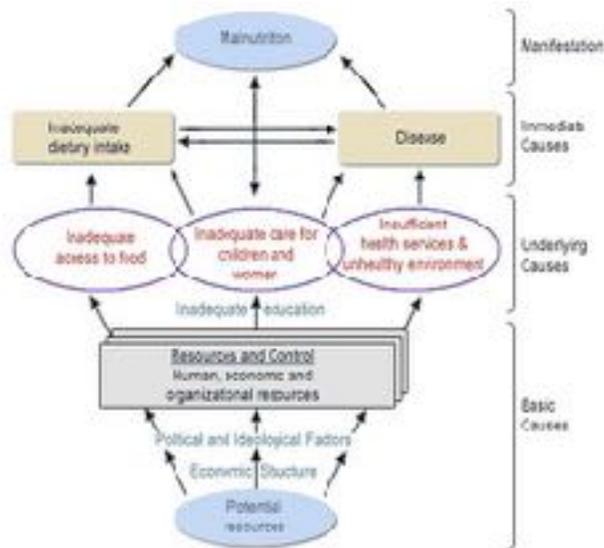


Wednesday Earth Wisdom

Wednesday, January 18



Message From Reclaiming Earth Committee – Wednesday Earth Wisdom:

“The causes of disability and disease around the globe are many, but there are several key drivers: poverty, malnutrition, lack of access to clean water or appropriate medical care ... we have come to understand that when we reach beyond our borders ... we must also discern and respond to the root causes of health disparities. In global health endeavors, we have realized that by doing something that doesn't maintain long-term value is not always better than doing nothing. The typical quick-fix approach does not offer the structural depth and cultural expertise necessary to make lasting improvements ... International work requires formation of strong and meaningful relationships with a network of in-country not-for-profits, hospitals and universities.”

Partnerships Crucial to Sustainable Health Missions
Health Progress Sept-Oct, 2016 (P 25)

Joel Gilbertson, JD, MPH, Providence Health and Services

“We are always capable of going out of ourselves towards the other. Unless we do this, other creatures will not be recognized for their true worth; we are unconcerned about caring for things for the sake of others; we fail to set limits on ourselves in order to avoid the suffering of others or the deterioration of our surroundings ... the rejection of every form of self-centeredness and self-absorption, are essential if we truly wish to care for our brothers and sisters and for the natural environment. These attitudes also attune us to the moral imperative of assessing the impact of our every action and personal decision on the world around us. If we can overcome individualism, we will truly be able to develop a different lifestyle and bring about significant changes in society.” (P 208)

Rejecting any form of self-centeredness and self-absorption can seem daunting if we try to do this on our own. As people of Providence, we profess faith and trust in our Provident God. Have you asked for help? If not, why not? Keep in mind that change usually does not happen overnight. For some of us, change is a life-time process. In what ways have you made changes? How do they impact the poorest of the poor?