangible impact on the world. Since our founding in 2002, IPA has worked with more than 400 leading academics to conduct over 600 evaluations in 51 countries. This research has informed hundreds of successful programs that now impact millions of individuals worldwide.</i>	
8:45am	Striving for Impact International Care Ministries	David Sutherland , Chair of the Board, International Care Ministries (ICM)
	<i>International Care Ministries is run by investment bankers who demand results. ICM works with 8,000 Filipino churches and has now graduated 750,000 poor family members from a four-month training program in Values, Health and Livelihood. Based on 50 million data points from before and after surveys, ICM sees substantial improvements in household income, as well as reductions in serious illness and chronic hunger. ICM also observes more church attendance, prayer and other indicia of spirituality. ICM constantly evaluates its results. "We can always do better tomorrow than we did yesterday."</i>	
9:15am	Break	
9:30am	Preliminary Results IPA-ICM Randomized Controlled Trial	Dean Karlan , Founder, IPA and Professor of Economics, Yale University James Choi , Professor, Yale School of Management
	<i>IPA's ground-breaking, randomized controlled trial involved 8,000 families spread across four treatment groups: (1) instruction in Values, Health and Livelihood (integrated), (2) instruction in Health and Livelihood (secular), (3) instruction in Values (religious) and (4) no treatment (control). The RCT results are preliminary, and will be shared for the first time in the United States to a private, closed audience.</i>	
10:15am	Group Discussion: IPA-ICM RCT	

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11:00am	Backstage How was the RCT Organized?	David Sutherland , Chair, ICM Lincoln Lau , Director of Research, IC Sneha Stephen , Research Manager, Innovations for Poverty Action
	<i>Organizing a randomized controlled trial is complicated. Hiring dozens of local enumerators, finding hundreds of pastors who are willing to take a chance on whether they will get a program, encouraging thousands of poor people to each answer 3-5 hours of questions. But with enough preparation it is possible. Learn how it was done in the Philippines.</i>	
11:30am	Goldilocks How much information should a charity gather to evaluate it's effectiveness?	Dean Karlan , Founder, IPA and Professor of Economics, Yale University
	<i>Most charities do not gather enough data to properly evaluate the impact of its programs. But a few charities gather too much. Dean will introduce his new book, "Goldilocks", which sets guidelines for charities to determine just the right amount of data.</i>	
12:00pm	Lunchtime Panel Faith and Public Funding	Moderator: Jean Duff , President, Partnership for Faith & Development; Coordinator, Joint Learning Initiative on Faith & Local Communities Panelists: Mark Brinkmoeller , Director of the Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, USAID Ulrich Nitschke , Head of Sector Program Values, Religion and Development, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) (invited) Adam Taylor , Lead, Faith-based Initiatives, World Bank
	<i>Each year hundreds of billions of dollars of development assistance is invested into the developing nations, but very little formal funding goes to faith-based organizations. That might be changing. Jean Duff runs the Partnership for Faith and Development, which documents and encourages governmental support for faith in action. She also serves as Coordinator of the Joint Learning Initiative on Faith & Local Communities. Jean will moderate this panel of experts from the United Nations, the US government, the German government and the World Bank.</i>	
	<i>"Religious values influence the way billions of people think and act. Eighty per cent of the world's population consider themselves part of a religious community. Their faith and its underlying values are an important source of guidance in their daily lives. To date, however, religion has played only a very minor role in official development policy.... Given their predominantly secular beliefs, development actors are often skeptical and wary when it comes to dealing with religious issues. Yet if we want people to be at the heart of development policy, that policy must reflect their outlook on the world... [BMZ aims] to incorporate religion as an important resource that can help foster sustainable development and peace as part of a wider policy based on common values." –German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), www.giz.de/expertise/html/19043.html.</i>	
2:00pm	Achieving Scale ICM's Pastor Network	David Sutherland , Chair, ICM Lincoln Lau , Director of Research, ICM
	<i>Incorporating faith into development efforts usually requires engagement with local faith communities. But mobilizing thousands of churches is not easy. Too often, local faith leaders disagree among themselves and poverty reduction efforts that rely on churches can disintegrate. The panel presents learnings from ICM's network of 8,000 pastors from a broad range of backgrounds, who have come together for the common goal of tangibly helping their communities. ICM is also heavily investing in a two-year pastor training program that leverages the skills of six established pastor training agencies. ICM is measuring the impact of these "Second Day" strategies by looking for evidence of healthy pastors, healthy churches and healthy congregations.</i>	
2:30pm	Impact Cultivating Hope	Julian Jamison , Senior Behavioral Economist of the Global INsights Initiative (GINI), World Bank Bruce Wydick , Professor of Economics, Program Director of International and Development Economics, University of San Francisco
	<i>Many traditional development agencies focus on tangible solutions to the symptoms of poverty - housing, water wells, businesses, etc. Research is exploring psychosocial interventions to provide a foundation to climb out of poverty. Hope and aspirations may be the building blocks for success. Dr. Karlan will discuss recent research in this area, Dr. Jamison will present the results of cognitive behavioral therapy on crime and violence in Liberia and Dr. Wydick will discuss the practical implications of a faith-based intervention in Mexico.</i>	

3:45pm	Break	
4:00pm	Impact More than Good Intentions	Dean Karlan , <i>Founder, IPA and Professor of Economics, Yale University</i> Chris Udry , <i>Henry J Heinz II Professor of Economics, Yale University</i>
	<i>What are the most effective poverty reduction strategies? Recent evidence is showing surprising results. Dr. Karlan will explain research on microcredit and “graduation” models and Dr Udry will discuss studies on microsavings groups.</i>	
5:15pm	Group Discussion	
6:00pm	End of Day One Sessions	
6:30pm	Dinner Reception	

AGENDA: WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

Dwight Chapel

TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER(S)
8:30am	Welcome	Bishop Efraim Tendero , <i>Secretary-General, World Evangelical Alliance</i> <i>(message by video)</i>
	<i>Greeting from the global head of the World Evangelical Alliance (WEA), the largest international organization of evangelical churches. WEA operates in 129 countries and represents a global congregation of 600 million members.</i>	
8:45am	The Line in the Sand “Saved by Grace”	Ed Stetzer , <i>Executive Director, The Billy Graham Center for Evangelism at Wheaton College</i>
	<i>Many Christian charities minister to both physical as well as spiritual needs. In particular, Evangelicals believe in salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ’s atonement. A widely-respected pastor will explain the dimensions of this theology.</i>	
9:15am	Spiritual Metrics ICM Spiritual Temperature Index	David Sutherland , <i>Chair, ICM</i> Lincoln Lau , <i>Director of Research, ICM</i>
	<i>It is possible to measure progress in overcoming poverty (income), malnutrition (weight and height) and illness (hospital stays). But it is far more difficult to measure spiritual change. Evangelical ministries often use extrinsic indicators (decisions, baptisms, church attendance) which may not reflect intrinsic change. ICM has developed a 50-question “Spiritual Temperature” instrument. This session will explore the strengths and weaknesses of this new tool.</i>	
10:00am	Break	
10:15am	Other Approaches to Spiritual Metrics	Moderator: David Sutherland , <i>Chair, ICM</i> Panelists: Arnie Cole , <i>Director, Center for Bible Engagement</i> Mark Forshaw , <i>Director, Global Scripture Impact</i> Matthew Frost , <i>Chair, JLIFLC; former CEO, Tearfund UK</i> Dan Williams , <i>Director of Spiritual Integration, Hope International</i>
	<i>Many organizations have tried to create objective tools to measure spiritual change. This panel will examine indexes used by Back to the Bible, Global Scripture Impact, Hope International and Tearfund.</i>	
11:15am	Group Discussion: Spiritual Metrics	
12:00 Noon	End of Day Two Sessions	
2:00pm	Spiritual Heritage Tour of Yale Campus (optional)	
	<i>Private tour of the rich spiritual heritage of New Haven and Yale. A two-hour walking tour to explore the Puritan founding of New Haven, the First Great Awakening (Johnathan Edwards), the Second Great Awakening (Timothy Dwight) and the focus on foreign missions (William Borden). A chance to see an original Gutenberg Bible from the 1450s (one of only 21 remaining in the world) and original sermon manuscripts from the 1720s by Jonathan Edwards (often considered America’s foremost theologian).</i>	