

Additional Q&A Responses from Tony Daniels, Breakthrough

1. How do you balance serving the “least of these” domestically and internationally?

In my book, *Granular Level Neighboring*, (Coming Soon) I describe love as something that begins close to home and keeps widening. We learn to practice it in our households, on our blocks, and throughout our communities, but we must also allow that love to reach beyond national borders where appropriate. Beginning where we are does not mean ending there.

We should take extreme poverty globally seriously. Differences in resources matter when deciding where and how to give. But access to resources in America does not mean every person can actually obtain them, and material resources do not eliminate isolation, suffering, or the need for relationship. Discernment asks us to consider the depth of the need, our capacity to respond, and the relationships through which we can serve faithfully.

In the book, I tell the story of Moreblessing, a young man from Zimbabwe who lived with our family while serving at Breakthrough. Through meals, conversations, games, and everyday life, he became a son to me and a brother to my children. I wrote, “Hospitality does not move in only one direction.” We received his friendship, wisdom, and love, and he hopes one day to welcome us into his home in Zimbabwe. That relationship reminds me that international neighboring involves people who have something to give as well as needs we can help address.

I also write about meeting Anyerson, Genesis, and their son Gerald on a train from Denver to Chicago. Their journey began in Venezuela, but their immediate need was right before me. I could offer a meal, help navigating the station, and connections to people who might assist them. Their story taught me that domestic and international suffering often meet in the same person.

The balance, then, is faithful local presence alongside generosity and relationships that reach farther. We can serve consistently where we live while supporting trusted people addressing severe needs elsewhere. As I wrote in the book, “Sometimes a neighbor is someone God places in your path.” Geography helps us understand our assignment; it should also leave room for God to enlarge our compassion.

2. Does Breakthrough collaborate with Lawndale Christian Health Center?

Yes. Lawndale Christian Health Center operates the Breakthrough Clinic on the lower level of our FamilyPlex at 3219 W. Carroll Avenue. The clinic provides healthcare for the whole family, including family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology, and prenatal care. Its listed services also include behavioral health.

This partnership brings healthcare into the same building where families can access other community programs. It is a practical example of caring for the whole person and making needed services more accessible. The doctors there also have staff and offices in our Transitional Shelters, serving both our men and women Monday - Thursday, two days a week at each center.

3. How do we discern spiritual concerns when serving people?

As a Christ follower, I believe spiritual warfare is real. But serving someone experiencing poverty, homelessness, addiction, or emotional distress does not give us grounds to assume demonic activity. A person's circumstances or behavior alone cannot establish what is happening spiritually.

Ephesians 6:12 reminds us that our struggle is not against flesh and blood. The person before us is someone made in God's image, deserving dignity, patience, and care.

My starting point would be **prayer, listening, and humility**. I would ask God for wisdom while taking time to understand the person rather than rushing to label their experience. First John 4:1 calls us to test the spirits; discernment requires more than a strong impression or a frightening encounter.

Our response should reflect Jesus: truth, compassion, gentleness, and respect. If someone welcomes prayer, we can pray with them. When concerns arise, we should involve appropriate staff, mature pastoral leadership, and qualified care providers rather than attempting to handle everything alone. Spiritual care and professional care can work together.

We may not immediately understand everything happening in someone's life, but we can begin by listening, protecting their dignity, meeting practical needs, and seeking wise support. We do not need certainty about the cause of someone's suffering before showing them mercy. For the person interested, [New Life Covenant SE](#) and [Together Chicago](#) have deliverance ministries.