Spring has, well, sprung. I love spring; it’s such a magical time of the year. After months of winter weather, mild, gray or freezing temperatures (depending on where you live), everything around us is coming alive. It’s a time of year for new beginnings and reflection.

This newsletter is filled with stories of hope and renewal. Be sure to read about The Nazarene Fund’s new CEO, Tim Ballard, and the many lives we are saving by rescuing people from organ harvesting, kidnapping and sex trafficking around the world. Bring your family and friends to Dallas, Texas this summer and join us at the Mercury Studios for our Rights and Responsibilities Museum, June 15th – 17th. Glenn Beck, David Barton and TheBlaze personalities will be giving private tours. Hurry and sign up online. Mercury One continues to support our Veterans and is proud to feature a story about Boots to Heels, a veterans’ program that helps put our women vets back to work. Check out our recap on the M1 Ball and our Spring Teachers Conference. Mercury One is also proud to be a founding partner of the Save the Persecuted Christians Coalition, raising awareness of persecution throughout the world. Through your donations, new beginnings and transformations are taking place.

We want to hear from you. Please email us your birth date (bdayclub@mercuryone.org) and we’ll send you a special message from Glenn and Mercury One. We are here to serve you. One person can make a difference. You are the ONE in Mercury One!

Yours in service,

Suzanne Bock Grishman
ExDir@mercuryone.org
During our first two years, The Nazarene Fund was given a mandate to assist persecuted Christians and religious minorities in the Middle East – specifically those affected by the ISIS war. Today, ISIS has been routed in Iraq and Syria and it is abandoning most of its territorial caliphate.

The terror that permeated the region is far from gone. The Syrian Civil War rages on. The contest of regional hegemony between Iran and Saudi Arabia has heated up like never before, and the political vacuum left in the absence of ISIS makes the situation in the Middle East just as dangerous for the Christians, Yazidis, and other religious and ethnic minority populations. With no protection, these vulnerable people are caught in a volatile political firestorm as regional powers and larger religious and ethnic sects seek to gain dominance at their expense.

There are still thousands of captured women, men and children missing. Some are with their ISIS masters. Others have been sold to and are now under the control of criminal gangs. And some have become victims of organ harvesting and trafficking.

We are also committed to continue rebuilding homes, churches and schools in the war-ravaged cities and towns of Syria and Iraq to support and stabilize communities for those who wish to return. For those who cannot go home, we will continue facilitating their safe passage and resettlement elsewhere. We cannot and will not abandon these people we swore to help.

Like other extremist organizations, once their stranglehold in one area is broken, ISIS has shifted its focus and is reaching far beyond the Middle East into countries around the world. ISIS is inspiring home-grown terrorists in the U.S. and most recently training, funding and sending fighters to Libya, Nigeria and The Philippines. These countries’ citizens have all have experienced the darkness and fear that comes as terror groups force their ideals and aggression into these territories. We cannot and will not turn our backs on people in need.

This new chapter welcomes Tim Ballard as CEO of The Nazarene Fund and is free of its geographical confines. And like those it seeks to thwart, we too are going global. Wherever there is persecution, we will bring kindness, comfort and support. Wherever there is slavery, we will bring liberation and wherever hope has died, we will bring it back to life.

Support the new mandate and donate to The Nazarene Fund at www.thenazarenefund.org
MARYAM OF MOSUL

We met "Maryam" in the fall of 2017. She is Christian. She is also extremely brave and courageous. Kidnapped by ISIS, she was sold 16 times over the course of three years. Her second captor forced her to take a combination of birth control and cortisone to prevent pregnancy. He then beat and violently raped her for seven months. Her third master took her as both a sexual and labor slave for a headquarters of 25 ISIS soldiers.

In a recent 20-minute testimonial interview, Maryam lamented, “I am lonely, broken and have no one.” We know her pain runs deep. She has suffered severe unimaginable physical and mental trauma. The Nazarene Fund has been with her since last October and has provided assistance with basic needs such as food, housing, medical treatment and most of all, counseling. She has been evacuated to a nearby country on a temporary basis and will emigrate to Australia this spring. We are so thankful for your support so that we can help restore Maryam’s spirit. It will be a long journey, and we will be by her side.

Read the field report and watch Maryam as the testimonial concludes at www.mercuryone.org/maryam-of-mosul

ORGAN HARVESTING

Recently on The Glenn Beck Program, The Nazarene Fund announced a new crusade: the fight against organ harvesting.

Last fall, an operative working for The Nazarene Fund dug up an extremely disturbing revelation that ISIS was not only enslaving, raping and torturing Christians and other religious minorities, but was also using them for organ harvesting as a way to make money to fund their operations. Men, women and children are all being targeted, killed and their body parts sold.

People are often lured in by being falsely promised money for donating a kidney or even by ISIS-planned “accidents” that require them to go to a medical clinic that is controlled by these predators.

This crisis spans multiple countries and we are just scratching the surface. We are working tirelessly to end this. We need your help to rescue the thousands of children, women and men being held captive and slaughtered.

Watch Tim Ballard and Dave Lopez from The Nazarene Fund discuss these barbaric and horrendous developments with Glenn Beck: www.mercuryone.org/organ-harvesting
SAVE THE PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS COALITION

Between 2005 and 2015, 900,000 Christians were martyred. Today, 1 in 12 Christians experience persecution in some way, whether that is death, rape, imprisonment, forced marriage or physical violence. This occurs especially in places like Iraq, where the population of Christians went from 1.5 million to 275,000. The need to stand up against these evils is imperative.

Mercury One and The Nazarene Fund are proud to be a part of the Save The Persecuted Christians Coalition, which was started last year to spread more awareness about the plight of Christians in the Middle East, Africa, Asia and throughout the world.

You can help us and this Coalition by sharing information with anyone who may want to get involved. One of the best ways you can assist is by purchasing a “starter kit” from the Coalition, which includes a large banner to place in front of your church, synagogue, or other business or institution. Learn more at www.savethepersecutedchristians.org.
Boots to Heels: A Mercury One Partner Helping Women Veterans

The military men and women who risk their lives to protect our freedom deserve a seamless reintegration into civilian life after their time in the service has come to an end. Unfortunately, readjusting to civilian life often poses challenges to our heroes. In the decade following 9/11, 44% of veterans returning home struggled to adjust to civilian life. They face a higher risk of suicide, mental health issues, unemployment, and homelessness, among other challenges.

Female veterans are just as likely as their male counterparts to experience difficulties adjusting to the “new normal” of civilian life; in some cases, they may have a more difficult time. 50% experienced strains in family relations and 27% reported not caring about anything since they had left the service. In 2016, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development estimated that close to 40,000 veterans were homeless on any given night – roughly 10% of this number is female, a percentage that has more than doubled since 2006.

There are many veteran support systems available, but the majority are geared toward the mental and physical well-being of male veterans. Currently, about 10% of military veterans are women, but that number is expected to double by 2045, making the development of organizations geared toward women veterans more crucial.

Mercury One works with Attitudes & Attire and its Boots to Heels program, which focuses on helping women veterans make the transition to civilian life through the development of skills required to obtain and consequently maintain a civilian job. Through this program, Attitudes & Attire and partner Carry The Load have implemented this mission nationally and is working with another often underserved demographic: the female spouses of active and past military members. Support veterans by donating to Mercury One.

www.mercuryone.org/humanitarian

LET’S CELEBRATE YOU!

You are part of the Mercury One family and we want to celebrate with you on your special day. Email us with your birth date to bdayclub@mercuryone.org and we will send you a special message.
Interested in learning more about your rights, how to defend them, and how, if we are not vigilant, they can be taken away?

Join Glenn Beck and David Barton at Mercury Studios, June 15th — 17th to explore the ins-and-outs of the Bill of Rights and how it has been used and abused throughout history.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO PURCHASE TICKETS, VISIT: WWW.MERCURYONE.ORG/MUSEUM2018

RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES

What exactly is a right?

According to Merriam-Webster, “Something to which one has a just claim: such as the power or privilege to which one is justly entitled.” If you read that definition and thought it was vague, you’re not alone. Rights are invaluable concepts that allow us to live our lives with liberty and freedom, and yet they are hard to define. Depending on where you are and who you are, your rights can change based on your age, your personal background, your social status and even your race or gender.

For example, in the early 20th century, women in the United States did not have the right to vote. The U.S. Constitution allowed only adult males to choose their leaders. Then in
1920, the 19th Amendment was ratified and women’s suffrage was made into law. Today, it may be taken for granted that there was always a “just claim,” but it took years of struggle and sacrifice until it was finally enshrined within the Constitution and the “right” could no longer be denied because of gender.

Most believe that, as citizens of the United States, our rights are determined and defined by the U.S. Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, with other rights being left up to state governments to determine. But is this the case? It is, in fact, much more complex.

The Founders were no dummies and they were well-versed in legal scholarship – from Plato to John Locke. It could be argued that the main body of the Constitution does not specify a set of rights to be protected. Indeed, the listing of rights in the Bill of Rights was inserted after the fact for emphasis and extra protection against over-reaching government officials. Both James Madison and Alexander Hamilton actually opposed the inclusion of a Bill of Rights in the Constitution. Hamilton went so far as to argue, in Federalist #84, that it was unnecessary to insert a specific list of rights into the Constitution because the document already presumes every conceivable right is protected unless it is specifically restricted therein by delegation of an enumerated power. It was, according to Forbes, “widely understood that the general rule — ‘permitted unless prohibited’— was the foundational principle of the Constitution.”

It’s probably been a while since most of us have read the Constitution and the Bill of Rights – perhaps in middle school American History class or high school Civics. Perhaps you haven’t ever read them and only have a vague knowledge of what they are and what they mean. Mercury One believes that, as citizens, it is our responsibility to know these rights and to be familiar with our founding documents. If we do not know our rights, how will we know when they are being violated? We must arm ourselves with knowledge and lay claims to our freedoms.

As he sat in a cell in the Birmingham Jail, Martin Luther King Jr. wrote some of the most poignant words ever pertaining to the importance of rights: “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.”

So, take time to educate yourself. Read the Constitution and all of its amendments, the Declaration of Independence, the Federalist Papers and the other documents that define the United States and the contract with its people. Join us in Dallas for Rights & Responsibilities presented by Mercury Museum. So, the next time you think that your or someone else’s rights are being violated, you will be educated, empowered and have the tools to speak up and defend those rights. Because if you don’t speak out, who will? What will they say? And what will be the cost?

For more information on the creation of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, visit: www.mercuryone.org/BillofRights
RECURRING GIFTS

Mercury One continually serves our communities by providing funding and assistance to help restore the human spirit through humanitarian aid and education initiatives throughout the year. If you currently give to Mercury One on a regular basis, thank you. Because of you, we are able to better budget and fund projects all year long. Whether you give $15 or $1,500 a month, know that your gift provides great comfort to so many in need. Here are just some of the ways your funds are used:

- $116 / month provides 1 truck of water delivered to those affected by disaster.
- $416 / month provides education support for families of fallen or disabled servicemen and women.
- $1,330 / month gives specialized training to an officer to combat human trafficking in their district.

LEGACY SOCIETY

There are a variety of ways to plan for your family and loved ones with a will or living trust. If you would like to leave a legacy gift to Mercury One, please visit our website to learn more.

www.mercuryone.org/legacygift

MEET OUR DEVELOPMENT TEAM

We are committed to serving our donors, and we want to hear from you! One of our joys is hearing from you – our donors and supporters. We truly do think of you as family. Thank you for your continued and generous support.

Our team is here to assist you using our donor system, taking your donation, event registration, updating your contact information, or answering any questions you may have. We are so grateful to be able to connect with our donor family.

If you have moved, changed your email or phone number or just have new information to share, please let us know. We send regular email newsletters detailing our projects throughout the year to keep you informed. If you are not receiving communications from us and would like to, please send us an email with your updated information and we’ll add you to the list.
The 2017 M1 Ball: American Cowboy was held on November 18th, 2017 at Eddie Deen’s Ranch in Dallas, Texas. Over 450 guests joined in celebrating Mercury One’s sixth year of growth and accomplishments in North Texas, the United States and around the world. The evening highlighted Mercury One’s 2017 humanitarian aid and disaster relief initiatives, education programs, and new announcements concerning The Nazarene Fund. There was a VIP reception, live auction, barbecue dinner, and live concert performed by Texas country star Aaron Watson.

Recently Mercury One hosted our 2017 raffle winner Cynthia Bray and her husband David. The day was filled with fun surprises – including being on Glenn’s show in the morning, a lunch with the staff and tour of Mercury One’s artifacts. We’re looking forward to spending another fun day with our 2018 winner.

JOIN US FOR THE 2018 M1 BALL - NOVEMBER 17th, 2018 IN DALLAS, TEXAS
Learn more at www.mercuryone.org/m1ball. For more pictures of the 2017 event, visit: m1.smugmug.com
SPRING TEACHERS CONFERENCE

In March, Mercury One, in partnership with WallBuilders, hosted 20 educators from around the country to spend three incredible days learning about the history of our great nation, the men and women who helped shape it, and early education in America.

For most of us the idea of early education in America hearkens back to visions of one-room school houses with students of all ages learning together. While this is accurate, there is so much more to the classroom structure than most of us know. For example, the reason students of so many different ages were in one classroom is two-fold. First, more advanced students could help teach those at lower levels, and second, because grade levels were not split up by age, but rather were based on knowledge and skill level. With only eight grade levels, most students completed schooling by age thirteen and were then expected to get a job or go to college. Early American education was also effective because it focused not only on students learning the material, but also on developing critical thinking skills, communication skills and lessons to help students become good citizens.

While today’s students attend far more formal schooling than their 18th and 19th century counterparts, with longer school years, standardized tests and additional grade levels, they are actually learning less American history. Participants in our Teachers Conference were able to see these things for themselves, by looking through original first-source historical documents and artifacts. Along the way, they also learned about many of the lost stories of our Founding Fathers, as well as the philosophies and ideologies that shaped our laws and founding documents.

Mercury One is passionate about our future and providing programs to enlighten and educate people about our nation’s unique history. We hope to inspire others to curiously engage with our past, so that we may avoid the mistakes of our predecessors while building upon their great accomplishments, making us better prepared for whatever the future has in store.

To learn more about Mercury One Leadership and History Training Programs, visit www.mercuryone.org/LTP
THE FIGHT AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

The International Labor Organization estimates human trafficking as a $150 billion industry that affects over 20 million individuals globally, with nearly a quarter of those who are sexually exploited.

Mercury One works with DeliverFund, Operation Underground Railroad, S.E.E.D., The Nazarene Fund, and Treasured Vessels, who all work in different ways to help eradicate this vicious form of slavery as well as provide post-trauma support to those who are rescued.

No one is immune to human trafficking. The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children estimates that 1 in 6 reported runaways are likely sex trafficking victims. Those who operate in these circles as well as those who have been taken and enslaved may be in poor, wealthy, or suburban areas. Mercury One encourages you to research this topic to learn more, to learn how to protect yourself and your family, and to learn how to recognize and help those you may know in your community.

Support the Fight Against Human Trafficking by making a gift to Mercury One
www.mercuryone.org

SAVE THE DATES:

MAY
JUNE
JULY
Leadership Training Program Classes
May 28 - June 8 | June 11 - 22 | July 9 - 20
www.mercuryone.org/LTP

JUNE
Mercury Museum: Rights & Responsibilities
June 15 - 17, 2018
www.mercuryone.org/Museum2018

JUNE
Teachers Conference
June 25 - 27, 2018
www.mercuryone.org/LTPTeachers

SOLD OUT
JULY

NOV
17th
2018 M1 Ball
November 17, 2018
www.mercuryone.org/M1Ball

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Everything we do is possible because of you, our valued donors and faithful supporters. Whether you give your time, your financial support, or your prayers, we thank you for keeping us in your hearts and your minds, and providing Mercury One with the opportunity to restore the human spirit with "malice towards none and charity for all."