Benevolence Team Overview and Training

Biblical Call to Mercy in the Church

*Isaiah 58:6-7*
6 *Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?*
7 Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover him, and not to hide yourself from your own flesh?

*Acts 4:32-35*
32 Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common.
33 And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all.
34 There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold
35 and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

*2 Corinthians 8:8-14*
8 I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine. 9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich. 10 And in this matter I give my judgment: this benefits you, who a year ago started not only to do this work but also to desire to do it. 11 So now finish doing it as well, so that your readiness in desiring it may be matched by your completing it out of what you have. 12 For if the readiness is there, it is acceptable according to what a person has, not according to what he does not have. 13 For I do not mean that others should be eased and you burdened, but that as a matter of fairness 14 your abundance at the present time should supply their need, so that their abundance may supply your need, that there may be fairness.

*James 2:14-17*
14 What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? 15 If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? 17 So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

*1 John 3:16-18*
16 By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. 17 But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? 18 Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

*2 Thessalonians 3:6-12*
6 Now we command you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from any brother who is walking in idleness and not in accord with the tradition that you received from us. 7 For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us, because we were not idle when we were with you, 8 nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you. 9 It was not because we do not have that right, but to give you in ourselves an example to imitate. 10 For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat. 11 For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies. 12 Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living.
Team Mission and Values

• Benevolence Team Mission: To declare and demonstrate the mercy of Jesus by laboring together with our neighbors for their physical, social, emotional, and spiritual reconciliation.

• Values: the essential and enduring guiding principles/attributes that is fundamental to our ministry.
  - Dignity
  - Development (vs. relief)
  - Sustainable Living
  - Relationships

• Process Convictions for Partner Benevolence
  - The church is to help only when the family is unable to do so.
  - Brothers and sisters are first in our priority in terms of caring for the needy. Partners come first, “There should not be a needy person among the saints”
  - Helping those in the body to be able to provide for themselves is the goal. There is dignity in work and providing for ones own needs.
  - It is more blessed to give than receive - It is a blessing to the body to allow them to take part in caring for each other and the heart of the giver is a high concern for pastoral leadership. Giving our body chances to give is blessing them and helping someone move from being a receiver to being a giver is good for them.

• Short-term goals for meeting needs of clients – Show mercy through deed (meet a felt need) and word (share the gospel).

• Long-term goals – see holistic restoration in a person’s life in all realms (physical, social, emotional, spiritual).

Who do we help?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Non-Connected, Non-Attender</th>
<th>Non-Connected, Attender</th>
<th>Partner</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$50 every 6 months</td>
<td>The amount will vary based on the level of involvement</td>
<td>Acts 4:34 – There was not a needy person among them</td>
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- **Financial assistance for partners** and/or people that are already connected to our body through service or missional communities
  - **Goal:** That partners in our body would experience the lavish love and provision of Christ through the expression of his body, the church.
  - **Face:** The campus leadership, elders, deacons, etc. should be the “face” of the help. Ideally, campus teams, MCs, or the person’s existing community will take the lead on meeting the needs with support from our team when needed.
  - **Process:** Any partner request for assistance requires a personal meeting between the partner and campus leadership. (see attached sheet for sample partner benevolence questions)
    - The first place to seek assistance is their family, if they are in the church, this is a development opportunity for the family. (1 Tim 5:8,16)
    - The second place to seek assistance is from their Missional Community. (James 2:14-18, 1 John 3:16-18)
    - The Third place to seek assistance is from other partners at the campus. (especially partners with specific skills or abilities to
help. i.e. Construction, medical, consulting, furniture, etc) (Acts 2:42-47)

- The fourth place to seek assistance is the body at large (reach out to other elders from other campuses looking for help or ideas) (Acts 2:42-47)
- The fifth place to seek assistance is the benevolence team. (Acts 6:1-4, Acts 4:32-35)

**Partner Benevolence Circles of Care**

- **Financial assistance for non-connected, non-attenders.**
  - **Goal:** Do declare and demonstrate the mercy of Christ through meeting needs and building a relationship. The immediate goal would be for them to connect to a church community, and our church is definitely an option for them.
  - **Face:** The benevolence team takes the lead and attempts to build a relationship. (Acts 6:1-4)
  - **Process:**
    - Process for everyone is to complete an intake form and wait for a call to schedule a Sunday appointment with a team member.
    - The Benevolence Team determines who should meet with them and assigns 2 people to set up the appointment (almost always on a Sunday)
    - Note: We only help people who come to Sunday appointments, UNLESS...
      - They absolutely cannot meet on Sundays.
      - We are working in coordination with another case manager or ministry that has an existing relationship (ex: Webb or Reagan Family Resource Center, Adult Protective
• We are working in coordination with campus leaders or an MC.

- Benevolence team will determine the best form of assistance and process the payment. We can provide:
  • Financial: Up to $50 toward a need every 6 months
  • Other material needs: Mobilize the body to collect donated items, deliver meals, provide transportation, help move or run errands, etc.
  • Connection to other resources: Aunt Bertha, Recovery, Counselling, other programs and personal networks (note: most clients are more familiar with resources that we are)
  • Emotional: Genuine personal care and being a friend
  • Spiritual: Sharing the gospel, prayer, spiritual counsel, connecting with our church

- We will not provide:
  • No cash EVER.
  • Hotel rooms
  • Storage units
  • Bus tickets to other cities

- What reasons would cause us to exceed our program giving limits?
  • Is the Spirit directing us to?
  • Is the person willing to engage in meaningful relationship?
  • Will meeting a large need be a tipping point that leads to long-term stability (example: help paying for a deposit on a new apartment)?
  • Are we just another resource or are we a “center of gravity” for a person?
  • Is the person’s situation particularly desperate or urgent?
  • Are we working in cooperation with another organization that has a substantial relationship or that is providing comprehensive case management?

- Financial assistance for non-connected attenders.
  o **Goal:** While our goal is always to meet the needs of our brothers and sisters, our hope and challenge to them is that in meeting the need, they will chose to be more connected with our body and pursue partnership.
  o **Face:** Based on current level of connection, either the campus team or the benevolence team can take the lead. The value is placed on who has the existing relationship.
  o **Process:** Depending on where their level of connectedness, we will use the process of the partner or of the non-connected, non-attender