EVERY HOUR A CHRISTIAN IS KILLED. 200 million Christians risk torture, imprisonment, and death daily. Three-fourths of the world's population lives in countries where they risk persecution because of their faith, while 80% of all discrimination is against Christians.

"Modes of persecution include arbitrary detention, coercive and unjust interrogation, forced labor, imprisonment, beating, torture, disappearance, forced flight from homes, enslavement, rape, murder, unjust execution, attacks on and destruction of churches, and credible threats to carry out such actions" (In Response to Persecution. Under Caesar's Sword.). Persecutors can be Islamist, Communist, nationalist, secular ideological regimes, and even democratic governments (as in India). Organized groups such as the Taliban, Boko Haram, al-Shabaab, and ISIS are known to persecute Christians with severity.

Christians are persecuted because they are Christians. They respond to persecution by being Christians. Rarely do Christians respond to violence with violence.

So what can we as comfortable Christians do about our brothers and sisters who willingly pay the ultimate price for their trust in Christ Jesus?

The most important thing we can do immediately and intentionally is PRAY. Pray for protection, courage, provision, and wisdom. Pray for the persecutors. Pray for governmental agencies to enact policies that protect Christians and other minorities and allow them to freely practice their faith. Pray for ministries and non-governmental agencies that help with the practical needs of those experiencing
persecution. Pray for the emotional, mental, and spiritual healing of those experiencing the trauma arising from severe persecution, and pray that they will forgive their enemies. Finally, pray for our missionaries Terry and Brien Koehler and Fr. Andrew Sloane as they work to share Christ's love among refugees who have fled severe persecution.

If you would like to write a prayer and word of encouragement to be given to one of the Christians in the camps where we minister, please send it to Marthe Curry, mcurry09@sbcglobal.net, and we will ensure that it reaches its proper destination.

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MANOS DE DIOS. Please mark your calendars for Thursday, May 11, 2017 from 5:30 pm - 9:00 pm. Fund raising dinner at Beto's on Broadway in San Antonio.

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2017 DWTX World Mission Trips Announced

April 22 - Love4theLeast (Middle East) - Team Leaders, Terry & Brien Koehler
May 12-28 - Uganda (Bunyoro-Kitara & Soroti) - Team Leader, John Hardie
May 20-27 - Veterinary Team (Honduras) - Team Leaders, Lynn & Bill Campaign
Summer (TBA) - Guatemala VBS - Team Leader, Nancy Springer
June 23-July 2 - Kenya Retreat for Clergy & Spouses - Team Leader, Marthe Curry
July 3-8 - Uganda Program Review - Marthe Curry
July 6-21 - Band & Bible (Uganda) - Team Leader, Eric Fenton
June 9-16 - Christ Church Jr. High (St. Louis, MO) - Team Leader, Gavin Rogers
June 18-24 - The Owen Project (Honduras) - Team Leader, Mark Keddal
June 25-30 - The Owen Project (Guatemala) - Team Leader, Mark Keddal
June 19-July 2 - Christ Church Young Adult (Guatemala) - Team Leader, Gavin Rogers
July (TBA) - Hogar Infantil (SE Mexico) - Team Leader, Marthe Curry
July 3-10 - VBS, Lay Leadership Training, Construction (Honduras) - Team Leaders, Terry & Brien Koehler; Nita & Ken Shaver, Elizabeth & Greg Martinez, Earl & Suzanne Stanley, Val Hoey.
July 17-23 - St. David's Youth (Haiti) - Team Leader, Mary Hayden Manning
July 17-24 - Christ Church Youth (New York City) - Team Leader, Gavin Rogers
Fall (TBA) - Threads of Blessing (Uganda) - Team Leaders, Helen & Garry Schnelzer