



January 30, 2019

Dear Sharing Friend,

In 1975, I received a wonderful gift of grace...

... I had already walked on the three previous Good Fridays, raising money to help the children of economically poor African American families in the Mississippi Delta.

The initial recipient of those funds, the North Bolivar County Farm Co-op in Mound Bayou, MS, was a project started by doctors from Tufts University School of Medicine. Based on their tests and observations, they reported that severe malnutrition was causing permanent brain damage in children by the age of three. As the mother of three young children, I could not imagine the pain of not being able to adequately feed them.

Racism, "America's Original Sin," greatly exacerbates economic poverty. This is a lethal combination. Throughout the years, as I have selected organizations to share in our Good Friday Walk proceeds, the most important criteria has been that the organization is making a difference in the lives of children.

The gift I received in 1975 was the following: although I was sure I had been asked to hold up this idea of connecting the physical pain of walking with Jesus to alleviating the very real pain of families in the South, I wasn't responsible for how many joined me or how much money was raised.

**To date, Sharing has given away over \$3,700,000!
This amount is well over 90% of the Walk monies raised!**

Until 2015, I had traveled South every year. It is through the deep friendships that have developed over those years that I have come to that sense of the lethal combination of economic poverty and racism. I believe that it really does matter what each one of us will do -- or will refuse to do -- to alleviate suffering among members of our human family.

The original round trip Walk route of twenty miles was the distance from my hometown of Abington to where I attended church in Hingham. Even though I have long maintained that it doesn't matter how many miles you walk, many people believe that one **should** walk twenty miles.

Perhaps you already know the joy of being a part of a Good Friday Walk. I have often said that the spirit of God is so real along the route, it seems as if you could touch it. If you have never participated, perhaps it was because you felt it was a "twenty-mile walk." It is not. Why not join me this year, walk with Jesus in the company of others and find out for yourself? Our Hingham route has been altered and shortened. We will still begin and end at the Plymouth River School but there will be multiple mileage options between 2.5 and 15 miles.

If you can't make it to Hingham, **walk wherever you are**. Walk a mile or two or fifteen. But if your miles are to be Good Friday miles, they must yield funds that will help others. Nancy Hansberry, a long time participant, expressed her feelings like this...

The Good Friday Walk is a place, a time, an act that happens, because people care about suffering, about inequality.

It is an opportunity to pray physically by doing something to help change things. It is also a time of sharing the caring with great numbers of people. 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!

I walk as an act of prayer; to be with others who care; to add to our efforts to change the inequality in society; to show my children that prayer can be action; to share in the joy of the people who are there; to do something difficult that brings me each year to depend on the Lord in a very concrete way; to worship on Good Friday. THANK YOU!

Over 90% of our Walk funds will go to the following groups:

- * The Federation of Southern Cooperatives www.federationsoutherncoops.com
- * The Kemetec Institute in Mound Bayou, MS
- * 21st Century Youth Leadership Movement in Selma, AL

Christmas Blessings

Thanks to the generosity of time, talent and treasure, Sharing was able to send the following gifts to children in Selma, Alabama.

- 69 beautifully dressed Black dolls
- 54 baby blankets
- 204 basketballs
- 120 soccer balls
- 60 small balls

Shalom