### Compassion in Action



SEND Relief



# Connecting the dots to LIFE ON MISSION

At the North American Mission Board, we encourage and equip churches to be on mission. Through Send Network, we support churches and church planters as they engage communities across the continent. These are communities with great influence, but they're also places with great, unmet needs that shouldn't be ignored.

That's where Send Relief comes in with resources and experiences that equip churches and individuals to meet needs, create connections and be on mission outside the church walls. It's pairing practical help with the hope of the gospel.

### **Compassion in perspective**

In our broken world, we face overwhelming challenges—poverty, child neglect, hunger, homelessness. However, we know the power of serving our neighbors and sharing the hope we have in Jesus.

God loves His creation, and He cares about human suffering. He calls His people to do the same. The Church is called to bring peace and healing to a broken world—to show compassion and mercy to those who are hurting and burdened. When we serve our communities by meeting their needs, doors are opened to the gospel right where we live.

Christ followers can impact our communities as we put the gospel into action by serving our neighbors, building relationships and sharing the hope we have in Jesus.

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"Disciples are made and developed on mission when they learn how to proclaim the gospel and make more disciples." Jeff Vanderstelt, Pastor Doxa Church, Bellevue, Washington

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## Discipleship happens when the Church turns inside out.

Throughout scripture, Jesus challenged His disciples to do something that didn't always make sense. (Think about the idea of feeding more than 5,000 people with only five loaves and two fish!) He called people out of their comfort zones and sent them to unexpected places.

Often, showing compassion requires us to get uncomfortable. Showing love to others means meeting them where they are. The process changes us as much as it impacts those we serve.

### **Compassion ministry begins by asking a question: What do you need?**

In Matthew 14, Jesus showed us that what a community needs is not always clear. Asking someone what they need communicates that you care about them more than your own agenda.

When you ask this question, the answer might surprise you. Your perception of someone's need is not always their reality. Having all of the answers is not the point. Listening, understanding, sharing in the struggle—that's a reflection of Jesus.



#### **Compassion ministry is:**

#### Knowing the needs of your community + Loving people and building relationships + Sharing the hope of the gospel

"...but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, ready at any time to give a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you." 1 Peter 3:15 CSB

God has placed you where you are for a purpose. What neighbors, organizations or issues surround you? Are you going out of your way to meet people?

Compassion ministry doesn't just meet the need. It builds relationships. Those relationships earn the right to share the gospel. People don't enjoy being someone else's project. Change and long-term growth comes from the depth of loving relationships.

As we follow Jesus into deeper connections with our neighbors, God is working. The inevitable question will come, "Why? Why do you care? What is this hope you carry?" Our answer to that question is the greatest hope we can share.

Find out how Send Relief can equip your church at **namb.net/SendRelief.** 



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