

BIBLICAL CHARITY

**A JOURNEY
FROM CONCERN TO CARING**



SPECIAL THANKS TO A CUP OF COLD WATER

- ALTHOUGH AN ORIGINAL MEMBER OF BCI, TIME AND AGE HAVE DIMINISHED MUCH OF WHAT I WOULD ONCE HAVE REMEMBERED.
- I OWE MUCH TO THE REV. DR. MICHAEL TOTTEN'S WORK INCLUDED IN A CUP OF COLD WATER A LOOK AT BIBLICAL CHARITY THAT JARRED THE COBWEBS FROM MY MEMORY AND ALLOWED ME TO COMPLETE THIS ASSIGNMENT.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

THE OLD TESTAMENT

THE EARLY CHURCH

THE LUTHERAN REFORMATION

THE MISSOURI SYNOD

AFTER W.W. 2

THE EFFECTS OF A SOCIAL GOSPEL

SINCE 2000

BIBLICAL CHARITY INC. IS FORMED

- BCI WAS CONCEIVED BY A DEDICATED LUTHERAN LAYMAN FROM NORTHERN CALIFORNIA AND LATER INCORPORATED AS A 5013C NON PROFIT CORPORATION IN 1988 .

FIRST CONSIDERATIONS WERE:

1. WHO SHOULD PROVIDE CHARITY?
2. WHO SHOULD RECEIVE CHARITY?
3. HOW SHOULD PROVIDER AND RECEIPIENT BE CONNECTED TO THE CHURCH?

FIRST CONSIDERATIONS WERE:

1. WHO SHOULD PROVIDE CHARITY?
2. WHO SHOULD RECEIVE CHARITY?
3. HOW SHOULD PROVIDER AND RECEIPIENT BE CONNECTED TO THE CHURCH?
4. METHOD OF CHARITY & HOW DOES TEMPORAL ASSISTANCE RELATE TO THE GOSPEL?

WHAT IS THE GOAL OF CHARITY & HOW MIGHT “SUCCESS” BE MEASURED?

DEFINING “BIBLICAL” CHARITY

“BIBLICAL CHARITY IS ANY VOLUNTARY,
UNILATERAL TRANSACTION WHICH IS
COMPATIBLE WITH BIBLICAL
PRINCIPLES

ON WHICH PARTICULAR ASPECT OF CHARITY
SHOULD BCI OF CA. CONCENTRATE?

WHERE TO BEGIN?

BCI WAS INTRODUCED TO THE TERM BIBLICAL CHARITY THROUGH THE WRITINGS OF GEORGE GRANT. (SPECIFICALLY HIS BOOK BRINGING IN THE SHEAVES 1985)

A THEOLOGICAL ASSESMENT OF GRANTS BOOK OFFERED THIS HELP

SACRAMENTAL & LITURGICAL IN NATURE
BUT WITH LEANINGS TOWARD THE THEOLOGY
OF CALVIN

GRANTS MODEL FOR BIBLICAL CHARITY

GRANT SAW THE GOVERNMENT AS EVIL AND THUS IN NO POSITION TO OFFER ANY REAL CHARITY. HIS CONCERN ABOUT INEFFECTUAL GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS WAS TO OFFER EFFECTIVE ECCLESIASTICAL PROGRAMS.

FOCUS OF BCI TO BE EDUCATION TOWARD BIBLICAL CHARITY

- IN THE EARLY PART OF THE 1990'S AN EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION WITH CONCORDIA SEMINARY ST. LOUIS IS FOSTERED. FROM A GRANT FROM BCI OF CA. TOTALLING \$400,000 BCCE IS BROUGHT TO LIFE.

**Biblical Charity Continuing Education program,
ADMINISTERED THROUGH CONCORDIA SEMINARY.**

EARLY EFFORTS OF BCCE

- WRITING OF PAPERS
- SPONSORING OF SEMINARS
- DELIVERING OF PAPERS
- REFINEMENT OF THEMES
- SUPPORT FOR “CHARITABLE PROJECTS”
- CASE STUDIES OF CHARITABLE ENDEVORS
- PUBLICATION OF A CUP OF COLD WATER

EARLY EFFORTS OF BCCE

FROM THESE EARLY EFFORTS, BCCE RECOGNIZED THAT IN THE CHURCHLY ARENA THERE WERE FOUR UNIQUE APPROACHES TO CHARITY. THIS RECOGNITION LEAD TO THE DEVELOPMENTOF A MEANS TO EVALUATE THESE DIFFERING METHODS.

4 MODELS FOR BIBLICAL CHARITY

1. CHARITABLE COMMERCE MODEL

2. THE BROAD SPECTRUM MODEL

3. THE VOCATIONAL MODEL

4. THE ESCHATOLOGICAL MODEL

EVALUATING MODELS FOR CHARITY

1. WHO IS THE PROVIDER OF CHARITY?

2. WHO IS THE RECEIPIENT OF CHARITY?

3. WHAT IS THE METHOD OF CHARITY?

4. WHAT IS THE GOAL OF CHARITY?

ANALYSIS THROUGH DEFINITION

1. CHARITABLE COMMERCE MODEL

PROVIDERS

RECEIPIENTS

THE WILLING POOR
CHURCH: SINGULAR OR PLURAL

METHOD

GOAL

ANALYSIS
HELP THE POOR ESCAPE POVERTY
THE BOOTSTRAP ETHIC

THE BROAD SPECTRUM MODEL

PROVIDERS

RECEIPIENTS

BEYOND BASIC NEEDS

THE CHURCH (CORPORATE)

METHOD

GOAL

ANALYSIS

INCREASE ECCLESIASTICAL PROVIDERS
CHRIST'S EXAMPLE AND HUMAN NEEDS

3. THE VOCATIONAL MODEL

PROVIDERS

RECEIPIENTS

EACH INDIVIDUAL DECIDES
ACCORDING TO THEIR
VOCATION

ANALYSIS
NO RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN
CHARITY AND PREACHING THE

GOSPEL 1ST ARTICLE ISSUE
CHRISTIANS INVOLVED IN HUMANITY

4. ESCHATOLOGICAL MODEL

PROVIDERS

RECEIPIENTS

ALL CHRISTIANS PRIMARILY OTHER CHRISTIANS

METHOD

GOAL

TO LIVE IN THE NEW CREATION ALREADY
GALATIANS 6:10

4 MODELS FOR BIBLICAL CHARITY

1. CHARITABLE COMMERCE MODEL

2. THE BROAD SPECTRUM MODEL

3. THE VOCATIONAL MODEL

4. THE ESCHATOLOGICAL MODEL

BCI

WHAT IS IT'S MODEL?

- BIBLICAL:
- SHARING CHRIST POURED OUT FROM FONT, ALTAR, AND WORD.
- CHARITY:
- TEACHING GOD'S PEOPLE TO BE HIS CARING HANDS ON EARTH, LIVING IN THEIR VOCATION (NEW CREATION) AS HE PREPARES HIS CHILDREN IN THIS LIFE FOR ETERNAL LIFE WITH HIM.
- INSTITUTE:
- THROUGH EDUCATION AND EDUCATIONAL EFFORTS, LINKING HANDS OF MERCY FOR NEEDS IN THE LEFT & RIGHT HAND KINGDOMS OF GOD THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

BIBLICAL CHARITY

**A JOURNEY
FROM CONCERN TO CARING**

