






# RECOVERY CHURCHES

 **The purpose** of this ministry is to provide a coordinated ministry of recovery to ministry-weary pastors, missionaries, ministry leaders, and the members of their families. We believe the local church is uniquely able to be an effective place for such a ministry if provisions are made for meeting the five needs that come with the traumatic experience of suddenly losing one's ministry. All five needs must be addressed to be an effective program.

Housing	— Where can we live?
Financial	— How can we pay our bills?
Friendships	— Have we lost all our friends?
Job/Career	— Where can I work now? In the future?
Personal	— What went wrong? Can we heal?

 **The goal** is to bring personal recovery growth, and renewed opportunity to serve Christ. A team of people comes alongside to assure that life begins to return to normal for the person and the family. The ability to provide the following help is required of a local church that desires to be involved.

1. Locate adequate/affordable housing for the duration of the recovery.
2. Locate employment opportunities and provide benevolent assistance as needed in order to eliminate financial stress during the healing process.
3. Create a network of friends who can play a significant role in helping the unsettled family establish new daily routines.
4. Identify individuals willing to help in the following areas:
  - ❖ Pastoral / Spiritual Growth
  - ❖ Psychological / Personal & Family Counseling
  - ❖ Financial / Budgeting
5. Provide an administrator/host to see that the process is coordinated and moving toward completion. This team leader will evaluate the progress being made and the effectiveness of the various aspects of the ministry.

 **Three phases**, Relocation, Recovery, and Redirection, are clearly discernible in each case. The time it takes to walk through each phase will vary. No two healing processes are alike. Experience suggests five steps are involved that typically take one to two years to complete.

- Step 1 — Provide housing, secure employment, establish friendships*
- Step 2 — Begin counseling, create a budget, identify additional needs*
- Step 3 — Assess and document progress*
- Step 4 — Complete counseling, expand ministry opportunities, celebrate*
- Step 5 — Explore options for the future, maintain accountability*

*For more information about the Recovery Church Ministry, contact*

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# A TEAM APPROACH TO THE RECOVERY CHURCH MINISTRY

*Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves.*

*A cord of three strands is not quickly broken. Ecclesiastics 4:12*

## **Purpose of the Recovery Church Ministry:**

To provide a coordinated, full-orbed ministry of recovery and restoration to ministry weary pastors and missionaries. The goal is to return these servants of Christ to productivity in the cause of Christ.

## **Basic Concepts of the Recovery Church Ministry:**

- ◆ Unique needs arise when a person suddenly leaves the ministry. Each one must be adequately addressed for healing to begin.
- ◆ A healthy local church is the best community for recovery to occur.
- ◆ A team approach to the ministry of caring for hurting people assures a greater level of success.

## **Benefits of a Team Approach to Recovery:**

- ◆ Wisely divides the care giving responsibilities.
- ◆ Provides a variety of expertise.
- ◆ Establishes a greater number of friendships.
- ◆ Assures wisdom when conflicting priorities require compromises.

## **Expectations of the Team Members:**

- ◆ Love the people they have been called to help.
- ◆ Fulfill their area of responsibility until recovery is complete.
- ◆ Interact with team members and keep team leader informed.
- ◆ Preserve confidentiality and build trust with recovery couple.

## **Expectations of the Recovering Couple:**

- ◆ Demonstrate a genuine desire to recover.
- ◆ Cooperate with each member of the team.
- ◆ Respond to insights and recommendations of the recovery team.
- ◆ Attend worship services and be involved in the life of the church.



### **↑ Hospitality Care Giver/ \*Team Leader**

*Requisites:*

- ✦ Willingness to love others unconditionally, “radically hospitality”.
- ✦ Ability to provide leadership and encouragement to a team.

*Goal:* To provide:

- ✦ Affordable quality housing in a restful setting.
- ✦ Practical and supportive love, especially at the beginning of the process.
- ✦ Leadership to the Recovery Team.

*Steps:*

1. Secure housing for the family.
2. Assure a successful move and pleasant arrival.
3. Build a friendship with the guest family.
4. Oversee the various phases of recovery to assure progress.

### **↑ Vocational Care Giver**

*Requisites:*

- ✦ Ability to identify marketable vocational skills.
- ✦ Well connected in the community.

*Goal:* To provide:

- ✦ Contacts enabling employment as soon as possible.
- ✦ Wisdom in identifying future employment and career options.

*Steps:*

1. Help identify skills and interests of the pastor (spouse).
2. Locate employment opportunities and arrange interviews as needed.
3. Interact with pastor as longer term employment options are considered.

### **↑ Counseling Care Giver (or liaison to counselor)**

*Requisites:*

- ✦ Professionally capable Christian counselor.
- ✦ Appreciation for a team approach to recovery.

*Goal:* To provide:

- ✦ Personal insights that will foster healing of the pastor and the family.
- ✦ Guidance to the team as they seek to understand.

*Steps:*

1. Assess the impact of the recent crisis on the marriage and family.
2. Provide counseling sessions to address appropriate issues.
3. Report significant insights and progress to the recovery team.

## **† Financial Care Giver**

### *Requisites:*

- † Reputation for integrity in handling personal finances.
- † Love for people.

### *Goal:* To provide:

- † Guidance in the area of personal budgeting.
- † Guide the team in regard to assisting the recovery couple financially.

### *Steps:*

1. Assess current financial situation of the couple.
2. Assist in establishing and monitoring an income and outgo budget.
3. Advise the team when financial assistance is needed from other sources.

## **† Pastoral Care Giver**

### *Requisites:*

- † Pastoral experience, typically a pastor on the recovery church staff.
- † Spiritual maturity and scripturally grounded views of grace.

### *Goal:* To help the guest find:

- † Forgiveness of sin.
- † Assurance of God's love and calling.
- † Daily, satisfying walk with Christ.

### *Steps:*

1. Provide opportunities to interact on the impact of being out of ministry.
2. Assist in restoring a healthy relationship with God.
3. Provide ministry opportunities when appropriate and as desired.
4. Assist in steps of forgiveness and reconciliation with others.
5. Support efforts to return to ministry upon completion of recovery.

## **† Prayer Care Giver**

### *Requisites:*

- † Reputation for supporting people and ministries in pray.
- † Capable of respecting confidential information.

### *Goal:* To provide:

- † Prayer support for the recovery couple and the team.

### *Steps:*

1. Get to know the couple and the members of the team.
2. Pray regularly with and for the couple and the team.

## Objectives and Activities:

Stage Objectives	Activities
Stage: Preparation Team Formation Pre-arrival	Recruit Team Leader Create and Orient the Team Participant visits the recovery church Secure housing (and employment?) Recovery Team meets each other
Stage: Relocation Safety & Trust Month 1	Settle into housing and community Begin employment Allow time for family activities Provide encouragement through interaction Recovery team meets weekly
Stage: Insights Practical Foundations Months 2&3	Counseling, initial report to team leader Assess financial needs and create budget Connect with small group Begin meeting with pastoral caregiver Recovery team meets monthly
Stage: Focused Recovery Adjustments Months 4-6	Counseling, comprehensive report to team leader Adjust budget as needed Evaluate housing and employment situations Continue meeting with Pastoral Caregiver Recovery team meets monthly
Stage: Comprehensive Recovery Life Begins to Return to Normal Months 6-12	Team leader monitors progress closely Consider appropriate ministry responsibilities Maintain accountability to counselor and team Increased involvement in the life of the church Recovery team meets as needed
Stage: New directions Exploring the future Months 12-24	Team leader monitors progress Identify on-going counseling recommendations Expand ministry responsibilities Explore career options In discipline cases report to Board of Ministerial Standing

## Recovery Success:

Recovery success comes as we do our ministry with excellence as unto the Lord. The results are in His hands. Success can not be measured by the response of the couple.

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*Dear friend, you are faithful in what you are doing for the brothers, even though they are strangers to you. They have told the church about your love. You will do well to send them on their way in a manner worthy of God. It was for the sake of the Name that they went out, receiving no help from the pagans. We ought therefore to show hospitality to such men so that we may work together for the truth. III John 5-8*

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