

International House of Prayer of Greater Fort Wayne

...a day and night , city-wide, multi-church prayer and worship ministry

...them...

(A reprint from 2020 but oh so relevant)

In a world filled with images and immediate ‘connectivity’ we struggle with lasting connection and meaning. Information about the world around us comes un-filtered and at such a rate that it is numbing to the soul. No where does this seem more true than in sharing the needs of the world around us. As I write this article our world is filled with consistent images and stories of this strain of Coronavirus that has single handedly paralyzed financial markets, travel, and now there is talk of postponing the Olympic games? My purpose in writing about this today is not to make a point about our world’s response to potential harm or the seeming dramatic alarm being raised about this virus. Allow me to be very clear - there is real danger and there are real people whose lives are being utterly changed and for some devastated by this illness.

But you see that is exactly the way it has always been! For the vast majority of us living in our culture the stories we hear that have the potential to threaten life as we have known it - are just that, *stories*. In many cases images of flooded or torn buildings in other places happened to ‘*them*’. This morning it was in Nashville that we see images of buildings destroyed and many lives lost - at this point everyone I personally know in that area is fine and so it becomes easy to keep my heart disconnected from *them*.

If we are totally honest, part of the ‘fear’ in all the attention being given to this virus is that enough individuals have had their imaginations awakened to realize that in this case ‘*them*’ could be ‘*me*’! Obviously, fear should not be our response but the situation begs us take a moment to look at our heart.

Jesus is asked a question 2000 years ago about ‘*them*’. **Who, Jesus is my neighbor** (Luke 10:25-37)? Jesus tells the story of the Good Samaritan - the story of a man in need of mercy, “*Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?*” *The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.” Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”* (Emphasis mine).

Two years ago I had the privilege of traveling with Luis Alvarado to San Pablo TacoChico, El Salvador. El Salvador is the smallest most populated and most violent country of Central America. I felt the clear invitation to learn what it means to be a neighbor to a people that I would never have otherwise personally known. A people whose once lush country has been ravaged by war, corruption, poverty, drug, and gang violence. Not one person I met had not been touched by these things in one way or another - little wonder that some 90 percent of the population experience food and housing insecurity daily. Their names and stories are the ‘*them*’ that could be in any headline. Our invitation was simple, to express tangible mercy in the form of rice, beans, fertilizer, and seed. To ‘*go and do likewise*’, to be a neighbor to the men, women, boys, and girls of San Pablo TacoChico, El Salvador.

This simple but real act of mercy has grown in size and impact. The last two years we have carried dresses handmade by senior women in Indiana to young girls, this year it will include shirts and shorts for the boys. A monthly bible study in one of the poorest neighborhoods has become a part of this outreach. We have given help following last year’s floods in El Salvador to families who lost most of their belongings. What we recognize is that we are simply being invited to continue to take another step to ‘*go and do likewise*’ by bringing tangible mercy to some of the poorest of the poor.

Real, true religion from God the Father’s perspective is about caring for the orphans and widows who

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And the secret is simply this: **Christ in you!**

Yes, Christ in you bringing with him the hope of all glorious things to come. Col 1:27b, JB Phillips

2021 Update...

- COVID-19 prohibited travel and it looks like it will again this year.
- Altogether (IHOP and other ministries) raised \$6000 dollars for 2020.
- Much needed help for the people of San Pablo TachoChico was given June 13 that impacted 52 families.
- A Christmas Lunch for over 70 took place in December.
- Monthly gatherings restarted in November and continue.



Some of this help came as men and women were saying goodbye to loved ones lost due to the Pandemic.

Over the last 12 months all of us have had an overload of crisis, trauma, and loss that has on many levels been difficult to navigate. In the midst of this, we want to say thank you for your participation in the lives of many individuals that most of us will never meet personally yet have directly impacted by your gifts.



The need remains high so we will again be taking an offering for El Salvador this year. It is our hope that we will be able to visit in person again in the future.



Join Us As we Pray for our City

- Thursday 6—7 am @ conference call 260-403-4948
- Friday—7pm
 - In Person at 247 Pearl
 - And on Zoom 833 669 278
 - Password Ihopfw

Refreshing unrehearsed times with the Lord and with other Jesus lovers! We look forward to being with you together in the presence of our beautiful Father.

Also have you visited our website lately....?
www.IHOPFW.com

Did you know....

- weekly teaching led most weeks by Ben or Denise takes place Sundays at 247 Pearl -10 am.
- our Podcast is up and running under the name ‘**the best news ever**’.

Please rate and review our podcast if you are able, it will be helpful to continue to share the best news anyone could ever hear - the Love of God revealed in Christ.

With gratitude and integrity we steward your gifts. Thank you for partnering with the mission the Lord has given us in this hour as we partner with Him in His kingdom purposes.

Please make your **tax deductible** contribution to:

IHOP Fort Wayne
5907 West Wallen Road,
Fort Wayne, IN 46818

Ben and Denise, Please agree with us over these prayer needs for the next month...

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