



**The following four principles will guide the Riverside Community Outreach Team in determining how best to steward our human and financial resources in order to bear witness to the Kingdom of God in our community.**

**1. Christ-centered, God-directed, scriptural, and evangelistic.**

(1 Corinthians 1:18; Matthew 28:19-20; Romans 1:16)

Riverside outreach is done in response to the work that God has already done through Jesus Christ. Initiatives, no matter how great, that do not arise from our desire and call to serve God will be worthless. We do not want to do things because they are good, but because God has called us to them. We will go anywhere and do anything for God that does not contradict the Bible. Although Riverside's outreach efforts will not always involve an overt Gospel presentation, our efforts will be grounded in our desire for all to come to know Jesus Christ as Lord.

**2. Personal, relational, organic.**

(Micah 6:8; Matthew 4:19; Matthew 25:35-36, 40; 1 Peter 3:15; Ephesians 6:7)

Riverside's outreach will be most effective when it facilitates interactions that foster the development of personal relationships. We believe that outreach is increasingly effective as relationships grow deeper. We will give priority to missions and outreach opportunities that involve personal contact with those we are supporting or ministering to. We believe that relationships are the most fertile ground for God's work through us. We cannot force God's work, but can help to create environments where it is more likely to take place organically.

**3. Sustainable, long-term, fruitful.**

(Malachi 3:10; James 2:12-13; Matthew 25:21; 1 Corinthians 12:4-7; Matthew 6:21)

Riverside realizes that transformation nearly always takes time and is rarely easy. We will give priority to outreach opportunities that do not simply provide aid, but encourage sustainable solutions that will lessen the likelihood of reoccurring issues. We want to commit to people for the long-term and build trust. We want to be workers of compassion, mercy and justice in all that we do. We expect our partnership with God to produce fruit in the lives of those we work with. Sometimes our steps will be small and seem insignificant, but we expect to participate in transformation that is immeasurably more than we could hope or imagine.

**4. Prayer and discernment.**

(Psalm 37:7; James 4:8; Luke 11:9-11; Deuteronomy 4:7)

Riverside seeks to listen to God before acting. Outreach can sometimes raise difficult issues about methods and the line between being in the world and being of the world. Riverside will not simply use human wisdom to determine how we should act at various times and in various places. We commit to seeking God and seeking godly discernment in choosing which outreach and evangelism opportunities that God is calling us to pursue. In our boldness we will take risks for the Gospel and trust that the Spirit is empowering us.