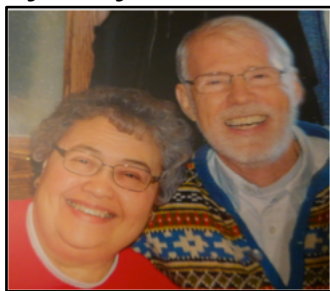


SPRING 2017 | THIS ISSUES' FOCUS: THE POOR

SHEEP OR GOAT

By Gary Gilbertson | Founder of Prepare



Jesus described a scene at the end of time. There were two lines; one made up of goats, the other of sheep.

The sheep

were on their way to heaven and the goats were on their way to hell. What differentiated the two lines? One took care of the poor and the other did not. Matthew 25:31-46.

Jesus stood and read from Isaiah 61 "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because He has anointed me to preach good news to the poor..." He sat down and closed the book

Stella and I began our ministry in the inner city of Miami where we were also married. I expected to work there the rest of our lives. God had other plans. For the past several months, God has impressed on me afresh to seek to minister to the poor... first, but not only, the materially poor. There are relationally poor, educationally poor, spiritually poor...you can probably name some more. The theme of this courier is the

centrality of the poor in God's heart...and the heart of all who follow Him.

BARTERING UP



David Olson has been leading teams to Central America for 15 years. He shares one of his learning experiences here.

One of the first things you learn in a Latin American is how to barter. It can be friendly and a lot of fun. However, as I talked to a woman from Oaxaca...she had no use of her legs...The Lord spoke to my heart. I saw how little she was making for all her time and skill. 'Barter up', are the words that bubbled up in my spirit. I will never forget the joy in her face and in my heart as I offered to buy the items for greater price. The best deal is to love others in a way that honors them and values the skill they have and the work they do.

To do justice for the cause of the poor and afflicted...is not this what it means to know the Lord.

Jeremiah 22:1



Happy is the generous person, the one who feeds the poor.

Proverbs 22:9



FEEDING THE STARVING

Donna Lui leads the U of M and seeks various ways to serve the poor. The U of M students work together at "Feed My Starving Children". Dave Olson has also taken students from St Olaf and Gustavus to reach out through this great organization.



CAMEL COURIER – SPRING 2017



It is not difficult to see who has no coat when we have two...or maybe twenty. Certainly the first to be defined as poor are those who do not have money or material things. But the poor are also the outsider, the one who has no visitor, the stranger or foreigner, the young man or woman without a father. It is true that some have lost the gospel for the "social gospel". It is also possible that the social aspect of which the gospel is to the poor.

*Pure religion...to visit widows
and orphans in their trouble...*

James 1: 1:27

some may have lost
the gospel without
no longer good news

NEW MERCIES AND AFRICA ACTION

Each August, Prepare joins with New Mercies Ministries, Karen & Charlie Oglesby in caring for the poor through hosting Africa Action! The fundraiser helps support Faith Village, a safe home for girls fleeing chronic abuse and trafficking in Rwanda. Check out newmercies.org to learn more or consider joining the fun us at this year's event.



Please join us

***Romance of the Ages Banquet and delicious dinner
hosted in Eden Prairie on April 21! (Invitation enclosed)***

SAVE THE DATE

THE VOICELESS POOR



Since Roe V Wade more than 6 million totally voiceless, totally helpless victims have lost their lives. There are countless ways to help; non-judgmentally love those with difficult pregnancies, support Christian agencies that minister to young women, get involved with foster care and adoption, support those who are on the front lines of these efforts, vote for life and those who support it.



Front line foster care parents; Adam Johnson, Prepare Board President, and his wife Amanda, former Executive Administrator of Prepare.

A DREAM

From a friend of Prepare



A fierce storm was headed for our town. It devastated the whole community...except for what most thought to be the most vulnerable to storms...the trailer park.

It was untouched. The message was that the safe place in desperate times is identifying with the poor.

Blessed is he who considers the poor. He will deliver Him in time of trouble.

Psalm 41:1



For a historic trip! May 29-June 8

Contact Gary or Elizabeth for exciting details and cost!

Gary.gilbertson@gmail.com

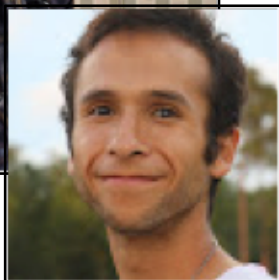
elizabethsilbernagel@gmail.com

SHARE THE FIRE RETREAT

Students from several campuses at recent Share the Fire Retreat pray over Carlton students as a new work begins there.



GENERATIONAL POVERTY



In my generation there is a relational poverty. We dispose of relationships as soon as conflict arises. There is an alarming rise in drug use, depression, and suicide. We are turning to technology and social media as sources of affirmation, connection, and communication deriving worth from these interactions.

So what can be done in response? How can we help youth and young adults in our communities who might be struggling with depression and other forms of relational poverty? Take time to ask and listen to the youth's stories and share your stories with them. Don't be afraid of us. We are longing to be counted important.

Renato is on staff with Prepare and works with a local youth organization



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POOR MAN'S RECIPE: SHEPHERD'S PIE

By Stella Gilbertson | Prepare Staff

My mom did not forget the poverty of her childhood. One of the things she never did was throw out any leftover food. She didn't use recipes in her cooking, she just made do with what was on hand. Woe to us kids if we complained that there was nothing to eat! "You can scramble eggs or fry potatoes or eat this (some leftover food)." She invariably threw "stuff" together and made a delicious meal. I inherited that ability from her, especially during our early years of marriage when we sometimes didn't have a lot of grocery money...I had to use what was on hand. This "recipe" is a tribute to my mom, not because of the actual ingredients but because of the simple creative challenge of just using what's in your cupboard or your fridge and not throwing it out.

1 ½ to 2 ½ lbs ground beef OR turkey OR other?
Chopped onion OR celery OR both
Garlic powder OR chopped garlic
Salt and Pepper to taste
1-2 cans tomato soup OR cream of mushroom OR other
"cream soup" [I have even mixed tomato and a cream soup]
1 to 2 cans cut green beans, drained OR 2-3 cups cooked peas
and carrots OR other cooked veggies
About 4-6 cups leftover real mashed potatoes [my kids would
bust me if I used instant, but they survived when I did!] OR
enough Tater tots to cover top

Directions

Brown ground meat with onions/celery until done; season to taste. Drain off any fat. Add soup(s) of choice plus ½ can of water OR broth if it seems dry; stir in veggies and top with potatoes of choice. Place on a greased 9x13 pan and bake in 350° oven about 30-40 minutes or until filling is bubbly. May assemble ahead of time and refrigerate up to 3 days. Bake a little longer if it's been refrigerated or if using tater tots. Remember, don't throw out the leftovers but keep in fridge.



NEW STAFF

We are looking for new staff who want to take a "gap year" as an intern...or full time staff. What a critical time to invest in the kingdom of God by ministering to young adults on college campuses! Call Gary Gilbertson for more information (507) 202-1280.

Your Photo HERE

ALUMNI REPORT

Terra Dahl, Graduate of St Cloud state. She prayed for a place in the white house and is currently there. Congratulations Terra!



GIVE | VOLUNTEER | PRAY

Donate online or send **checks** made payable to
Prepare Ministries to:
Prepare Ministries | 12901 Roberts Drive
Eden Prairie | MN 55346

Comments/feedback/questions: stella.gilbertson@gmail.com