September 9, 2005

Dear Prospective Student,

Have you ever seen the lonely and despairing look in the eyes of a single mother living in a housing project in one of America’s urban ghettos?

Have you ever seen the flies infesting the sores on a child’s face in a slum in Africa?

Have you ever wanted to be able to do something to help that mother or child?

Me too, and that is why I am so excited to tell you a bit about Covenant’s Community Development major. A truly unique program, the Community Development major prepares Christian young people to minister to the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of low-income people in the United States or overseas.

The major has the following four components:

- **Theological and Theoretical Foundations:** Because how you diagnose the causes of “poverty” has a dramatic impact on the solutions you will offer.
- **Practical Skills:** Because it’s important that you are equipped with the tools you need to be an agent of transformation.
- **3-6 Month Research Internship in a Low-Income Community:** Because it’s one thing to talk about community development; it’s quite another thing to be broken and transformed by living and working with the poor.
- **Senior Synthesis:** Because it’s important to tie together theory, practical skills, research, and experience into a coherent whole.

In cooperation with the Chalmers Center for Economic Development, a cutting-edge research and extension program of Covenant College (www.chalmers.org), God is using the Community Development major to train courageous, Christian servant-leaders for the 21st Century.
But don’t just take my word for it; listen to the words of one of our students after he completed his summer-long research internship in the Philippines:

“If all the Community Development major did was teach people to speak intelligently on the subject of poverty, the benefit to the church would be immeasurable. Name a poverty-related concept...and an academic chorus of easy opinions erupts from the peanut gallery. On the other hand, ask someone to humbly wrestle with that concept amidst the messy world of development. It’s not likely that many folks are going to respond positively, if at all! This is the demand of the Community Development major upon its students: an informed, uncompromising humility in development practice, couched in Scripture and bathed in prayer. Tough work, enduring rewards. Bring it on.”

– Bob Nickles, graduate of the class of 2004, who is now serving with Mission to the World (MTW)

Is it possible that God is calling you to work with “the least of these” (Matthew 25:31-46)? If so, the Community Development major at Covenant College might be for you. I hope you will consider coming for a visit and applying to Covenant.

For more information, visit the Covenant College web site at www.covenant.edu and read about the Department of Economics and Community Development in the academic bulletin. You can also contact the Admissions Office by phone at 888-451-2683 or by email at admissions@covenant.edu. Be sure to ask about our Community Development Scholarship.

May God bless you as you seek the best school to prepare you for effective Kingdom service.

Sincerely in Christ,

Brian Fikkert
Professor, Department of Economics and Community Development