

"Scoundrels use wicked methods, they make up evil schemes to destroy the poor with lies, even when the plea of the needy is just. But the noble make noble plans, and by noble deeds they stand." – Is. 32:7-8

Paths of Justice

Acting Justly

I used to think that in order to fight injustice you needed to be a lawyer, a soldier, or a protesting activist from the 70's. But I am none of those people. Nor am I a leader like Martin Luther or the President. So, I have no part in the fight against injustice.

However, in the eyes of God and His word, I could not have been more wrong. *What does the Lord require of you? To act justly, love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God. (Micah 6:8b)* But, what does that even mean, "to act justly"?

To act justly, you must be active with the gifts and provisions God has given you. In other words, if God has blessed you financially, then give humbly to those that are fighting on the front lines of injustice. If you are a teacher, then educate others about injustice. If you are an encourager, then hold the hands of those who have suffered from an injustice. Finally, let us all pray together. – Shaun

Veterans Needs

During the first few meetings of the Justice Mission, the team listed groups of people who we might consider as suffering or having suffered injustice. The list included preborn children, the Angel Tree children and those needing foster care or adoption. Some other people on the list were those caught in slave labor, sex slavery, and military veterans. During the last couple of months, we have been researching how we as a church might be able to assist these last groups.

Part of the work of the team was to define what justice or injustice is. There is a place for mercy work in the church, but we did not want to duplicate or get in the way of that work, which many are already involved in. The definition that the team arrived at is seen on each Path newsletter. Our definition of injustice occurring is when someone with greater power deprives someone with lesser power of freedom, dignity, treasure or livelihood. If an area of interest cannot meet the definition of injustice, we must leave that to another group to pursue.

Military action by the nation is Biblical. God established governments to commend good



behavior, to keep peace and to punish those who do evil. See 2 Samuel 8, Kings, and Chronicles for how God used the Israelite army to bring justice and establish His people's nation, then used other armies to punish Israel and Judah when they strayed from God's word.

We probably all know military veterans either in our community or in our families. Veterans are not a monolithic group. Military training and the teamwork built into the military are a great advantage when these soldiers leave and seek civilian employment. Many veterans are very successful in their work and home life after the military. On the other end of the spectrum, jobless veterans are living on the streets, depressed and dependent on drugs and alcohol to dull their pain.

In veterans, we sometimes see very broken people who have served us, keeping the world safe through their time in the military, but after arriving home, have not always been treated well. I am a Vietnam era veteran and many of my high school classmates served on the ground in that war. I served at Wright-Patterson and the differences in our



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Definition of injustice:
Injustice occurs when someone with greater power deprives someone with lesser power of freedom, dignity, treasure, or livelihood.

"The LORD is a refuge for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble. Those who know your name trust in you, for you, LORD, have never forsaken those who seek you."

- Ps. 9:9-10

Faith Community Church Justice Mission

Veterans Needs - Continued

servicing can be shown in how we survived our military time. My job was as an engineer looking at the capabilities of the enemy and determining how our troops could overcome enemy technology. I never was face to face with the enemy. Many of my classmates, though, were in the field witnessing mayhem, death, and destruction. This has left an indelible imprint on their lives that they have had to figure out for themselves. These soldiers spent the next years sullen and hard until they worked through their emotional issues, if they ever did.

We have 774,935 veterans living in Ohio and 68,428 in Franklin County as of 9/30/17. In Ohio there are 139,658 veterans receiving disability compensation and 11,212 of them live in Franklin Co. These vets have some disability from their military experience, whether it be physical from injury or emotional such as PTSD. A few veterans are on VA Pension. These are people who are totally disabled and most live at the poverty level. There are 13,795 of these veterans in Ohio and 1,174 in Franklin Co.

The Veterans Administration does provide services for veterans. We know about the veterans' hospitals that provide medical care. The VA also provides funds for education, for purchasing a home, burial, counseling and vocational rehabilitation.



What is not provided can be seen in the statistic that every day, 22 veterans commit suicide. This is a rate greater than for the population as a whole. In 2014, 244 Ohio veterans took their own lives. This number is the best estimate, but quite possibly there were suicides that were not reported to the VA.

In searching for spiritual care, the only things that we found were Lutheran Services Bible studies at Faith Mission and The Kitchen that are open to all people and a New Age Spiritual group listed on the Franklin County Veterans Affairs events schedule. There may be churches with a veterans' outreach, but they are not given through a Veterans Services organization.

The issues that the battlefield soldiers need to confront are spiritual and there are few places where they can get that help. We have looked into programs that work and found some ministries having a successful track record for helping vets to heal. It is only through God's grace that these soldiers can recover from their spiritual injuries and become the husbands and fathers that they want to be. We believe that some vets are being deprived of dignity and livelihood because they have spiritual needs that are not being met. We will continue to explore programs to find a way to help restore these soldiers.

Opportunities / Activities / Resources

- Mary O'Brien from The River and Nicole Bromley from OneVOICE4freedom spoke at Faith Community Church on March 18 about how the Lord has worked through them and their experience to protect people from abuse and exploitation, as well as how we can make a difference. If you would like to hear the recording, please contact Doug at dwdunsmoor@hotmail.com.
- Last month's newsletter presented how we can help those who have endured abuse, as did Mary and Nicole. We are looking for two women to lead a women's support group and two men to lead a men's support group this summer. We have resources available if you want to look over them. Please let us know if you can help in this way.
- On Monday, May 21, PDHC's 27th annual Golf for Life outing will be at Scioto Reserve Country Club in Powell. Golfers enjoy a leisurely day of golf, putting contest, auction, prizes, lunch and dinner and a brief presentation on how their support is making a real-life impact in the community. Let us know if you would like to go.
- Pray for FCC's ongoing investigative work and development of plans to serve victims of injustice.
- Do you want to get more involved with righting injustice? Come to our Justice Team meetings where prayer happens, plans are made, and investigations continue.
- Check with Tom Castor (tcbus7@att.net) or Doug Dunsmoor (dwdunsmoor@hotmail.com) for more information about these and more opportunities.

