



# **BENEVOLENCE MINISTRY GUIDELINES**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Priorities of Assistance	3
First Priority:	
Those Inside the Church Body	3
Second Priority:	
Those Outside the Church Body	6
Financial Assistance Request Form	8

# Priorities of Assistance

The benevolent ministry of Redeemer Fellowship exists to care for the practical and financial needs primarily of those who attend Redeemer (Romans 12:13a), and secondarily of those outside the church body (Romans 12:13b, Galatians 6:10).

## First Priority: Those Inside the Church Body

To be in the church body requires one to be an active member/attender of Redeemer Fellowship. Being active is defined as participating for at least four to six months in one (or more) of the following:

- A membership class
- Regular attendance on Sunday morning
- Participation on a ministry team
- Participation in a Community Group
- Financial Giving to the church

### Considerations When Receiving Requests from Within the Church Body

Jesus always dispensed truth and grace (John 1:17), so before continuing on, the elders would ask that you consider what it means to be generous and gracious to those in need (Proverbs 19:17) and to speak Gospel truth into their hearts (Matthew 19:21) while extending grace.

Upon receiving requests from those inside the church body who have shown themselves to be active members/attenders of Redeemer Fellowship,

please consider the following before agreeing to any assistance:

- Is this person a widow? If so, have you taking into considerations Paul's admonishments for assistance to widows in 1 Timothy 5:9-16?
- Are they an: orphan, single-parent, unemployed/under-employed, or experiencing a long-term illness?
- Does the person in need have family who could offer financial assistance?

### **Kind/Cause of Need and How to Meet it**

- What Kind of Need is it?

If possible, always avoid writing checks or giving cash if a gift card would meet the need. If it's heat/electric bills, mortgage, transportation, home repairs, clothing, car repairs, etc., these should take a higher priority than others for assistance.

- What is the Cause of the Need?

At times the cause of the need will bring about different response if considered. For example, if a man comes and requests financial assistance and the cause is learned to be that his wife just recently moved out and refuses to help pay his bills anymore - why did she move out? Asking such questions may not be invited initially, but if the opportunity arises to dig into the situation, more opportunities to speak Gospel truth into their life could also open up.

- Smoking Habits, Etc.

If they do have these habits in their life, give grace with financial assistance on the first occasion, but if there is a second request for financial assistance, be willing (with Christ-like grace and truth) to be honest and open about their need to drop their habits in order to free up the needed money.

## **Repetition of Need**

- Does the individual(s) continually come for help multiple times a year?  
*If so, would they be willing to sit with an in-house financial advisor?*

## **After First Request: Fill Out a Financial Assistance Form**

This form can be found in the mailbox in the church lobby, or online in our “resources” tab. Once completed, please place the form in Debbie Stengele’s (our church secretary) mailbox, or mail to the Church Office at

Redeemer Fellowship  
Attn: Financial Assistance  
1644 North Bay Ave,  
Toms River NJ 08753

# Second Priority: Those Outside the Church Body

We always want to leave room for the Holy Spirit to move us to give to anyone in our community if they were to approach us with a need. We would ask the stewards over the benevolent ministry to approach each such request with prayer and discretion. Jesus did ask us to be generous to all people (Matthew 5:42, Luke 3:10-11), and we want to take heed as often as we can.

It must be said that historically at Redeemer Fellowship, those outside the church body who have received assistance from the benevolence ministry have seldom committed to:

- allowing the church to minister to their spiritual needs
- seeking regular attendance or participation in the church body
- allowing continued contact after the assistance was received.

We are aware that seeds are planted, and at a later date God can cause the growth (1 Corinthians 3:5-8), and that such a reality of absence after assistance should not keep us from being generous if the Spirit should move us to do so. Nevertheless, due to the reality of our first calling to shepherd and care for the flock among us (example, see Deuteronomy 15:7-8), priority is always first given to the church body.

## ***Considerations When Receiving Requests from Outside the Church Body:***

We would ask that you keep in mind these things when receiving a request from those outside the church body:

- Is it a friend or a relative of someone in our church body that allows for continued follow up?  
*If so, this would seem to provide more opportunity for the Gospel to be shared beyond receiving the gift.*
- Does the person in need have family who could offer financial assistance?
- Are they calling up any other churches in the area for help?  
*If so, this may help you understand the end point of their desire for assistance: to receive and not seek any spiritual assistance.*

- Have you asked the pastors if the individual(s) have sought help or filled out a financial request form in the past from Redeemer?  
*If so, what is the history of their interactions with the church?*



# Financial Assistance Request Form

*\*\*\*We would request that this form be given to those upon discretion, or their second time asking for assistance\*\*\**

Please Answer Each Question Completely and Accurately

## Personal Information

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Today's Date \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse \_\_\_\_\_ Years Married \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # hm \_\_\_\_\_ wk \_\_\_\_\_ cell \_\_\_\_\_

List everyone currently living in your home beside yourself:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

How long have you lived at your current address? \_\_\_\_\_

How long at your previous address? \_\_\_\_\_

## Employment Information

Current Employer \_\_\_\_\_

How long have you worked there? From \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

Previous Employer \_\_\_\_\_



How long did you work there? From \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ to \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

If you are currently unable to work, state why \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Church Membership Information**

How long have you attended Redeemer Fellowship? \_\_\_\_ year(s) \_\_\_\_ month(s)

Are you a member of Redeemer Fellowship? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

Do you attend a Community Group? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

Name of Community Group Leader \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a volunteer at the church? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No Which area(s)? \_\_\_\_\_

List Individuals who you know at Redeemer Fellowship (for reference purposes):

Elder \_\_\_\_\_ Length of Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Ministry leader \_\_\_\_\_ Length of Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

**Financial Information**

What caused your current financial shortcoming? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What steps have you taken to resolve the situation? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

List individuals you have contacted and asked for financial assistance:

Family Member \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Their Response \_\_\_\_\_

Family Member \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Friend(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Their response \_\_\_\_\_

Agencies/Other \_\_\_\_\_

Their Response \_\_\_\_\_

How much money are you requesting? \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Household Expenses & Income Information

<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ PER MONTH</b>	<b>YOUR INCOME</b>	<b>\$ PER MONTH</b>
Rent/Mortgage		Yourself (after taxes)	
Electric		Others in household (after taxes)	
Gas (home)		Child Support	
Water		Unemployment Compensation	
Car Payment(s)		Social Security (SS)	
Car Insurance		Supplemental Security Disability Income (SSDI)	
Gas (auto)		Supplemental Disability Income (SDI)	
Bus fare		Retirement Savings	
Groceries		Food Stamps	
Phone/Cell Phone		Family/Friends Support	
Child Care		Other:	
Child Support		Other:	
Alimony		Other:	
Court Ordered Judgements			
Credit Cards			
Loan Payment			
Doctor or Dentist Bills			
Cable			
Entertainment			
Clothing			
Rentals (i.e. equip./furniture)			
Offering/Tithe			
Other:			
<b>Total:</b>			

Please mail your form to:

**Redeemer Fellowship  
Attn: Financial Assistance  
1644 North Bay Ave  
Toms River, NJ 08724**