



Our Goals and How We Will Accomplish Them

The Relational Nature of Poverty¹

Let's consider a biblical description of poverty:

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 (peace) in all its meanings.

As God's ambassadors, representing God's kingdom² and all that it entails to a broken world, how are we as seed leaders to set the pace in addressing the poverty around us?

To address poverty one must engage in the ministry of reconciliation³: moving people closer to glorifying God by living in right relationship with God, with self, with others, and with the rest of creation.

Therefore the reconciliation of relationships is the guiding compass for our seed efforts, profoundly shaping both the goals that we pursue and the methods we use. We must engage the marginalized and poor with loving redemptive relationships that point them to Christ, who reconciles us to God.⁴

Our goals are NOT:

- To make the materially poor into middle-to-upper-class North Americans
- To make sure that the materially poor have enough money
- To complete projects and produce products for people

Rather, our goals ARE:

- To restore people, through the power of the gospel, to a full expression of humanness.
- To demonstrate what a just, loving, peaceful relationship is as we point our neighbors to Christ.
- To equip or develop our neighbors to fulfill their callings of glorifying God by working and supporting themselves and their families with the fruit of that work.
- To genuinely care for those in our neighborhoods and invite them to share in our lives, even if it takes sacrifice.

Relationships and Processes, Not Projects and Products

Our goal is to see people restored to being what God created them to be: people who understand that they are created in the image of God with the gifts, abilities, and capacity to

¹ This section is taken mostly from *When Helping Hurts* by Corbett and Fikkert, Chapters 1-2.

² 1 Peter 2:9-12; Ephesians 3:10

³ 2 Cor 5:17

⁴ Romans 5:11

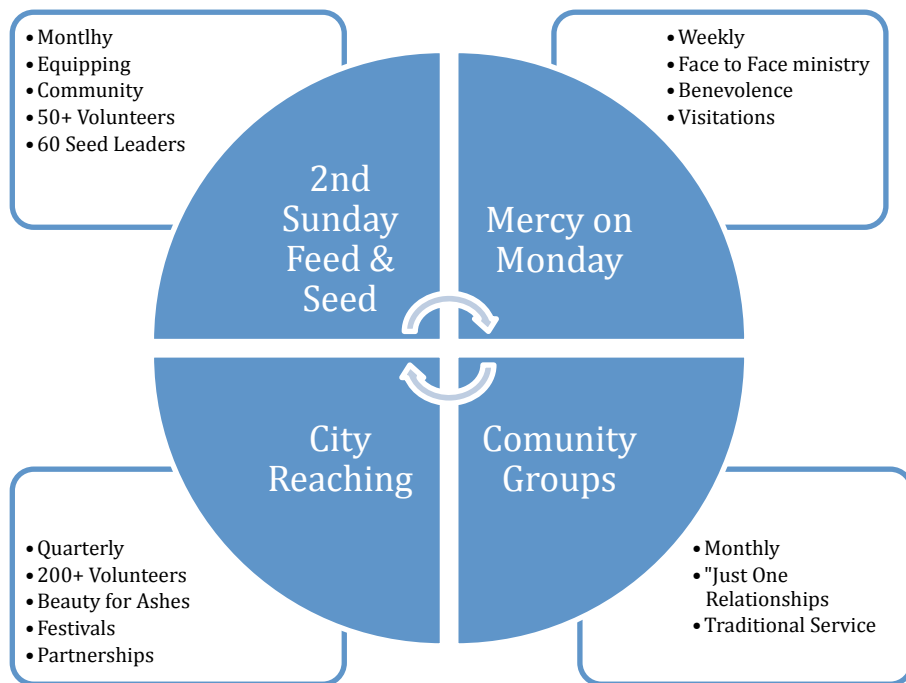


make decisions and to effect change in the world around them; and people who steward their lives, communities, resources, and relationships in order to bring glory to God.

These things tend to happen in highly relational, process-focused ministries more than in impersonal, product-focused ministries.

In other words, we are about Christ-centered relationships that bring about transformation. They do take time and do not happen over night.

How We Will Accomplish These Goals: Seed Ministry Structure



1) Second Sunday Feed & Seed

CG Seed Leaders are encouraged to join us every second Sunday of the month from 12:30pm – 2:30pm for the Seed Luncheon. The lunch is open to all of Sojourn. After enjoying a 30-minute lunch there are a number of breakouts:

Serve – there is always a family friendly service opportunity that exposes people who are not in a community group to mercy in the city. Seed leaders will be eating lunch with volunteers and can invite these families into your group. Groups can also eat lunch and serve together during this time if serving during the week is too difficult.



Learn – Get educated about Seed, its theological foundations and its radical implications, which lead to gospel change in the city. This monthly breakout is designed to give the nuts and bolts of how the Seed ministry equips you and your group to live as a servant and missionary in all aspects of life. This was originally intended for people not in group life, however, it may benefit your group to give focused time and attention to seed.

Lead – Seed leaders pioneer this ministry and are pacesetters for the rest of Sojourn to follow. This breakout is for Seed leaders only, who receive monthly training, coaching and encouragement as they lead their community groups to live an outwardly focused lifestyle.

Organize – Join our city-reaching efforts as we organize large-scale events that promote mercy and justice in the city. Seed hosts an annual conference, medical clinics, festivals, and celebrations. Help plan the next medical clinic, which serves hundreds of families in poverty or the next fall festival, which reaches over 1,000 of our neighbors.

2) Mercy on Mondays

Every Monday night, join a team of deacons and get exposed to face-to-face mercy ministry. You will never go at it alone and will be guided every step of the way by an experienced minister of the gospel. On Monday evenings, from 6:00pm till 8:00pm you will have a choice to:

- Shadow a deacon as he/she interviews a resident with a financial need; or
- Run an errand for or with a family in the neighborhood, such as going to the grocery store or Target; or
- Enjoy a home visitation and share the gospel with the elderly, widows, and lonely in our surrounding neighborhoods; or
- Prayer walk with other Sojourners' who petition God to save and restore our beloved city.

As a Seed Leader you may want to join us on Monday nights for a short season, so you can learn to lead your group more effectively.

3) “Just One”

God uses redemptive relationships to mature us and grow us. We are asking groups to intentionally engage in a “just one” relationship in the city. We have half a dozen or more Germantown neighbors attending regularly because groups intentionally visit and care for them. Each group in a “Just One” will work with a Seed Coach who will guide them on a regular basis.

We are asking groups to visit their “just one” twice a month (likely on Sunday when you are in the area) and call them once a week. This is one of the most fruitful and enriching experiences you will ever have as your group grows together in service and community.



4) Traditional Service Opportunities

Community groups can serve in many ways, on many days, and at many times. Let us know when you can help clean up the streets, volunteer at local non-profit agencies, businesses and homeless shelters. Serve according to your assets, desires and strengths.

Remember

Sunday
Monday
Just One

For additional information about Seed, email mercy@sojournchurch.com and you will be directed to someone who will answer all your questions.