

Thank you for trusting us with your request! We promise to pray for you, as we work together to find the best solution for you. With that in mind, we have put together this guide to help you understand how our process works. Please know these are not intended to be harsh or cause discomfort to anyone, but simply a way to allow us to serve the most people possible.

Our belief is the best way to help those in need is to offer a hand up instead of a hand out. This can take many different forms, from paying for a need to providing resources and education.

Leviticus 23:22 - "When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. Leave them for the poor and for the foreigner residing among you. I am the Lord your God". This Scripture teaches the principle of allowing the recipient to work for what they have received and therefore, maintain their dignity.

Proverbs 19:17 - "The one who is gracious to the poor lends to the Lord...". When we give assistance to others who have true need, it is as if we are helping our Father in heaven.

Luke 3:11 - "Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same". We who are blessed should help those who are not.

2 Thessalonians 3:10 - "For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: The one who is unwilling to work shall not eat." Part of our job, is to provide applicants with resources for jobs, training and other resources so they can become independent and self-sufficient.

Therefore, benevolence requests are based on the following:

1. A completed application must be submitted before requests can be considered.
2. Fulfillment of requests are based on current budget available.
3. A cap of \$500 per family, per year is observed, provided current tithing is sufficient to fulfill
4. Benevolence preference is given to members/regular tithers.
5. No monies will be dispersed on Shabbat.
6. We require a lead time of 48 hours to process any request for assistance.
7. Our ministry team will interview you about your need to ascertain how best to help you.
8. Payments will be made directly to the organization stated in your application. For example, an electric bill payment would be made to the electric company, rent would be paid to the landlord, food needs by HEB gift cards, and so on. No cash will be dispersed to applicants

9. We respectfully request applicants share their need with one of our ministers, instead of publicly during “prayer request and praise report”, in hopes a member will provide cash.
10. We also respectfully request that applicants pray earnestly about any ways in which they may serve the congregation of Messiah Echad in fulfillment of Leviticus 23:22. Our ministers will be able to direct you to areas of need within the synagogue.

