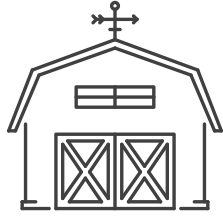


STOREHOUSE FUND



www.StorehouseFund.com



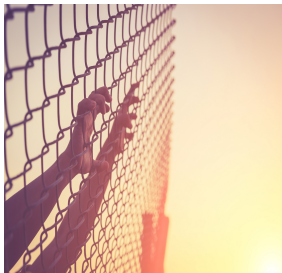
In 2017, we shared a new initiative called Storehouse Fund, focused on caring for the 'least of these My brethren,' as Jesus refers to them in Matthew 25.

Throughout the scriptures, God speaks affectionately of the poor, refugee, orphan, and persecuted, and calls us to do the same. Our vision for Storehouse Fund is to raise up a committed base of financial partners at our church who are willing to share in financial resources with the Storehouse Fund.

These finances are distributed exclusively to opportunities supporting projects, education, and outreach in areas of ministry serving 'the least of these.'

Our prayer is the families of our church would grow in desire to be the hands and feet of Jesus to a world of people often living in desperation.

Matthew 25 shares the basis of Jesus's desire for these people.



STOREHOUSE FUND INITIATIVE



THE LEAST OF THESE

Matthew 25:31-46

Matthew 25:31, where Jesus speaks of the 'least of these My brethren,' is a sobering scripture. As a church "living for the age to come," this passage is central to our values. We see our treatment of those in need as a significant element in Jesus's assessment of our lives, and even the eternal rewards that await us:

"When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry and you gave Me food. I was thirsty and you gave Me drink. I was a stranger and you took Me in. I was naked and you clothed Me. I was sick and you visited Me. I was in prison and you came to Me.'

... 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'"

Jesus has made it clear that we are to commit ourselves and our resources to serving those in need.

This is not new. As far back as Deuteronomy, God made provision for the 'least,' including the poor, the orphan, the widow, the stranger and the Levite within the gates. One of the three tithes taken up every third year was exclusively for this purpose.

So, who are the 'least'?



Those we call 'the least' are not people with less dignity or honor, but people whose circumstances have put them in a position of vulnerability. Sometimes we find it difficult to relate, and challenging to know how to help, when the needs are so great.

Who are they? Although we could include a multitude of categories, we biblically identify the poor, the refugee, the orphan and the persecuted.

Imagine with me if you would...

- Poverty so profound you don't know where your next meal will come from.
- Not knowing if you will ever again have a country to call your home.
- A child going to bed with no one to tuck them in, call for, or hold them.
- Your livelihood destroyed, your children taken from you, your body beaten and starved, because you refuse to turn your back on Jesus.

Every day, millions of men, women, and children wake up in exactly these circumstances.

Can you imagine?

Alone we are overwhelmed, but together as the church we are able!

Matthew 25:31-46 not only calls us to love 'the least', but claims Jesus is 'the least of these':

"Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me."

WHO ARE THE LEAST?



PLEDGING TOGETHER



Many have already given of time, resources, and heart to serve 'the least of these My brethren,' but some have not, being overwhelmed knowing where to begin.

Yet, deep inside we know we are ALL called to make room for this in our hearts and our schedules.

So where do we start?

In the Old Testament, Deuteronomy 14:28-30 speaks of a tithe taken up every third year; designated for the orphan, widow, stranger, poor and Levite within the gates of the city.

In the New Testament, in 2 Corinthians 9:7 Paul speaks of ongoing offerings set aside according to how 'one prospers...' offerings reserved for the poor and persecuted where famine and persecution had arisen.

If the Israelites could give 10% every third year, could we begin by designating 3% of our annual personal incomes? If you don't know where to start we are proposing this practical act of giving as a way to begin.

More importantly, we encourage our members to put their hands to the plow of ministry. We want the Storehouse Fund to support the activities of members engaged in ministries focused on 'the least of these My brethren.'

We would love for you to be a part of this with us.

[Pledging 3% of our income]

JOIN US

Our prayer is to see our church embrace these opportunities, and over the past 5 years we have seen \$160,000 of grants distributed to opportunities among the least. A big THANK YOU to all the families who helped make this possible!

Let's set an example for our children. Let's raise a generation of young adults who've grown up knowing nothing but placing a priority on 'the least of these' in their church.

Let's invest our resources well.

Thank you for considering pledging to the Storehouse Fund!

Sincerely,

The Storehouse Fund Team

For information or to submit a grant request, go to www.storehousefund.com.

If you have questions about pledging, please email

Doug Goodmundson [@d.goodm@gmail.com](mailto:d.goodm@gmail.com)

SPRING AND SUMMER FOCUS ON THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

This spring and summer the Storehouse Fund will be focusing time, energy and resources on raising awareness of the persecuted church.

Over 60 countries are actively persecuting Christians, and every year more than 10,000 are killed because of their faith. Scripture calls us to stand with them, as Hebrews 13:3 states, *"Remember the prisoners as if chained with them—those who are mistreated—since you yourselves are in the body also."*

As such, Storehouse Fund is partnering with Voice of the Martyrs to air the new movie, 'Tortured for Christ,' at a local theater. It is the story of Pastor Richard Wurmbbrand and the persecution he faced as a believer, based on the best-selling novel, which has sold more than 10 million copies.

We are also going to partner in sending Bibles to our persecuted brothers and sisters and adopting front-line workers in restricted countries. Storehouse Fund will be partnering financially, and extending opportunities to pray for these people by name.

We will be making resources on the topic of the persecuted church available at no cost and hosting some prayer events over the course of the next six months.

If you would like to learn more or get more involved with the persecuted church, we encourage you to take a look at resources available at Voice of the Martyrs (www.Persecution.com) as well as Open Doors (www.OpenDoorsUSA.org).



Voice of the Martyrs has sponsored the making of this movie based on the best-selling novel, 'Tortured for Christ,' which has sold over 10 million copies.

Bethany Church will be renting a local theater to host a showing soon to inspire believers to remember our brothers and sisters facing persecution.

Join us!



TORTURED
for
CHRIST


[The Movie]

14 years in Communist prison
could not break his faith.

BACK IN THEATERS APRIL 12

TorturedforChrist.com

PRESENTED BY
 The Voice of the Martyrs

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