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English

Your poverty – God's chance!

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Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven! (Mt 5:3)

Dear friends of go4peace,

Who wants to be poor? - Being poor is stressful. Somehow all people agree on that. And then we read something astounding in the Sermon on the Mount: "Blessed are the poor before God, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven!" Madeleine Delbr el, a street mystic from Paris, once wrote: "Do not think that we find pleasure in emptying our hands, our heads and our hearts every day. To carve out a place in our hands, minds and hearts for the kingdom of heaven when it passes is our joy." God probably needs the empty and open heart in people so that He can give it a gift. In order to become receptive to God's gifts, it is worthwhile to make oneself poor again and again—before the stranger who needs my help, before the person of another faith who asks for a conversation, before the unexpected that thwarts my plans, before the moment as it manifests itself. – Make yourself poor to be open to the kingdom of heaven!

I had met Julia from Ukraine. She came from Kherson. Deeply shaken, she had told me that a hospital in her city only sporadically received electricity. We had already organized 9 generators for bunkers among churches in Ukraine. The market seemed empty. But I felt: Make yourself poor before this request! Dare again! I searched the internet for two hours. It seemed hopeless to find a suitable generator. When I wanted to give up, the impulse came to me: Go on for another minute! I kept at it. And where a website had just said "sold out" and "currently not available", I now found a suitable model. Just the one we needed! A few days later, the generator was delivered. When the truck driver unloaded the generator in front of my house, I said to him: "It's going to Ukraine now!" He patted me on the shoulder with tears in his eyes and said, "That made my day! – Thank you for your commitment to people in need. I am Lebanese. I know what it means to get help in difficult times!" - **My poverty – God's chance!**

for the go4peace-Team

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