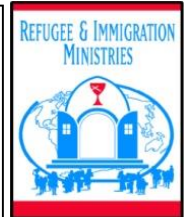




**Disciples Refugee & Immigration Ministries**  
5 Thomas Circle NW, Washington, DC 20005  
*A Ministry of Disciples Home Missions*



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March 15, 2018

Dear CIW Fasters and Warriors for Justice,

On this final day of your fasting, I can only imagine how you are feeling. Many supporters are headed towards New York in busses and cars to join with you for tonight's rally—and we are grateful to have some from our Disciples of Christ family of faith on their way, such as Chrissy Martinez, who is travelling from Cleveland, Ohio. We are also thankful to send you our blessings with our other partners from the National Farm Worker Ministry, including Julie Taylor who has been with you this week.

I am sad that I cannot personally join you this week. However, I am writing to let you know how constantly you have been in my heart and prayers throughout these days—particularly as you have been faced with the challenges of wind and rain and snow surrounding your fasting and witness.

May you be encouraged by the story of Jesus who, as *soon* as he was baptized, was sent out into the wilderness. The gospel of Mark, in Chapter 1 verse 12, says that Jesus was literally “pushed out...at once!!” The Spirit inside of Jesus was not something quiet or calm. Rather, it was a **FORCE!!** It was full of **POWER**—and was a power that verse 13 says pushed Jesus into confrontation with temptation for forty days with Satan in a wasteland. The whole time that Jesus was being tortured, though, we're told “the angels cared for him,” and he returned **KNOWING** that “the kingdom of God was near” (verse 15). And after that testing, he *knew* that he was **READY AND STRONG** for ministry ahead!!

I pray that **EACH** of you will feel strengthened and full of power because of your amazing witness for justice, as you have been fasting to urge Wendy's leadership to **DO THE RIGHT THING** by signing on to the Fair Food Program!! May God reward your courage with the result of justice for farmworkers. And, please know that I personally, and we, as the Disciples of Christ, will continue to boycott Wendy's until the time when Wendy's and Nelson Peltz hear and **RESPOND TO** your request!

May God bless you deeply, on this and every day!!

Sincerely,

Rev. Dr. Sharon Stanley-Rea,  
Director, Disciples Refugee & Immigration Ministries  
In the United States and Canada

**Refugee and Immigration Ministries** equips Disciples to respond to Jesus' call to welcome the stranger through refugee resettlement, ministering with immigrants, and advocacy. We provide resources for your congregation, legal consultations, and connections to hands-on mission work. Since 1949, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has resettled more than 40,000 refugees, assisted countless people facing immigration problems, and advocated for humane borders and rights of immigrants. For further information, see [www.discipleshomemissions.org](http://www.discipleshomemissions.org), or contact: Rev. Dr. Sharon Stanley-Rea, Director, [stanley@dhm.disciples.org](mailto:stanley@dhm.disciples.org), 202-957-7826, on twitter @StanleyRea, & Facebook: Refugee and Immigration Ministries Disciples Home Missions, or Tana Liu-Beers, Legal Counsel, [tana@dhm.disciples.org](mailto:tana@dhm.disciples.org), 317-289-1407.