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*"A Vital Christian Presence in Social Work"*

**THE POWER OF SERVICE: RECLAIMING ONE OF THE KEY  
VALUES OF THE SOCIAL WORK PROFESSION**

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# **The Power of Service**



**Reclaiming One of the Key Values of the Social Work Profession**

**Luke 22:27 "I am among you as one who serves"**

**NACSW Conference / February 9, 2008/ Orlando Florida**

## Primary Track

- a. Faith of the Social Worker
- b. Community Organizing & Development

## Presentation Level

- a. Intermediate

## Primary Audience

- a. Social Workers
- b. Church Leaders

## Resource

*This presentation, developed from the book, The Externally Focused Church, Rusaw, R., Swanson, E. (2004) will challenge attendees to consider the bridge “service” can be when approached as a social work value that has attitudinal and conceptual impact on our work and calling (service-driven practice).*

# Learning Objectives

1. Overview of the social work code of ethics and the foundational values that inform our practice.
2. Consideration on how service-driven practice equates to Jesus-likened practice – **ensuring justice and the preservation of human dignity and worth.**
3. Exposure to a macro-level model of applying the value of “service” that includes:
  - a. The Dreams and Desires of a Community
  - b. The Calling and Capacity of the Church.
  - c. The Mandates of God.
4. Review examples of the results and benefits of “service-driven” practice.

- The mission of the social work profession is rooted in a set of core values. These core values, embraced by social workers throughout the profession's history, are the foundation of social work's unique purpose and perspective:
  - *service*
  - *social justice*
  - *dignity and worth of the person*
  - *importance of human relationships*
  - *integrity*
  - *competence.*

- **Value:** *Service*
- **Ethical Principle:** *Social workers' primary goal is to help people in need and to **address social problems**.*
- *Social workers elevate service to others above self-interest. Social workers draw on their knowledge, values, and skills to help people in need and to address social problems. Social workers are encouraged to volunteer some portion of their professional skills with no expectation of significant financial return (pro bono service).*

# Hallmarks of the Church

- Holiness (Leviticus 19:2)
- Abounding Love (John 15:12, Ephes. 5:2)
- Forgiveness (Ephes.4:32, Col. 3:13)
- ***Service (ministry) Galatians 5:13***



# Jesus – The Servant

## Old Testament

- Isaiah 42:1, 52:13, 53:11
- Zechariah 3:8

## New Testament

- Matthew 20:28
- Luke 22:27
- John 13:15-17
- Philippians 2:5-7

# Service...the model of Jesus

*Martin Luther King Jr.*

*“Jesus gave us a new norm of greatness...He who is greatest among you shall be your servant. That’s a new definition of greatness...You only need a heart full of grace, a soul generated by love.”* (Mark 9:33-35)

# Service...the model of Jesus

*Oswald Chambers*

*"I must deliberately give my sanctified life to God for his service so that He can use me as His hands and His feet."*

# Service...the model of Jesus

## Oswald Chambers

*"Service is the overflow which pours from a life filled with love and devotion..."*

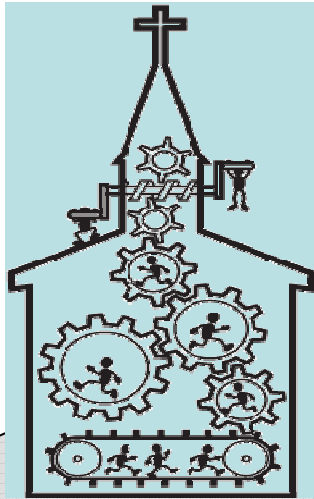
*Service is what I bring to the relationship and is the reflection of my identification with the nature of God."*

*"Service becomes a natural part of my life."*



## **Needs and Dreams of a City**

- Every city (community) has needs.
- Every city (community) has dreams about what they can be and do.
- People of power or influence in our communities generally want the best for the individuals who live there.
- Most people want the same thing for their communities.



## Calling & Capacity Of the Local Church

- The church has a role to play in creating healthy, transformed communities.
- God followers have a privilege of working in partnership with Him. (Ezra & Nehemiah)
- There is a call upon the church to minister (serve) to the disenfranchised – showing mercy and love as a reflection of the character of God (James 1:27).
- The church is the only agency that can touch heaven and earth – bring the gospel – and then disciple the nations. (Matthew 28:18-29, Mark 16:15)
- Every fellowship of believers has the capacity to serve the city (their community).



# **Mandates & Desires of God**

**Does God care about cities?**

**How do we know what God wants for a city?**

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- God can bring health and healing to a City (Jeremiah 33:6)
- God can (and does) watch over a city. (Psalm 127:1).
- A city can be a vehicle for bringing honor And glory to God (Jeremiah 33:9).
- Jesus desires for cities to come into a relationship with Him (Luke 13:34).
- God's desire is that cities be places of safety and salvation (Isaiah 65:17-25).

