Jesus’ Economy is based on self-sacrifice. Jesus’ currency is love.
The Story of Jesus’ Economy

Every one of our life stories has stepping off points. We turn from one page to the next. There are doors we walk through from which we cannot return. And there are ideas that change absolutely everything.

In 2012, one idea changed everything for us. Jesus’ economy is based on self-sacrifice; and Jesus’ currency is love. We imagined a world in which artisans are connected to global commerce; the gospel reaches all people; basic needs are met everywhere; and the developing world is renewed. That’s Jesus’ economy.

Jesus’ Economy set out to address physical and spiritual poverty—creating jobs and churches in the developing world.

To make this vision real, with just the money in our bank account and the time we could volunteer, we started the 501(c)(3) nonprofit Jesus’ Economy. This was our stepping off point. By 2016, after Kalene had been volunteering full-time for four years, we went “all in.” We walked through a door from which we could not return. We sold our house, 90% of what we owned, John left a great job in Christian publishing, and we went full-time with Jesus’ Economy and pastoral ministry.

We expected these decisions to finance a year of our efforts and hoped that the domestic division of Jesus’ Economy (Resurrect Church Movement) would sustain us. While we were never able to receive a salary from Jesus’ Economy, by God’s grace, we made it four years. Praise the Lord!

Now eight years into Jesus’ Economy, we have reached another stepping off point. God has called us to walk through another door: full-time chaplaincy.

Since Jesus’ Economy has always relied on our volunteer labor, we and the Board of Directors have unanimously agreed to dissolve the organization. Effective April 15, 2020, Jesus’ Economy is no longer taking sales or donations. In line with our commitment to donors deciding where their donations go, all designated donations have been issued as final gifts from Jesus’ Economy to the funds and projects chosen by the donor. We are honored to celebrate this legacy.

Jesus’ economy lives on in the hundreds of artisans whose jobs have been sustained through the Jesus’ Economy Fair Trade Shop. And Jesus’ currency of love is seen in the dozens of women who will be empowered through business training and the gift of sewing machines; the thousands who have access to the gospel through church planting; and the thousands who now have access to clean water in Bihar, India. The self-sacrifice of the many volunteers is a lasting gift; over 20,000 hours of labor have been contributed. The ideas of Jesus’ Economy are now in the book, Jesus’ Economy: A Biblical View of Poverty, the Currency of Love, and a Pattern for Lasting Change. The legacy will continue on JesusEconomy.com, which replaces JesusEconomy.org as of May 1, 2020.

We sought to create a new physical and spiritual economy for those who need it most. By the grace of God, we accomplished that effort.

May the story of Jesus’ economy live on. May Jesus’ currency of love guide all, always.

Rev. John D. Barry
FOUNDER
Kalene Barry
FOUNDER

Board of Directors of Jesus’ Economy
Rev. John D. Barry (CEO & President), Kalene Barry (Chief Projects Officer, Senior VP & Secretary), Jeffery Chan (Treasurer), Michael Freyberger (Chief Technology Officer & VP), Pastor John Bornschein, Ryan J. Pemberton, Pastor Nathan R. Byrd, Rev. Dr. Eric Costanzo, Dr. Sunday Bobai Agang.*

*All positions are volunteer.
Dedicated to creating jobs, planting churches, and meeting needs.

ABOUT JESUS’ ECONOMY

HOLISTIC MINISTRY
We empowered developing world leaders to renew their communities, both spiritually and physically. In each community, we offered church grants, provided business training, and met basic needs. We focused on regions where people had not heard Jesus’ name.

FAIR TRADE SHOP
We also sold handmade products created in the developing world. Each purchase helped the artisan who made the product, the organization they worked through, and helped pay our administrative bills. Every person involved made fair wages.

100% TO DEVELOPING WORLD
Every single dollar people donated went exactly where the donor designated. For example, if a donor gave $100 to providing clean water, the full $100 went to the developing world and was used only for drilling water. We raised our U.S. costs separately.

Jesus’ Economy operated as a financially transparent, 501(c)(3), nonprofit charitable organization.
And we had a vision: Entrepreneurs connected to global commerce. The gospel reaching all people. Basic needs met everywhere. The developing world renewed.

That’s Jesus’ Economy.
The Story of Renew Bihar, India

In northeast India, in a state called Bihar, there is unimaginable physical and spiritual poverty. Millions live in extreme poverty. Many lack access to clean water. Most women have little hope of sustainable jobs. Few people have heard how much Jesus loves them.

Jesus’ Economy partnered with a well-established nonprofit in India to plant churches, create jobs via business training for impoverished women, and meet basic needs through water wells. Together, we desired to spiritually and physically transform Bihar through local indigenous leadership.

Jesus’ Economy asked our donors to join us in creating jobs, planting churches, and meeting basic needs. We invited them to renew hope, hearts, and homes—to renew Bihar, India. 100% went to the developing world.

For seven years, through grants to our partner nonprofit, Transformation India Movement, Jesus’ Economy invested in the people of Bihar. During this time, four church planters were sponsored, including an investment in their training as church planters and administrative support. The churches were so successful that two of the church planters were even able to use a portion of their funding to train new church leaders. These planters have brought the gospel to over 100 villages, where people had previously not heard the name of Jesus. And two of the planters did so on bicycles funded by Jesus’ Economy.

Jesus’ Economy also sponsored nine water wells that were drilled in the villages the church planters were serving. Thousands now have access to clean water and have subsequently been told about the ‘living water,’ Jesus.

New business training initiatives for empowering women will be launched through the final grant to the Renew Bihar India Project. In the villages where Jesus’ Economy church planters are working, 80 women will receive training in seamstress and tailoring skills, how to run their own businesses, and fair trade business ethics. After the six-month, part-time training program, each of the 80 women will be gifted sewing machines. They will be equipped to launch seamstress and tailoring businesses in their local communities. These empowered women will be able to lift their entire families out of poverty.*

While the needs in Bihar are still great, the efforts of Jesus’ Economy created dozens of jobs, provided thousands with access to the gospel and brought water to the thirsty.

*Reporting for the final grant from Jesus’ Economy to Transformation India Movement will be reviewed by previous Jesus’ Economy Board Member Rev. Dr. Eric Costonaro (at South Tulsa Baptist Church in Tulsa, Oklahoma).
Creating Jobs for the Impoverished

The Story of the Jesus’ Economy Fair Trade Shop

Developing world entrepreneurs need sustainable access to revenue for their businesses to grow. We developed our model around the idea that, for an impoverished economy to change, entrepreneurs need access to funds from developed economies. This means access to global customers, specifically through ecommerce.

One of our slogans became: Make it so that not only when I give, but also when I shop, I can help others.

The JesusEconomy.org Fair Trade Shop was launched in September 2013. On JesusEconomy.org, people could buy products and donate to the cause of their choice in the same transaction. The Fair Trade Shop represented artisans from around the world. Over the years, JesusEconomy.org featured products from Haiti, Kenya, Zambia, Uganda, Rwanda, Malawi, Brazil, Guatemala, and Nepal. We told the stories of artisans lifting their families out of poverty—stories of craft, culture, and commerce changing lives.

The Jesus’ Economy Fair Trade Shop created and sustained jobs for developing world artisans and helped their U.S.-based partner organizations. Jesus’ Economy then reinvested any profit remaining from product sales into our Operations Fund. This economic cycle represents a new way of doing nonprofit work. We hope this is just the beginning of innovation in this space for the sake of the impoverished.

In India, where Jesus’ Economy issued grants for holistic ministry, we hoped to initiate a related idea: the guaranteed purchase of products at the end of a microloan and business training initiative, followed by the sale of those products through our ecommerce platform. That chapter will have to be written by another nonprofit.
Holistic Project: Renew Bihar, India
Creating Jobs, Planting Churches, & Meeting Basic Needs in an Extremely Poor Region, Where Few Have Heard the Name of Jesus

Fair Trade Shop at JesusEconomy.org
Creating Jobs for Artisans Overcoming Poverty from the Developing World

Jesus’ Economy Operations
The U.S. “Behind the Scenes” Efforts that Fueled the Movement of Jesus’ Economy

Resurrect Church Movement
Equipping U.S. Churches through Content, Consulting, Speeches, & Training

BY THE NUMBERS

5,941 Estimated People Impacted by Efforts

10 Developing Countries Represented: Haiti, Kenya, Zambia, Uganda, Brazil, Malawi, Rwanda, India, Guatemala, Nepal

9 Villages in Bihar, India Renewed by Creating Jobs, Planting Churches, & Meeting Basic Needs

34 New House Churches Planted where People Had Never Heard Jesus’ Name

17 Jobs Created/Sustained through the Jesus’ Economy Fair Trade Shop & Entrepreneur Training

4,000+ People Had Basic Needs Met through Clean Water & Literacy Training in Bihar, India

1,000s of Jobs Created/Sustained through the Jesus’ Economy Fair Trade Shop & Entrepreneur Training

20,000+ Hours Volunteered by Jesus’ Economy Staff & Other Volunteers

IMPACT OF JESUS’ ECONOMY

CREATING JOBS

17 Fair Trade Partnerships Sustained through JesusEconomy.org

50+ Artisan Guilds Supported

80 Women Empowered to Start Their Own Businesses via 6-Month Training

80 Sewing Machines Donated to Female Entrepreneurs

PLANTING CHURCHES

139 Villages Have Access to the Gospel

4 Church Planters Sponsored

2 Bicycles Donated for Church Planters

1,282 People Said, “I Believe”

532 People Said, “Baptize Me”

MEETING BASIC NEEDS

9 Water Wells Drilled

4,080 People Have Access to Clean Water

700+ People Received Literacy Training
The story continues...

at JesusEconomy.com

And in the book ...

Jesus’ Economy: A Biblical View of Poverty, the Currency of Love, and a Pattern for Lasting Change.

The story of Jesus’ Economy lives on in...

Jobs created. Churches planted. Basic needs met.

Lives changed. And communities renewed.
Creating jobs and churches