

# **ABF Benevolence Policy**

Armuchee Bible fellowship desires to glorify God by being generous as He blesses and directs us, especially to widows, orphans and the needy. We strive to honor God by being good stewards of the funds entrusted to us by God and the congregation (Acts 2:44-45; 4:32-37; Gal. 6:10; Phil. 4:10-14, 19; 2 Thess. 3:4-13; Eph. 4:28; 1 Tim. 5:3-16; 6:6-10; Jas. 1:27; 2:15-16). The Scriptural basis listed here is not intended to be comprehensive, but is a recognition of solid New Testament support for benevolence ministries. Those in need of salvation from their sins will be encouraged to repent and believe on Christ.

## ***I. Who ABF Helps:***

- 1) Our first priority is to the members of our local body.
- 2) We also desire to help those who are not members of our local body but are true believers in Jesus Christ. Those seeking assistance are to first do so from their home church.
- 3) As it is wise to do so, ABF desires to help those who are in genuine, temporary need. This will be determined on a case by case basis.
- 4) Records are kept for those who have been helped.

## ***II. When ABF Helps:***

- 1) ABF can only help as God blesses us to help. If we do not have the resources to help, the elders may determine to bring a specific situation to the congregation to request help. This is determined on a case-by-case basis.
- 2) IRS Regulations state that as a non-profit organization, we can only offer help to individuals or families for food, clothing, medical help, and shelter (which includes essential utilities). Any needs that do not fall into these four categories, we are unable to meet. No cash gifts will be given.
- 3) ABF may recommend people to participate in any appropriate programs that are offered to meet some requests. (See attached list of resources)

## ***III. How ABF Helps:***

- 1) Appointed deacons are the primary administrators of the Benevolence Fund. When funds are not available in Benevolence designated funds and the Deacon(s) responsible feel that there is a legitimate need, Pastoral approval is required to fund the benevolence request.
- 2) The deacons determine the scope and the urgency of the need to determine whether to place those requesting help on the church benevolence list for ongoing help or given a one-time gift only. In some situations, we may encourage the family of the one requesting help to provide the necessary resources (1 Tim 5:3-8). Other sources may include retirement savings, eliminating unnecessary items in one's budget, and sale of unnecessary goods.
- 3) For those not attending our congregation, or those not recommended by those attending our congregation, we will help with food. For those who are a part of our congregation, we help financially with any need of food, clothing, and shelter as may seem wise, as funds are available.
- 4) A Benevolence application must be filled out entirely. Sufficient time needs to be given for the examination, verification, and/or approval of the request before the due date of any bills in question. Normally, we suggest that the applicant make the request at least two weeks in advance of the bill due date. Those administering the benevolence fund will then verify that the information and the needs are genuine. After applying for benevolence, if the applicant acquires other resources which enable them to meet the bill/s in question without the church's assistance, the applicant is obligated to inform those administering the church funds and expected to pay the bill(s) themselves.

#### ***IV. Limitations:***

Assistance will not be given in cases of:

- 1) personal loans
- 2) unwillingness to work (2 Thess. 3:10) - We cannot offer any jobs at the church property by those requesting help.
- 3) a demanding, unteachable, or uncooperative spirit.
- 4) open unrepentant sin

#### ***V. Support:***

If a request meets the guidelines of this policy and funds are available, the deacon/s responsible may approve a grant of up to \$200 to a member of our church once each year. Additional gifts within one year or gifts exceeding a \$500 long-term cap will require specific authorization by the Elders. Ongoing gifts require a household budget to be submitted within 30 days of the request. Deacons give counsel or financial advice as needed to promote financial responsibility in those who are in need. Those requesting help must maintain full-time employment if able to do so. Gifts will be given in the form of a check, in most cases, payable not to those requesting help but to the vendor.

Deacons will contact people on the benevolence list once a month to check the progress and then report monthly to the elders if the person requesting help is on list for more than 3 months.

**Benevolence Request Form**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Driver's License Number \_\_\_\_\_ (Or other picture ID) – Verify ID

Church Membership \_\_\_\_\_

Other churches contacted for help \_\_\_\_\_

Current Employer \_\_\_\_\_ Marital Status \_\_\_\_\_

Salvation Testimony : \_\_\_\_\_

Verification of the Need (Bills, Contracts, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Deacon Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## **Homeless and/or Indigent Care Assistance**

### **Shelter**

Men: (William S. Davies) 706-232-9990 / 228 S. Broad St., Rome GA. 30161

Women: (Hospitality House) 706-235-4673 / Turner McCall across from Papa John's

Family: (S.O.W. Inc.) 706-204-8269 / 404 S. Broad Street. Rome GA. 30161

### **Aid**

Good Neighbor Ministry: (General Assistance) 706-291-0556 / 208 E. 2nd Street Rome. GA. 30161

Floyd County Baptist Center: (Food) 706-291-8181 / 17 Burnett Ferry Rd. Rome, GA. 30161

Rome Action Ministries: (Food/Shelter/General Assistance) 706-291-7731 / 207 E. 19th Street. Rome GA. 30161

DFACS: (Department of Family and Children's Service) 706-295-6500 / 450 Riverside Parkway Rome GA. 30162

### **Employment**

GDOL: (Georgia Department of Labor) 706-295-6051 / 462 Riverside Parkway Rome GA. 30162

Etowah Employment: (Part-time and Temporary Labor) 706-235-3408 / 255 North Fifth Ave. Rome GA. 30161

### **Legal Aid**

Rome BAR Association: (706) 291-8853