

JOHN PERKINS CENTER

Perkins Center PRIZE

HONORING DR. JOHN M. PERKINS

**Who is John Perkins?**

**Dr. John Perkins is an American Christian minister, civil rights activist, Bible teacher, best selling author, philosopher, and community developer. He has given his life to create a better society for all. He is the founder and President Emeritus of the John & Vera Mae Perkins Foundation with his wife, Vera Mae Perkins. Dr. Perkins lived out a particular approach to community engagement, starting with what is known as “the 3 R’s”. These, along with other principles came to be known as Christian Community Development principles, through which Perkins came to co-found the Christian Community Development Association (CCDA).**

*For more information check out* [*John Perkins.*](https://www.jvmpf.org/our-history/)  *For more information on all 8 CCD principles, check out the* [*CCDA*](https://ccda.org/about/philosophy/)*.*

**Reconciliation: People to God and People to People**

Reconciliation is at the core of the gospel and is often summed up in the two commandments from Matthew: Love God and Love thy neighbor. Reconciliation helps to look at Christian discipleship in reconciling people to God and reconciling people to people. It works in building relationships, partnering and working together across social and cultural barriers to work for justice for the entire community.

**Relocation: Living Among the People**

Living out the gospel through relocation means desiring for one’s neighbor and neighbor’s family that which one desires for one’s self and family. It means bettering the quality of other people’s lives spiritually, physically, socially, and emotionally as you would do for your own, even sharing in the suffering and pain of others. By relocating into a community and becoming a neighbor, solutions begin to transform from a “you, them, theirs” perspective and understanding, into a “we, us, ours”.

**Redistribution: A Just Redistribution of Resources**

Being a good neighbor is working towards justice for the entire community and utilizing resources along the way. The redistribution principle is more than economics and is about empowering residence of a community to creatively engage in long-term development, in order to bring about healthy transformation. Redistribution is a look at equity and access, bringing skills, relationships, opportunities, and resources together and putting them at work.