

What I’m reading just now …….. from David Clarkson August 2013

I have three books going at the moment. Rowland Forman, an old friend, has just published a book on mentoring entitled "The Lost Art of Lingering" available on Kindle. It provides some very helpful and practical advice on how to develop “mutual, transformational, spiritual relationships”. I thoroughly recommend it.

The other two books relate to the issue of how western Christians can provide finance for people and projects in the developing world. This has not always been done well even although the intentions were good. Giles Bolton's book "Aid and other Dirty Business" approaches the issue from the macro level of giving by nation states and large corporations. Moving towards the micro level, the perils of giving by individuals and small groups are highlighted in Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert’s book "When Helping Hurts" subtitle "How to alleviate poverty without hurting the poor … and yourself".

Both of these very readable books forced me to look more deeply at the issues and highlighted for me that we have a long way to go to get the giving (and receiving) right.