



Servant's Corner

November 2010



Servant's Corner

November 2010

Befriending People in Need

By Rich Henderson, Director

Having thus a fond affection for you, we were well-pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become very dear to us. 1 Thess. 2:8

What's the best thing that could happen to a poor person? No it's not winning the lotto. From a Biblical perspective the answer is for them to be befriended by a Christian. The Christian could not only help meet their tangible need, they could also share the gospel. Furthermore, the Christian could introduce their new friend to their church where they could receive encouragement and strength.

We tend to like to do "service projects" for people in need. These can be scheduled at our convenience. We can easily excuse ourselves if the work gets too hard. We can put in a few hours work and feel good about ourselves. We don't have to make a meaningful connection with a person in need. After all, this might demand more of us than the token gesture of service that we were prepared to render.

The problem with service projects is they don't bring about any genuine transformation for either party. We, the helpers, remain self-focused and arrogant. Those helped remain isolated, without any meaningful connection with a Christian. Establishing an authentic friendship with a person in need is messier, more time-consuming and harder than doing a service project. However it is the God-ordained way that real transformation takes place.

Befriending People in Need

By Rich Henderson, Director

Having thus a fond affection for you, we were well-pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become very dear to us. 1 Thess. 2:8

What's the best thing that could happen to a poor person? No it's not winning the lotto. From a Biblical perspective the answer is for them to be befriended by a Christian. The Christian could not only help meet their tangible need, they could also share the gospel. Furthermore, the Christian could introduce their new friend to their church where they could receive encouragement and strength.

We tend to like to do "service projects" for people in need. These can be scheduled at our convenience. We can easily excuse ourselves if the work gets too hard. We can put in a few hours work and feel good about ourselves. We don't have to make a meaningful connection with a person in need. After all, this might demand more of us than the token gesture of service that we were prepared to render.

The problem with service projects is they don't bring about any genuine transformation for either party. We, the helpers, remain self-focused and arrogant. Those helped remain isolated, without any meaningful connection with a Christian. Establishing an authentic friendship with a person in need is messier, more time-consuming and harder than doing a service project. However it is the God-ordained way that real transformation takes place.