

July 18, 2021

# Inside Out

## Acts 6:1-7

When the residents at Champlain Towers South in Surfside, Florida, went to bed on June 23, it was just another night. Teeth were brushed, pajamas were donned, email was checked one last time. Then, at approximately 1:25 AM on June 24, their home literally crumbled. The 12-story condominium building collapsed, killing and injuring many inside.

Since the collapse, the country has mourned for those lost. The thing I've heard most often from friends and family who discuss the tragedy is, "How did this happen?" How, in one of the biggest cities in one of the richest countries, did a building simply fall down? We have laws to prevent this kind of disaster. People want answers, and they want to make sure this doesn't happen again.

In this week's Focal Passage, we read about the injustice of Greek-speaking disciples' widows being overlooked for food service. Those vulnerable women were not being protected in the way that they deserved. The Twelve took action. They created a task force to deal with the problem: "Brothers and sisters, carefully choose seven well-respected men from among you. They must be well-respected and endowed by the Spirit with exceptional wisdom. We will put them in charge of this concern" (Acts 6:3).

The residents of Champlain Towers deserved to be protected. Measures designed to keep people safe were either not in place or were deficient. Now a task force has formed to try to prevent future similar tragedies. "Florida's legal community has created a safety task force to review laws governing the state's condominium development industry in the wake of the catastrophic collapse."<sup>1</sup> The task force will review current laws and see what needs to change in regard to maintenance, development, and construction. In this community, as in the early church, leaders need help in order to serve their communities well. Delegating responsibility to trusted others helps hold people and groups accountable.

1. What do you think led to the collapse of Champlain Towers? What or who is responsible for ensuring that this kind of tragedy does not happen again?
2. What can you do to speak out for the overlooked and vulnerable in your community?
3. Which of your responsibilities can you delegate to others in order to better serve?

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<sup>1</sup>From [cnn.com/2021/07/07/us/miami-dade-building-collapse-wednesday/index.html](http://cnn.com/2021/07/07/us/miami-dade-building-collapse-wednesday/index.html).