

Questions to ASK

The ultimate impact of our outreach efforts will be determined in large part on how well we understand the need to begin with. Our outreach efforts, no matter how well intentioned, often fail to address the true need, because we did not take the time to learn enough about it. Fortunately it does not have to be a “hit and miss” guessing process. We can gain insights by simply ASKING questions of those in need and those already working with the need. If you ASK with a heart of service and readiness to listen, God will provide the insights to help you effectively meet the need. Below are some sample questions to get you started.

1

ASK About the Need

What is the greatest need in this community/area/situation?

Why is this need present?

Who is trying to meet this need?

Are they effective? Why? Why not?

What is the best way to address this need?

2

ASK the Person in Need

How are you doing?

How can we help/serve you?

How have others helped? Not helped?

What would you want us to understand about your need?

3

ASK a Person Already Working with the Need

How are you addressing this need?

What challenges are you facing?

What successes are you experiencing?

How can we best serve or support you?

How have others helped? Not helped?