



# Summer Orientation Packet

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*\*Please copy these forms for each participant to have them complete the needed information. Please have these forms ready for your registration upon your arrival\**

*\*\*Training Session Material to be completed by your group\*\**

**Thank you!**

**“Set Free”**

**– SOS '10 –**



# Service Over Self, Inc.

Dear Group Leader,

Welcome to SOS! We are so excited and thankful for your partnership with us. Without your group SOS would not be able to carry out its God given mission to *glorify God by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ in word and deed through urban home repair camps*. This past year, SOS was able to repair 39 homes in Binghampton and Orange Mound as well as share the good news of the love of Jesus Christ with the homeowners involved. We are extremely privileged to be used by our heavenly Father to bring help to the helpless, shelter to the homeless and the saving power of the gospel of Jesus Christ to the spiritually poor. It brings us great joy for your group to join us in what God is doing in Memphis, TN, and to join in Christ's mission to sacrifice and give of ourselves for the sake of others. We thank you in advance for the many hours of hard work and outpouring of love, and we pray that together we would give glory and honor to our Father in heaven in the way that we love and serve.

This year's theme is **Set Free**, which comes from **Psalm 102:18-22** ***"Let this be recorded for a generation to come, so that a people yet to be created may praise the Lord: that he looked down from his holy height; from heaven the Lord looked at the earth, to hear the groans of the prisoners, to SET FREE those who were doomed to die, that they may declare in Zion the name of the Lord, and in Jerusalem his praise, when peoples gather together, and kingdoms, to worship the Lord."*** Our hope and desire is to minister to homeowners in Binghampton through the work we do on their homes as well as the way that we love them as we spend time with them. We also hope to cast a vision to the youth of a life lived with a purpose for God's glory which involves service, loving the poor, and sacrifice for the sake of others. We hope that they will come to know Jesus personally and desire to spend their lives loving Him and doing the things that He loves. Lastly we love missions, and we desire to open the campers' eyes to the world and God's plan and purpose to have people from every tribe, tongue, and nation worshipping before His throne.

Thank you again for joining us and know that we are praying for you and your group, if you have any specific need please let us know. Please begin, even now, to pray for your week here, the homeowners you will meet, the neighborhood, and the lives that will be changed. The following packet of information should give you most of the information you will need to prepare for your week here at SOS. If you have any additional questions or concerns please don't hesitate to call or email ([candace@sosmemphis.org](mailto:candace@sosmemphis.org) or 901-681-9044).

See you this summer!

Candace Todd  
Program Director

CHRIST'S LOVE...OUR ONLY HOPE

2505 POPLAR AVENUE – MEMPHIS, TN – 38112 – 901.681.9044. – FAX 901.683.5725 – [WWW.SOSMEMPHIS.ORG](http://WWW.SOSMEMPHIS.ORG)

## OUR STORY

Service Over Self, Inc. began as a two-week inner city missions experience out of a local Memphis church in the summer of 1986. Since that time, SOS has grown into a year-round Christian community development organization. As a non-profit Christian urban camp, SOS hosts volunteers throughout the year to work with residents to make homes warmer, safer and drier in the name of Christ. SOS hosts nearly 1,700 volunteers a year to participate in one of our two camps: SOS (Binghampton) - Spring Camps for college students, Summer Camps for junior and senior high students, and groups of any age during our Fall Weekend Camps; and SOS114 (Orange Mound) - Summer Camps for senior high students.

By means of these volunteers, SOS is able to offer free home repairs to homeowners. Volunteers and homeowners strip and shingle roofs, replace rotten floors and leaky plumbing, repair damaged sheetrock, scrape and paint siding, to list a few of our repairs. SOS volunteers have repaired more than 500 homes during these years.

Since 1998, SOS has specifically targeted one inner city neighborhood, Binghampton, for the purpose of fully investing in a particular community of need. Through partnerships with other organizations, community members and families that have relocated to Binghampton for community development purposes, the ministry and work of SOS has been greatly enhanced. Whereas SOS is able to deliver on meeting the housing needs of many Binghampton homeowners, our partner organizations and concerned community members are able to address other needs such as: employment opportunities and job training, enhanced education, violence prevention and so on.

In the summer of 2009, SOS began work in an additional inner city neighborhood via SOS114, a grassroots endeavor, to host campers to make homes warmer, safer and drier in the Historic Orange Mound community. SOS114 is run by our Academy interns and hosts six weeks of camp for senior high students during the summer. SOS will continue to focus on Binghampton, but it is also our hope to implement principles learned in Binghampton throughout other inner cities of Memphis, such as Orange Mound.

Over the years, more than 20,000 volunteers have spent from a Saturday afternoon to a full week in the heart of Memphis working alongside needy homeowners. We seek to repair and renovate housing, but we realize that inadequate housing is just one of the many issues that plague our city. We believe that the ultimate issue, however, is spiritual. While SOS may be able to introduce a change in living conditions, our ultimate goal is to introduce volunteers, homeowners and neighborhoods to the One who can change a heart - Jesus Christ. True and lasting change can only come when people are reconciled to God through a relationship with Jesus Christ. Christ's love is our only hope. SOS seeks to have a Kingdom impact in our neighborhood, city, country and world through the following ministry objectives:

First, our strategy for reaching the world for Christ begins in the Binghampton & Orange Mound neighborhoods of Memphis. It is from these neighborhoods that SOS operates workdays, weekend retreats, and weeklong mission camps. Many homeowners are physically or financially incapable of maintaining their home. SOS offers free home repair to these homeowners. Through volunteer labor, homes are made drier, warmer and safer. The volunteers and homeowners strip and shingle roofs, replace rotten floors and leaky plumbing, repair damaged sheetrock, scrape and paint, and clean, to list a few of our repairs. SOS volunteers have repaired more than 500 homes during these years. Our mission for Binghampton & Orange Mound is that SOS seeks to meet the needs of the poor in the name of Christ and to encourage every family into a healthy church home.

Second, SOS seeks to have impact in our city through our partnerships with many local churches. Each week of our summer camps is "adopted" by this ecumenical group consisting of Methodist, Presbyterian, Episcopal, Evangelical, Bible and non-denominational churches. Our hope is that as adult volunteers from these churches come weekly to serve us through meals, laundry, prayer, deliveries, etc. they might be exposed to and encouraged to a life of missions and service. We seek to be the close and inexpensive "entry level" missions experience that might ignite the radical, sacrificial heart of the believer.

Third, SOS seeks to have impact in our nation through our contact with the approximately 1,700 college and high school volunteers that attend our spring and summer camps from all parts of the country. We seek to proclaim the gospel; we seek to encourage our campers towards a kingdom minded worldview; and we seek to open hearts and minds to God's spirit and His heart for justice and mercy to the vulnerable of our world.

Fourth, and last, SOS seeks to have a worldwide Kingdom impact through our 10-week relationship with our 40 college staff and yearlong relationship with our college graduate interns. While at SOS, our summer staff and interns have the opportunity to learn how to live in Christian community, how to minister to suburban teenagers and urban families, and how to serve others in a self-sacrificing context. In addition, we focus our private time together seeking to instill in each of our staffers and interns a God-glorifying missions world view. We seek to encourage the next generation of believers to desire to delight the Heart of God through living for His Kingdom and His reputation, and not their own.

We seek to accomplish these tasks through four one-week Spring break missions camps for college students, eight one-week summer mission camps for junior and senior high school students and weekend Fall camps for volunteers of all ages.

For more information, please see our website at [www.sosmemphis.org](http://www.sosmemphis.org) or call us at 901-681-9044.

# **SERVICE OVER SELF, INC.**

## **VISION STATEMENT**

*Empowered persons. Transformed neighborhoods.*

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

*SOS exists to glorify God by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ in word and deed through urban home repair camps.*

## **STATEMENT OF FAITH**

- We believe that the Bible is the divinely inspired Word of God. It is God's revelation of Himself to mankind. Therefore, the Bible is Truth and is our authority in all matters of life and ministry. 1 Thessalonians 2:13, 2 Timothy 3:16-17, and 2 Peter 1:12.
- We believe in God revealed in three persons. We believe God is our creator, and therefore, we are accountable to Him. We believe in God who is both equally and completely loving and holy. Acts 17:24-27, Exodus 34:6-7, and 1 John 4:6.
- We believe that sin entered the world through the Fall of Adam and Eve. We believe that all mankind is conceived and born in this lost and fallen state. We believe that result of this sin is death and eternal separation from God, our creator. Genesis 3:1-6, Romans 5:12, 1 John 1:8, Romans 3:23, Hebrews 9:27, Romans 6:23, Matthew 25:32,33,41.
- We believe in the deity of Jesus Christ, His virgin birth, sinless life, death, bodily resurrection, personal return and present exaltation at God's right hand. John 1:1-17, 1 John 3:5, Mark 16:19, Acts 1:11.
- We believe in the resurrection of the saved to everlasting life and joy in heaven and the resurrection of the unsaved onto everlasting punishment. Matthew 25:32-41, 2 Thessalonians 1:5-10, Revelation 20:15, Revelation 21:4.
- We believe in salvation from God's punishment and to eternal life by God's grace through faith in the perfect life, substitutionary death and shed blood of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. 1 Peter 1:18-19, 1 Corinthians 15: 3, 1 Peter 3:18.
- We believe that God's great call and commission to His people is to live lives obedient to His Word and to go into all the world to preach the Good News of Jesus Christ to all people baptizing and discipling all those who believe. Matthew 28:19-20. Acts 1:8, 1 Thessalonians 4:1-7, 1 Peter 2:9.

# LEADER RESPONSIBILITIES AND CHECK-LIST

## 1 Registration:

- Complete group application and sign tuition contract
- Send SOS your group application, signed payment policy and contract, and a \$50.00 per person participant deposit
- Note: your next tuition balance of \$250.00 per person will be due May 15<sup>th</sup> (*You are welcome to pay your balance earlier if you wish*)

## 2 Prior to Arrival:

- Set dates for group meetings to go through the "Training Session Material" (pp. 23-30)
- At group preparation meetings distribute the following information sheets:
  - Center Policies
  - Camp Rules
  - Logistics
  - Tentative Daily Schedule
  - Statement of Activities and Release of Liability Form (Note: there are separate release of liability forms for youth and adults.)
  - Remind them that the remaining balance \$250.00 per person fee is due by May 15<sup>th</sup>
- SOS will inform you of how many work teams your group will need to be split up into. Your role will be to make those teams, make the students aware of their teams as well as have at least 1 adult on each team. You will also need to complete a Volunteer Team Information Sheet for each team.
- Please have all adult leaders fill out the Adult Self-Screening Form and mail them to SOS by May 15<sup>th</sup>

## 3 Day of arrival:

- Please arrange to arrive at the SOS building between 3:00 and 4:00 p.m. Please be on time, but not early. Thank you.
- Bring the following:
  - Medical form for each youth and adult (the team leaders will keep these at the work site with the team)
  - Release of Liability form for each participant (note: there are separate forms for adults and youth).
  - Completed Volunteer Team Information Sheet (one per work team)

# CENTER POLICIES

## Daily Schedule

Your cooperation in sticking to the daily schedule is needed and appreciated. Remember that many people are living together for a week. Anything that we can do to show respect for others will only make the week better for us all.

## Meals

Breakfast: Be there at 7:45 am sharp! Be sure to sit in your work teams as you eat a light breakfast of cereal, pastries, fruit, juice, and coffee.

Lunch: A "brown bag" lunch will be packed at the SOS center each morning and eaten at the work site. SOS provides sandwiches, potato chips, fruit, and cookies. Sandwich ingredients include: peanut butter, jelly, ham, turkey, cheese, mustard and mayonnaise. With the Sharpie pen at your table, write your name and what kind of sandwich you would like on the sandwich bag(s) provided. Two "sandwich crew" people from each work team will then make sandwiches and bag the lunches.

**\*\*Note: Your team provides beverages and ice\*\***

Supper: This is a family style dinner where you sit wherever you want. Just make sure that once the food is on the table you serve the person on your left. The "scraper game" will be played to determine who will be the scraper for the evening. (Vegetarian Notice: because of the size of our camps we are unable to provide vegetarian meals or specific meal requests. Therefore, if you are unable to eat what we provide, we ask that you bring your own food and we will store it for you during the week. We are sorry for any inconvenience this may cause; please call us with any questions.)

## Housekeeping

The work crews will take turns doing the basic chores at the center. **\*\*Every team member is expected to participate\*\***

## Store

The SOS store will be open Monday and Thursday from 4:30- 6:15. You will be able to purchase SOS apparel such as t-shirts, sweatshirts, hats, stickers and more! We accept cash, checks, debit cards and credit cards.

## Tools

Monday morning each team will complete a "tool inventory sheet" to familiarize the team with the tools, and note which tools are lost, if any. At the end of the week, each team will go through the "tool inventory sheet" once again so as to ensure that no tools were lost during the week. *If there are any lost or broken tools, your group will be billed to reimburse SOS.*

## Adult Leaders

A The SOS Staff are excited about facilitating your mission experience. However, we cannot do it alone. **Each adult will be expected to:**

- 1 Be *at least* 21 years of age
- 2 Participate in SOS activities (i.e. meals, morning meetings, noon devotionals and chapel)
- 3 Complete an Adult Self-Screening Form and return it to SOS by May 15<sup>th</sup>
- 4 Oversee his or her own youth to:
  - **Enforce lights out after the SOS staff have turned off the lights** at 10:30 pm
  - Make sure your team is present for breakfast, morning meeting, dinner and chapel
  - Assist with general supervision of youth for safety at the work site
  - Assist with general supervision of youth while at the SOS building
  - Oversee work with the daily chores
  - Be an example to the youth by following the rules on the following pages

- 5** *Ultimately, it will be expected that every adult leader “lead” by example. Adult participation is vital to the success of the SOS ministry. The attitudes and actions of the adult leaders will be reflected in the attitudes and actions of the youth. Help us enhance the experience of the youth by demonstrating a positive, Christ-like and servant-oriented example.*
- B Wireless internet access will be available for *youth pastors* to communicate with their churches. If you do not have a computer, you may use an SOS computer in the conference room between 4:30-6:30 pm.

**General Need-to-Knows**

- A. SOS is unable to provide you with information about your specific work projects until you arrive at SOS. In general we focus on roofs in the beginning of the summer and then move inside the homes as the summer progresses. Your group may be involved in roofing, siding, framing, flooring, plumbing, painting, installing windows, sheet rocking, and much more.
- B. We encourage your group to meet throughout the week to debrief and discuss what your group is learning and experiencing. We only have one mandated group meeting on Tuesday night, but would encourage you to meet multiple times including after your return home

## CAMP RULES

Please review these rules with your group before you arrive at SOS. **As a leader for your group we expect you to not only lead by example and comply with our rules but we ask you to assist us in the enforcement of these rules amongst your youth.** We have these rules for a reason, whether that be to help camp run smoothly or to set a standard of behavior that we expect of our “young disciples”.

- Know the camp schedule and be on time!
- *At least one adult leader must sleep in each “pod” upstairs with their youth*
- No electronics will be allowed at SOS, such as cell phones, iPod's, MP3 players, game systems or walkmans (*We understand that some youth may need to call home but we ask that the youth leader either collect all cell phones and distribute when needed or strictly monitor cell phone usage.*)
- Showers are to be taken *only* between 4:30-6:30 pm
- Dress: (*if your dress is inappropriate you may be asked to change.*)
  - No sandals or open-toed shoes on the work site; *tennis shoes or boots only*
  - No spaghetti straps, tank tops or cut off t-shirts for guys or girls at any time
  - Girls...no short shorts at any time (i.e. gym shorts, MJ Soffe shorts, Nike running shorts, etc.)  
**We ask that girls wear shorts that hit just above the knee at all times**
- No campers are allowed in the office or kitchen
- No food or drink upstairs (*if you bring food for travel time please leave it in your vehicle*)
- No boys are allowed in the girls' dorm; no girls are allowed in the boys' dorm; no campers are allowed in the staff dorms
- No public display of affection
- The upstairs bathroom chore will be assigned to groups to do in the morning before they leave for the worksite.
- Do not walk off the property at any time; *you must be with an adult in a vehicle*
- We advise that you be very considerate of where you leave money and valuables; *SOS is not responsible for lost or stolen items*
- No drugs, alcohol or tobacco are permitted at any time during the week
- Lights out:
  - Be upstairs by 10:00 pm to get ready for bed (An SOS staff member will come and turn out half of the lights, letting you know that you have 30 minutes before lights out)
  - At 10:30 pm, lights out!
  - Adult leaders are responsible for their youth to stay in bed after this time

## LOGISTICS

### What Each Work Team Should Bring...

**Remember:** If your group is divided into 2 or more work teams, each work team will need all of these supplies. SOS will not buy any of the tools/supplies listed below for your teams.

- 1 A vehicle to provide transportation to and from SOS to the worksite (*Two teams can use one vehicle if necessary*)
- 2 First aid kits; *one per team*
- 3 One drink cooler, such as an Igloo water jug, for each worksite (*each team is responsible for their own drinks; water jugs can be filled with water outside the SOS building*)  
**\*\*Please bring CASH for ice, which can be purchased at SOS for \$1.50/bag\*\***
- 4 One disposable camera per team (SOS will develop these pictures the last night for your team to make your homeowner a scrapbook)
- 5 2 carpenter pencils, 2 pairs of safety glasses. **Groups coming Week 5-8:** 2 paint pans, 2 paint roller covers, 3 paint brushes.
- 6 *Optional:* Ice chests to keep lunches, snacks and drinks cool; Bibles to give to homeowners and neighbors (both for children and adults)

### What Each Camper Should Bring...

- 1 **Clothes:**
  - *Work Day:* Work boots or tennis shoes only (*no sandals*), t-shirts (no shirts will be allowed that have questionable images or messages), no tank tops or cut offs will be allowed for boys or girls (*everyone is asked to wear a t-shirt*), pants or shorts (*no short shorts, such as gym shorts, MJ Soffe shorts, Nike running shorts, etc – we ask that shorts hit just above the knee at all times*) and work gloves. Bring enough clothes for the entire week as you will not be able to wash your clothes.  
**\*\*Note: Pack clothes that are “disposable”...they will never be the same again!\*\***
  - *Evening:* Bring comfortable/casual clothes for the evening programs (that fit with our dress code), as well as for the optional church service on Wednesday night. You may want to bring a sweatshirt to wear around the building. Also, you may want to pack different clothes for “Half-day Wednesday” when your group will be out enjoying the city of Memphis.
- 2 **Sleeping:** Bring your own bedding and pillow (a sleeping bag or sheets for a twin-sized bed). Bunk beds are provided, but no linens.
- 3 **Personal Items:** Toiletries, towel, and a washcloth. *It might be a good idea to bring an extra old towel for those days you return from the worksite incredibly dirty.*
- 4 **Miscellaneous Items (Optional):** water bottles (i.e. Nalgene bottles), sunglasses, sunscreen, bandanas, Advil, prescription medications, ear plugs, playing cards and/or a Frisbee.
- 5 **Most Important: A Bible, journal and pen!**

## DIRECTIONS TO SOS

### **From I-40 East (Arkansas)**

Cross bridge over Mississippi River. Shortly after crossing the river, you will see the Danny Thomas Drive exit. Take Danny Thomas South and stay left at the fork on the exit ramp to the stop sign. At the stop sign, take a left onto Alabama Avenue, which will dead end into Poplar Avenue. Turn left (east) onto Poplar Avenue. Our building is on the right at 2505 Poplar Avenue.

### **From I-40 West (Nashville)**

Stay in the left lane as you enter Memphis. Do NOT exit towards Little Rock or Jackson, MS. Continue heading west on the expressway (Sam Cooper Boulevard). Turn left onto Hollywood (after the expressway turns into a parkway). Turn left onto Poplar, which is the next light. The SOS building will be on your right at 2505 Poplar Avenue.

### **From I-55 North (Mississippi)**

I-55 North will intersect I-240. Do NOT exit onto I-55 North to St. Louis. Stay straight and continue onto I-240 to Little Rock (midtown Memphis). Take exit 30 for Union Avenue east and keep right at the fork following signs for Union Ave E. Turn right onto Union Ave. Travel on Union to Alicia Street (also known as Hollywood). Turn left onto Alicia. Your first light will be Poplar Avenue. Turn right onto Poplar and the SOS building will immediately be on your right at 2505 Poplar Avenue.

### **From I-55 South (Missouri)**

Exit onto I-40 East to Memphis in West Memphis, AR. Make sure you cross the Mississippi River on the I-40 bridge (NOT the I-55 bridge). Shortly after crossing the river you will see Danny Thomas Drive exit. Take Danny Thomas South and stay left at the fork on the exit ramp to the stop sign. At the stop sign, take a left onto Alabama Avenue, which will dead end into Poplar Avenue. Turn left (east) onto Poplar Avenue. Our building is on the right at 2505 Poplar Avenue.



## TENTATIVE DAILY SCHEDULE

### SUNDAY

1:30 PM – STAFF MEETING  
3:00 - 4:00 PM – GROUPS ARRIVE  
4:15 PM – WELCOME MEETING  
4:45 PM – ADULT LEADER MEETING  
6:00 PM – DINNER  
7:15 PM – CHAPEL  
8:30 PM – WORK TEAM MEETING  
10:00 PM – UPSTAIRS TO GET READY FOR BED  
10:30 PM – LIGHTS OUT

### MONDAY

6:30AM – STAFF MEETING  
7:00 AM – ADULT LEADERS JOIN STAFF MTG.  
7:15 AM – CAMPER WAKE UP  
7:45 AM – BREAKFAST  
8:30 AM – MORNING MEETING (ANNOUNCEMENTS, ETC.)  
8:45 AM - LOAD VANS & LEAVE FOR WORKSITE  
NOON – 1:00 PM – GROUP DEVOTIONAL AND LUNCH  
4:30 PM – RETURN TO SOS  
4:30 – 6:15 PM –FREE TIME & SOS STORE OPEN  
6:30 PM – DINNER  
7:30 PM – CHAPEL  
8:30-10:00 PM – FREE TIME  
10:00 PM – UPSTAIRS TO GET READY FOR BED  
10:30 PM – LIGHTS OUT

### TUESDAY

6:30 AM – STAFF MEETING  
7:15 AM – CAMPER WAKE UP  
7:45 AM – BREAKFAST  
8:30 AM – MORNING MEETING (ANNOUNCEMENTS, ETC.)  
8:45 AM – LOAD VANS & LEAVE FOR WORKSITE  
NOON – 1:00 PM – GROUP DEVOTIONAL AND LUNCH  
4:30 PM – RETURN TO SOS  
4:30 – 6:30 PM –FREE TIME  
6:30 PM – DINNER  
7:30 PM – CHAPEL  
8:45 PM – GROUP MEETING  
10:00 PM – UPSTAIRS TO GET READY FOR BED  
10:30 PM – LIGHTS OUT

### WEDNESDAY

6:30 AM – STAFF MEETING  
7:15 AM – CAMPER WAKE UP  
7:45 AM – BREAKFAST  
8:30 AM – MORNING MEETING (ANNOUNCEMENTS, ETC.)  
8:45 AM – LOAD VANS & LEAVE FOR WORKSITE  
NOON – 1:00 PM – GROUP DEVOTIONAL AND LUNCH  
1:00 PM – RETURN TO SOS  
1:00 PM – 10:00 PM – HALF-DAY WEDNESDAY  
10:00 PM – UPSTAIRS TO GET READY FOR BED  
10:30 PM – LIGHTS OUT

### THURSDAY

6:30 AM – STAFF MEETING  
7:15 AM – CAMPER WAKE UP  
7:45 AM – BREAKFAST  
8:30 AM – MORNING MEETING (ANNOUNCEMENTS, ETC.)  
8:45 AM – LOAD VANS & LEAVE FOR WORKSITE  
NOON – 1:00 PM – GROUP DEVOTIONAL AND LUNCH  
4:30 PM – RETURN TO SOS  
4:30 PM – 6:15 PM –FREE TIME & SOS STORE OPEN  
6:30 PM – DINNER  
7:30 PM – CHAPEL  
10:00 PM – UPSTAIRS TO GET READY FOR BED  
10:30 PM – LIGHTS OUT

### FRIDAY

6:30 AM – STAFF MEETING  
7:15 AM – CAMPER WAKE UP  
7:45 AM – BREAKFAST  
8:30 AM – MORNING MEETING (ANNOUNCEMENTS, ETC.)  
8:45 AM – LOAD VANS & LEAVE FOR WORKSITE  
NOON – 1:00PM – GROUP DEVOTIONAL AND LUNCH  
3:30 PM – TOOL INVENTORY & CLEAN-UP  
4:00 PM – PICNIC AT BINGHAMTON PARK  
4:30 PM – DINNER SERVED  
5:00 PM – DINNER CLEAN-UP / HOMEOWNER INTRO'S  
5:45 PM – RETURN TO SOS –FREE TIME  
6:45 PM- YOUTH PASTOR ONLY MEETING  
7:15 PM – CHAPEL  
8:45 PM – SCRAPBOOKS AND EVALUATIONS (SNACK)  
10:45 PM – UPSTAIRS TO GET READY FOR BED  
11:15 PM – LIGHTS OUT

### SATURDAY

8:00 AM – CAMPER WAKE UP, EAT BREAKFAST,  
CLEAN BUILDING AND DEPART  
10:00 – ALL GROUPS TO BE HEADED HOME

\*\* UPSTAIRS BATHROOM CHORE WILL BE DONE IN THE MORNING ON ALL DAYS

# TENTATIVE DAILY SCHEDULE

## JUNIOR HIGH

### SUNDAY

1:30 – STAFF MEETING  
3:00-4:00 PM – GROUPS ARRIVE  
4:15 PM – WELCOME MEETING  
4:45 PM – ADULT LEADER MEETING  
6:00 PM – DINNER  
7:15 PM – CHAPEL  
8:30 PM – WORK TEAM MEETING  
10:00 PM – UPSTAIRS TO GET READY FOR BED  
10:30 PM – LIGHTS OUT

### MONDAY

6:30 AM – STAFF MEETING  
7:00 AM - ADULT LEADERS JOIN STAFF MEETING  
7:15 AM – CAMPER WAKE UP  
7:45 AM – BREAKFAST  
8:30 AM – MORNING MEETING (ANNOUNCEMENTS, ETC.)  
8:45 AM – LOAD VANS AND LEAVE FOR WORKSITE  
NOON-1:00 PM – GROUP DEVOTIONALS AND LUNCH  
4:30 PM – RETURN TO SOS  
4:30-6:15 PM – FREE TIME & SOS STORE OPEN  
6:30 PM - DINNER  
7:30 PM – CHAPEL  
8:30-10:00PM – FREE TIME  
10:00 PM – UPSTAIRS TO GET READY FOR BED  
10:30 PM – LIGHTS OUT

### TUESDAY

6:30 AM – STAFF MEETING  
7:15 AM – CAMPER WAKE UP  
7:45 AM – BREAKFAST  
8:30 AM – MORNING MEETING  
8:45 AM – LOAD VANS AND LEAVE FOR WORKSITE  
NOON-1:00 PM – GROUP DEVOTIONALS AND LUNCH  
4:30 PM – RETURN TO SOS  
4:30-6:00 PM – FREE TIME  
6:30 PM – DINNER  
7:30 PM – CHAPEL (PRAYER TIME AFTERWARDS)  
10:00 PM – UPSTAIRS TO GET READY FOR BED  
10:30 PM – LIGHTS OUT

### WEDNESDAY

6:30 AM – STAFF MEETING  
7:15 AM – CAMPER WAKE UP  
7:45 AM – BREAKFAST  
8:30 AM – MORNING MEETING  
8:45 AM – LOAD VANS AND LEAVE FOR WORKSITE  
NOON-1:00 PM – GROUP DEVOTIONALS AND LUNCH  
1:00 PM – RETURN TO SOS  
1:00-10:00 PM – HALF-DAY WEDNESDAY (GROUP MTG. TIME)  
10:00 PM – UPSTAIRS TO GET READY FOR BED  
10:30 PM – LIGHTS OUT

### THURSDAY

6:30 AM – STAFF MEETING  
7:15 AM – CAMPER WAKE UP  
7:45 AM – BREAKFAST  
8:30 AM – MORNING MEETING  
8:45 AM – LOAD VANS AND LEAVE FOR WORKSITE  
NOON-1:00 PM – GROUP DEVOTIONALS AND LUNCH  
4:30 PM – RETURN TO SOS  
4:30-6:30 PM – FREE TIME & SOS STORE OPEN  
6:30 PM – DINNER  
7:00PM – YOUTH LEADER ONLY MEETING  
7:30 PM – CHAPEL  
8:45 PM – SCRAPBOOKS AND EVALUATIONS  
10:45 PM – UPSTAIRS TO GET READY FOR BED  
11:15 PM – LIGHTS OUT

### FRIDAY

8:00 AM – CAMPER WAKE UP, EAT BREAKFAST,  
CLEAN BUILDING AND DEPART  
10:00AM – ALL GROUPS TO BE HEADED HOME

\*\* UPSTAIRS BATHROOM CHORE WILL BE DONE IN THE MORNING ON ALL DAYS

# Summer Speaker Chapel Topics

## “Set Free” SOS ‘10

Below is the outline of the topics the speakers are given before they teach for your week at SOS. This is only a suggestion given to the speakers of what to talk about, therefore their talks may not line up exactly with this outline.

The theme this year is “**Set Free**” and comes from Psalm 102:18-22: *“Let this be recorded for a generation to come, so that a people yet to be created may praise the Lord: that he looked down from his holy height; from heaven the Lord looked at the earth, to hear the groans of the prisoners, to SET FREE those who were doomed to die, that they may declare in Zion the name of the Lord, and in Jerusalem his praise, when peoples gather together, and kingdoms, to worship the Lord.”*

### 1. The Gospel

- a. **God is holy-** In order to understand who we are, we must first know who God is. He is the creator. He is perfect. He is just. He is loving. He is almighty, all-knowing, all-powerful, etc. (Psalm 102:19,21; Genesis 1; Psalms 96; Romans 11:33-36; Exodus 34:6; Deut. 32:4).
- b. **Man is sinful-** God is perfect, just, and punishes all sin. We are all sinners (prisoners doomed to die), beginning with Adam & Eve, and because of this we are subject to His punishment. There is nothing we can do in our own power to earn our way back to a right relationship with God. Unless God intervenes, we are all subject to die and be sent to hell, eternally separated from God because of our rebellion against Him. (Psalm 102:20, Romans 1:18, 3:9-20, 3:23, 6:23, Isaiah 13:1, 2 Thessalonians 1:8-10)
- c. **Jesus offers us salvation by grace through faith-** Jesus is the solution to our sin problem. He is the only way our relationship with God can be restored. He came to earth, lived a perfect life, and took our punishment on Himself, exchanging our sinful lives with His perfect life. Anyone who believes in Him and receives His gift of salvation will be brought back into a right relationship with God and inherit eternal life. (Ephesians 2:1-10, Revelation 7:14-17, Colossians 2:13-14, John 3)

### 2. We are saved to be a blessing to all people by proclaiming the gospel in word and deed

- a. **We are called to meet the needs of others-** By accepting Jesus’ gift, we also accept His call to follow Him. He calls us to obey Him and to be a disciple, not just a believer. In following his example, we should seek to live a life of service and meet the needs of the poor and oppressed in the world as well as the needs of those around us (Matthew 25:31-46, Mark 12:28-31, Philippians 2, James 1:27, Micah 6:8)
- b. **We are called to declare God’s name-** God tells us that He will be exalted among the nations (Malachi 1:11), and He calls his disciples to be a part of this promise. His plan is for the world to know of His saving gospel and His greatness. How will you be a part of God’s command to bring the gospel to all nations? (Psalm 102:20-22, Psalm 46:10, Revelation 7:9-12, Isaiah 49:6, Psalm 67, Matthew 28:18-20)

## Sample Group Meeting Questions

1. What do you think that God has been teaching you this week?
2. What has been the highlight of your week thus far?
3. What has been the hardest part of your week thus far?
4. What has been the funniest part of your week thus far?
5. How have you seen God work this week?
6. How is the trip different than you expected?
7. What are some things you have seen this week that have shocked you?
8. What have you seen this week that you have never seen before?
9. Name something you've done that you have never done before?
10. Tell us about your homeowner.
11. What have you learned about your homeowner?
12. How can you better love and serve your homeowner in the following days?
13. What have you learned from the devotionals or chapel this week?
14. Do you have any questions about anything you have seen or heard this week?
15. What can we be praying for?
16. What are you most excited about for the rest of the week?

## FREE TIME IDEAS

1. **Autozone Park Redbirds Baseball:** 200 Union Ave. 901-721-6000
2. **Beale Street Entertainment District:** After 10pm must be over 21
3. **Fire Museum of Memphis:** 118 Adams Ave., 901-320-5650
4. **Graceland:** 3734 Elvis Presley Blvd., 901-332-3322
5. **Laser Quest:** 3417 Poplar Ave., 901-324-4800
6. **Main Street Trolley:** (Trolley tour of downtown Memphis), 547 N. Main St., 901-577-2640
7. **Memphis Pink Palace Museum:** (museum and IMAX theater), 3050 Central Ave., 901-320-6362
8. **Memphis and Shelby County Library & Information Center:** 3030 Poplar Ave., 901-415-2700
9. **Memphis Zoo:** 2000 Galloway, 901-276-WILD, open 9:00 AM – 8:00 PM
10. **Mississippi Blvd. Christian Church:** (Wednesday night praise service 7:00 p.m.) 70 N. Bellevue Blvd., 901-729-6222
11. **Mud Island Park:** (museum and 5 block Mississippi River model), 125 N. Front St., Downtown Memphis, open 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
12. **National Civil Rights Museum:** 450 Mulberry St., 521-9699, open 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM
13. **Oak Court Mall:** (shops, food), 4465 Poplar Ave., 901-682-8928
14. **Paradiso Movie Theater:** 584 South Mendenhall., 901-682-1754
15. **Peabody Place Mall:** (video games, movie theater, bowling, food & shopping), Third St. and Peabody Place, 901-260-7348 \*\*"Duck Walk" @ 5 pm \*\*
16. **Shelby Farms:** (hiking/biking trails, ponds, lakes, open fields), 500 N. Pine Lake Drive, 901-767-PARK
17. **Stax Museum of American Soul Music:** 926 E. McLemore Ave., 901-942-7685 10am-5pm
18. **Sun Studio:** 706 Union Ave., 901-521-0664. Tours from 10:30-5:30
19. **Wolfchase Galleria:** (shops, movie theater, food), 2760 N. Germantown Pkwy. Memphis, 901-381-2769

\*Wednesday is also a great day to reflect and meet together as a group to talk about things from the week. A great suggestion is to meet at Mud Island or another fun spot in Memphis to do this.

## Local Food Hotspots

1. **Central BBQ:** 2249 Central Ave. (901-272-9377)
2. **Germantown Commissary BBQ:** 2290 Germantown Rd. (901-754-5540)
3. **Rendezvous BBQ & Ribs:** 52 South 2<sup>nd</sup> St. (901-523-2746)
4. **Huey's Grill:** 77 South 2<sup>nd</sup> St. (901-527-2700), 1927 Madison Ave. (901-726-9767)
5. **McAlisters Sandwiches:** 3482 Plaza Ave. (901-452-6009)
6. **Corky's BBQ:** 5259 Poplar Ave. (901-685-9744)
7. **Lenny's Sub Shop:** 2893 Poplar Ave, (901-320-0022)
8. **Spaghetti Warehouse:** 40 West Huling Ave. (901-521-0907)
9. **Buffalo Wild Wings:** 3448 Poplar Ave. (901-324-9225)
10. **Los Compadres Mexican Restaurant:** 3295 Poplar Ave. (901-458-5731)
11. **El Porton Mexican Restaurant:** 65 South Highland Ave. (901-452-7330)
12. **Cheesecake Corner:** 113 G. E. Patterson Ave. (901-525-2253)
13. **Hard Rock Café:** 315 Beale St. (901-529-0007)
14. **Gus's World Famous Fried Chicken:** 310 S Front St. (901-527-4877)
15. **Olive Garden:** 7778 Winchester Rd. (901-624-2003)
16. **Red Lobster:** 6222 Winchester Rd. (901-794-5567)
17. **Memphis Pizza Café:** 2087 Madison Ave. (901-726-5343)
18. **Applebee's:** 2114 Union Ave. (901-725-7136)

# STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY FORM

*(For SOS participants age eighteen years and older)*

SERVICE OVER SELF, INCORPORATED, (SOS) IS AN INNER-CITY HOME REPAIR MINISTRY IN MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE. SOS IS A NOT FOR PROFIT CORPORATION. VOLUNTEERS PARTICIPATING IN SOS WILL BE EXPECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN SPECIFIC CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO DEMOLITION, ROOFING, CARPENTRY, DIGGING, PLUMBING, GLASSWORK, PAINTING, FLOORING, MASONRY, EXPOSURE TO HAZARDOUS MATERIAL, AND OTHER FACETS OF CONSTRUCTION. THESE ACTIVITIES MAY INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO, THE USE OF POWER TOOLS SUCH AS SAWS AND DRILLS, AS WELL AS THE USE OF HAND TOOLS. THE ACTIVITIES MAY ALSO REQUIRE CLIMBING WITH AND WITHOUT SUPPLIES, TOOLS AND MATERIALS AS WELL AS WORKING IN HIGH PLACES SUCH AS ROOFS AND OTHER FACETS OF CONSTRUCTION WORK. PARTICIPANTS WILL ALSO BE INVOLVED IN FOOD PREPARATION AND SERVICE.

In their free time, volunteers may choose to engage in activities including, but not limited to sports, hiking, shopping, touring, or other activities of their choosing. SOS may sponsor some recreational activities, which may include, but are not limited to swimming, basketball, volleyball, baseball, football, and frisbee. Other activities include but are not limited to travel to homes, parks, theaters, churches, restaurants and shops.

Volunteers are not required to engage in any activity in which they feel they are not able to safely participate.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, have read the foregoing statement of activities in which I will participate, and hereby release and discharge Service Over Self, Incorporated, and its officers, directors, agents, employees, volunteers, and all persons connected therewith from any and all liability, claims and causes or action of any type whatsoever arising out of or in any way connected with my participation in the activities of Service Over Self, Incorporated, on \_\_\_\_\_ (start date) to \_\_\_\_\_ (end date).

This is the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_

**BIRTHDATE** \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL** \_\_\_\_\_

Church Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

# STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY FORM

*(For SOS participants age seventeen years and younger)*

Service Over Self, Incorporated, (SOS), is an inner-city home repair ministry in Memphis, Tennessee. SOS is a not for profit corporation. Volunteers participating in SOS will be engaged in construction activities including, but not limited to demolition, roofing, carpentry, digging, plumbing, glasswork, painting, flooring, masonry, exposure to hazardous material, and other facets of construction. These activities may include, but are not limited to, the use of power tools such as saws and drills, as well as the use of hand tools. The activities may also require climbing with and without supplies, tools and materials as well as working in high places such as roofs and other types of construction work. Participants will also be involved in food preparation and service. In their free time, volunteers may choose to engage in activities including, but not limited to, sports, hiking, shopping, touring, or other activities of their choosing. SOS may sponsor some recreation activities, which may include, but are not limited to, swimming, basketball, volleyball, baseball, football, and Frisbee. Other activities include but are not limited to, travel to homes, parks, theaters, churches, restaurants, and shops.

Volunteers are not required to engage in any activity in which they feel they are not able to safely participate.

I/We, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, parent(s) or guardian(s) of \_\_\_\_\_, A minor, jointly and severally as parent(s) and guardian(s) of the minor child have read the foregoing statement of activities, understand the extent and nature of the activities in which my/our child/ward will participate, and hereby release and discharge Service Over Self, Incorporated, and its officers, directors, agents, employees, volunteers, and all persons connected therewith from any and all liability, claims and causes or action of any type whatsoever arising out of or in any way connected with said child's participation in the activities of the Service Over Self, Incorporated, on \_\_\_\_\_(start date) to \_\_\_\_\_(end date).

This is the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to Child \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_

Church Name \_\_\_\_\_

Child's email \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_



# VOLUNTEER TEAM INFORMATION

\*\*\*ONE FORM MUST BE FILLED OUT FOR EACH SEPARATE WORK TEAM\*\*\*

1. Group/Church name: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Full name(s) of adult leaders: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Total number of people on team (counting leaders): \_\_\_\_\_

4. Please circle how experienced in construction the adult leaders are for your specific team:

A. Little to no experience (*can hammer a nail*)

B. Experienced in basic home maintenance (*painting, wall patching, minor carpentry, etc.*)

C. Have done some minor renovation-type work (*good general knowledge of home repairs, minor structural repairs, carpentry, drywall, etc.*)

D. Skilled in home renovation and repair (*professional in construction/renovation or have acquired much experience elsewhere*)

5. If adults and/or youth on your specific team are especially skilled, please circle in which areas.

Roofing

Electrical

Plumbing

Rough carpentry

Drywall

Installing cabinets

Painting

Insulation

Finish trim

Vinyl flooring

6. Are there any individuals on your team that are not allowed to be on a roof? YES NO

If yes, how many? \_\_\_\_\_

7. Please list any allergies, medical conditions, etc. that SOS should know about when determining at which house your team will be working.

\_\_\_\_\_

8. Please write any additional comments that may be useful in helping us determine which home might be appropriate for your team:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# Adult Self-Screening Form

Service Over Self, Inc.

(Please complete and return to SOS by May 15<sup>th</sup>. Mail to: SOS 2505 Poplar Ave. Memphis, TN 38112)

Camp dates \_\_\_\_\_

Church \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First \_\_\_\_\_ MI \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ St \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation and Employer \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security Number \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Driver's License number \_\_\_\_\_ Issuing State \_\_\_\_\_

If you will be driving during the camp week, you must fill out the following two lines:

Car Insurance Company \_\_\_\_\_

Policy # \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

### *Circle One*

1. Have you participated in Safe Sanctuary or a similar youth protection training program?

Yes No

2. Have you ever been convicted of a felony? Yes No

3. Have you ever been accused of any sex related or child abuse offense?

Yes No

▪ If you answered YES to questions #2 and/or #3, please fully explain on back of form.

I fully support the efforts of SOS to provide a safe environment in our camps. I certify, to the best of my knowledge, the information that I have provided on this form is true and accurate. I authorize any investigation, including a background check, of any or all statements made on this form.

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

Trip Leader Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Training Session Material

2010

## Introduction:

The purpose of the training material is three-fold, to prepare and unite your team, to address and discuss inner city concerns and to equip and ready your team for ministry. Our hope is that your group would begin to discuss what it really means to serve, and to consider the most effective way to meet the needs of people and share the good news of Jesus Christ. These issues are difficult and the answers may look different in each situation, but we hope that in discussing and thinking about them you will be more equipped and able in ministry.

The following short stories are true and are collected in a book called "Theirs is the Kingdom" and on the website [www.fcsministries.org/up/index.html](http://www.fcsministries.org/up/index.html) by Robert Lupton. Robert is a pioneer in urban ministry and over 20 years ago moved into a high crime inner city neighborhood in Atlanta, GA with his wife and children in order to bring the message of Jesus Christ. These stories are intended to make you think from a different perspective and investigate new ideas and ways to love and serve people.

We recommend that you read the following stories with your group and discuss your thoughts and feelings. Whether you schedule multiple meetings, read through them together all in one day, or pick out one or two to go over one Sunday, we think these lessons are valuable. We are excited to minister alongside of you this year and we pray that we would work hard together for the sake of Jesus Christ.

## Sessions:

**Session 1:** Pre-Trip Questions & Facts On Global Poverty

**Session 2:** "Created Free"

**Session 3:** "The Referral Game"

**Session 4:** "Effects of the Urban Exodus"

**Session 5:** "Walking in the Street"

## Pre Trip Questions

Below are a list of questions and topics that would be helpful to get your group thinking about before coming to SOS. We would encourage you to discuss these issues as a group or have your students journal on their own.

### Questions...

1. What do you think is the *purpose* of your trip to SOS?
2. Why do you want to go to SOS? Why do you think God wants you to go to SOS?
3. What are your expectations for your time at SOS?
4. Define service.
5. Define missions.
6. What does it mean to be a missionary? A servant?
7. What are you most excited about for SOS? What are you most fearful of?

### Some Other Things to Think About...

1. Based on how you spend your time, money, energy, etc., what are your top priorities in life? Do you wish your priorities were different? If so, how?
2. What do you want your life to look like in 15 years?
3. What are some of your goals?
4. What or who are your influences? Spiritual mentors?

### Some Facts On Global Poverty

- ½ the World (~3 billion people) live on less than \$2 a day.
- According to UNICEF, 26,500 – 30,000 children die every day due to poverty.
- Nearly 1 billion people entered the 21<sup>st</sup> century unable to read a book or sign their names.
- Some 1.1 billion people in developing countries have inadequate access to water, and 2.6 billion lack basic sanitation.
- Close to ½ of all people in developing countries are suffering at any given time from a health problem caused by water and sanitation issues.
- Of the 1.9 billion children from the developing world, there are: 640 million without adequate shelter, 400 million with no access to safe water, 270 million with no access to health services.
- Approximately ½ the World's population now live in cities and towns. In 2005, 1 out of 3 urban dwellers was living in slum conditions.

## Created Free

My phone rings, a little too early for a quiet Saturday morning. With mild irritation I put down the paper and shuffle across the kitchen to answer it. It is Pete calling from a phone booth on the other side of the park. I can tell from his low raspy tone that he has had a rough night. I know what he wants before he asks: Can he wash the FCS [Family Christian Services] van this morning? I am not especially anxious to drag out the hose, bucket, brush, windex, rags and vacuum. Nor do I relish the "can I use your bathroom?", "can I have a drink of water?" interruptions. But the morning is sunny and the van is dirty. So I say "Sure, Pete, come on over."

Pete does a very good job of cleaning the van - when he is sober. When he has been drinking, however, his work gets a bit sloppy and his attitude somewhat testy. So we have an agreement: no work while under the influence. A morning hangover, however, is a tougher call and Pete doesn't always agree with my judgment. But this morning he arrives at my door sluggish but sober. His odor and the leaves that cling to his sweater tell me that he spent the night in the park. He is hungry and broke. The \$20 wash job is an encouraging start for his day.

I appreciate Pete's attention to detail. Even though his personal hygiene is often lacking, he has an eye for cleanliness. By the time he is finished with the van, its shine will equal any professional hand wash that could be found in the city. I feel good paying Pete a competitive wage for a job well done. I see the pride in his work. And he seems genuinely appreciative of my affirmation.

But there is a small problem. I have no way of knowing how Pete will spend the money I have paid him. I know he needs food and lodging. I also know he has a drinking problem. There are no guarantees - even if I would extract a promise from him - that the money will go for good purposes. Linda, my longtime friend and trusted ministry associate, says that I am supporting Pete's habit. She insists that I am being irresponsible by not providing some kind of accountability. And yet there is an unmistakable look of hurt that comes into Pete's eyes when I offer him food vouchers or a check made out to the local SRO hotel instead of the money he has earned.

It's not like we haven't tried to help Pete. We've done all the right things: full-time employment, church life, supported living, "twelve step" and residential treatment programs, prayer, confrontation, befriending - all without lasting results. There is nothing I would like better than to corner him into a cure, to employ compassionate contingencies that would bring him to ultimate surrender before the Source of his healing. But for some reason our methods keep coming up short. There is a battleground deep within Pete's spirit accessible only to the unseen forces that war over his soul. External leverage may sway battles but the war is an internal and entirely private affair. Its outcome will be measured more by miracle than method.

And while I pray for the miraculous, Pete continues to call me on Saturday mornings. With regularity he forces upon me the dilemma of "the lesser evil" (or is it "the greater good?"). Is it better to insure that my resources are put to healthy uses or to affirm a man's work and dignity through fair compensation? Should I pay Pete with in-kind "script" that insures the purchase good things or do I pay an honest wage for a job well done and leave him with his freedom intact? More often than not Pete succumbs to his vice. I know this. I also know that he wants the freedom to make his own choices, unhealthy though they may often be. He has told me so.

Pete is a man. I will treat him like a man. Not a project or a case or an alcoholic. He works hard and does not stoop to the indignity of begging. I will not demean him by imposing uninvited controls that diminish his manhood. He was created by God, free. I will respect him as such.

Questions:

1. What is your reaction to this story?
2. Have you ever encountered a similar situation? If so, how did you respond?
3. What do you think about the author's response of paying Pete even though he knows he might spend the money on alcohol?
4. What are some truths from Scripture that could be applied to this situation?

## The Referral Game

He was a bearded man. He was probably in his late thirties, although it was difficult to tell from his disheveled appearance. With the sleeve of his shirt, he wiped the sweat from his face and readied himself to make a proper reception desk presentation.

He was hungry, he told Trisha. Needed some food real bad. Trisha dutifully responded that our lunch was on Wednesday, but if he would go down the street to St. Anthony's....

The bearded man cut Trisha short. He was no longer able to maintain a meek countenance. His anger flared as he recounted his last two days of trudging through the city, following one empty lead after another. He was now very hungry and desperate. He couldn't tolerate any more of this kind of help. He had come to the end of the Referral Game.

"Referral" is a game devised by people helpers to assist the needy in finding help *somewhere else*. It appears kind and is laced with compassionate words. It can be played by all kinds of churches and agencies. The only requirement is the purchase of a social service directory and a volunteer to dispense appropriate information.

"Referral" is an attractive game for churches. Christians can discharge their responsibility to the hungry, naked, and homeless with efficiency and cost effectiveness. Referral requires little personal contact with the poor...

Referral, like Monopoly or Risk, involves true-to-life situations. It is often played with great emotion and intensity. We can learn a great deal about poverty, the system, and even ourselves by playing it. But for us Referral is different from real life. We can close the manual and go home whenever we decide.

Referral is a serious game. The pawns are human beings. *They* know what the players do not. They know there is not enough food in the game to feed everyone. They know the allocation of beds and jobs is half enough to go around. Yet the pawns continue to allow themselves to be moved from place to place. Perhaps they are hoping to find a Referral player who will remove his or her helper mask and become a real-life neighbor. More than anyone else, pawns understand that in *real life* there is an abundance of food and shelter. There is enough for everyone. And they know that real neighbors share. Therein lies their hope.

Referral is serious, too, because it deludes the resourced people of God into believing they have fed, clothed, and housed "the least of these." In fact they have neither shared their bread, nor given their second coat, nor invited a stranger into their home. Referral allows us to process poverty with rubber-gloved safety rather than enter the contaminating world or redemptive relationships.

"D\*\*\* racists!" the bearded man exclaimed with a glare. He turned and without looking back limped out the church door, slamming it behind him. A real person. Alone.

### Questions:

1. Put yourself in the bearded man's shoes, how do you think it would feel to be a pawn in the game rather than a player?
2. What does Scripture say about serving others? Some examples are Proverbs 22:9, Matthew 25:35, and 1 John 3:17-18
3. What are some ways that you have been a "player" of the Referral game? Looking at the Scripture above do you think you handled the situation with Christ-like love? (Saying yes doesn't mean you are wrong! Again, these questions are just meant to get you thinking and to challenge you to really think about how you live and how that lines up with the example Christ set for you)

**Discuss** ways that you could make changes in your life to better serve those in need. How can you take off your "helper mask" and truly serve the "pawns".

## Effects of the Urban Exodus

Over the last four decades the cities of our nation have experienced a mass migration to the suburbs. There were many reasons behind this exodus—improved mass transportation, fair housing legislation, and the shopping mall phenomenon, to name a few. As the American dream suburbanized, city neighborhoods that were once close, economically viable communities turned into ghettos almost overnight. As homeowners left, real estate values plummeted and properties quickly deteriorated. As educated families moved out, the quality of education declined. As the spiritual and moral leadership withdrew, the churches soon followed. Thriving business districts eventually boarded up as merchants pursued new opportunities in the “edge cities” that sprouted up on the periphery of the city limits. In the end, nearly everyone who had the capacity moved out of the heart of the city, leaving behind the vulnerable and the desperate to fill the vacuum created by the exodus.

For more than forty years we have been trying to solve this problem of urban blight with very little success. We have employed some of our most creative social policy thinkers and designed a plethora of programs to remedy the ills created by the unraveling. Huge sums of public, private, and religious dollars have been spent. Enormous amounts of time and energy from very committed people have been invested to reverse the devastating trend. While the best of these programs can claim a measure of success, their success is almost always paradoxically measured in the number of individuals they “empowered” to escape the inner city. The net effect, of course, is that these well-intentioned programs have facilitated the hemorrhage of leadership out of the very places it was most needed. Consequently, our urban neighborhoods are in far worse shape than they were four decades ago when the parade of programs began.

Questions:

1. What challenges you most about this article?
2. What are some ways to truly fix the problems related to the urban exodus instead of just acting as a band-aid for an ever worsening problem?
3. “He who oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honors God.” Proverbs 14:31. How does this verse relate to the urban exodus and this article?
4. If the strong continue to leave the inner city neighborhoods what will the next generation of urban youth look like? Without leaders, what will happen to the neighborhood’s voice in government, local schools, PTA’s, crime watch groups, local businesses, and churches?

**Discuss** what you think we as Christians, leaders, and empowered people can do (and are called to do) to help reverse the break-down of urban areas?

## Walking in the Street

"Look at them, walking down the middle of the road," we said. "Young toughs. They act like they own the street."

It looked like an act of defiance to my wife, Peggy, and me. It was one of those things newcomers notice immediately in a strange culture. We had moved into the city to work and make our home, and it was clear that overcoming our anxieties was our first challenge. We decided to take evening walks, a different direction each night, until we were familiar with our new surroundings.

Unexpected things happen when you walk down city sidewalks at night. Things for which one could hardly prepare. Things that the shadows conceal. Like a dog that lies in wait and then ferociously attacks the fence that only *he* knows separates you. And there are sections of sidewalk, broken and jutting, with which time and tree roots have had their way. They too lie in wait to trip the one whose mind is more on talking than walking.

Maybe the most unexpected thing of all was that we were not afraid. Not for the most part. Scary strangers soon became familiar faces. Staggering drunks became friends for whom we learned compassion. Young people, sometimes high on drugs, became individuals with names and families and special needs. Even those who were most elusive behind their locks and bars-the elderly-began to wave and respond to our "Good evening."

Of course there were the real and ever-present dangers. The occasional sociopath, the deeply troubled person who preyed on the unsuspecting and struck fear in the hearts of the entire community. Broken glass poised and ready to puncture the next thin-soled shoe to happen by. And tall weeds that reached out to scratch and cling. But for the most part we discovered that the real enemies of the street were alienation, misunderstanding, prejudice-those attitudes out of which most of our ill-founded fears sprouted.

More than seven years have passed since Peggy and I moved into the city. We still take our evening walks. It's our best time for talking and catching up on the busy activities of the day. It's a good time to confront the enemies of the street by remembering people's names and the little, important happenings of their lives.

And the unexpected dangers that lurk in the darkness? We've learned to elude most of them by walking in the street rather than the sidewalk.

Someday a newcomer to the neighborhood will remark "Look at them, walking down the middle of the road. They act like they own the street!"

Questions:

1. What point do you think Lupton is trying to make in this story?
2. He says that, "the real enemies of the street [are] alienation, misunderstanding, prejudice-those attitudes out of which most of our ill-founded fears [sprout]." Can you think of ways that you have alienated or unfairly judged a person or group of people without having a well-founded understanding of who they were or why they acted how they did?
3. How do Bob and Peggy Lupton get over their fears and prejudices of the inner city?

**Discuss** ways for you to follow the example of Jesus and people like the Luptons by better loving the people of our inner cities and people you don't understand.

## Post Trip Questions

1. How have you been changed after spending a week at SOS?
2. Have your life goals changed? If so, how?
3. What was the best part of being at SOS?
4. What was the hardest part of being at SOS?
5. How was your experience different than what you thought it was going to be?
6. Have your priorities changed after spending a week at SOS?
7. Has your perspective on life shifted? If so, how?
8. How do you think differently after having been to SOS?
9. What is holding you back from growing in the Lord? What is getting in the way?
10. What are you going to do differently having been to SOS?

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR FURTHER STUDY**

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