

# COMMUNITY RESILIENCE AND INTEGRAL MISSION

DAVID BOAN, PHD

DIRECTOR, HUMANITARIAN ADVOCACY

WORLD EVANGELICAL ALLIANCE

# MODELS OF RESILIENCE

1. Resilience as resisting disaster (DRR)
2. Resilience as personal ability to manage distress
3. Resilience and social capital
4. Resilience as the spiritual integration of moral distress
5. Multi dimensional model of resilience

All models are wrong; But some are useful

As we discuss different models of resilience please consider them in relationship to Integral Mission ...

i.e. do any of these models reflect the praxis of Integral Mission?

If yes, how so?

If no, what does “Integral Resilience” look like?

## RESILIENCE AND DRR

- Based on model from physics – In material science, **resilience** is the ability of a material to absorb energy when it is deformed elastically, and release that energy upon unloading (return to prior state).
- UNISDR - The ability of a system, community or society exposed to hazards to resist, absorb, accommodate, adapt to, transform and recover from the effects of a hazard in a timely and efficient manner, including through the preservation and restoration of its essential basic structures and functions through risk management.

# PSYCHOLOGICAL RESILIENCE

An individual's ability to successfully adapt to life tasks in the face of social disadvantage or highly adverse conditions. Adversity and stress can come in the shape of family or relationship problems, health problems, or workplace and financial worries, among others.

# RESILIENCE AS SOCIAL CAPITAL

- Social capital refers to the social relationships and infrastructure that facilitate individual or community action.
- Newton - Churches create social capital by bringing together people who share a common faith and values and building relationships among them. In the process, the people are informed about the content of their faith identity and how that identity relates to the larger world.
- Brown – “it is largely those churches that espouse a civic culture, where members are exposed to [social and] political discussions and are encouraged to be activists that lead to ... civic engagement.”

# MULTIDIMENSIONAL VIEW OF RESILIENCE

(THE RESILIENCE RESEARCH CENTER)

- Individual factors (problem solving, efficacy, empathy)
- Relationship factors (caring and nurturing relationships)
- Community contexts (access to resources; opportunities for work)
- Cultural factors (cultural and spiritual identity; Accepting and inclusive culture)
- Physical ecology (healthy environment; access to recreation)

But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord,  
whose confidence is in him.

They will be like a tree planted by the water  
that sends out its roots by the stream.

It does not fear when heat comes;  
its leaves are always green.

It has no worries in a year of drought  
and never fails to bear fruit. (Jer. 17:7–8 NIV)





## RESILIENCE AS AN OUTCOME OF SPIRITUAL INTEGRATION (DOEHRING)

- Jeremiah passage suggests that people continue to grow during stressful times when they are deeply rooted in life giving relationships.
- Resilience is neither static nor a personal trait but the product of a relational and dynamic process
- Moral conflict produces distress, reduces resilience (example – Moral injury); Compassionate spiritual care helps people recover from moral conflict

- *John 4:7-17 Jesus and the woman by the well*
- How would you characterize the way Jesus spoke with her?
- Is there an indication she was in a spiritual conflict? Consider her reference to her status, and her reference to no husband.
- Does this seem to be an example of a compassionate but direct discussion of a spiritual conflict?
- Is there any indication of strength on her part after her encounter with Christ?

# RESILIENCE AND INTEGRAL MISSION

*- RETURNING TO OUR FIRST QUESTION...*

- When you think of resilience and integral mission (IM), what comes to mind?
- Do any of these models fit with IM, or any combination, or maybe none?
- When the focus is the church, should resilience be called something else (other than resilience?)

How are integral mission and resilience related?

Is developing resilience a part of the work of IM, i.e. part of the process?

OR

Is resilience one of the outcomes of IM, i.e. it occurs as a natural result of practicing IM?