

Sharing, Inc.

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Dear Sharing Friend,

"A sense of purpose is the energy of life."

Joan Chittister, OSB

Would you agree? If so;

What would you say is your own sense of **purpose**?

Where does your energy come from?

The Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. knew his **purpose** in life. He believed God had called him to be "a drum major for justice", "a drum major for peace". He lived his life in response to that call. His eloquent, passionate words touched the hearts of thousands of people. They touched my heart powerfully, inspiring me to join my life's effort to his and to all those who work for peace and for justice.

Jesus knew his **purpose** was to announce the good news of the kingdom of God; a kingdom unlike any earthly one; a kingdom that is in and around us now and is yet to be. A kingdom in which each and every person is loved unconditionally.

I experience God as **energy**; an energy that draws me out of my solitude. Draws me into the reality of injustice and oppression in our world. This is the **energy** that drew me into walking to church on that first Good Friday in 1972 as a response to the plight of the families in Bolivar County, Mississippi.

Many people draw **energy** by walking or working on Good Friday and find it one of the most powerful experiences of God during the year. Here are some of their words:

"I love this walk so much to help God and God's people." Michael Goodhue

"I can't help but feel joyful at the end of the Walk when I have been surrounded by people who care. It is such an expression of the existence of God in all of us!" Nancy Hansberry

"...there's a joy in the air as we greet other walkers, whether known, recognized from previous years, or brand new to us. Somehow our shared commitment brings respite from the problems of the world around us and the problems we carry within us. Maybe it's because, following Jesus, who, however we may regard him, clearly walked an agonizing path in witness to his truth on that first Friday called good, we are transported above any small pain we may experience to touch the heart of what it is to be truly alive." Betsy Clifford

Johnathan Kozol, the National Book Award-winning author seemingly found his **purpose** in life some forty years ago when he first worked with children in inner-city schools. In his latest book, The Shame of the Nation - The Restoring of Apartheid Schooling in America, he finds "the segregation of black children has reverted to a level that the nation has not seen since 1968. Few of the students in these (thousands of) schools know white children any longer."

One of his previous books is entitled, Savage Inequalities. At first glance the word "savage" seems over the top but as Robert Kennedy once said, "There is another kind of violence, slower but just as deadly, destructive as the shot or the bomb in the night. This is the violence of institutions, indifference and inaction and slow decay. This is the violence that afflicts the poor, that poisons relations between men because their skin has different colors."

The children of the House of Joy in Okolona Mississippi and of the Kemetic Institute in Mound Bayou, Mississippi, are victims of the violence described above. They are being lovingly nurtured and guided by adults there. They are Sharing's children and are the prime beneficiaries of the proceeds from our Good Friday Walk.

Will you help these children by raising some money on Good Friday? You are invited to take part in a Walk, whether it will be your first or your twenty-first. Walkers get sponsors for each mile walked and workers get sponsors for each hour worked, or either can receive a pledge of a flat amount. If you don't live close to one of the sites of an organized Walk just do it yourself. You will still experience the joy this commitment brings. The number of miles or hours doesn't matter. All that matters is that your efforts reach out in love to others.

2005 Christmas Report

615 books, by and about African Americans, were sent to State Senator Hank Sanders to be distributed among the public Schools in West Alabama.

The following gifts were distributed to children at the House of Joy in Okolona, Mississippi

36 basketballs
36 soccer balls
47 beautiful Black dolls
26 soft teddy bears
32 baby blankets and small stuffed animals

Thanks to each and every one who made this possible.

*Shalom,
Kay Doherty*