“Just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.”

(Matthew 25:40)

God is most tangibly present in this world where people hunger, thirst, lack adequate clothing and shelter, and are sick or imprisoned. Christ claims people who suffer as family members.

Christ is so present in them that when you feed the hungry, care for the sick, welcome the stranger – you feed, and care for, and welcome Christ.

When you give through OGHS to those who suffer from natural disasters, war, or systemic poverty, you let them know:

You are here.

One Great Hour of Sharing
onegreathourofsharing.org
For 48-year-old Iraq war veteran Robert Z., buying a house was an important step toward recovery from post-traumatic stress disorder. Then the floods came.

After completing military service, Robert established his own trucking company. But then depression and stress incapacitated him. He closed his business and moved in with friends.

It took Robert years of hard work to get on top of PTSD, but he did it.

“The house was the next step in trying to take care of myself again” Robert said. He found a “fixer-upper” in West Columbia, S.C., and began repairing it.

Then the storms of October 2015 came. Days of incessant rain and wind caused a large tree to fall onto Robert’s roof. The damage opened the house to the continuing rainfall soaking walls, floors, ceilings and furniture.

Robert did what he could, but it wasn’t enough. Then he heard about the Disaster Recovery Support Initiative (DRSI), a joint endeavor of the United Church of Christ Disaster Ministries, Brethren Disaster Ministries, and the Disaster Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) DRSI volunteers were happy to assist as part of their work in modeling long-term recovery processes in the wider community. They connected with the emerging local long-term recovery organization. They gutted Robert’s house and repaired the roof. They installed brand-new windows, walls, floor, electricals and plumbing.

“These are not just people talking,” Robert said. “They are really doing something. I am amazed that someone would do it for me.”

“Generous giving to One Great Hour of Sharing is enabling us to reach the most vulnerable families,” said UCC Disaster Ministries Executive Zach Wolgemuth. “It shows, you are here.”

Find more disaster recovery stories at www.ucc.org/oghs_stories or contact OGHS at 700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115, 216-736-3215.