

# Bridgeway Church of the Nazarene

Beaufort, NC

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## The Love Fund

Assistance, Financial, and Helps Manual

(Revised September 2024)

### The Scriptural Basis:

***“For I was hungry, and you gave me food. I was thirsty, and you gave me drink. I was a stranger, and you welcomed me. I was naked, and you clothed me. I was sick, and you visited me. I was in prison, and you came to me. Truly, I say to you: whenever you did it for one of the least of these, you did it for Me”*** (Jesus’ words, Matthew 25).

### History and Purpose:

Our desire at Bridgeway Church of the Nazarene is to be a faith community that always seeks to lift up the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and to fulfill His Great Commission. This is given in Matthew 28, ***“to go into all the world and make disciples of all people.”***

Since the launch and start of this church, we have been exceptionally benevolent and generous to help others (families and individuals) who are in need. This is for those who are a part of our church, those in the community at large, and those who live and dwell along the Crystal Coast.

The Love Fund and our local compassionate team, led by the Pastor, Director, and a team of members, collectively work together to oversee this ministry/mission as an important part of our calling. We are grateful for the dedication, resources, and time that many give to make this part of ministry happen.

### Who We Are:

Bridgeway Church is a community of faith, hope, and love. We proclaim and profess, ***“Jesus is Lord!”*** in all that we say and do. More than words, we believe in action and we are a missional people as part of our larger family: The Church of the Nazarene. As a local body, we are also regional and global, with churches, ministries, outreach, and training centers across 165 world areas.

Our belief is that we are “better together,” and we surely are. You and your family are always invited to join us (and be a part of what God is doing) here, each Sunday at 10 am. We have ministries for all ages.

Worship is the 1<sup>st</sup> step if you are seeking a church, and there are many other ways to become/be involved. We would love to have you and your family!

### Purpose of The Love Fund:

To be a genuine and sincere component of our Outreach Ministries. The Lord gave us this mandate to do what we can (and are able to do), in action, to assist and help those in a place of need. Additionally, we desire to share His Good News and spread it, for His glory.

The purpose of this ministry/mission is 3-fold in nature:

1. To educate and train people, with God's help, for the purpose of adopting and living out biblically sound financial/life concepts.
2. To provide counseling on a case-by-case basis for financial troubles, faith and life challenges, and any spiritual direction that is needed. Many times several factors contribute to patterns that need to be addressed and broken in order for healing to occur. We want to give you the tools and resources needed to overcome.
3. To assist, as needed, with basic life and physical needs. The 2 critical points in this are: Accountability and Availability, and are discussed in more detail here:

#### Accountability

When God's resources and the entrustment for these are given to the church, we must ensure accountability is front and center. Within this, we do acknowledge the requests for assistance and help can have a very short window of response time. Many are imminent in nature.

This does not impact accountability. However, we do have a Team organized to address, answer, and responds in a quick turnaround time.

Any/All financial assistance given will be at the discretion of The Love Fund Team, communicated through the Director. All requests are prayed for, discussed in confidence, and responded to (no matter what the response is). Any financial request is also dependent on available funds at that particular time.

#### Availability

The finances/monies of the church are for the "building up of God's Kingdom: and for the support of the ministries/mission of the church. Our 1<sup>st</sup> and foremost priority is to honor the commitments that we have made and to be good stewards of what God has given to us.

The church is primarily a spiritual people, a living body, brought together to build each other up and proclaim: “Jesus is Lord!” Within ministry, we also believe the church cannot turn a blind-eye and deaf-ear to the needs of people who are facing basic, real life challenges and situations. Our love and concern for others is truly anchored in the love we have for God.

Please do understand: *our ability to assist with any financial need, no matter how large or small, is linked to our availability of funds at that time.*

#### What it looks like:

When a member, attendee, or anyone from the community approaches or contacts the church or our Director/Team for a request, this is generally the process that will follow:

- They will be prayed for, welcomed, and set at ease.
- They will be informed (in short) of our policy/procedure.
- They will be asked about details concerning the request, and a request for documentation may be made.
- They will be asked about current status of employment+income.
- They will be asked about other inquiries for assistance, through other avenues including churches, civic, government, and non-profit organizations.
- An Application for Assistance will be provided, and will need to be completed in full before a decision is made.
- We will make it clear that our policy is not to give cash or write checks to any person. Rather, assistance and/or financial help will be direct to banks, credit and loan institutions; landlord/rental entities; utility companies; insurance organizations; etc.
- While emergencies do exist and happen—please understand we will usually need **36-48 hours** to fully process your request/application and get a decision to you. Our team does its best to expedite as quickly as possible, and we do appreciate your understanding.

#### Policy Guidelines:

- No cash or checks will be written directly to any individual or person.
- Each individual or person may apply and receive assistance, no more than twice per calendar year.
- No assistance more than **\$500.00** (per calendar year), per household, will be approved/permitted.
- Bridgeway Church does not “loan money.” No loans to people or individuals are considered. We assist and give with no expectation of being paid back. As the Lord provides and as things turn around, we do encourage all to give back.

- The Application must be completed in full for accountability purposes.
- A 36-48 hour turnaround is our standard.
- In situations of food/life-item needs: we will always try and give people (and families) something to eat/drink.
- Each person/family who is not affiliated with our church (or any church) will be given information on our church and will be invited.
- Our hope is that each person/family needing or requesting assistance will prayerfully and seriously consider registering for our Budgeting 101 Class. This is offered as needed and as needs arise. It is custom-designed to meet practical needs while offering biblically sound concepts.

Finally.

Please note: You may read this online, but **pages #5 and #6 must be completed, printed off, and submitted**. Thank you again for your understanding.

Please see the next 2 pages for completion.

## Application for Assistance/Financial Help

This Form will not be duplicated/shared. It will not be viewable to anyone who is not on The Love Fund Team or who is not involved in the decision-making process. Your privacy will be protected.

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Cell#): \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Bridgeway Church (if any):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Family status: Married: \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

# of Children at Home: \_\_\_\_\_

How were you referred to this ministry (how did you hear about us)?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Amount of your request: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for your request:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Have you sought other assistance for this need? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

If yes, please list what other churches or organizations you have applied with:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Your household income (per month): \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Monthly expenses total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Amount owed on debt (credit accounts/cards): \$ \_\_\_\_\_

How much do you currently have in:

Cash: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Checking: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Savings: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Is there anything else you would like to share:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for filling out this application. We commit to helping you in any way(s) we can. We will get a timely response to you within the 36-48 hour window providing this application is complete. Know that our prayers are with you in this time.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Bridgeway Church use only:**

Initials of Director: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_