

The Power of the Widows Sacrifice



He [Jesus] saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. "I tell you the truth, this poor widow put in more than all the others...but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on."

Luke 21: 2-4

Christian widows have always played part in the ministry over the years encouraging us as we care for people's souls. I find often they are unseen, faithful, and diligently praying for our work in such remarkable ways that it takes my breath away.

I want to introduce to you Joan, who is one of those hidden saints that has given faithfully and sacrificially. She lives a simple lifestyle, helps others from her home by knitting, and prays about everything she does. She raised seven kids, and now has 34 grandchildren and great grandchildren! It took a refrigerator, desk, and several kitchen walls to see all her amazing family pictures she proudly shared. Despite all her investment in others, Joan has given monthly for many years. And when we started Genesis, Joan was one of our *first* monthly financial supporters over 23 years ago! I enjoyed our visit to Joan's cozy little mobile home to personally thank her for her kindness, and our appreciation for her prayers and financial investment to our ministry at Genesis. Encouraged by her still vital presence, I asked her at the end of our time why she continues to give so sacrificially to us. Her powerful answer touched us by its passion: *"My husband and I made a commitment all those years ago to the Lord. Others have told me I need to stop giving my monies as a widow, but I see it as part of my giving to the Lord at Genesis. I just tell them that I plan to honor that commitment to the Lord still."*

No wonder Jesus told his followers above that the widow gave far more from her lack than those rich in the things of the world. I smiled at the wealth of Joan's story, for God's economy seems so upside down. Thank you Joan for your sacrificial generosity, it blesses our lives at Genesis and is a powerful example of God's richness to all.



Warmly in Christ,

Dave

Executive Director