

New Creation Bible Fellowship
BENEVOLENCE POLICY

Purpose:

The Benevolence Ministry exists that the Mission of New Creation, “*to transform unchurched, lost people into devoted followers of Christ*” is demonstrated through action and activities, to those in need.

“And the congregation of those who believed were of one heart and soul; and not one of them claimed that anything belonging to him was his own; but all things were common property to them... For there was not a needy person among them, for all who were owners of land or houses would sell them and bring the proceeds of the sales, and lay them at the apostles’ feet; and they would be distributed to each, as any had need” (Acts 4:32,34,35).

Pursuit:

The Benevolence Ministry ministers to the needs (physical, mental, and spiritual) of our community.

Plan:

The Benevolence Ministry is activated through the knowledge of need from within the family (congregation), or community (near and far).

Primary Funding and Provisions for this ministry comes from the Tithes and from the membership’s designated giving. Distribution of funds ***shall not*** exceed \$500.00 per month.

Work of this ministry is under the leadership of the Pastor of New Creation and or his designees.

Effectiveness of the Benevolence Ministry is measured by the reduction of recurring individual need, and through Biblical Based Education and Training.

The Benevolence Ministry is an aid the Pastor. The ministries primary goal is to bring effective and efficient use of New Creation’s resources (Time, Talent, Treasures, and Territory). The ministries effectiveness is measured productivity-goals set forth by the Pastor and or his designees.

New Creation Bible Fellowship

BENEVOLENCE POLICY

PARTICULARS:

1. To provide for the collection, distribution, and proper management of the money and Goods contributed to the needy as a safety net.
2. To provide an opportunity for the church to be God's channel of blessing to the needy.
3. To encourage a spirit of compassion and caring for the needy.
4. To teach the recipients to depend on God as they more fully trust Him to provide for their needs.

FUNDING and PROVISION:

1. Up to \$500.00 of income from Tithes and General Offerings will be designated per month towards benevolence needs.
2. New Creation Members may direct funds to this Ministry through their giving.
3. The church shall exercise impartial consideration of those desiring Assistance. And to contribute to the benevolence fund with a view to help meet the needs of all.

RECIPIENTS:

1. Primary focus is to assist Christians, specifically members and regular attendees of New Creation Bible Fellowship Church (Acts 2:44-45; 4:32-37; 6:1)
2. Secondary focus is to assist non-Christians through the demonstration of love and mercy to all in need (Luke 10:37; 1 Thessalonians 3:12)
3. NCBF then reviews the request and the history of this person (prior request) is also checked.

REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE:

1. Requests for assistance through the pastor or benevolence ministry shall be documented on the "Request for Assistance" form.
2. Applicants will be advised to seek alternative support from their family and/or community agencies.
3. Financial counseling may be required.
4. The request is either denied (for various reasons) or granted.
5. The maximum request per family will not exceed (2) two times per year for all types of request.
6. Any abuse of this policy will result in an individual permanently forfeiting privileges to receive support from New Creation Bible Fellowship.

DISTRIBUTION:

1. The benevolence ministry shall take under advisement any Resource need brought to their attention.
2. Determination of support shall be based on need and availability of Resources.
3. All funds received for benevolence purposes shall be so used.
4. The director of benevolence ministry will be responsible for the allocation, distribution and reporting of funds to the designated leader.
5. Confidentiality is important; therefore, names and specific details of each case will be held in strict confident.

Applicants for financial assistance are awarded financial assistance based on financial need. Applicants are not granted financial assistance based on relationships between the applicant and church leaders or significant church contributors. The church does not discriminate applicants based upon race, color, sex, national origin, age, geographic territory, or disability.

New Creation Bible Fellowship BENEVOLENCE POLICY

SCRIPTURAL SUPPORT:

The Book of Acts mentions the extraordinary love and unity among the first Christians. In Acts 2:44, 45 we read:

“And all those who had believed were together, and had all things in common; and they began selling their property and possessions, and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need.”

In Acts 4, these Christians continued their generous display of love and care for one another. Their care for the needy became so extensive that money and goods had to be brought directly to the apostles for effective distribution.

“And the congregation of those who believed were of one heart and soul; and not one of them claimed that anything belonging to him was his own; but all things were common property to them... For there was not a needy person among them, for all who were owners of land or houses would sell them and bring the proceeds of the sales, and lay them at the apostles’ feet; and they would be distributed to each, as any had need” (Acts 4:32,34,35).

The believers’ remarkable love for one another continues to be evidenced in Acts 6, as seen in their efforts to minister to the widows:

“Now at this time while the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint arose on the part of the Hellenistic Jews against the native Hebrews, because their widows were being overlooked in the daily serving of food. And the Twelve summoned the congregation of the disciples and said, ‘It is not desirable for us to neglect the word of God in order to serve tables. But select from among you, brethren, seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may put in charge of this task. But we will devote ourselves to prayer, and to the ministry of the word’” (Acts 6:1-4).

The apostles were busy, and as the church began to grow in size and complexity, so did their work load. In order to relieve their expanding work load and to enable them to concentrate more of their efforts on prayer and the teaching of the Word, the apostles formed a new body of servants. These newly appointed officials were to give themselves to a ministry of deeds--to provide loving service to needy brothers and sisters in Christ.

Further support from scripture:

- Warning against greed - Luke 12:15
- Remember the poor - Galatians 2:10
- Caring for the poor - Acts 20:34, 35 - 11:29,30
- Generosity of the Macedonian churches - 2 Corinthians 8:3
- Philippians praised for their giving - Philippians 4:10, 14-16

New Creation Bible Fellowship
BENEVOLENCE POLICY

Benevolence Request Form

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

Phone# (Home): _____ (Cell) _____ (Work) _____

1. Do you have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ? Yes No Not Sure
2. Are you a member of New Creation Bible Fellowship? Yes No
3. Which best describes your attendance at New Creation Bible Fellowship?
 Frequent Sometimes Seldom Never
4. In your opinion which description best describes your financial situation?
 Short term emergency Short term problem Long term problem
5. The total amount of your request is _____
6. What is it for? _____
7. Who should we make the check payable to? _____
8. Are you willing to receive financial counseling? Yes No
9. Are you currently employed? Yes No Full-Time Part-Time
Name of Employer _____
10. If married, is your spouse employed? Yes No Full-Time Part-Time
Name of Employer _____
11. Total number of people in the household: _____
12. Total weekly household income: _____
13. Briefly, explain your needs and what led you to request assistance. We will be praying for you and providing counsel where needed. _____

Signature _____ If married, signature of spouse _____

Official Use Only

Deacon _____

- Approved via Email Approved at Meeting Need more information Denied

More information needed _____

Check dated _____ Check# _____

Give to person completing the form or Check mailed to address (above) or

Different address _____

Check give to _____ for delivery.

New Creation Bible Fellowship BENEVOLENCE POLICY

The purpose of the Benevolence Fund is to provide financial aid to an individual who is in need on an urgent basis. The Benevolence Fund may not be applicable for cases which need long-term financial support. The church has the right to adjust or to disapprove an applicant's request and may consider providing assistance other than monetary help.

Applicants are not granted financial assistance based on relationships between church leaders or being a significant church contributor. The church does not discriminate between applicants based upon race, color, sex, national origin, age, geographic territory, or disability. The Benevolence Ministry may provide short-term (or emergency) assistance to ensure that an applicant has the basic necessities such as food, housing, and transportation (including counseling).

The preferred method of providing assistance is to pay for the applicant's need directly to the business provider. Assistance may also be provided in the form of goods or services. The type of aid that is appropriate depends on the individual's needs and available resources.

Basic Requirements

1. Participant must be a resident of the City of Tracy
2. Need must be related to a short-term financial crisis.

Exclusions

1. Long term and repetitive expenses

Benevolence Process

1. Complete and submit the Benevolence Request Form.
2. A Deacon will contact an applicant regarding the request.
3. The Head Deacon will submit the form to the Pastor for approval (note: typically, this will happen the same day that the request is submitted).
4. The Head Deacon/Pastor approve or deny the request, or ask for additional information.
5. If approved, funds will be distributed to the appropriate business. (Applicant's do not receive money).
6. Head Deacon may follow up with the recipient and give an update at the next Deacon's meeting.

Additional Criteria

At the discretion of the Head Deacon, you may be requested (if married, both husband and wife) to do one or more of the following:

1. Provide documentation regarding your income, personal bank accounts and expenses.
2. Participation in financial counseling.
3. Take a class on biblical financial management or complete a workbook on biblical stewardship.