

United & free

Alliance Churches World Wide



Social justice and responsibility



Our main task

- To spread the gospel all over the world.
- Mt 28:18-20
- Cannot ever change.
- Cannot be tampered with if we are to be called a church.
- How do we do it best in 21st century?



God is not indifferent

- God is not indifferent in social issues and justice
- He actively call for support of the least privileged
- Book of Amos is a cry for justice
- In NT we see how Jesus heal the sick and spend time with the outcasts of that society.
- We are called to do the same.



Our task

- Do what we can to support the poor and the sick
- Ask for social justice
- Show love for all people created by God. Offer redemption and forgiveness. Just as Jesus did to the women who committed adultery.
- We should raise people and offer them a new place in the society, a new meaning, for those who are marginalized and condemned in the society.



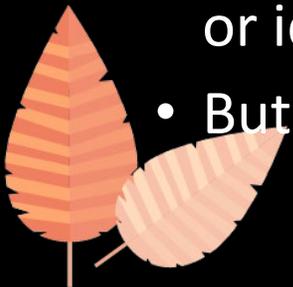
Are we doing enough?

- We have to commit that evangelical churches often have underestimated the need of church social work.
- William Booth is an inspiration to me in this field.
- Soap, suop, salvation.
- Most people are not attracted by the gospel if it is not shown in real care, in real deeds.
- A man that is hungry and dirty focus on escaping from his present situation, and may not have strength to focus on anything else.
- Social work is therefore a witness of Gods love, it is in its core evangelistic.



An hot potato; Advocacy

- Advocacy is to speak up for, and together, with a certain group in society to ask duty bearers for improvement of their conditions.
- Church should always try be an advocate for the marginalized and oppressed.
- Not only in church, but in the public square in the society.
- Interact with other churches and development partners.
- If possible stand up when public authorities do not live up to Christian standards.
- Advocacy is sensitive, to some of you even dangerous.
- But challenge yourself, to try to see what you can do.
- Of course advocacy shall not be political, in sense of supporting a political party or ideology, the church is not a political body.
- But the gospel have consequences even for the political domain.



Questions

- Do you agree that social work in its core, is evangelical in spreading the gospel?
- How can we in the church be even better in our social work?
- Is the social work valued in the same way as "evangelistic" in your church?
- Is advocacy, adjusted to your context, a task for the church?

