

An Urgent Need in the Body of Christ

Christians Who are Both Willing and
Able to Meet Urgent Needs

People Like...

- Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Susanna—ladies who provided for Jesus (Luke 8:1–3).
- Barnabas, “the Son of Encouragement” (Acts 4:36).
- Dorcas, who was “full of good works” (Acts 9:36).
- Those unnamed Christians who “went everywhere preaching the word” (Acts 13:4).
- Epaphroditus (Philippians 2:25–30).
- Onesiphorous (2 Timothy 1:16–18).
- The rather lengthy list of Christians in Romans 16, including Aquila and Priscilla.

Titus 3:14

- “And let our people also learn to maintain good works, to meet **urgent needs**, that they may not be unfruitful” (NKJV).
- Our people must also learn to engage in good deeds to meet **pressing needs**, so that they will not be unfruitful” (NASV).
- And let our people learn to devote themselves to good works, so as to help **cases of urgent need**, and not be unfruitful” (ESV).

To meet urgent or pressing needs...

- We must **FIRST** be devoted to the Lord.
 - Like the Macedonian brethren (2 Cor. 8:1–5), who were very **urgent** in meeting an **urgent** need.
 - 2 Cor. 5:14–15.

To meet urgent or pressing needs...

- We must then be devoted to the needs of others (this IS the mind of Christ—Philippians 2).
 - “ourselves as **your servants** for Jesus’ sake” (2 Cor. 4:5).
 - “I am a **debtor** both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to wise and unwise” (Rom. 1:14).
 - “Though I am free from all men, I have made myself a **servant to all**, that I might win the more” (1 Cor. 9:19).
 - “Whoever desires to become GREAT among you, let him be **your servant**” (Matthew 20:26).
 - “Let all **your** needs be **MY** responsibility” (Judges 19:20).

To meet urgent or pressing needs...

- We must be devoted to “EVERY good work” (Titus 3:1), or “fruitful in EVERY good work” (Col. 1:10).
 - Can be entirely too selective, both in terms of **how** we help and **who** we help (“circle” can be too small).
 - “well reported for good works: if she has brought up children, if she has lodged strangers, if she has washed the saints’ feet, if she has relieved the afflicted, if she has diligently followed EVERY good work” (1 Tim. 5:10).
 - **Bad sign:** If I’m well known by others, especially by my brethren, and I’m rarely ever asked for help.

To meet urgent or pressing needs...

- We must be aware of them.
 - “Warn those who are **unruly**, comfort the **fainthearted**, uphold the **weak**, be patient with all” (1 Thess. 5:14).
 - In some cases almost impossible to know, but in other cases we don’t know because...
 - We’re not attending regularly enough.
 - We’re not being hospitable.
 - We’re not involved in other activities enough.
 - We’re too devoted to other things.

To meet urgent or pressing needs...

- We must be willing to do what's hard, uncomfortable, awkward, outside of comfort zone, etc. (“gladly spend and be spent...”—2 Cor. 12:15).
 - Ezra and Nehemiah certainly were willing...and able.
 - Aquila and Priscilla helping Apollos (Acts 18).
 - Paul rebuking Peter to his face (Galatians 2).
 - Helping a newborn Christian (Acts 11:23).
 - Helping a couple through a struggling marriage, or helping other “broken” relationships (Phil. 4:2–3).
 - Greeting visitors.
 - Inviting people to services, or to study with us.

To meet urgent or pressing needs...

- We must be devoted to a study of the Scriptures.
 - Helps us better understand how to prioritize needs, how to recognize the most “urgent needs.”
 - Jesus the perfect example.
 - Also helps us better understand when what we plan to do might hurt more than help.