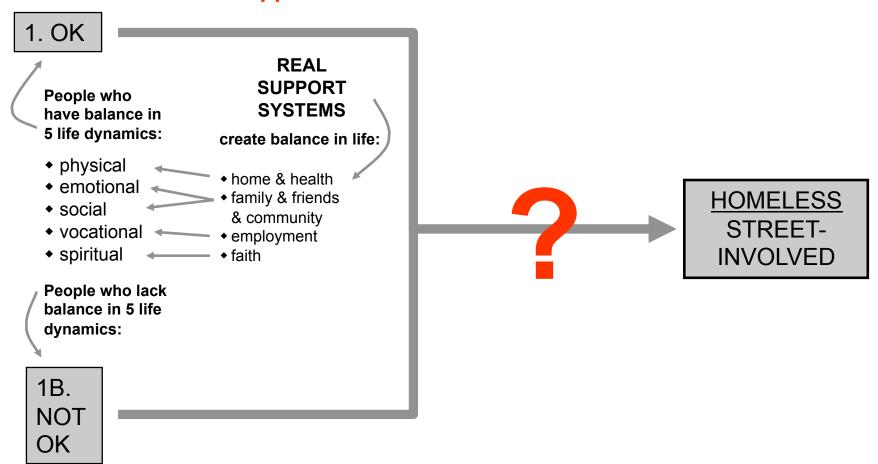
Question One

How does Starlight Ministries understand the current homeless/ street-involved system in Boston?

How do people get into the system, what is "in" like, and how do people get out?

Who becomes homeless or street involved? What supports a balanced life?



REAL SUPPORT SYSTEMS What goes create balance in life: + faith wrong? ◆ home & health ◆ employment • family & friends & community 1. OK A DEFINING EVENT Individual suffers loss of real support system, through: People who divorce + addiction crisis have balance in • job loss • crisis of faith 5 life dynamics: illnessdeath of family physical member or spouse emotional social 2. LOSS OF vocational **SUPPORT** spiritual People who lack **ADDED** balance in 5 life **STRESSORS** dynamics: history of abuse mental illness 1B. sense of failure NOT sexuality issues • maintenance of OK addiction

Some come through their crisis and never become homeless.

"HOMELESS"
STREETINVOLVED

may or may not have housing, but find their community on the street

Some lose their housing, but never become street involved.

REAL SUPPORT SYSTEMS create balance in life: • faith

- ◆ home & health ◆ employment
- family & friends & community

The individual ends up on the street where he finds himself in the middle of...

1. OK

People who have balance in 5 life dynamics:

- physical
- emotional
- social
- vocational
- spiritual

People who lack balance in 5 life dynamics:

1B. NOT OK

A DEFINING EVENT

Individual suffers loss of real support system, through:

- divorce addiction crisis
- job loss crisis of faith

2. LOSS OF SUPPORT

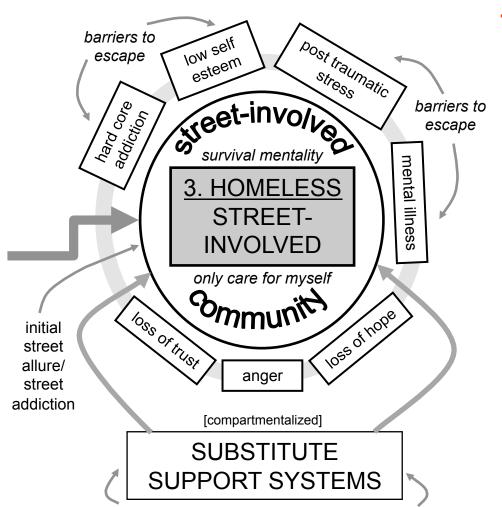
ADDED STRESSORS

- history of abuse
- mental illness
- sense of failure
- sexuality issues
- maintenance of addiction



...a false community based on survival and lacking hope.

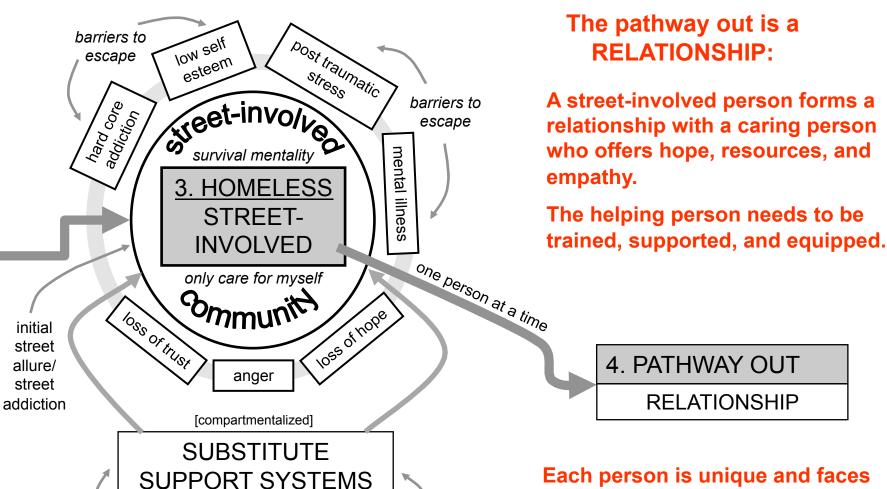
The barriers to escape intensify the earlier problems.



- faith-based ministries
- outreach workers
- church groups
- various religious groupssheltersvolunteers
- individuals, passersby
- agencies, govt, non-profit
- hospitals/clinics
- law enforcement
- other professionals

The street-involved community is undergirded by substitute support systems:

- These tend to be compartmentalized, each dealing with a different aspect of the person's life.
- Some groups are at odds with or antagonistic toward others
- Some services tend to maintain the street-involved community rather than provide a pathway out.



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personal issues which they must resolve themselves.

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Post traumatic -invo/ve mental illness ∕al mentality "Stages of Change" **MELESS** REETpreparation **OLVED** one person are for myself at a time munit loss of hope contemplation \ anger (-) high risk of failure 4. PATHWAY OUT **RELATIONSHIP** (+) hope

3.

First Engine: Personal Breakthrough

Someone walks with the individual through the "stages of change," offering hope and encouragement, one decision after another.

Problem: the Personal Breakthrough engine is a negative loop. It requires a strong, external support system to maintain momentum.

DECISION/COMMITMENT

action

maintenance

• gains housing

PERSONAL

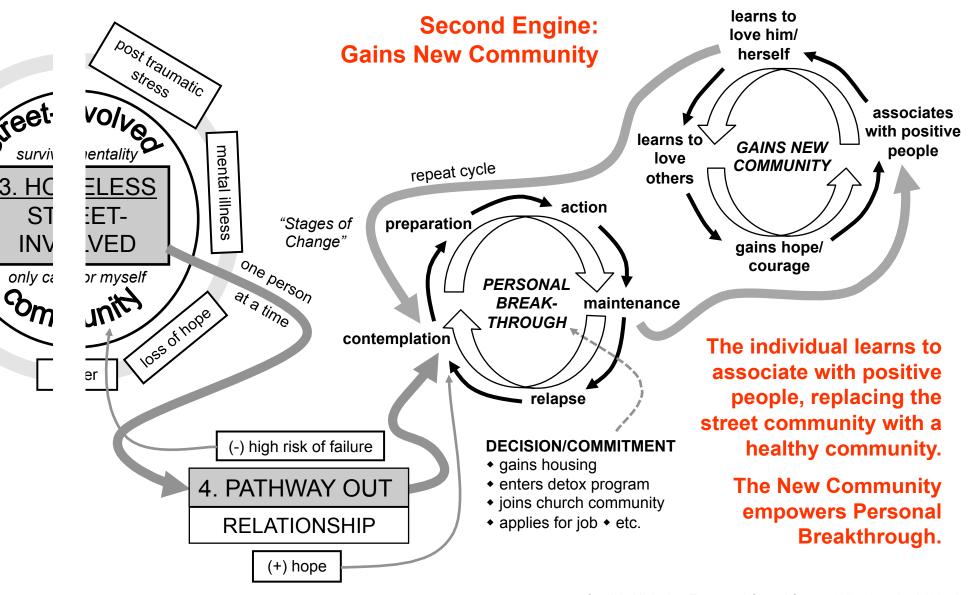
BREAK-

THROUGH

enters detox program

relapse

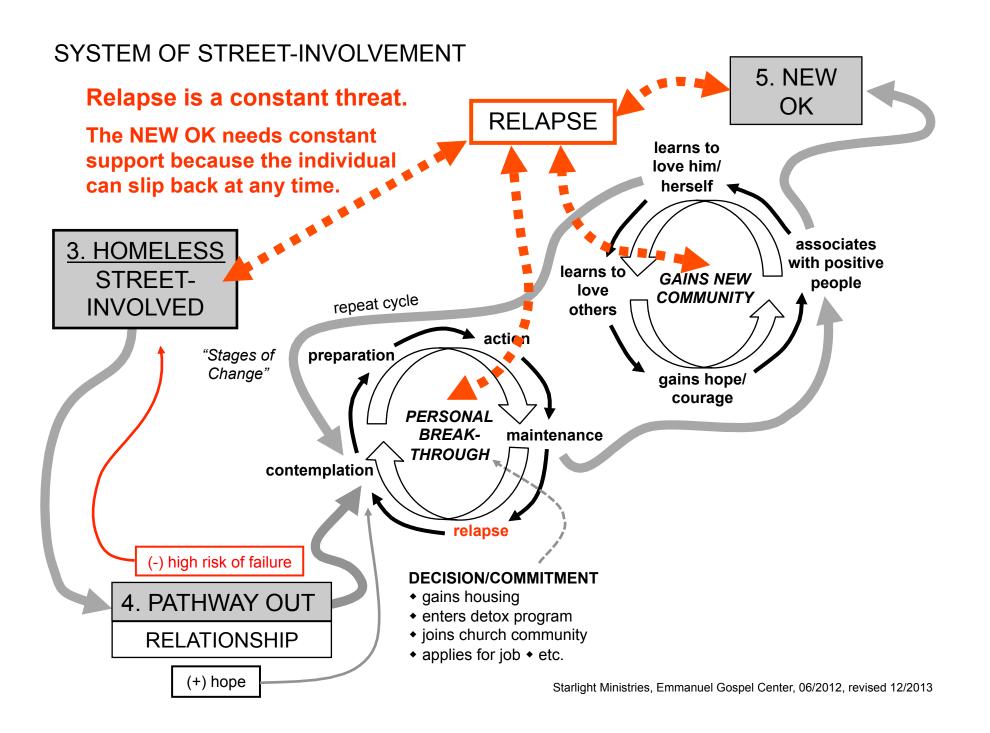
- joins church community
- applies for job etc.



As the individual cycles through these steps, he OK or she begins to discover his or her "NEW OK." learns to The GOAL is beyond housing. love him/ herself The goal is to regain balance in the 5 life dynamics: associates vocational physical with positive learns to emotionalspiritual **GAINS NEW** people love **COMMUNITY** repeat cycle social others action preparation "Stages of Change" gains hope/ courage PERSONAL BREAKmaintenance **THROUGH** contemplation The two engines provide the means to relapse rebuild each of these (-) high risk of failure broken life dynamics **DECISION/COMMITMENT** to help the individual gains housing 4. PATHWAY OUT regain balance. • enters detox program • joins church community **RELATIONSHIP** • applies for job • etc. (+) hope

5. NEW

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Relationship is the pathway out again.

A relationship with a caring person and a caring community who are willing to walk with the individual through the steps of the two engines again and again is the best means to forming the "NEW OK."

"Stages of Change"

PERSONAL BREAK- maintenance THROUGH

(-) high risk of failure

DECISION/COMMITMENT

- gains housing
- enters detox program
- joins church community
- applies for job etc.

The New Community can play an important role in helping the individual recover from relapse and regain solid footing.

(+) hope

4. PATHWAY OUT

RELATIONSHIP

5. NEW OK

associates

with positive

people

learns to

love him/

herself

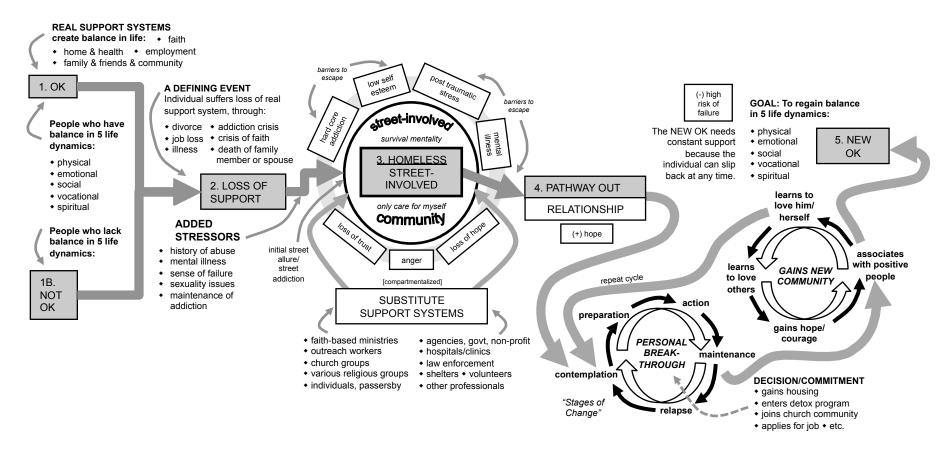
GAINS NEW

COMMUNITY

gains hope/ courage

learns to

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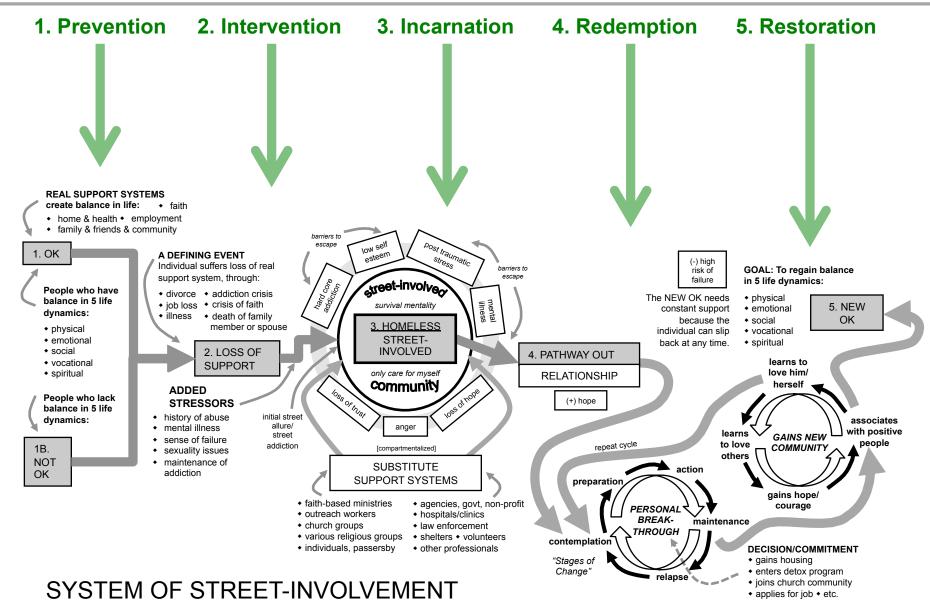


For more information, contact:
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Question Two

From Starlight's understanding, how can churches effectively engage the homelessness system to make system-wide impact?

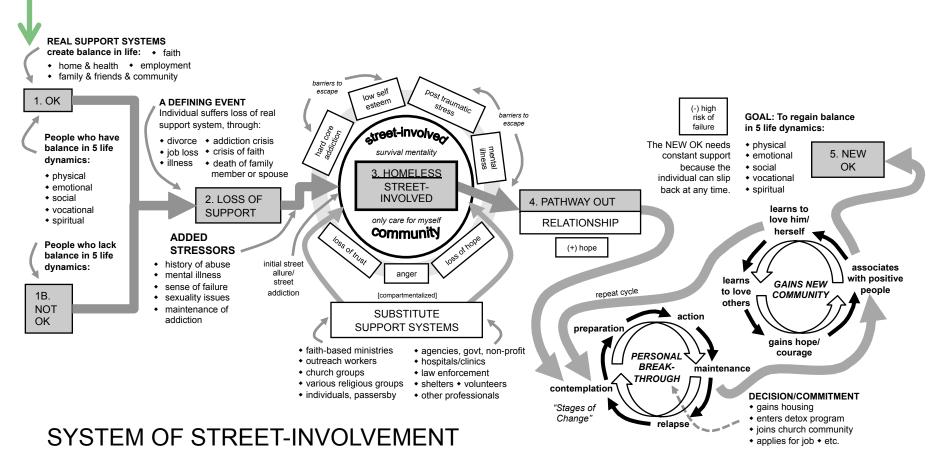
ENTRY POINTS FOR CHURCHES



ENTRY POINTS FOR CHURCHES

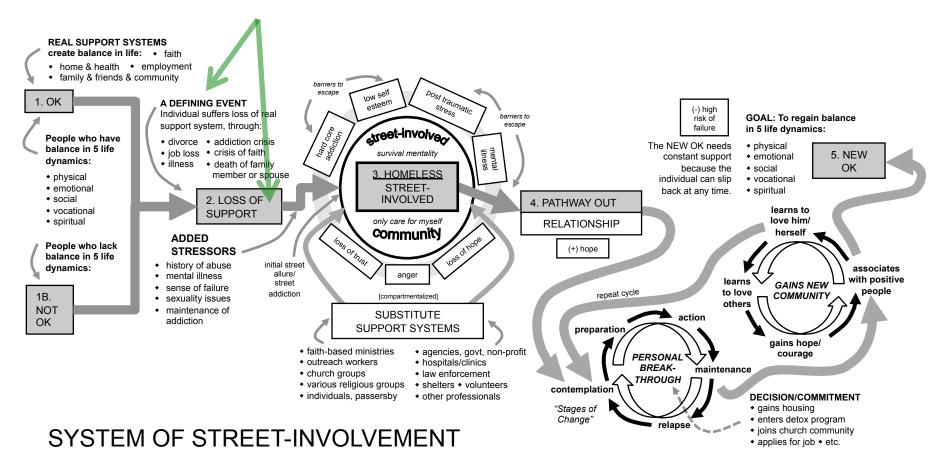
1. Prevention

- church intentionally integrates people into a vibrant faith and life community
- close relationships nurture people to maintain balance and health in life dynamics



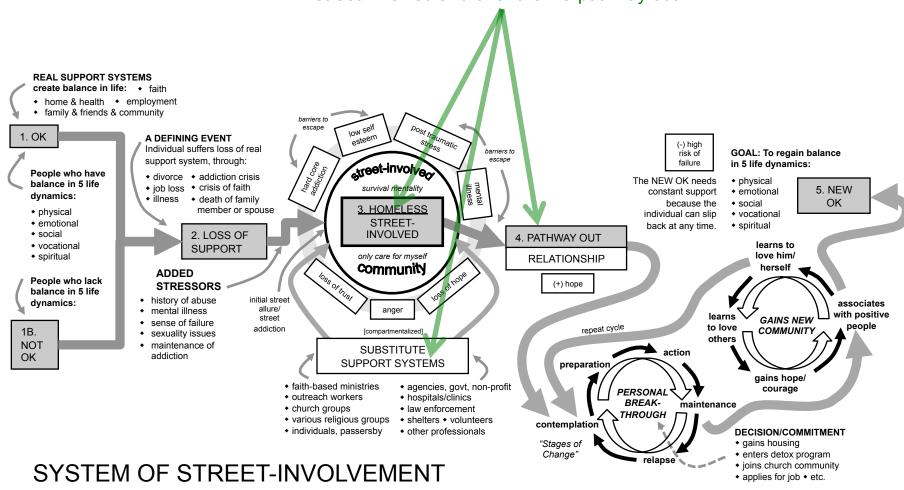
2. Intervention

- church community is aware of people's needs and rallies around people who suffer loss
- church offers effective intervention and recovery programs to help people navigate life crises (addiction, divorce, grief, illness, etc.)



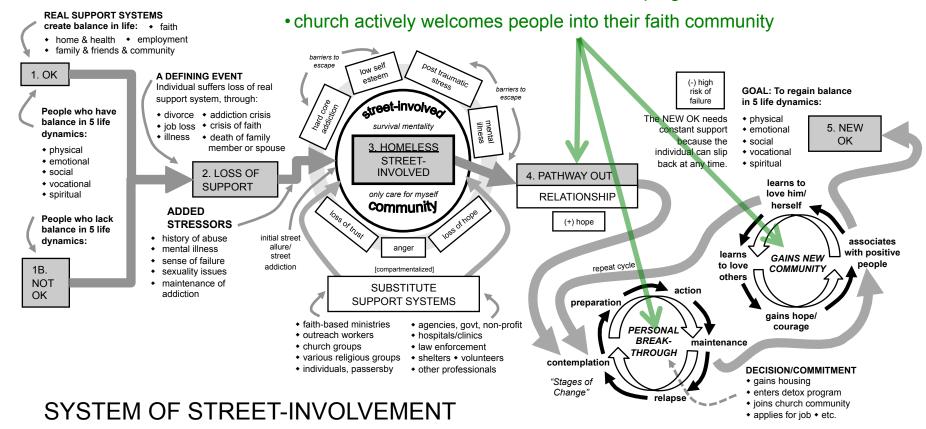
3. Incarnation

 trained, supported, and networked outreach workers build relationships with people who are street involved and offer them a pathway out



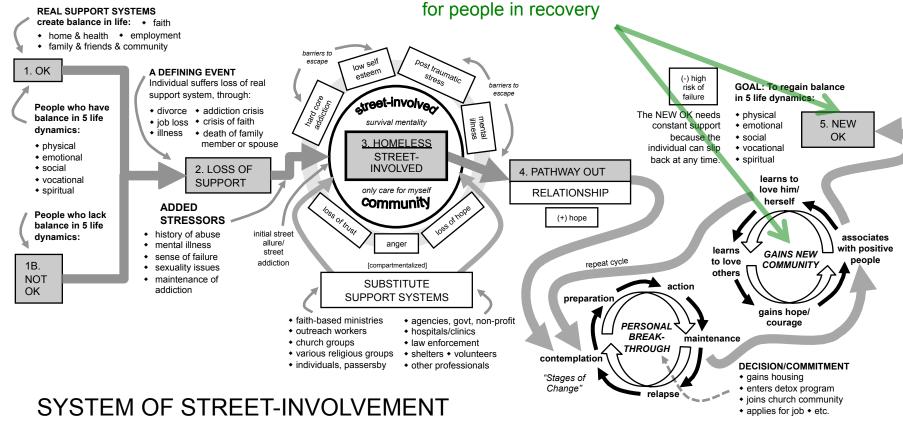
4. Redemption

- trained outreach workers walk people through "stages of change"
- church offers job programs, addiction recovery programs, etc., to help people make positive choices toward a healthy and balanced life
- church offers effective programs to build relationships with people in shelters, motels, SRO facilities, residential programs, etc.



5. Restoration

- church intentionally and fully integrates people into a vibrant faith and life community
- close relationships nurture people to maintain balance and health in life dynamics
- church offers a generous measure of real support for people in recovery

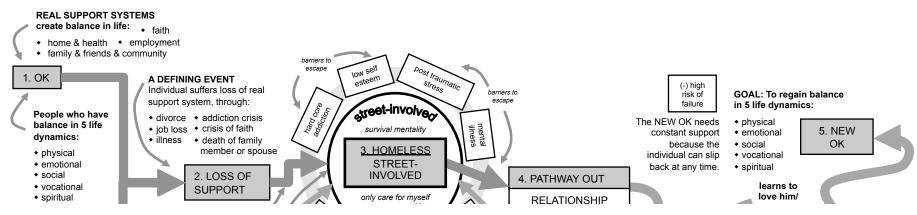


Numbers needed

"Is there a place for me?"

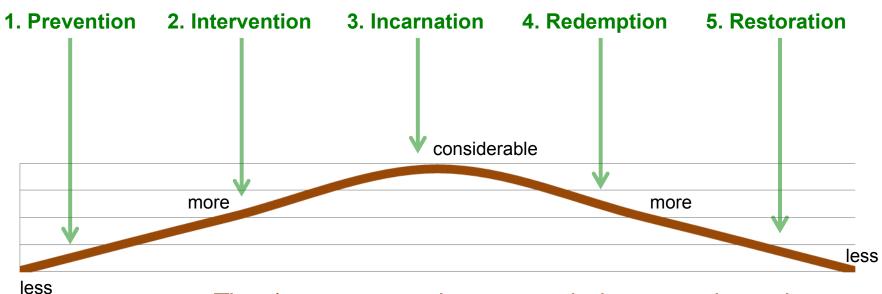


Numbers of workers needed across the system

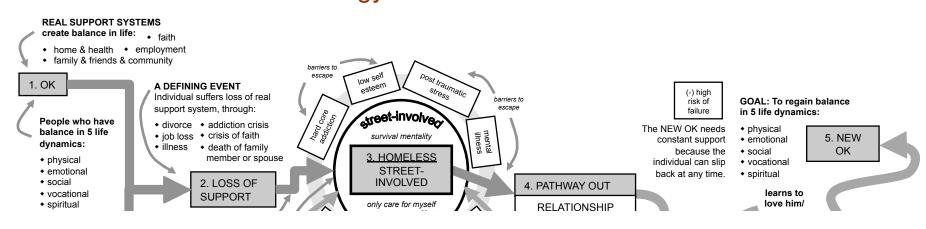


Commitment required

"How much time will this require?"

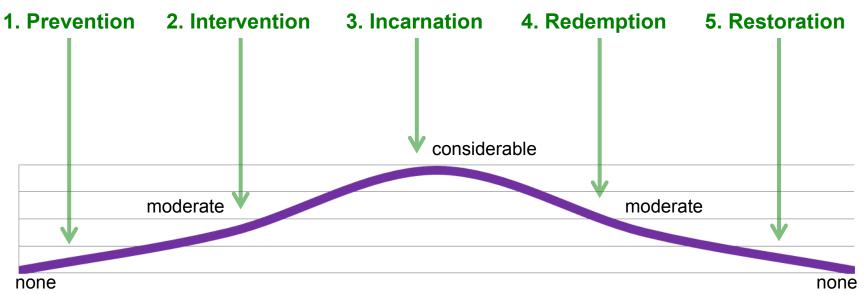


Time/energy commitment needed to serve in each area

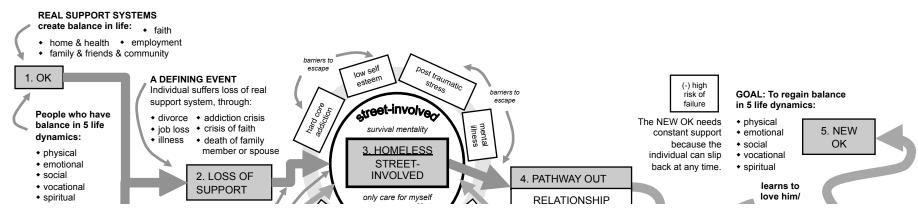


Training / Experience

"Do I need training?"



Amount of training/experience required to serve effectively



WHERE DO WE START?

How can churches take the next steps toward effective ministry to those who may suffer loss, lose their balance, become homeless, or are working toward recovery?

1. Prayer As leaders, as a congregation, start by asking God to help you discover his plan and purpose for you.

2. Assessment Find out what tools, skills, and resources you already have.

3. Discernment Ask God to give you a clear vision of how and where he wants your church to be involved.

4. Training Seek both formal and informal learning opportunities to gain and enhance your skills. Collaborate and learn from others.

5. EngagementBegin by taking small steps or experimenting with your outreach plans, and let the ministry grow at its own speed.

Make evaluation a part of the process. Debrief regularly. Pray continually. Ask hard questions of yourselves. See where your ministry is bearing fruit and do whatever you can to make it more fruitful. Keep love at the core.

Starlight Ministries is available to help churches walk through this process. We offer training, coaching, resources, and more. Ask us how we can help you!



For more information, contact:
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