

Week 3

God's Heart for the Poor

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Now is the time to take stock of our enormous potential as a movement and build on the awesome vision God has granted us. As we begin to take concrete steps to invest in this vision, I'd like you to consider some important things.

As in almost every major American city, the evangelical church in Columbus is looking to grow in the prosperous, expanding suburbs. And as in almost every major American city, low and marginal income areas of Columbus have been largely ignored by the church.

By establishing a permanent physical presence in South Linden and north campus, substantial populations largely isolated from the gospel will have a compelling witness on their turf.

God has been laying the foundation for dynamic urban-centered ministry through Xenos for more than a decade. Now is the time to take these ministries to a higher level. Meeting the needs of those least able to meet their own is a defining feature of authentic biblical faith.

I believe that today, the Lord has raised up Xenos to reap God's harvest in those areas of Columbus in greatest need and with the least active Christian presence.

I pray the testimony of our church will be that when God opened doors of opportunity to glorify him, we didn't hold back. I live in the hope that eternity will look very different because love for our neighbor in need had real substance.

For discussion:

Read the following Proverbs and summarize the thought of each.

Proverbs 14:20

Proverbs 14:31

Proverbs 17:5

Proverbs 19:17

Proverbs 22:2

Proverbs 29:7

How does God view the poor?

How does God view those who neglect the poor?

How does God view those who attend to the needs of the poor?

What was your perspective on the poor before you became a Christian? How has your perspective changed since you became a Christian?

Prayer Points:

- Ask God to give you empathy for the poor.
- Ask God to help you see less fortunate people as he does.
- Ask God to continue to lead our church to serve the poor in Columbus and throughout the world.
- Ask God to show you how you and others can be generous. What could I sacrifice or economize on to be more generous?