

SYNOPSIS: TRANSFORM THE COMMUNITY

Strategically and compassionately mobilizing the Bent Tree body for Jesus to transform the local community with tangible and timely expressions of the extraordinary love of Jesus through us.

“The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’” Matthew 25:40

Transforming the Community involves catalyzing awareness of human-trafficking, homelessness, and food insecurity; strategically partnering with like-minded churches and ministries; and mobilizing people to make tangible changes in the lives of those in our local community.

A BRIEF SKETCH OF THE BIBLICAL BASIS FOR TRANSFORMING THE COMMUNITY

It is Important to Jesus (*Matthew 25:34-40*)

“Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. ³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, ³⁶ I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’ ³⁷ Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? ³⁸ When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you?’ ³⁹ When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’ ⁴⁰ The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’”

It is How God Wants Us to Treat Each Other (*Isaiah 58:7*)

“Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter—when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?”

We Are Called to Serve Each Other (*Galatians 5:13*)

“You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love.”

We Are Able to Put Other's Needs Above Our Own (*Philippians 2:4*)

"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others."

It is Love in Action (*Romans 12:13*)

"Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality."

SOME INITIAL SUGGESTIONS

Ask the Lord To Give You His Thoughts For Those In Need

God's love and compassion are boundless. Seeking alignment with his heart for those who are hungry, homeless, and suffering will produce a depth of empathy and tenderness we can never manufacture on our own.

Educate Yourself On the Needs

The areas we have identified to address are complex. Take time to learn more about each specific area by researching on your own.

Choose a Place To Serve and Engage

After praying and researching, choose a place to actively engage.

Bring Others With You

As you educate yourself on the needs, research available ways to serve, and choose a place to jump in, bring someone along with you to share in the journey and experience sharing the extraordinary love of Jesus.