

Chapter 6/Care for Them All

The Father of the Baby

Even as our women Clients are our focus, we at RWC believe that the father of the baby has a huge impact on her and her decision. When her partner joins her at her appointment, it is our opportunity to minister to him. We look to include him as much as he and she are comfortable in our process. We have male volunteers (MVP's) on site to meet with him as she walks through our process. These MVP's look to nurture and mentor men through the decision-making process, birth and early parenthood. Just as it is with our female Clients, remember that the most important thing is to listen.

Please take time to read through the brochure the MVP's use with men and become familiar with what is being shared with them during the initial intake.

At RWC, we believe that if we can encourage the mother, the baby comes along as well. A life is saved. However, if we can encourage the father, a whole generation can be saved. Together, with God's help, they can navigate an unexpected baby and grow into a healthy and life-giving family.

Enjoy the short interview with Marvin.

Caring with Generosity

2 Corinthians 9:6-15 MSG

6 *Remember: A stingy planter gets a stingy crop; a lavish planter gets a lavish crop. I want each of you to take plenty of time to think it over, and make up your own mind what you will give. That will protect you against sob stories and arm-twisting. God loves it when the giver delights in the giving.*

8 *God can pour on the blessings in astonishing ways so that you're ready for anything and everything, more than just ready to do what needs to be done. As one psalmist puts it, He throws caution to the winds, giving to the needy in reckless abandon.*

His right-living, right-giving ways never run out, never wear out.

This most generous God who gives seed to the farmer that becomes bread for your meals is more than extravagant with you. He gives you something you can then give away, which grows into full-formed lives, robust in God, wealthy in every way, so that you can be generous in every way, producing with us great praise to God.

12 *Carrying out this social relief work involves far more than helping meet the bare needs of poor Christians. It also produces abundant and bountiful thanksgivings to God. This relief offering is a prod to live at your very best, showing your gratitude to God by being openly obedient to the plain meaning of the Message of Christ. You show your gratitude through your generous offerings to your needy brothers and sisters, and really toward everyone. Meanwhile, moved by the extravagance of God in your lives,*

they'll respond by praying for you in passionate intercession for whatever you need. Thank God for this gift, his gift. No language can praise it enough!

Poverty is in our world today, just as it always has been. God is very clear in scripture that the poor will always be with us - from the early book of Deuteronomy (Deuteronomy 15:11) through the wise sayings of Solomon (Proverbs 14:31/Proverbs 22:9) and even Jesus Himself (Matthew 5:3/Mark 14:7) the Word reminds us to notice the poor and care for those among us who struggle. And this poverty that we encounter is not always economic - we understand that one can be spiritually and emotionally struggling as well.

Paul understood this when he wrote this letter to a group of new believers in Corinth. When early believers left their Jewish synagogues to follow Jesus, they were cut off from their relatives, their culture, their employment, and their place of worship. Their lives were totally dependent on God, their faith in Him through Jesus and the leading of the Holy Spirit to help them along. Many times, God answered their needs through other people who generously gave.

We as Volunteers will more than likely encounter poverty of all kinds regularly. While it can be heart-breaking, it does not have to be life-crushing. Sharing what you have speaks love, in any language. Having a generous heart is a hallmark of Christianity. It is God's heart to give. To give to meet physical needs. To give gifts of creativity, ability, and opportunity. To give us true life, eternal life. We serve a generous God. As we serve, we have the awesome opportunity to reflect His heart towards all people and give our time, energy, resources and love. As we grow in Jesus, we must expand our giving.

Self-Reflection

Let's take a minute to think through the poverty we encounter and the giving of time, energy, resources and love by asking ourselves some of the following questions and journaling answers:

- What is my first thought when I encounter someone asking for donations at a stoplight? A homeless person on the street? A large family in line at the grocery store? Someone having a 'meltdown' at the Customer Service Counter? The Client who isn't caring for herself well?
- Where am I reluctant to give? To whom am I reluctant to give? What holds me back?
- When have people given to me where I have felt 'seen'?
- When have I been able to give to meet someone else's need?
- What motivates me to give?
- What motivates me to give generously?
- When has God blessed me as I gave? Did it surprise me?
- Am I looking for a blessing as I live for Him?

Our Boutique

A huge part of our Parenting Program at RWC is our Boutique. Not only is it a practical way to be generous to our Clients but it also give us an opportunity to practice hospitality. God is pretty big on hospitality as well - it is another way of giving! Hospitality is seen all throughout scripture - Abraham and Sarah entertained angels. The widow and her son were blessed because they provided a meal for Elijah, even as they were experiencing a sore lack of resources. Jesus sent out the Disciples, telling them to depend on hospitality to meet their needs (Matthew 10:9-14).

We practice hospitality every time we serve a Client in the Boutique. Let's take a minute and think through how this looks for us:

- What do I think of when I hear the word 'hospitality'?
- Am I familiar with the Guidelines and Policies for use of the Boutique?
- When I have a Client coming, do I take a minute to see what sort of condition the Boutique is in? Am I willing to straighten and clean before she arrives?
- Am I thinking '360' (sight/lighting, smells, pathways, sounds, clear and kind explanations of Guidelines and Policies/etc...) so that she is comfortable and can easily access what will bless her?
- Am I able to offer refreshment? Is it available and where can I find it?
- Do I have knowledge of other agencies and organizations that I can pass on to her so she can connect with them for needs that RWC is not equipped to handle?
- Has my conversation with her been all about problem solving? Have I taken a bit of time to find out what is new in her life? In her children's lives?
- Have I done any documentation that needs to be completed?
- Have I prayed for her or with her?

Finally, having a generous spirit does not always come easily. There will be times when we must fight our personal reluctance to share as God has asked us to do here at RWC. Quite simply, God's grace is shared through generosity, and we can expect that He will help us as we make room for relationships like He has made room to have a relationship with us, even as we are poor in spirit.