



Diaconal  
Summit II

## *Short-Term Needs Case #1*

# Stan

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## Situation

Stan appears at the door of the church at the end of the morning service. You have never seen him before, but he asks if he could speak to the pastor or the deacons. You ask how you can help him and he says: "I need some money right away. I have a prescription from the doctor and it needs to be filled." Stan becomes more agitated as you try to gather information.

Stan does have what appears to be a valid prescription, though it looks a little worn. Stan said that he thought of coming to the church because he rides the bus past it almost every day.

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## Think About...

Though the prescription looks a little worn, the doctor's office is local and the date is recent.

Stan did provide his name and address but does not have a phone. He also did not have an ID since losing it while in a treatment center two months ago.

You tried calling the doctor's office to verify the prescription but there was no answer. Stan offered to go to the pharmacy together with you to fill the prescription if the church could pay for it.



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## Short-Term Needs Case #1 Worksheet

# Stan

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### Follow-Up Questions



*Obtain the "answers" from the facilitator before deciding on a recommendation.*

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Decision      Provide Assistance      Do Not Provide Assistance

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### Biblical Principles/Rationale

What Will You Say to the Case

Biblical Basis for the Response



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## Short-Term Needs Case #2

# Stella

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## Situation

Stella has been a member for about three months. She approaches you after the morning service and ask to speak to you about a diaconal need. You locate another deacon and sit down to discuss it. She unfolds a series of financial events that have brought her to a crisis point. Then she says:

“I never wanted to approach the deacons. I was raised to stand on my own two feet. But I don’t see any other way forward. So, I was wondering if the church would *loan* me the money until I can pay it back.”

After discussion, you discover that about three months ago her car was stolen and she didn’t get very much from her insurance claim. She has been relying on family members for help with transportation but it is becoming difficult. She is asking for \$1000 to put toward a car. She has a full-time job and is trying to get an additional part-time/weekend job to pay for it (but hasn’t been able to find one yet).

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## Think About...

She is reluctant to have a detailed financial discussion. She claims that she is very frugal and tries hard to be a good steward. She just wants some help to get over the hurdle of getting a down payment together. Once she has a car, she seems to feel like she will be fine. In fact, she declared, “after this I won’t ask the deacons for anything more.”



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## Short-Term Needs Case #2 Worksheet

# Stella

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## Follow-Up Questions



*Obtain the "answers" from the facilitator before deciding on a recommendation.*

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Decision  Provide Assistance  Do Not Provide Assistance

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## Biblical Principles/Rationale

What Will You Say to the Case

Biblical Basis for the Response



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## *Short-Term Needs Case #3*

# Sterling

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## Member

Sterling has asked if he might attend the Deacon Board meeting to make a request. He was granted permission. But when he unfolds his story, you are surprised to discover that it is not for himself that he is asking for help. “The McNeill family has a very high heating bill this month,” he says. They were behind last month too. I would like to pay off both months, but I do not want them to know that the money came from me. Could I make a donation and then have the deacons pay their bill for me?”

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## Think About...

One thing Sterling doesn't know is that there are other families in the church with needs and the deacons are already concerned that there are not enough resources for the current needs. You were unaware that the McNeill's were having any problems with their bills. You really don't know too much about their situation at all.



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## Short-Term Needs Case #3 Worksheet

# Sterling

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## Follow-Up Questions



*Obtain the "answers" from the facilitator before deciding on a recommendation.*

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Decision      Provide Assistance      Do Not Provide Assistance

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## Biblical Principles/Rationale

What Will You Say to the Case

Biblical Basis for the Response



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## *Short-Term Needs Case #4*

# Tom

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## Situation

It is an early Wed evening and you are at the church doing some minor maintenance. A man named Tom, driving an older Taurus, noticed you and has stopped to request assistance – he would like help buying gas so can get home. He is traveling through the area on his way home from a job interview. He is currently unemployed but says he is trying hard to find work. He mentions that he attends a Baptist church in a neighboring county and knows that they occasionally provide aid to people on need – he is hoping you can provide a similar mercy. You at the only deacon available at the moment.

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## Think About...



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## Short-Term Needs Case #4 Worksheet

# Tom

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## Follow-Up Questions



*Obtain the "answers" from the facilitator before deciding on a recommendation.*

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Decision      Provide Assistance      Do Not Provide Assistance

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## Biblical Principles/Rationale

What Will You Say to the Case

Biblical Basis for the Response





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## *Short-Term Needs Case #5*

# Paula

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## Situation

Paula seems familiar – as you talk with her, you are wondering whether she has visited before today. She has been sharing that she is a single mom and a widow, living in an extended stay/low-budget hotel. Your guess is that she is in her early 40's.

She approached you after the service to request help with rent for a week. She does not have a car. She works part time doing cleaning but primarily lives on SSI and food stamps. She missed a couple of shifts this week and is short on rent money. She is pleasant, clean, polite, dressed neatly, and seems intelligent though not highly educated.

You offered her some food from the church food pantry but she has only a hot plate to cook on so cannot really use it. You have about \$20 in cash in your wallet and there is probably \$50 in cash available at the church in the Deacon's cabinet.

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## Think About...

You called the landlord to verify her address and, after confirming her name and address, he volunteered that he believes there may be a few additional people living in the room, including her "man-friend." Her address did check out though, and the amount she stated as the weekly rent matched what the landlord told you.

When you did a Google search on her name, you came up with someone with the same name with a minor drug conviction four years ago. There was no picture though, and you can't tell for sure if it is the same person but it seems that, at least, she has kept her record clean for the past 5-years.



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## Short-Term Needs Case #5 Worksheet

# Paula

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## Follow-Up Questions



*Obtain the "answers" from the facilitator before deciding on a recommendation.*

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Decision      Provide Assistance      Do Not Provide Assistance

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## Biblical Principles/Rationale

What Will You Say to the Case

Biblical Basis for the Response



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## *Short-Term Needs Case #6*

# Donnie and Dawn

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## Situation

Donnie approached one of the members after the Sunday service and, during the course of their discussion, the member decided that Donnie should speak to one of the deacons, as he seemed to be in need of assistance. Donnie and his wife Dawn are not members but are regular attenders.

Donnie was very complimentary about their experience with the church and the friendly people they've been fellowshiping with. He shared that he has been having difficulty finding work but doesn't want charity. He would really like some help with cash, food or gas but wants to do some work for the church to earn it. Is there any work either of them could do? They suggested cleaning, painting, organizing storage closets, yardwork...he stressed that they are not afraid of hard work and would do pretty much anything.

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## Think About...

You certainly do have things that need to be done. However, it occurs to you that the church does have service contracts for maintenance and yardwork. You are a little concerned as well, about whether the church would have any legal liabilities for things like tax withholding, minimum wage laws, etc.



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## Short-Term Needs Case #6 Worksheet

# Donnie and Dawn

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## Follow-Up Questions



*Obtain the "answers" from the facilitator before deciding on a recommendation.*

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Decision  Provide Assistance  Do Not Provide Assistance

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## Biblical Principles/Rationale

What Will You Say to the Case

Biblical Basis for the Response