

## **THE EXTERNALLY FOCUSED CHURCH:**

### **The Power of Service**

#### **Luke 10.30-37**

*“Jesus gave us a new norm of greatness ... He who is greatest among you shall be your servant. That's a new definition of greatness ... You only need a heart full of grace, a soul generated by love.”* Martin Luther King Jr.

Why is service so powerful? Why does service accomplish so much good? Is it really possible that communities can be transformed through service? Wherever churches are engaged in community transformation, the avenue they've chosen lies at the intersection of the *needs and dreams of the city or community, the mandates and desires of God, and the calling and capacity of the church.*

Psalm 127.1; Jeremiah 33.6-9; Luke 13.34; 19.41-42; Isaiah 66.17-25

Luke 60.35; Matthew 5.45; Mark 12.17

1 Timothy 2.1-7

### **The Transformational Point of Common Grace**

*“Service” is the only location that encompasses the needs and dreams of the city, the mandates and desires of God, and the calling and capacity of the church.*

### **The Full Extent of Our Love – John 13.1, 14-15**

Service is always about meeting others' needs or helping others succeed. Service puts the needs of others at least on a par with our own.

*What do you want me to do for you?* Luke 18.41

*Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus.* Philippians 2.5-7

*Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others.*

1 Peter 4.10a

Luke 5.15; 6.18; Matthew 20.28; 25.35-46

### **The Good Samaritan – Luke 10.30-37**

The Samaritan did a number of practical things to be a neighbor to the poor soul who was waylaid outside Jerusalem.

- *First, the good Samaritan didn't avoid the person in need.*
- *Second, the Samaritan offered medical help.*
- *Third, the Samaritan provided transportation by putting the wounded man on his donkey.*
- *Fourth, the Samaritan provided lodging and companionship.*
- *It's interesting that the last thing the Samaritan offered was money (which he gave to the innkeeper).*

### **But What If Nothing Happens?**

*Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people.* Galatians 6.9-10a

*He looked around at them all, and then said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” He did so, and his hand was completely restored. But they were furious and began to discuss with one another what they might do to Jesus.* Luke 6.10-11; Acts 4.9