

“Rescue those being led away to death” (Prov. 24:11)  
“whoever is kind to the poor, lends to the Lord.” (Prov. 19:17)

**REMARKS IN ACCEPTANCE OF THE SIMON WIESENTHAL CENTER’S  
MEDAL OF VALOR  
APRIL 5, 2017  
REV. JOHNNIE MOORE**

I feel wholly unworthy of this honor, and I told the Rabbis so. But, Rabbi Cooper shrewdly quoted a rabbinic teaching about how honor pursues those who flee from it. That made it difficult for me to say “no.”

*As a Christian*, I’m keenly aware it was his religion before it was mine. [beat]

So ... I relent.

I accept.

***Gratefully***, I accept.

But I do so

...on behalf of every pastor or priest whose church was burned to the ground, every mother and father whose child was sold as a slave, every one of the two million Iraqi and Syrian Christians still largely displaced. For the Egyptian widows who had to watch their Christian husbands beheaded on television, for the 80-year-old Iraqi Christian grandmother burned alive because she refused conversion, and for the countless families who have suffered a thousands kinds of despair.

For the Jews around the world who spoke up for Christians louder than the one billion Christians were speaking up for themselves, for Muslims – like King Abdullah of Jordan - who sheltered their neighbors.

For those of you in this room who care as much about these issues as any people in the world ... and for the thousands of Americans and Europeans who join you, in generosity and in advocacy.

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For Sr. Diana .... a nun displaced from Mosul whose eyes cut to my heart as she said to me, *"I love America. Such a beautiful country. Such wonderful people....you care for your pets so well .... When will you care for us?"*

For my dear Andrea - and our kids Edward, Catherine and Alexandria - whom I love more than anything in the world. Whose courage demonstrate that there really is no fear in love.

I've just done what I **could**.

What if we all did what we **could** to help everyone we **could**?

Soon such acts of kindness would be so commonplace that they would no longer merit honors like the one I have receive tonight.

See, no *one* person can save the world but we *all* can save a life .... some of us can save *many* lives .... and - in so doing - we can prove to the world that the best of faith is stronger than the worst of religion ... for every act of love on behalf of someone another hates is the death of bigotry.

Thank you very much.