

# **BENEVOLENCE**

## **WHAT IS BENEVOLENCE?**

According to scripture, it is an act of kindness done to others.

Deuteronomy 15:10,11 says Give generously to him and do so without a grudging heart; then because of this the Lord your God will bless you in all your work and in everything you put your hand to. There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore I command you to be openhanded toward your brothers and toward the poor and needy in your land.

## **WHAT IS RMCC'S POSITION ON BENEVOLENCE?**

Since we are committed to obedience to the scriptural mandate we see here in God's word we have established some guidelines that help us to assess the present need and with the discernment of the Holy Spirit speak into each situation with Godly counsel.

Ultimately we want to assist people by helping them help themselves. This may mean connecting them with community resources where help is available, specific to their needs. However that does not mean that as a church we will not help those who are in need; it just means that the primary responsibility rests with the individual to do everything they can to get help before asking the church for assistance. This might include requesting help from family, according to 1 Timothy 5:4,8.

But if any widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show piety at home and to repay their parents; for this is good and acceptable before God.

## **WHAT IS THE APPLICANT'S RESPONSIBILITY?**

The church has a Benevolence Ministry Information Form which we require the individual to complete. This, along with a personal visit with the pastor who oversees the

Benevolence ministry, will enable us to make a wise decision as to the part we will take in meeting the need. We expect the applicant to follow through with any counsel that is given and to communicate with the pastor so that follow up can be done effectively.