

June 10, 2016



NCFA CONNEXION!

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Being Real, Relevant, and Racially Diverse!

Dear Saints of New Covenant Fellowship

The meeting of Mission Presbytery June 3-4 at Covenant Presbyterian was filled with tributes and opportunities to honor our beloved Pastor James Lee. In the courtyard outside the sanctuary a table held two wreaths and squares of burnt orange and purple paper with pens to write notes to the Lee Family on the burnt orange paper for their wreath and purple notes for the NCFA wreath. We will treasure these expressions of love.

On Saturday only three families were able to brave the rain to enjoy Jimmy Bohn and Kimberly Hall's hospitality at their home in Elgin. Undaunted, the Bohn-Halls again invite us to come out anytime between 2pm and sunset to enjoy a potluck supper and each other. This summer is especially important to take time to be together as the NCFA family and ***"rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep and thus fulfill the law of Christ."*** (1 Thessalonians 4:7)

Sunday morning Rev. Ellis Oglesby challenged us to be thankful for the 96% of U.S. citizens living below the poverty line who receive government assistance and, with God's help, to find ways to assist the 4% who are destitute. To the disciples' complaint about the expensive ointment lavished on him, Jesus responded: ***"The poor (destitute) you will always have with you, therefore, open wide your hand!"***

A cross from Guatemala was presented to Missionary in Residence Lydia Hernandez in memory of her brother Elder Daniel Hernandez and with gratitude for Lydia's ministry among the Mayans in Chiapas who are among the poorest of the poor.

Sunday afternoon Patrick and Jenny Saperstein welcomed Jacob Kishigo Saperstein, weighing 8 lbs. 8oz. and 20 inches long. Jacob will be called "Jake" so we won't confuse him with Jacob # 1, who recommends "hugshakes." The Sapersteins' address is 103 East 30th St., Bldg. 1, Apt. #308, Austin, TX 78705-3905.

Oliver Nelson and Carol Saddington hope to complete an NCFA picture directory this summer. If you haven't had your family or individual photo taken, please plan to be present this Sunday, June 12th. A photo directory will be invaluable helping us get to know each other.

At your next opportunity, be sure to check the bulletin board of photos in the Fellowship Hall; Connie Jones points out the symbolism evident in the arrangement of the photos of Pastor Lee and Jane Mack—from earth to the two of them sharing a hug in Heaven with the twinkling stars above.

Presbytery ended with the sad news that Rev. Kelly Allen, pastor of the University Presbyterian Church in San Antonio and moderator of the Immigration Task Force, had suffered a massive stroke at Mo-Ranch. Kelly died Sunday, June 5, leaving her husband and a teenage son and daughter. Kelly was a candidate for Moderator of General Assembly and had been instrumental in Mission Presbytery's ministry with immigrants at the Karnes City and Hutto Detention Centers. We join the saints of Mission Presbytery in giving thanks for her life and ministry. A memorial service is scheduled for Saturday, June 11th.

Please join our church family in worshiping our Lord this Sunday, June 12; Rev. Jeff Saddington will provide the sermon. Punch will be served afterwards for a time of fellowship. Bring cookies if you wish.

Comfort and Joy,
Trish Holland
Interim Session Moderator

June 10, 2016



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REGISTER TODAY!
JUNE 17 - 19

Questions?

See Elder Randy Mojica or Elder Danita Nelson

Friends, Family, and Neighbors are Welcome

Ages 3 - 10

June 10, 2016



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June 19, 2016

Congregational Meeting



There will be a Congregational Meeting
after worship on Sunday, June 19
to elect members-at-large
to the Nominating Committee
for Elders and Deacons.



June 10, 2016

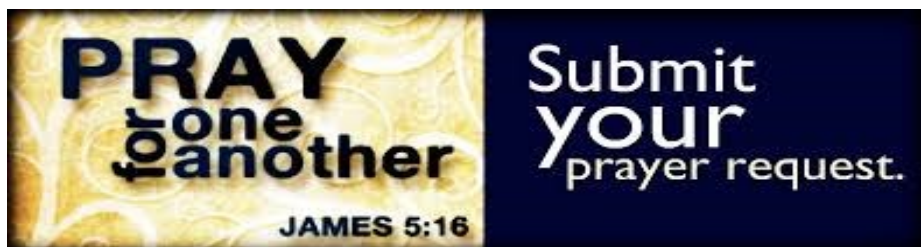


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PRAYER AND PRAISE



Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!

- ◆ Thank you to Pastor Ellis for an informative sermon. Because Christians in this country have responded to Jesus' commands about helping the poor, the truly destitute portion of society who have absolutely nothing has been reduced to close to 1%. Although the job isn't finished, we need to sing God's praise for the work that has been done.
- ◆ Lift up the life and ministry of Rev. Kelly Allen, pastor of University Presbyterian Church, San Antonio, who died today, June 5th, following a massive stroke.
- ◆ Praise for a well done Presbytery meeting this past week. Praise for the honor given our beloved Pastor Lee.
- ◆ Lift up protection for a Bible Camp in Alaska that is only 10 miles from a wildfire that has already consumed over 1,000 acres of forest. The children's summer camping season begins next week.
- ◆ Lift up Patricia as she takes the Gospel message to the Toposa people of Sudan who have never heard it. Lift up healing for Pastor Wanyonyi's 8-month-old son Dan who has been very ill with vomiting and diarrhea and has arrived in Kenya with his mom Esther for treatment. Lift up the power of the Holy Spirit to go ahead of the Gospel and quash the area's rampant witchcraft. Lift up protection for the new believers who go out to share the Good News.
- ◆ Praise for the breadth and depth of the effect Pastor Lee had on people. Friends of Collins in Africa were impressed and some became believers who are now working for the Gospel.
- ◆ Lift up Gloria who is in a Houston ICU with lung disease.
- ◆ Praise for Caly's mother Altagracia being completely healed. Lift up Caly for energy, strength, and endurance as she begins teaching Diabetes prevention classes on top of her full-time job.
- ◆ Praise for the opportunity to learn about a foreign mission work that provides eye surgeries to people who would otherwise go blind. 953 cataract surgeries were performed in 5 days in an Ethiopian Muslim village. The joy on the patients' faces when their bandages were removed, and they could see again for the first time in years, was indescribable—a bit of God's kingdom come now.
- ◆ Pastor Ellis declared his wife Lucy is awesome and he wants everyone, including God, to know!
- ◆ Lift up Daisay's friend Betty who is in Hospice Care in Georgia and not expected to live much longer.
- ◆ Thank you to Kimberly and Jimmy for opening their home yesterday for an NCF fellowship time. It was awesome. If you missed it, you have another chance next Saturday.
- ◆ Thanksgiving for Vi's persistence in living out the Gospel that has now helped her brother Glenn (a.k.a. Buck) begin a relationship with God through Jesus at age 90.
- ◆ Lift up Colton and family. His grandfather was recently diagnosed with advanced prostate cancer.
- ◆ Happy Birthday to Trish.
- ◆ Praise that George has been able to reconnect with old friends from high school. George admonished us to take the time to enjoy friends and loved ones every day. It may be the last chance you have.

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N C F A SUNDAY MORNINGS

NCFA Sunday Schedule

8:30am The Early Worship Service is expected to resume in the fall.

10:15am - Worship Service

1507 Wilshire Blvd.

9am Adult Sunday School

10am Fellowship

10:45am - Children's Church



NCFA SUNDAY WORSHIP AT 8:30am -- Wilshire Blvd.

The Early Worship Service is expected to resume in the fall.

NCFA SUNDAY WORSHIP AT 10:15am

We would love to have you and your family come share in the CELEBRATION OF THE GOOD NEWS!

We are worshiping in the Fellowship Hall of Genesis Presbyterian Church on the Wilshire Campus starting at 10:15 a.m.

Real Church...
Real People...
Real Simple...

New Covenant Fellowship of Austin PC(U.S.A.) is a racially diverse community informed by the Bible, empowered by the Holy Spirit, and motivated to share God's love with all. In response to God's love, we are called to equip disciples to faithfully serve, to encourage seekers to joyfully commit, and to implore all to worship our Lord, as we love our neighbors, grow in grace, and live by faith.

JOIN US IN THE CELEBRATION OF THE GOOD NEWS

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Being Real, Relevant, and Racially Diverse!



12th Charles and Pat Nemir
18th Ulysses and Gina Cox
20th Tim and Tracey Lenz

1st Eli Smith
2nd Trish Holland
Aria Ella
4th Becca Weaver Longino
Dana Williams
7th Edna Parrish
12th Scott Phillips
13th Nancy Harris
Penelope Booth
14th Justina Okyere Mireku
15th Madison Lopez
20th Richard Tallman
22nd Eddie Daniels, Jr.
24th Jane Mack
25th Alice Hernandez
Heather Oglesby
Robert Booth
29th Ulysses Cox, Jr.

Session Members

*Rev. Trish Holland
Interim/Moderator
*Elder Kathy Smith
Clerk of Session
*Elder Oliver Smith
Administration & Personnel
*Rev. Bill Harris
Buildings & Grounds
*Elder Randy Mojica
Children and Youth
*Elder Ben Hooks
Discipleship & Men's/
Women's Ministry
*Elder Mary Jo Mojica
Finance & Stewardship
*Elder Robert Booth
Congregational Life/
Lay Ministry
*Elder Vernon Bailey
Missions/Evangelism
*Deacon Carol Saddington
Worship & Membership

Deacons

Kathryn Aldas
Ashley Phillips
Scott Phillips
Carol Saddington, Chair
Cathy Trifiro
Roxann Vallejo

May, June 2016

12th Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

9-10am Adult Sunday School
9:45m Psalm 150 Praise
Team Rehearsal
10:15am Worship at Wilshire Blvd.
Rev. Jeff Saddington, preaching
Sunday School Ages 3-5 (Rm.1);
Grades 1-5 (Rm. 7)

14th 6:30pm Men's Ministry Dinner;
7pm Study

15th 6:30pm Fellowship Dinner:
7:00pm Worship

16th 6:30pm Acts Bible Study-
Fellowship Hall

19th Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

9-10am Adult Sunday School
9:45m Psalm 150 Praise
Team Rehearsal
10:15am Worship at Wilshire Blvd.
Elder Danita Nelson, preaching
Sunday School Ages 3-5 (Rm.1);
Grades 1-5 (Rm. 7)

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after worship on Sunday, June 19
to elect members-at-large
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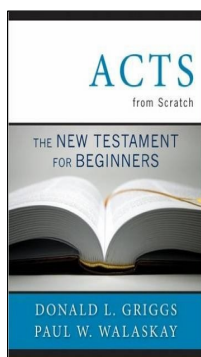
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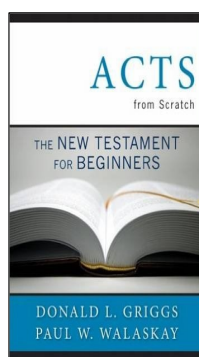
Being Real, Relevant, and Racially Diverse!



The Acts of the Apostles

7 Thursdays at 7pm:

June 16, and 23,
in the Fellowship Hall.



For the 16th, we will meet in the GPC Sanctuary.

Ever heard of a **FIRE** that will never be put out??

See the Holy Spirit in Action!

COME, ALL ARE WELCOME!!

TACO's with the DADs!!

I ♥ YOU MORE
THAN TACOS!



Switchin' it up a bit! Join us Sunday Morning at 9:15 on
June 19th and we'll "taco" 'bout great dads!!

June 10, 2016



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Being Real, Relevant, and Racially Diverse!

Group Lifestyle Balance



Eat Healthy Be Active Lose Weight

Lose Weight and be Energized!

Meet others who are on a similar journey, learn how to cook healthy food with cooking classes, get active with exercise classes, and receive awards every class for achieving milestones towards your goals!

Program: 6 weeks group classes and 6 weeks of weight loss support

**New Covenant
Fellowship of Austin**

1507 Wilshire Blvd.

Austin, TX 78722

Monday: 5:00-7:00pm (English)

Friday: 5:00-7:00pm (Spanish)



CommUnityCare
HEALTH CENTERS



EPISCOPAL HEALTH
FOUNDATION

For more Information please contact:

Caly Fernández at (512) 228-4712

Info: Caregiver-Responsible Party Support Group (CRPSG)

This will be an open / on-going group for persons who are

- 1. The direct primary contact for adults who live in a nursing home, assisted living or skilled nursing facility or**
- 2. The primary caregiver for an elderly person or for an adult with a disability.**

Members (Participants) will be able to come and go with no obligations to attend regularly.

The purpose of this group is to provide a place where Members can share concerns, helpful resources & ideas; or simply provide one another with moral support. Confidentiality will be stressed.

Group Members will only be known by first names in group, for registration and on sign-in sheet.

Contact information requested will consist of information needed for Member contact or grants:

- First Name Only of Member
- Contact phone number of Member
- Dates of birth (Member and Care receiver)
- Genders (Member and Care receiver)
- Races (Member and Care receiver)
- Ethnicity or Heritage (Member and Care receiver)
- Zip code (Member and Care receiver)
- Income (Member and Care receiver) Optional

Group will meet once a month, with Elizabeth Smith facilitating, on the 4th Thursday at 7 pm. at St. James' Episcopal Church, 1941 Webberville Road, Austin, TX 78721. The meeting will be in the Orange Building - Room A.

Group size should ideally consist of 6 – 8 members.

There will be no cost to group members.

Please contact Elizabeth Smith at 512-417-7166 or DElizabeth.Smith@yahoo.com to register or for more information.

First meeting is to be held Thursday, June 23, 2016.

D Elizabeth Smith, M.S.E., LPC
512-417-7166 (iPhone)
PO Box 201118
Austin, TX 78720-1118

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Being Real, Relevant, and Racially Diverse!

“Will the Poor Always Be with Us?”

Amos 2⁶⁻⁸-, 13-16: Matthew 26:6-13

Rev. Wm. Ellis Oglesby

New Covenant Fellowship of Austin

June 5, 2016

Amos 2:6-8, 13-16

⁶ Thus says the LORD: For three transgressions of Israel, and for four, I will not revoke the punishment; because they sell the righteous for silver, and the needy for a pair of sandals—⁷ they who trample the head of the poor into the dust of the earth, and push the afflicted out of the way; father and son go in to the same girl, so that my holy name is profaned; ⁸ they lay themselves down beside every altar on garments taken in pledge; and in the house of their God they drink wine bought with fines they imposed.¹³ So, I will press you down in your place, just as a cart presses down when it is full of sheaves. ¹⁴ Flight shall perish from the swift, and the strong shall not retain their strength, nor shall the mighty save their lives; ¹⁵ those who handle the bow shall not stand, and those who are swift of foot shall not save themselves, nor shall those who ride horses save their lives; ¹⁶ and those who are stout of heart among the mighty shall flee away naked in that day, says the LORD.

Matthew 26:6-13

⁶ Now while Jesus was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, ⁷ a woman came to him with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment, and she poured it on his head as he sat at the table. ⁸ But when the disciples saw it, they were angry and said, “Why this waste? ⁹ For this ointment could have been sold for a large sum, and the money given to the poor.” ¹⁰ But Jesus, aware of this, said to them, “Why do you trouble the woman? She has performed a good service for me. ¹¹ For you always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me. ¹² By pouring this ointment on my body she has prepared me for burial. ¹³ Truly I tell you, wherever this good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her.”

Do you remember the myth of Sisyphus in Greek mythology? He was an evil king, and Zeus punished him by condemning him to roll a boulder up a hill. But right as the rock was almost at the top of the hill, it would slip away from him and roll back down. So for eternity, Sisyphus is rolling that rock up and watching it roll back down. Over and over. Until the end of time.

Does it ever seem that caring for the poor is like that? We give a blessing bag to a panhandler only to find another panhandler on the next block. It doesn't matter how many we give away; there are always more panhandlers. It doesn't matter how many food drives we participate in; there are always more food drives. It doesn't matter how many cars we give away; there are always more people who need cars.

(By the way, NCF has someone who needs a car right now, so if you or someone you know could donate one to Workers2Work, a certain seminary student and all his future parishioners would be eternally grateful. End of Public Service Announcement.)

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We're just like Sisyphus, pushing that rock. Up and down. Up and down. Nothing ever changes. And we shouldn't be surprised, right? Jesus tells us that in today's scripture passage, right? "The poor will be with you always." Wrong.

That is a common but almost criminal misinterpretation of this morning's scripture passage, and we're going to talk about that this morning. This sermon is a little dangerous because I'm going to tell you things you think you know are wrong. And I'm going to make an argument that hateful people often make in order not to care for others. However, I'm going to come to a far different conclusion.

First we're going to look at this passage and see that it's not about poverty at all.

Second we'll see that if that were Jesus' intent, as many people argue it was, then it would likely be false. The poor may not be with us always.

I can summarize my argument by recapping a conversation I had with Rick in the minivan on Thursday. It went like this:

Rick: Papa, what are you preaching on?

Ellis: I'm going to preach that the poor aren't poor at all.

Rick has a moment of confusion, and then ...

Rick: So we shouldn't give them food anymore?

Ellis: No. They aren't poor exactly because we give them food. We do a good job caring for them, and we can work harder and do an even better job until they've got everything they need.

The good news of this sermon is that, by the grace of God, we have all but eliminated the kind of deprivation Jesus was talking about; and if we work even harder, we can get rid of it all together. But we're getting ahead of ourselves.

We have this beautiful story in Mark 14. It has a parallel in Luke 7. A woman who is identified as a prostitute in Luke crashes a dinner party in order to sacrifice expensive oil to anoint Jesus. Some people take this beautiful story and lift out one sentence: "The poor will be with you always." Then they'll say we shouldn't worry about the poor. Jesus tells us we'll always have the poor. Poverty is a part of God's plan.

Some even go so far as to say that the poor are a gift to the wealthy because they give us opportunity to practice charity. (<http://www.jewfaq.org/tzedakah.htm>) I don't think so.

Friends and neighbors, this story isn't about the poor. It isn't about the perfumed oil. It's about the woman. In the Gospels, who recognized Jesus for who he is? Not the priests or the pharisees. Not the disciples. It's only the outsiders. The Roman Centurion. The demons. The unnamed prostitute.

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This is a theme we see again and again. Jesus says, ***“I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.”*** (Luke 5:32) Do you want to know what repentance looks like? It’s breaking open a container of costly oil and washing Jesus’ feet with the oil, your tears, and your hair. That is what this story is about.

But that isn’t what this sermon is about. This sermon is really arguing against the common misinterpretation that the poor will be with us always.

There are two important Greek translation issues in this sentence. Who are the poor? And who is “you?”

First, the pronoun you. It’s actually plural here. “Y’all.” But who is he talking to? The guests at the dinner table. Why do we automatically take the perspective that Jesus is talking to us every time he opens his mouth? Jesus was right, his dinner companions would never know a time when there were no poor people. But we just might.

Greek has two words for “the poor.” The first is the people who do not have enough. We see people like that all the time. We may even be people like that. Folks who just don’t have enough.

Does anyone here remember a time when you didn’t have enough? Well, that’s the first Greek word for poor. People who don’t have enough.

The second Greek word that we translate as “poor” is people who don’t have anything at all—no possessions, no family, no societal connections. The English word “poor” really doesn’t equate. “Destitute beggars” would be much closer. They live in the hedges outside the city walls. They glean the fields and they beg at the gates. They are mostly the elderly, the crippled, and single women—i.e., prostitutes.

This is the word Jesus uses. ***“Destitute beggars will always be with you, but I will be with you for a short time.”***

Here is a look at wealth distribution in Judah in the time of Jesus.

Demographics in 33 AD

Land Owners

1%

Merchants

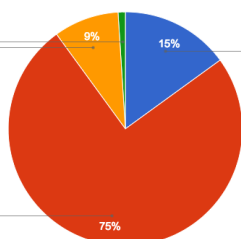
9%

Laborers

75%

Beggars

15%



Can you believe our experts know this stuff? It’s amazing.

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“Will the Poor Always Be with Us?”

Amos 2nd 6-8-, 13-16: Matthew 26:6-13

Rev. Wm. Ellis Oglesby

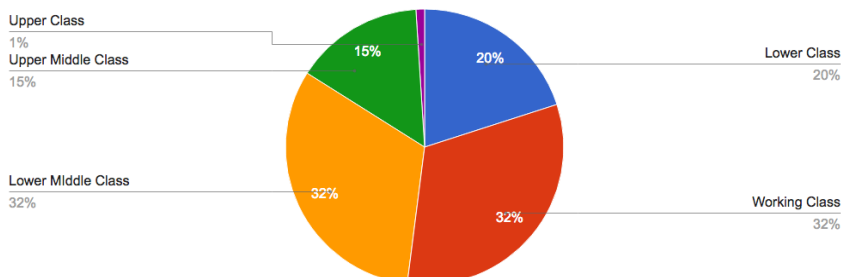
**New Covenant Fellowship of Austin
June 5, 2016**

Fifteen percent of the population were absolutely destitute. Seventy-five percent were day laborers. These are the guys you pick up in the Home Depot parking lot and pay \$10/hr to dig ditches in your yard.

It's worth noting that the workers in Jesus' parable of the vineyard are one step up from laborers. They are skilled craftsmen. They belong with the merchants in the 9% of middle class. And, of course, there is the 1%. We all know about them.

So how are we doing 2,000 years later? Who knows how many Americans live below the poverty line? Anyone?

Demographics in 2015 AD



Fourteen and a half percent. Twenty in this graphic. True. So we haven't made any progress at all. Jesus was right. The poor will be with us always.

Well, not so fast. What this graphic calls “lower class” translates to the first Greek word for poor—people who don't have enough. There are people in the U.S. who have nothing, but as we'll see, there are not many.

Before we go any further, I want to remind you that Mark Twain once said there are three kinds of lies: Lies, Damned Lies, and Statistics.

We're looking at statistics. I hope we can view them as informative-ish instead of arguing endlessly about methodologies and indices. When this sermon comes out in the *Newsletter*, it will contain links to my sources. For me, personally, this is an important topic, so if you have other sources, I'd love to see them.

So here is a fact about the way the U.S. Census Bureau calculates the poverty line. It doesn't include any of our governmental, ecclesial, or charitable assistance programs. So a family will be counted as in poverty even though the SNAP and TANF benefits push them well above the poverty line.

Before help from the community, 15% of our population doesn't have enough. But then the community steps in in the form of government programs, private charities, and church groups. That aid reduces the number of families in poverty to 5%; that's down from almost 20% in 1964.

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Brothers and Sisters in Christ, that is Good News. In my lifetime, the United States has decreased the size of the underclass by 75%. Praise God. Congratulations.

There are still poor people in the United States. Very poor people. Destitute people. People who have nothing. These are the people Jesus was talking about, and they are still among us. We need to bring them with us into the land of milk and honey, and I believe we can do it with God’s help.

In the next few minutes I’m going to provide some evidence that they are not as poor as we think. By that I mean this class as a whole is not suffering from deprivation. It does not mean that no one in this class is suffering from deprivation. Some Americans are poor in the biblical sense, and we must redouble our efforts to help them.

Working vocationally with people in poverty has been confusing for me. I remember the first time I went out with Mobile Loaves & Fishes, before New Covenant Fellowship was formed, and Alan Graham was showing us the ropes. At one point he said, “This is one of the poorest areas in Austin.” Then he turned onto my street.

I’ve knocked on flophouse doors and handed sandwiches to people watching big screen TVs.

When people ask me what I do for a living, I say, “I give cars to poor people.” So why is it that several of our drivers own their own homes? How can someone below the poverty line own a house? Actually, 43% of the people who live in poverty own their own home, typically a 3 bedroom/1-1/2 bath with a garage and a patio that is in pretty good repair.

<http://www.heritage.org/research/reports/2011/07/what-is-poverty>

Understanding the actual situation of the lowest 15% of the economic food chain is difficult. We’re going to look at three dynamics—stuff, housing, and food—using as our lens self reports from people in that group. We don’t know how they are really doing, but we know how they say they are doing.

So let’s look at stuff. The U.S. Department of Energy needs to know how many electrical things we have so they can provide enough electricity. People interviewed check off items on a list and get a score. Here, those scores are aggregated.

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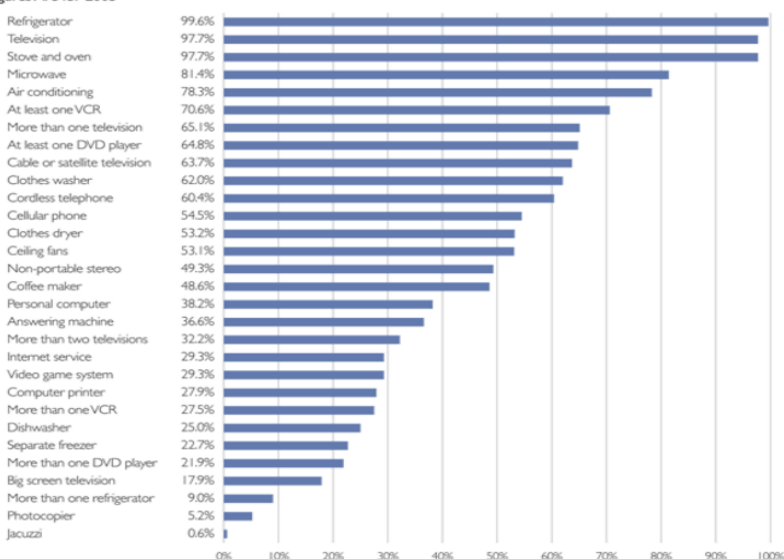
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Percentage of Poor U.S. Households Which Have Various Amenities

Figures Are for 2005



Source: U.S. Department of Energy, Residential Energy Consumption Survey, 2005.

What we see here is that only ½ of 1% of people under the poverty line have Jacuzzis. No surprise there. Ninety-nine point six percent of poor people have a refrigerator. That may be the refrigerator in your Foundation Communities studio apartment, but it's still a refrigerator.

If you look here, you see that half of all people under the poverty threshold have washers and dryers, cell phones, cable TV, and at least one DVD player. Some people are appalled by this. I am elated. I'm proud to live in a country where we take such good care of people in poverty that they own homes and watch DVDs on big screen TVs while talking on their cell phones. How fantastic is that?

Some folks will say that the poor don't need our help because they have all this stuff. The truth is that they have all of this stuff because of our help. Our charity. Our love for our neighbors. To God be the glory on that one.

Let's look at homes. The average poor person in the U.S. has more living space than the average middle-class European. I lived in Germany for two years. It's true.

Not everyone below the poverty line has a nice place to live. Homelessness exists, and it is a horrible thing. Who knows how many homeless people there are in Austin? Two thousand. However, half of those people sleep in shelters. So we're looking at 1,000 people on the street on a given night.

What is the population of the City of Austin? 885,000 people. So on an average night, 1/10th of 1% of our population is homeless. To the people in that 1/10th of 1%, that is a big problem. But for the community as a whole, it's a very small problem. Congratulations, we are doing a good job caring for the least of these in Austin.

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New Covenant Fellowship of Austin

June 5, 2016

Finally, let’s talk about hunger. Is hunger a big problem in Texas? Just look it up and you’ll see that 17% of Texas are food insecure. (<http://www.feedingtexas.org/learn/food-insecurity/>) Oh, dear. That’s over 4 million people, about the population of New Zealand, suffering from hunger every day in our state. *Not*.

Let me ask you another question. Last year, how many people in Texas starved to death because they were poor? Answer: Zero.

One kid starved to death in 2013 and another in 2004. His mother was just executed by lethal injection for it. Starving in America is a national news event.

So which is it, 4,250,000 or zero? That’s a big discrepancy.

First we need to understand this term, “Food Insecurity.” The official definition is “limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods or limited or uncertain ability to acquire acceptable foods in socially acceptable ways.”

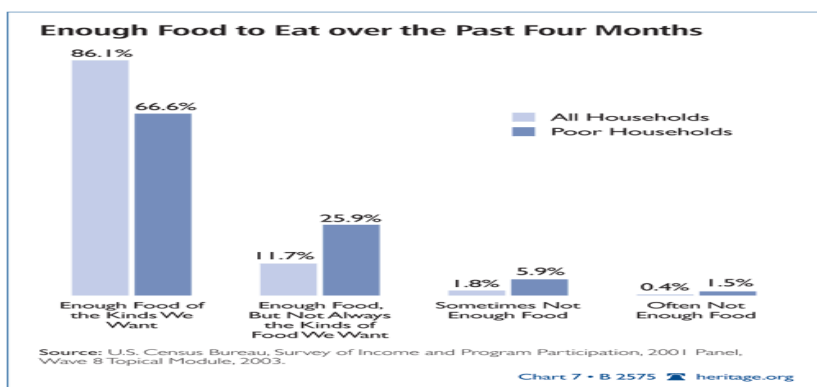
<http://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-nutrition-assistance/food-security-in-the-us/measurement.aspx>

Dumpster diving is not a socially acceptable way to get food. Neither is Mobile Loaves & Fishes. Neither is Meals on Wheels.

My mother lives in a swanky old folks home, and if she wants, a waiter in a white jacket will deliver dinner to her room. I think that’s socially acceptable. So if I wore a dinner jacket on a Mobile Loaves run, would the recipients no longer be food insecure? I’m not sure.

I think food insure people are those who might be without food for some period of time without societal help.

There is another way to skin this cat. Why don’t we just ask folks if they have enough to eat? To my great surprise, the U.S. Census Bureau asks this question, and here are the results. This chart shows all households in light blue and households in poverty in dark blue.



June 10, 2016



NCFA CONNEXION!

WWW.NCFAUSTIN.ORG

Being Real, Relevant, and Racially Diverse!

“Will the Poor Always Be with Us?”

Amos 2nd 6-8-, 13-16: Matthew 26:6-13

Rev. Wm. Ellis Oglesby

New Covenant Fellowship of Austin

June 5, 2016

Somewhere in here I need to mention that the U.S. Census Bureau doesn't ask Undocumented Workers whether they are hungry. I suspect that would change the graph a little bit. We still have work ahead of us.

Basically, the three right-hand categories comprise the group we know as food insecure. Frequently they don't get the food they'd like. "I'm sorry if you like tuna sandwiches, but Mobile Loaves & Fishes serves ham sandwiches." I don't consider a limited menu to be an assault on human dignity.

Only 4/10^{ths} of 1% of families have at least one member who often goes without enough food in the U.S. Those are the closest thing we have to the poor that Jesus is talking about. Now that's still over a million people, and we need to help them even more, with God's help.

Here is a recap. The dominant social narrative is that 15% of Americans are destitute. That's what Kim Jong-il tells the North Koreans. That's what Putin tells the Russians. That's what the media tells us. It sells a lot of magazines. And that's what we are told by the Presbyterian Committee on Mission and Outreach, to which my lovely wife Lucy was just elected. Capital Area Food Bank (now Central Texas Food Bank) tells us that, too.

Why? Because they believe it's easier to raise money to solve a giant problem rather than to solve a small one. If they are right, I'm all for it. These tremendous efforts that keep people afloat cost lots of money. It's got to come from somewhere.

However, I have a different opinion. I think that if we tell people how much good they are doing and how successful their efforts are, they will be motivated to give more and work harder.

My experience and my research suggest that actual deprivation is not a giant 15% of the population problem. It would be, if we didn't help. But by the grace of God we work to help the least of these in our society, and we've brought that number down to 5/10^{ths} % of our population. It's over a million people nationwide. But it's only about 3,000 people in Austin.

That is a problem we can solve.

And I will guarantee you that if we try, we will one day enter into Glory to hear our Father in Heaven say to us, *"Well done, good and faithful servant."*

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, Hallelujah! and Amen.

* * * * *

<http://marginalrevolution.com/marginalrevolution/2015/03/how-much-has-the-u-s-poverty-rate-declined.html>

<http://marginalrevolution.com/marginalrevolution/2015/03/how-much-has-the-u-s-poverty-rate-declined.html>

<https://www.texastribune.org/2014/09/17/lisa-ann-coleman-sixth-texas-woman-face-execution/>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_and_dependencies_by_population

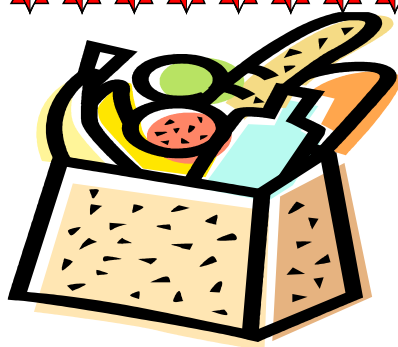
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We Care Kits

"But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect." 1 Peter 3:15

We are currently accepting the following donations

Food/Drink Items:

Granola Bars, Trail mix, or peanut butter and crackers

Vienna sausage – 5 ounce size cans

Water bottles – 8 ounce size

Hygiene/Personal Items:

Travel Size Toothbrush & Toothpaste

Travel size hand sanitizer or hotel size bar soap

Men's size small crew ankle length white or black socks

Quart size freezer bags

Please note: this is a smaller kit with fewer items.

All donated items should be placed in the donations box located on the back table by the AV equipment. If you have any questions, please email me: calyflower2020@yahoo.com or call me at (512) 228-4712.

June 10, 2016



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Café Justo

Café Justo is a coffee grower cooperative based in Salvador Urbina, Chiapas, Mexico. They market a pure, organic coffee which is grown, harvested and marketed in the spirit of justice. Our goal is to provide incentives for people to remain on their family lands.

Orders will be arranged through NCFA's Evangelism Committee. Please see Caly Fernández to place an order. Coffee is available in 1 and 5 pound bags. The cost of a 1 pound bag is **\$10.00** and a 5 pound bag is **\$ 40.00**. Dark roast, medium roast and decaf are available in ground or whole beans. Coffee will be delivered biweekly to NCFA.

**Contact Caly to make your
purchase to- day!
(512)228-4712**

