

FROM: 2007 Mission Yearbook of Prayer and Study

The Lord's Day

Minute for Mission: Homelessness/Affordable Housing

One day Jesus was walking by a church. A homeless woman was sitting, crying, on the church's steps. Jesus asked her, "Sister, why are you crying here?" She replied, "This church wouldn't let me in because I am a shabby homeless person." Jesus identified with her by saying, "Don't worry, sister. They wouldn't let me in, either."

Today, let us praise the Lord for the many individuals, churches, and secular agencies that are working hard to help homeless people. A survey that asked two hundred people why we haven't ended homelessness yet received three major responses: the economic system, public policy, and cultural values. The United States has achieved unprecedented wealth—276 billionaires and 5 million millionaires—and unprecedented poverty—35.9 million people in poverty and 3.5 million people who are homeless. Homelessness among women, children, and the working poor is rapidly growing. The nation lacks 5 million affordable housing units.

What would Jesus say about this?

Jesus requires of us to build his dominion by sacrificing our possessions for the poor and saving our treasures in God's home. Jesus' policy was to have his residence among the homeless, to become their home and bring them home by restoring their basic necessities and dignity. God commands us to seek justice, not with just charity, but by dismantling the causes of homelessness. God promises blessings for those who follow God's justice and announces a verdict for those who violate God's policy.

Jesus is calling the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to find him among the homeless. He knocks on our church door to find a warm place to sleep.

—Rev. Dr. Jean Kim, retired associate for homelessness issues,
Women's Ministries and Presbyterian Hunger Program

Prayer

Dear Lord Jesus, you taught us to care for the needy. But we seek our own desires and violate your teaching. Justice is alive in our talks but sleeps in our actions. Our apathy prevents us from seeing you among the homeless. Forgive and challenge us to welcome with you homeless people into our church. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.