



Disciple Nations Alliance

How Disciple Nations Alliance Transformed Tim Andrews' View of Poverty

For years, Tim Andrews served in senior leadership with World Vision in Africa, overseeing major relief and development programs. With a background in business and project management, he assumed poverty could be solved with money, technology, and good project plans.

"I thought if we had enough funding, the right technical solutions, and solid execution, we could fix poverty."

A Shocking Wake-Up Call



Tim Andrews

That confidence was shattered in Tanzania. At a "graduation" event marking the end of 20 years of World Vision work in one community, the local chief took the microphone, pointed at Tim, and said:

"Shame on you, Mr. Director. World Vision, you are our mother, and we are the suckling babe on your breast. Today you have ripped the baby from its breast and thrown the baby away."

Instead of a mature, self-reliant community, Tim saw a 20-year-old "baby" still dependent on outsiders. This was his first deep crisis: *What went wrong?*

Soon after, in a lush rice-growing area—"like the Garden of Eden"—a farmer told him she would lose 40% of her harvest to rodents and insects, be exploited by middlemen, and still have malnourished children and no school fees. Technically, everything should have worked. In reality, it didn't.

"If anywhere should be wealthy, it is here. And yet the devil is still in control."

Discovering the Biblical Worldview

Searching for answers, Tim encountered Disciple Nations Alliance teaching and African practitioners like Dennis Tongoi and others in Kenya. Through their training and DNA-

inspired materials, he realized the core problem was not just technical—it was worldview.

He saw that many communities lived with a poverty mindset:

- “My grandfather was poor, my father was poor, I’m poor, and my children will be poor.”
- Fear of witchcraft and ancestral spirits, fatalism, and dependency on government, NGOs, or foreign donors.

By contrast, DNA’s biblical worldview teaching proclaimed:

- People are created in the image of God, with dignity, gifts, and a calling.
- Work is worship (*avodah*), not a curse.
- God calls people to exercise dominion—to steward land, resources, and vocations for His glory.

“It hit me: the real root of poverty is a distorted view of God, ourselves, work, and the world. Technology isn’t enough. We must start with worldview.”

This was Tim’s paradigm shift, birthed through the influence of DNA and its teaching.

Paradigm Shift Opens New Horizons

Based on this new understanding, Tim and his team reordered their entire development approach:

1. Start with worldview: train pastors, local leaders, and villagers in biblical identity, work, stewardship, and dominion.
2. Then introduce improved seeds, simple water and soil conservation, better storage, and new ways of organizing farmers for markets.

The results were dramatic.

In the same rice-growing area, about 9,000 farmers went through this combined process of biblical worldview training plus simple technical and market changes:

- Their collective income jumped from about US\$8 million to US\$19 million in one season—an US\$11 million increase in roughly 11 months.
- Farmers organized themselves, stored grain together, and negotiated as a bloc. Traders now lined up outside their warehouse as farmers chose the highest bidder.

- Men and women began to speak of their dignity as image-bearers of God and their responsibility for their own communities.

“It would have taken World Vision 25 years to bring that much money into the community. They did it themselves in six months, once their worldview changed.”

Global Impact Through World Vision

Because of these outcomes, leaders from World Vision offices worldwide came to Tanzania to see what was happening. Tim helped bring together practitioners influenced by DNA and similar ministries (World Vision, Compassion, Tearfund, etc.) to create a “biblically empowered worldview” curriculum.

Over time:

- This curriculum became an official World Vision project model.
- It spread into about 45 countries, where independent studies found that communities commonly experienced a 10-fold increase in household incomes when development efforts began with biblical worldview and breaking dependency.
- World Vision US launched a major initiative that set aside about US\$100 million over eight years specifically for biblical worldview training, integrating it with savings groups, microfinance, and value-chain work.

“I’m so grateful the Lord used DNA’s biblical worldview teaching to reshape my understanding. It has changed the way World Vision works in scores of countries.”

Continuing the Journey: Root to Fruit

Today, Tim and his wife Terry are leading a new organization, *Root to Fruit*, working with African businesses and organizations to apply the same DNA-style biblical worldview principles in the marketplace—helping leaders see their work as worship, confront harmful cultural beliefs, and build Christ-honoring organizational cultures.

From war zones and famine relief, to national development strategies, to boardrooms and businesses, Tim’s journey is a living testimony to the power of biblical worldview—and to the strategic impact of the Disciple Nations Alliance’s message and training.

“Lasting transformation begins with a change in worldview. That’s the gift DNA gave me—and through me, to many communities and organizations across Africa and beyond.”