

## The World's Less Fortunate

We live in a world where there are many misfortunate people. Some because of natural disaster, wars, poverty, loss, orphaned, widowed, oppressed, death of a loved one and we know from Scripture that these people have a very special place in God's heart. And because He treasures and cares for them so should we.

In the 275 years of history of Zion we can see many examples of Zion's response to the needs of other; here are just a few...

1832 – People of Zion did not forget sons of the congregation who were attending Seminary at Gettysburg. Money was sent to them when Zion could.

1880 - In spite of the financial burdens on the congregation due to the recent renovations and repairs, Zion contributed \$150 to aid in the erection of a new Lutheran Church at Milton, PA., in place of one destroyed by fire some months earlier, a fire that nearly burned the town out of existence.

1862- With the Battles of South Mountain and Antietam 1200 injured and dying men were brought into our town. Every home and building was opened to care for these men. Zion gave out small Bibles to every soldier that was brought into the church. A huge Thanksgiving meal was made up for the soldiers that were still here in November, two months after the battle.

1955 – Three elderly widows needed help with medical and fuel assistance. Immediate help was given to these women.

1848 – Church records states, "There was no neglect of providing for the poor of the community during the building of the new parsonage and Lecture Room.

2005 – Supporting those in need after Katrina

Woman's Missionary Society which was in operation for many years at Zion supported missionaries in Japan, India and Africa.

Today at Zion, we still are in the business of providing for the needs of people... Safehouse, Clothes Closet, Shelter in Frederick, Meals following funerals, Caregivers, Meals on Wheels, Faith Around the table, Community Garden, Elementary Day Off Programs, Community VBS, 30 Hour Famine, Nepal Disaster Relief, health ministry, Care Responders, CD Ministry for the shut ins, Hope in Faith for those grieving, FreeRide, Work Camps, Youth in Detroit at ELCA gathering, Quilters, Knitters, Shoeboxes, and many more...each meeting needs of someone else.

If we claim to have God's love in us, His love should resonate in how we treat those who are in need. Just as the church has looked at the needs of the less fortunate in the past, the people of today and the future generations must follow in the footsteps of our past. A



question to ask ourselves "is my Christian walk one of religious rituals and is talking and praying about helping people enough?"

We pick up the newspaper and hear on the Nightly News of the struggles of the misfortunate and it is so easy to put the paper down or turn off the TV and we can forget the plight of our neighbor. Those in need can be own family, our church, across town or in the world. It could be financial support, visiting the sick or imprisoned, encouraging the young or taking the elder to a doctor's appointment, spending time with the lonely, or just a kind word when someone's spirit is down or bringing a message of hope to the hopeless. There is much to do! It is through our deeds that the world can tell we are Christians!

Although we can't predicted the future, the future is shaped and influence by what we do today; the basics needs of people don't change...health, security, communication, mobility, energy. What are we doing as individuals as well as corporately to help others achieve these basic needs? It is in our caring that we teach one generation to the next the importance of sharing Christ's live and serving others.

Without Jesus, we are all spiritual poor and needy. Our spiritual wealth comes from nothing we do nor can we earn it, it come from a faith in Jesus and accepting his salvation. God wishes people to depend on Him. And He finds it in his great pleasure to provide and care for people. God has called us to share that same heart by caring for those who can't care for themselves!

"If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth." 1 John 3:17-18

