



# The Shepherd Project

Your Church bringing

*Good news of great Joy*

## What is the Shepherd project all about?

The Shepherd project is your congregation learning how to pay attention to the real needs of a family, organize in order to meet the needs, pray and respond to the Holy Spirit to transform a family to Spiritual, physical and emotional maturity.

### The Basic Steps

1. Commit as a church to participate in the Shepherd project
2. Enlist and train a team of Shepherd Project enablers
3. Identify a family
4. Meet their immediate expressed need
5. Begin to build a relationship with them to discover their long term need (What led to their needing you in the first place)
6. With grace and tact identify the key turnaround points that could transform this family and begin to pray for God's wisdom
7. Engage the congregation in interacting with the family to accomplish the turnaround points
8. Interweave discipling conversations
9. Encourage the family to find another family to do for them what has been done in their life

### Commit as a church to participate in the Shepherd project

As a congregation intentionally commit not to try to help so many people that you do not meet long term needs. Give congregational focus in terms of people and finances



## **Enlist and train a team of Shepherd Project enablers**

1. Identify the people in your congregation that are already involved in helping people. May be teachers, social services workers, volunteers, etc.
2. Out of this group enlist a team that will be out front to engage the congregation
3. Assign them to the following areas:
  - a. Prayer
  - b. Immediate needs
  - c. Long term needs

The prayer team will make the congregation aware of areas of prayer and continually call for prayer. The immediate needs group will enlist support to take care of those needs. The Long term will seek to develop a relationship by acts of kindness, going beyond the immediate need and engaging in loving conversation. They will begin to inquire the story of the family and in conversation with the group identify some key turnaround points (Education, money management, getting a car, help with house etc.) They will then develop a plan that will make those turn around points available for the family and walk them through them with patience and love.

### **Identify a family**

1. Your Shepherd Project may have a family in their circle that you can identify as being in need and likely to respond.
2. You may have someone approach you in the Christmas season that you can engage
3. Look for a family that indicates some sense that they are likely to respond to you, look for a teachable spirit
4. You cannot help everyone, allow God to calm your heart that you are not supposed to respond to all, just the ones He is leading you to help

### **Meet their immediate expressed need**

Provide what they family is asking for or has expressed as a need



## **Begin to build a relationship to discover their long term needs**

1. Have someone with some preparation and background, do an act of kindness and begin to build a relationship. Invite the family for dinner
2. The Long term team should seek to become familiar with the various helping groups available in the area in order to make the best use of help already in place.
3. Invite the family to tell you the story of their family. Listen for pivotal decision points that may have led them to the place of need. Ask if you can pray for God to provide for them

## **Identify the key turnaround points**

1. When you are comfortable that you really know the family story share the story with the Long term group
2. Spend time with the family helping to identify the points that you can agree together that could turn this family around and write them down
3. Identify with the family what steps might need to be accomplished to walk this family through each turnaround point

## **Engage the congregation in interacting with the family to accomplish the turnaround points**

1. Discover who in the congregation is best suited to help in this area
2. Interact with the family, raise an interest in the area, and help cultivate a desire to achieve this turn around point.
3. Be sensitive in presenting the opportunity, couch it in terms of real love and prayer
4. Help overcome the obstacles
  - a. Provide rides
  - b. Provide finances if needed

## **Interweave discipling conversations**

1. Have someone continuing to build a relationship with an eye to discipling the family
2. Discover where they are in their journey with God
3. What appears to be their next needed step?



4. Walk with them through learning how to be a disciple of Jesus, or if already believers how to deepen their walk.

**Encourage the family to find another family to do for them what has been done in their life**

