

Jesus said when we feed someone, we are not doing it for him, we are doing it to him.

School Supplies Anyone?

I have learned through the years that even though a church ministers to others through its budget, some want to help personally. We have had a group of children meeting in our church this summer from low-income families and are going to take some budget money specified for "Ongoing Love" and get them some school supplies. If you would like to help with this, make the check out to the church and write "For school supplies" on it.

"A Christian and Suffering"

BRINGS US CLOSER TO JESUS

"They were stoned; sawn in half and killed with swords. / They wandered around in deserts and mountains looking in caves and holes in the ground for somewhere to hide. / Since we are surrounded by such a great crowd of witnesses, let us patiently run the race that is set before us. Let us keep our eyes on Jesus. He endured the shame of being nailed to a cross / Then you won't get discouraged and give up."

Hebrews 11:37-38 / 12:

In our last newsletter we saw how God can use suffering to draw us closer to Him; closer to hurting people and closer to our best selves. Hebrews 11-12 show us how it draws us closer to Jesus. Jesus was:

"...so disfigured that he did not look human. / He was a man of sorrows well acquainted with grief / He has shared our grief and borne our sorrows / He was crushed for our iniquities." - Isaiah 52-53

Many people including me, know that if God gives us the freedom to choose, many will choose to hurt us. A story came out in the 1950's about the "Buford Rock Quarry Prison" in Georgia. Prisoners were being horribly mistreated and many broke their own legs with hammers to get the attention

of the "Atlanta Journal" newspaper reporters so they could tell their story.

On the wall of one cell were the words, ***"They ain't no God!"*** This was no armchair philosopher spouting the absurdity of atheism. He was one of life's walking wounded saying, if there is a God He does not care about me.

We understand why evil and suffering has to exist but many of us ask, why does it have to be so bad? Why are children born unable to walk. Why do we have child abuse? I have heard all the answers but they have not satisfied me.

What helps me is the fact that in *Jesus suffered too*. The great God of this universe came down to earth and suffered horribly like us and for us. He has not asked us to go through something for Him that He Himself was not willing to grow through for us.

There is a strange parable of the Judgment Day. The crowds around the throne, made up of all kinds of people, were unruly. They said, God has no right to judge us because H Groove after groove and e does not know what our lives have been like.

. The slaves of all the ages said, "Let Him, wear chains; feel the lash on his back and be dragged though the streets like an animal. Then, he can judge us. The poor said, "Let Him know what living in poverty feels like. Group after group stood up and and listed other things. Suddenly, they grew silent.

Jesus walked in and sat on the throne. His face was disfigured. Scars from the thorns were on his brow and from the nails were on His hands and feet. nails.

They knew God had been where each one of them had been. He had earned the right to judge because he kept on doing what was good and right and he also loved and offered forgiveness to everyone who hurt him.