

II. Section 2: HUMAN CRISES: HOMELESSNESS, POVERTY, JOBLESSNESS, DETENTION, HUNGER

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A. OVERVIEW OF HUMAN CRISES

As the body of Christ, we are called to join together to help those who are struggling with poverty situations. We are called to reach out the hand of Christ to those who are widowed and orphaned, those who are lost and broken, those who are sick and defeated. In dealing with these types of crises, we are coming together to share ideas that are already in place in many of our churches and banding together to help create a sustainable Christlike response to these ever-growing needs.

We are working toward creating an environment that allows our churches to be nimble and ready to respond to the crises as they arise in their own community. However, often times the single church does not have all the resources or volunteers that are needed to respond effectively. In this manner, we will be creating volunteer opportunities within our own district to assist each congregation in their own development of response resources.

As you begin to think about how your church is responding to some of the crises that are facing our communities, begin to think about how these individual crises may be connected to other issues within your community. When we start to connect with each in the areas of serving those in need, we will be building the Kingdom as Christ called us to. Some areas to consider are: poverty (low-income and homelessness), orphans, seniors, addictions, prostitution, joblessness, mental illness, to name just a few.

CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE NORTHWEST DISTRICT COMPASSIONATE MINISTRIES REPORT

By: Shirley Greene NMI District Council Compassionate Ministries Chair
November 9, 2015

The Northwest District is just in the beginning stages of creating a Nazarene Compassionate Alliance (NCA) for our area. Our NMI District President Paul Clark appointed me to the NMI District Council and tasked me with the responsibility of putting together our Alliance.

I have had the opportunity to study the Washington Pacific Nazarene Compassionate Alliance Web-site and to speak with Dr. Margaret Scott. We will model our Alliance after the WAPAC District NCA. Our area of emphases will be 1.) Disaster Response 2.) Human Crises 3.) Victims of Human Trafficking 4.) Special Needs & 4.) Immigrant & Refugees. We have commitments from qualified people with compassionate hearts to serve on each of these committees. We will be recruiting more volunteers for each area of emphasis as we build our program and are ready to assign tasks.



On November 4th, I was able to attend the Nazarene Disaster Response Training, in Connell, Washington. This training was given by George Sisler, Nazarene Disaster Response (NDR), with Nazarene Compassionate Ministries (NCM) in Kansas. This training was very valuable in understating the purpose of NDR and how to put together an action plan for disaster response operations. The workbook that he gave each person in attendance will be a great resource for our Disaster Response Committee.



Our District has experienced devastating wild fires in Kamiah, Idaho and Okanagan, WA. The fires in Kamiah have displaced numerous families, over 60 homes were destroyed and at least 18 of those homes were not insured. We want to help! We will be focusing our resources to help uninsured families rebuild their homes in Kamiah, Idaho. Currently case workers are gathering information from these families, many volunteer organizations are currently meeting immediate needs in Kamiah. Pastor Walt Wilkinson with the Valley View Church of the Nazarene has been on the front lines working with the people impacted by the fires. He has opened up his church for fire fighters and others to eat, sleep and shower.

The Northwest District plans to have an action plan ready by the first of the year so we will be prepared to get boots on the ground by spring. We are recruiting volunteers for the key positions for NDR outlined in our training manual to be in place by January. Additionally we will be scheduling a meeting in January to address all of the areas of Emphasis in our NCA.

I am grateful to be included in WAPAC's training in Seattle and look forward to learning from your speakers and your organizations experts!

Thank you! May God bless us all as we are led by the Holy Spirit to be the hands, feet and heart of Jesus!

RESOURCES

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES WITH OTHER GROUPS

- Seattle's Union Gospel Mission (<http://ugm.volunteerhub.com/events/index>)

"Seattle's Union Gospel Mission provides emergency care and long-term recovery services to hurting and homeless people in the greater Seattle area. We're dedicated to serving, rescuing and transforming those in greatest need through the grace of Jesus Christ."

- International Rescue Committee <https://www.rescue.org/volunteer>

Each year, thousands of refugees are invited by the U.S. government to seek safety and freedom. Forced to flee conflict or persecution, many refugees have survived against incredible odds. Refugees step off the plane with next to nothing but their dignity, hope, and determination. In Seattle, the IRC helps refugees to rebuild their lives.

- Northwest Justice Project (<https://nwjustice.org/volunteer-opportunities-0>)

The Northwest Justice Project welcomes the help of volunteer attorneys who are admitted to practice in Washington State. Law students should visit our [**Law Students Internship**](#) page for opportunities.

- ReWA (<http://www.rewa.org/get-involved/volunteer-opportunities/>)
 - **ESL Teachers and Teacher's Assistants:** Help refugee and immigrant students improve literacy and communication skills
 - **Youth Program Tutors:** Provide academic assistance in the after-school tutoring program and assist with activities focus on building students' academic skills and providing opportunities to build proficiency in English.
 - **Youth Program Assistants/Interns:** Work one-on-one or in small groups to tutor students, help with on-going program operations, and assist in the design and implementation of classroom activities
 - **Youth Program Individual Tutors:** Tutors and youth meet at least once a week with a focus on building a student's academic skills and providing them opportunities to increase their proficiency in English. Youth Tutors also act as mentors, often supporting older students who are interested in college
 - **Citizenship Class Assistants:** Assist students with preparation for the naturalization interview and citizenship test
 - **Early Childhood Education Program Assistants:** Provide care and learning experiences to 1 to 6-year-olds

- YOUTH CARE (<http://www.youthcare.org/volunteer-opportunities>)

Volunteers are critical to us continuing our mission. They support everything YouthCare does, whether volunteering directly with youth or helping behind-the-scenes to ensure that young people have the environment and resources they need. YouthCare serves young people of many racial and ethnic backgrounds, abilities, sexual orientations, gender identities, and religious beliefs. We seek volunteers that reflects that diversity.

- Individual Opportunities: One person's time and skills can provide significant support in getting homeless youth off the streets and preparing for life.
- Group Opportunities: Families, friends, neighbors, colleagues, church groups — even book clubs or birthday parties — have all joined together to lend a hand. It's a great bonding experience and a huge help to YouthCare and the homeless youth we serve.

ARTIC RESOURCE CENTER FOR SUICIDE PREVENTION

THE CHURCH AND SUICIDE



For more information:

PO Box 80310

Fairbanks, AK, 99708

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www.arcsp.com

907-456-2933

Suicidology (the study of suicide) consists of three major concerns broadly defined as:

1. Prevention - Efforts aimed at a general audience before any suicidal crisis is apparent
2. Intervention - Efforts aimed at a suicidal individual(s) during a specific crisis
3. Postvention - Efforts aimed at those people most impacted by the loss to a suicide death

This course is designed solely as a prevention effort within the context of a church setting, or, within a cooperative effort of several like-minded churches. More specifically, this course is for church leaders (pastors, chaplains, elders SS teachers, Christian counselors etc.) who wish to biblically prepare themselves, and so their people, for a potential suicidal crisis well before such an issue surfaces in their fellowship.

Course goal: *To provide a biblical basis for understanding suicide that enables a more effective response to suicidal concerns.* In keeping with this over-arching objective, the student will first explore all scriptural passages dealing with suicide giving due consideration to depression as a most serious contribution to these anxieties. Leading historical figures who shaped much of the church's beliefs & attitudes on suicide will next be considered. Since Psalm 88 is viewed as scripture's best suicidal text, emphasis will be spent drawing out its significant implications by first reading Longman's textbook. The class will conclude by considering important theological/practical matters regarding suicide such as basic data surfacing need; listening skills; petitioning God for help; the hiddenness of God when there is a most urgent need for His intervention; and finally ... the careful articulation of the gospel of life. Our culture promotes death in various & sundry ways. This course is ultimately about life & life in Christ.

Needless to say, suicide is a difficult topic. What a person believes about suicide will, in large measure, determine one's ministry to the suicidal & suicide survivors. As such, this course intentionally desires to present differing ways of interpreting the suicidal act so that the student will be better formed on his or her own presuppositions & convictions. Because of the nature of this topic, self-care throughout the week will be heartily encouraged. Students will be asked not to continue other ministry tasks and/or study pursuits during the evenings in order to provide rest, refreshment, fun & relaxation to their bodies, minds & souls.

A. AFFILIATE REPORTS

FEDERAL WAY CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

Submitted by Asha Fuller

We in Federal Way believe that we can share the love and be a light to those in our community by providing services such as rummage sales, adopting local school and Easterfest. We hope with God's guidance to be a loving example to the world of how faith in action looks.

Rummage Sale and 5k Fun Run

Our rummage sale for our global mission team provides low cost high quality items to our local community. We have also been able to provide local charities and ministries with 75 lbs of left over clothes and shoes for victims of human trafficking. We have also started to work with Federal Way Coalition to End Trafficking to help raise funds for Human trafficking victims with a 5k fun run.



Lake Grove Elementary School

We have also adopted a local school, Lakegrove and provided 30 turkey dinners for Thanksgiving. We have also collected mitts, gloves and scarfs for the kids. We have worked with the school to provide students with healthy snacks while the kids take their standardized tests in the spring. We also work with the school resource officers to provide counseling for families in crisis and provide uniforms for kids and shoes or families experiencing crisis and great need. We have also provided teachers appreciation gifts to help encourage teachers in spring. This year we also partnered with the school to provide dinner and games for the families that attended the school's open house in fall. We were able to provide over 500 hot dogs meals to families and more importantly show the love of Christ.



Easterfest

Easterfest is our free community Easter egg hunt. We bless the children and families of our community with over 1,000 small bags of candy. We have the largest egg hunt in our city we partner with the Federal Way Police Department, Tacoma and Federal Way Schools to provide a fun, family friendly atmosphere while teaching showing the love of Jesus.



Mended Wings Ministry

We have begun to partner with other local churches to minister to local prisoners at the Women's prison in Purdy, WA. We have started a newsletter for the prisoners that prisoners are able to ask questions about God and life, we have been able to minister to these ladies and show them the love of Christ. This is a rewarding ministry that all people can get involved in even if they can't go to visit the prisons. If you are interested in writing letters or getting involved please contact our church. We go to the prison once a month. Our newsletter is also being picked up and carried at local Genesis house in Federal Way a recovery home for sex trafficking victims.

MAKING QUILTED BEDROLLS FOR THE HOMELESS

LIVING HOPE CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE, NORMANDY PARK



Our group, Caring Hands, has been making these for over 10 years. We donate them to the Seattle Union Gospel mission and they distribute them to those who won't come to the shelter, and are sleeping in parks or under bridges etc. If you have questions about the construction of these bedrolls or anything pertaining to them please call me.

CARING HANDS c/o Carol Towle 206 878 1039

MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT: For each bed roll, you will need:

1. A sewing machine
2. A serger if possible;
if not, a wide zigzag stitch on your machine)
3. Cotton fabric
4. Thread
5. Queen size flat sheets
6. Blankets approximately 70" x 90"
7. Neckties and safety pins

TO MAKE THE QUILTED TOP

- Cut 69 10" squares out of the fabric
- Sew together seven squares for each row.
- Then sew them together to make nine rows of seven.
- The bedroll or quilt top will be 70" x 90".

TO COMPLETE THE QUILT

- Place a queen size or larger flat sheet right side down on a large flat surface.
- Trim off the borders.

- Place a similar size blanket on top of the sheet.
- Place the QUILTED TOP on top of the blanket to make a quilt" sandwich"
- Place a large safety pin through all three layers in the center of each square.
- With good scissors trim off the excess edges.
- Use a longer stitch to straight stitch through all three layers of the "sandwich", horizontal and vertical lines.
- Remove the safety pins.

Now you are ready to serge around the raw edges, if no serger is available, you can use a wide zigzag stitch to finish the edge.

TO MAKE THE BEDROLL

- Fold the quilt in half length-wise and then again, with QUILTED TOP outside.
- At the top of the outer side sew two neckties about 5 to 6 inches apart, doubled in half with an X so that they are strong.
- Roll up the bedroll like a sleeping bag using the ties to wrap around the roll and secure it.

AN EXTRA DETAIL: If these are going to be used on the ground it is a bonus to add a 10' x 10' tarp to the bundle to help the homeless person stay dry and warmer.

PENINSULA CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

Long Beach, WA
Submitted by Karen Humber

Shepherd's Pantry

A simple closet stocked with non-perishable food along with needed toiletries and a freezer/refrigerator with perishable items, anyone who comes and needs a bag or two of food is welcome. The items are received through the generous donations of the church attendees. Last year, the Shepherd's Pantry provides at least twenty Thanksgiving Food boxes for families in the community.



Families Helping Families

A sister church started the opportunity for individuals and families to pick up needed clothing, household goods, and other items as available ALL for free. Donations come from a variety of sources including the people of PCN.

His Supper Table

Having been in operation for over ten years, His Supper Table is now providing over 1,000 meals per month, twice weekly at Peninsula Church of the Nazarene. PCN partners with HST and provides uses of the kitchen, the dining space, and several key volunteers that help the program succeed.



WEST SEATTLE CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

INTERWEAVING GOD'S STORY THROUGH COMMUNITY

Submitted by Rev. Terry Mattson

In the last 10 + years our church family at West Seattle Church of the Nazarene has enjoyed a relationship with Tent City #3 (Share/Wheel), Nickelsville and Share/Wheel shelters [Wheel/Share in Seattle assists and organizes life together for the homeless as “tent cities” and overnight shelters that maintain dialogue with civil authorities as to locations in which they are sanctioned to locate.]

As a church family, we have:

- Hosted 4 overnight shelters for men and women (from 3 months to a year),
- Invited Tent City and Share/Wheel shelters to enjoy with us special events on an annual bases: Thanksgiving day meals, Christmas dramas, summer movie nights in the park and others indoors, game nights with our neighbors
- Welcomed guests from Tent City#3 in our church services.
- Received numerous student groups from NNU to add their hands to help us better care for those with whom we share life.

This holy season we will again host both shelters and Tent City #3 at Thanksgiving and for our Christmas Noir (an open mic). We will provide transportation to the events, allow for showers on campus and a place to rest as well as watch football, play games and fellowship around the table. Our purpose is not about compassion, but presence. To simply enjoy life (including) Jesus with our neighbors without homes and introduce them to our neighbors with homes.

About 20% of our active congregation comes from the streets, shelters or residential living centers.

Beside this on-going engagement with the communities of people who don't have home, I want to share two other things:

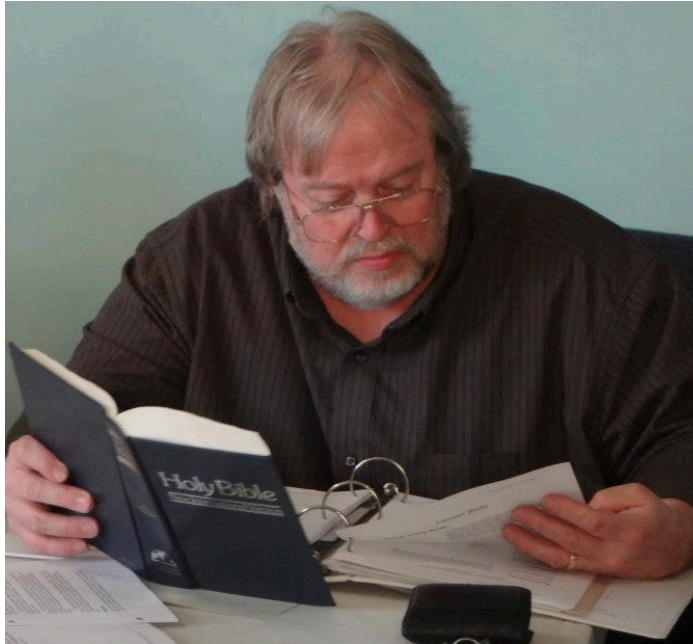
1) Two young men in our congregation, Christian Correa and Glendal, are actively involved in ***Riseup Seattle***, a Pacific Islander non-profit whose purpose is to enable students of color to value and succeed at education. They just hosted a conference in Seattle with 300 participants.

2) Finally, I want to recommend an excellent video that inter-weaves the following:
Native American injustices (in the recent past up to about 1970)
Our own involvement with High Point and the Story of High Point's transformation

Our own current journey to creating great space for our neighbors

The video's origin is on the day the city council approved our comprehensive land amendment it also approved a resolution urging Seattle Schools and the federal government to teach the history of Native Americans.

These seemingly unrelated stories are integrated around a simple theme -- **God is forever interweaving our Stories into God's Story.**



Rev. Terry Mattson