



**JESUS CHRIST IS OUR FOUNDATION**

Since Bethesda Mission's primary reason for existence is to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the poor and homeless, we have firm beliefs about Jesus Christ and the Bible. The details of these beliefs are contained in the Bethesda Mission Statement of Faith.

We accept the person, teachings and commandments of Jesus Christ as the foundation of our work. Having Jesus Christ as our Foundation affects what, how and why we minister to the poor and homeless. The "what" of the previous statement has two sides. The first addresses the transforming of individual lives as Christ stated in the Gospel of Matthew. He said, "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." The second side involves His many statements regarding assistance to the poor, needy and homeless. All of our ministry programs and services need to have the goal of fulfilling "The Great Commission." and providing assistance to the poor and homeless.

The "how" speaks to the methodology we use in ministering to the poor and homeless. It is our belief that all our programs and services should be provided in love and in the Name of Jesus Christ. The justification for this position is provided by Christ in Matthew 22:39, where He said, "Love your neighbor as yourself."

The "why" of our ministry to the poor and homeless is very simple. God has commanded it in numerous places in the Scriptures.

Additionally, because Jesus Christ is Our Foundation we will strive to make all our decisions in accordance with the will of The God of the Bible. This will require both staff and board members engaging in private and corporate prayer, Bible study, regular church attendance and holy living.

**RELENTLESS PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE IN ALL THINGS**

We believe the scriptural basis for the pursuit of excellence is found in Colossians 3:23. "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord."

Furthermore, as a ministry we are drawn to "Excellence" as a loving response to what Jesus Christ did on the cross for us. Practically speaking, this means that we recognize the need to employ the most effective and efficient business practices possible; client-focused stewardship of resources; planning based upon valid research and data collection; and commitment to personal and profession growth. Each person involved in this ministry is expected to strive for excellence in his/her area of responsibility as a way of showing honor to God.

### **FAITHFULNESS TO TRANSFORMING LIVES**

This means we will measure our success as an organization by the number of individuals whose lives have been changed by the transforming and saving power of Jesus Christ and their improved economic, physical and social condition.

Most of our clients have lives that can be characterized as being out of control and filled with all types of dysfunctional behavior, despair and hopelessness. Our goal is to assist in their transformation to, as our charter states, “responsible Christian participants in a representative society.” The key scripture we employ is Romans 12:2, “Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is – His good, pleasing and perfect will.”

We believe that this transformation is a continuous “inside then outside” process which begins when a person repents of their sin and accepts Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. At that point in time according to 2 Corinthians 5:17 the person is a new creation where “the old has gone, the new has come.” Furthermore, we believe that this transformation continues until death in the process called sanctification, where the person through Holy Spirit guidance and power “renews their mind” from their old destructive thought processes, behaviors and attitudes.

### **INTEGRITY WITHOUT COMPROMISE**

It is our goal to be a ministry that maintains and actively promotes the highest levels of integrity.

We believe that the essence of integrity is contained in the concepts: probity, honesty, truthfulness, principle, honor, morality, completeness, uprightness and virtue. It is further defined by the term “character,” which according to Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary is moral excellentness and firmness.

The Scriptural support for integrity is found in 2 Corinthians 4: 1-2, “Therefore, since through God’s mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart. Rather, we have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God. On the contrary, by setting forth the truth plainly we commend ourselves to every man’s conscience in the sight of God.”

One internal test of whether a situation or action has integrity will be very simple. We will ask ourselves the question, “Would we be embarrassed if our action or statement was made public?”

Furthermore, this means our financial dealings, personal interactions, business relationships and fund raising efforts will be in agreement and/or adhere to the standards, principles and ideals set by The Bible, Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability, The National Society of Fund Raising Executives, United States Government and other appropriate oversight entities.