

# The Needs Spectrum in Your Church

← Non-Pressing Needs →	← "Pressing Needs" (Titus 3:14) →		
Special Project Needs	Emergency Special Project Needs	<b>Long Term Needs</b>	Catastrophic Long Term Needs (2 Corinthians 9:8)
<p>One time need for help.</p>	<p>One time need for help involving immediate danger to life and/or property.</p>	<p>People whose normal social relationships have been severed or who have disabilities.</p>	<p>A life altering event that results in total dependence.</p>
<p>"Can you send some men over to help me move this weekend?"</p> <p>"My pipe has burst and it flooded my basement. Is there a plumber in the church who can fix it?"</p>	<p>"I'm being evicted on Monday and if I don't have my possessions out by Sunday, I'll lose everything. Can you send someone over to help me move?"</p> <p>"My pipe has burst and it flooded my basement. I can't afford a plumber. Can someone come over to help me fix it?"</p>	<p>The widowed, single parents, children without a parent, the disabled and the mentally handicapped.</p>	<p>"My husband is in prison, I have ten children, I've been diagnosed with terminal cancer and have only weeks to live. Can you help me?"</p> <p>A youth pastor takes a group of kids waterskiing, falls and breaks his neck. He immediately becomes a quadriplegic.</p> <p>"Widows indeed" in 1 Timothy 5.</p>
<p>People who make special project requests of the church are really asking for cheap labor.</p> <p>It is appropriate for them to ask individuals in the church for help, but not to expect the church itself to be responsible.</p>	<p>If the church does not distinguish between special project needs and emergency special project needs, it will soon deplete its resources and burn its volunteers out.</p> <p>The church cannot meet all special project requests and needs to learn to say no to non-emergencies.</p>	<p>Long term needs tend to be ignored in the church because they are not dramatic. But they are real.</p> <p>What these people really need is the love of Christ.</p> <p><b>The love of Christ involves personal identification, commitment and sacrifice.</b></p> <p>By focusing on long term needs first, the church becomes ready for "every good deed."</p>	<p>This class of need offers the greatest challenge to the local church because it involves major sacrifice on the part of the church, often for years.</p>

