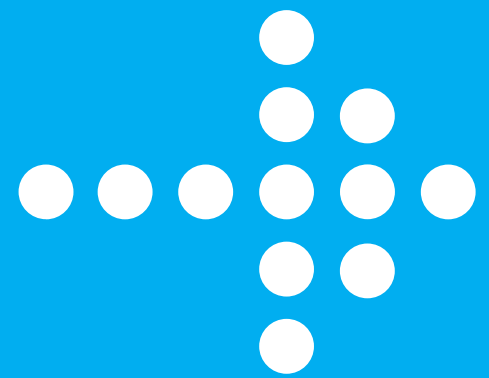




# 700 Million and Counting:



## Your Church's Role in the Fight Against Extreme Poverty

2025 unPredictions Team Playbook

**The Poor Will Be Among Us:** Globally, 700 million people live in extreme poverty. Churches can play a pivotal role in addressing this through partnerships with local and global charities, advocating for social and economic policies, and creating job opportunities.

This playbook is designed to guide church leadership teams in reflecting on and applying insights from the podcast episode featuring Mike Mantel and Jonathan Wiles. It focuses on equipping churches to combat extreme poverty through strategic partnerships, creative initiatives, and discipleship-driven action.

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## Opening Reflection

### Discussion Starter Questions:

- What role does our church currently play in addressing global poverty?
- How can we use our influence to mobilize others in fighting extreme poverty?
- What would success look like for our church in making a tangible impact in this area?

### Key Insight:

The fight against extreme poverty is ongoing, but progress is possible when churches partner with faith-based organizations like Living Water International. By addressing urgent needs such as access to clean water, churches can embody the gospel in transformative ways.

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## Learning from the Experts

### Key Takeaways from Mike Mantel & Jonathan Wiles

- **The Power of Partnership:** Local churches are uniquely positioned to address extreme poverty due to their local knowledge, resources, and influence.
- **Sustainable Solutions:** Long-term, localized programs that involve churches at their core have the most lasting impact.
- **Mutual Transformation:** When U.S. churches partner with global communities, both are transformed through discipleship and cross-cultural learning.

### Discussion Questions:

- How can our church partner with local and global organizations to address poverty effectively?
- What can we learn from the global church about resilience, faith, and service?
- How can fighting poverty deepen the discipleship journey of our congregation?

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## Analyzing Your Church's Strategy

### Exercise: Identify Current Opportunities

- List existing partnerships, programs, or missions that address poverty locally or globally.
- **Discuss:**
  - Are these efforts sustainable and impactful?
  - How can we align these efforts with long-term partnerships like those offered by Living Water International?

### Exercise: Engage the Congregation

- Identify ways to engage your congregation in poverty-focused initiatives.
- **Discuss:**
  - Could we organize an awareness campaign, such as Lent or Advent projects, to focus on global poverty?
  - How can we involve small groups or ministries in practical service or fundraising opportunities?

# Action Steps

## Quick Wins:

- Use tools like Living Water’s resources (water.cc) to educate your church about global poverty and water access.
- Launch a short campaign to raise funds for a water project or similar initiative. (Such as Advent Conspiracy.)
- Organize a community event or walk-a-thon to build awareness and support.

## Long-Term Goals:

- Establish a partnership with Living Water International to sponsor a WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) program area.
- Create a missions plan that integrates global poverty initiatives into your church’s yearly goals.
- Develop discipleship pathways that include serving and learning opportunities related to poverty alleviation.

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# Team Challenge

## Challenge Question:

- What is one practical way we can make a measurable impact in the fight against extreme poverty this year?

## Assignment:

- Each team member identifies a specific role or initiative they can lead to advance the church’s efforts in addressing poverty.

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# Closing Reflection

## Prayer Prompt:

- Pray for wisdom and courage to lead your church in fighting poverty and injustice.
- Pray for the global church to be strengthened in its mission to serve the poor and marginalized.

## Team Commitment:

This week, I will research one organization or opportunity to expand our church’s impact on global poverty and share my findings with the team.

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