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SHREVEPORT-BOSSIER RESCUE MISSION A CLOSER LOOK AT POVERTY



Learn more at www.sbrescuemission.com





What is Poverty?

For years, we have defined poverty solely as a lack of material possessions. However, the Bible sees poverty differently. If we look at the Hebrew and Greek translation for Poverty, the definition becomes much deeper than material possessions. In fact, poverty is defined as to disinherit or dispossess something that was intended for you to inherit or possess.

Understanding biblical poverty gives us the tools we need to alleviate it. Poverty is complicated and is very much a spiritual issue, which is why it is so often referenced in the Bible. Many of us have experienced poverty in our lives through one or more of four broken relationships.

"Poverty is the result of relationships that do not work, that are not just, that are not for life, that are not harmonious or enjoyable. Poverty is the absence of shalom in all its meanings."

- Byrant Myers,
Walking with the Poor

Four Broken Relationships

Poverty can be understood as a set of broken relationships shown throughout the bible and outlined by Byrant Myers in "Helping without Hurting".

1

Relationship with God

- Lack of belief/relationship with God.
- Unable to see God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

"And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength" Mark 12:30

2

Relationship with Self

- Cannot see themselves as a valued creation of God.
- Low self-esteem. Lacking hope.
- Cannot see their own talents and abilities.

"The second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor **as yourself**.' No other commandment is greater than these." Mark 12:31

3

Relationship with Others

- Inability to relate with others
- Inability to forgive and seek forgiveness

"So now I am giving you a new commandment: **Love each other**. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other." John 13:34

4

Relationship with Creation

- Loss of sense of purpose
- Unhealthy work habits
- Poor stewardship of their resources

"Then God blessed them and said, 'Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it. Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry along the ground.'" Genesis 1:28

Next Steps

This booklet can only serve as an introduction to the complex issues surrounding poverty. Addressing poverty through broken relationships is at the core of our Life Recovery Program. At the Mission, we are working to change our cities one life at a time starting with the homeless men, women, and children in our Life Recovery Program.



A relationship does not have to be perfect, it just has to be **real**.

JOIN THE #SBMissionLife



VOLUNTEER

- Serve a meal
- Mission Thrift Store
- Medical and dental clinics
- Special Events
- And more!



PARTNER

- Event sponsorship
- Hold a fundraiser
- Donate your services



DONATE

- Funds
 - One-time, monthly, and planned giving
- Goods
 - Clothing, household items, furniture, and more!
- Immediate Needs
 - View our "Immediate Needs List" online



SHOP

100% of all proceeds from the Mission Thrift store go directly into our programs

The thrift store offers:

- Quality items at a reduced price
- Vocational Training for our guests
- Come shop at 6800 Mansfield Road, Shreveport, LA!

Method

A CLOSER LOOK AT POVERTY

Key Principles of an Asset-based Approach

Everyone has gifts.

Everyone has unique gifts and talents that has been bestowed upon them by God. It is our job to help our guests discover those talents.

Relationships are important.

Broken relationships lead to a life of poverty. Loving, trustworthy relationships break that cycle. Walking alongside our guests during their journey and “doing life” with them, is essential to healing.

Avoid the “quick fix.”

In the U.S., we often approach problems trying to finding the fastest method to alleviating the problem. Unfortunately, we cannot do this with poverty. The method for healing is slow. Years of broken relationships take time to heal.

Strengths, Not Weaknesses

It’s easy to focus on a person’s weakness when trying to solve the issue of poverty. In fact, we are conditioned to focus on what is lacking and broken. And we have to understand that are not the solution to ending someone’s poverty.

When Jesus healed people, He did it from the inside out. He looked inside people and saw hope, goodness, and possibility. We have to see people the way Jesus saw them and look to him to provide hope and healing. We have to help people discover their gifts and talents and discover their own unique Jeremiah 29:11.

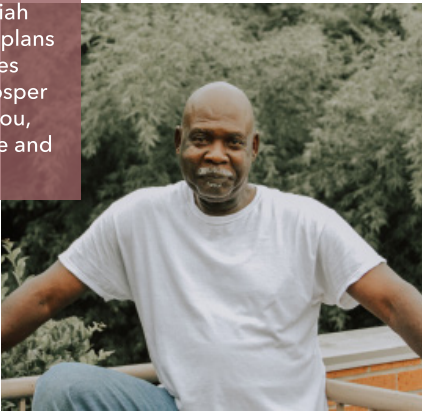
Listen.

Many charitable programs fail because outside experts influence the solutions. At the Mission, we listen to God to grant us wisdom and direction for each guest and listen to our guests. Their conversations allow us to create unique case plans and goals to fit their needs.

Motivation is key.

Positive re-enforcement through vocational training certificates, acknowledgements at our graduation and celebration, encouragement, prayers, and more are key to keeping a person motivated to finding their Jeremiah 29:11.

At the Mission, we believe everyone has a Jeremiah 29:11 “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”



An approach called “asset-based community development” (or ABCD) focused on the gifts and assets of people and communities amidst poverty, rather than the problems. The key to overcoming poverty, we believe, are developing these gifts.

Effects of Broken Relationships

CHANGING OUR CITIES ONE LIFE AT A TIME

Domestic Violence

Domestic abuse is a pattern of behaviors used by one partner to maintain power and control over another partner in an intimate relationship.

81% of female homicides in Louisiana are committed by a partner, making us rank 2nd in the nation of women victims being killed by male offenders.

The third leading cause of homelessness among families is domestic violence.

National Coalition Against Domestic Violence



Mindy was a victim of domestic abuse. One day, she decided it was enough and walked away. She heard about the Mission, where God’s love and support from the community provided her family with food, shelter, and guidance to restore their lives.

PTSD

A mental health problem that some people develop after experiencing or witnessing a life-threatening event, like combat, a natural disaster, a car accident, or sexual assault.

Veterans with PTSD have lived through a traumatic event that caused them to fear for their lives and feel hopeless.

Studies show that 20% to 30% of veterans are screened positive for PTSD.

National Center for Biotechnology Information



John is a Veteran who served at Desert Storm who was suffering from alcoholism due to PTSD. He came to the Mission looking for hope and a new start.



SHREVEPORT-BOSSIER RESCUE MISSION
LIFE RECOVERY PROGRAM

Effects of Broken Relationships

A CLOSER LOOK AT POVERTY

Poverty

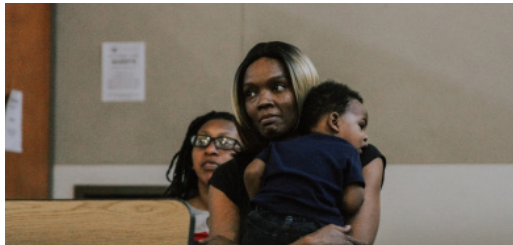
Poverty does not necessarily come from lack of material possessions; it comes from a series of broken relationships. A broken relationship with a parent, a partner, a child, a friend, and ultimately a broken relationship with God. Poverty can only be broken through the healing power found in Jesus Christ.

Almost a quarter of all children in the US are living in a single parent household with most of these households missing the presence of the child’s father.

According to the National Fatherhood Institute, children who grow up in a fatherless household are 4 times more likely to live in poverty, 2 times as likely to drop out of high school, and 7 times more likely to become pregnant as a teen.

Trauma

Trauma is our emotional response to an event or experience that is deeply distressing. Many guests come to the Mission having experienced deep trauma that has lead them to cope with this trauma through unhealthy behaviors like drugs, alcohol, sex, co-dependency, self-sabotage, and more.



Addiction

Addiction has traditionally been defined and related to drug or alcohol abuse. However, addiction comes in all forms.

There are many other kinds of compulsions that control people’s lives and disrupt or destroy their relationships such as co-dependency, workaholism, laziness, eating disorders, sexual abuse, shopping, gambling, physical and emotional abuse, and personality disorders.

The Genesis Process 3rd Edition, Michael Dye

At the Mission, we utilize the Genesis Process as our core curriculum to address a guests’ addiction. It is a Bible based relapse prevention curriculum where students identify faulty beliefs and replace them with the truth from the Word of God. Genesis counselors assist in creating individualized plans for relapse prevention.

This method allows the student to turn mistakes into growth, reduce self-sabotaging behaviors and address the root cause of those behaviors.



Eules grew up with alcoholic parents, so drinking was a way of life in his family. Then divorce left him searching for ways to numb his pain, and he fell into addiction. Today, he is sober, is a Ministry Intern, and has a relationship with God.

Recovery

CHANGING OUR CITIES ONE LIFE AT A TIME

“Pursuing the passion of Jesus Christ to lift up the hungry, homeless, abused, and addicted.”

This is how the Shreveport-Bossier Rescue Mission is changing our cities one life at a time. Change in our cities is accomplished only by a caring community who invests in giving the right help and healing.

The Mission’s Life Recovery Program not only eliminates poverty from one person’s life but provides change and healing that lasts generations.

The Right Kind of Help

Sometimes direct, immediate aid is the best way to help someone in need, but many times it can hurt more than it helps.

When we try to do for people what they can do for themselves, it can be very disempowering, can cause dependency, and denies them the gift of discovering and utilizing their unique God given gifts. Material poverty should not be ignored, but we cannot solve poverty with traditional material methods.

Relief, Recovery, Development

While the symptoms of material poverty - a lack of food, clothing, or shelter - look very similar, different types of poverty actually require very different forms of poverty alleviation.

RELIEF

This is a situation where individuals are truly unable to help themselves and need temporary, immediate aid. This is most appropriate after a natural or manmade crisis.

RECOVERY

The definition of recovery is to regain something that was stolen or lost. At the Mission, we know that all of our guests have a Jeremiah 29:11. They have a hope and future created uniquely for them by God. Our Life Recovery Program helps our guests rediscover their purpose and their Jeremiah 29:11.

DEVELOPMENT

Just as all of us have a Jeremiah 29:11, each one of us has gifts and talents given to us by God. In the Development stage, our staff walks alongside our guests and helps them discover their own unique gifts and abilities. Through this time, relationships begin to heal and guests begin working towards their future.

