Comments on Charity

Running my document search engine: for the word "charity" found it in 82 English language docs in the present online BVSR research library.

 27 chapters of Morals And Dogma

 Freemasons for Dummies by Christopher Hodapp

 4 Ethics Texts

 KSA Application Form

 12 Orators programs

 2 Philosophers Texts

 17 of the 114 chapters of the Quran

 NONE were found in my Bible in Basic English BBE version of the Bible, altho in anther version the word shows up once: Acts 9:36 : "Now there was in Joppa a disciple named Tabitha, which, translated, means Dorcas. She was full of good works and acts of charity."

The word Charity is etymologically linked to Christianity, with the word originally entering into the English language through the Old French word "charité", which was derived from the Latin "caritas", a word commonly used in the Latin version of the New Testament to translate the Greek word agape (ἀγάπη).

Agape (Ancient Greek ἀγάπη, agapē) is a Greco-Christian term referring to "the love of God for man and of man for God". In the the Greek version of the New Testament, the word agape or its verb form agapao appears more than 200 times. Our concept of "charity: helping those less fortunate" is much less expressive than the original concept of "love for mankind".

As you know in the first degree during the ritual Circumambulation we quote Corinthians chapter 13 of the King James version of the bible emphasizing charity:

King James Version: 1 Corinthians. Chapter 13 upon which our Masonic ritual is based.

13:1 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.

13:2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all

mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.

13:3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.

13:4 Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,

13:5 Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;

13:6 Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth;

13:7 Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.

13:8 Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they

shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.

13:9 For we know in part, and we prophesy in part.

13:10 But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.

13:11 When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.

13:12 For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.

13:13 And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.

In other Bible versions charity is translated as "almsdeeds" , in most it is translated as "love":

In my online database, The Bible in Basic English BBE version: 1 Corinthians. Chapter 13 is translated as:

If I make use of the tongues of men and of angels, and have not love, I am like sounding brass, or a loud-tongued bell.

And if I have a prophet's power, and have knowledge of all secret things; and if I have all faith, by which mountains may be moved from their place, but have not love, I am nothing.

And if I give all my goods to the poor, and if I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it is of no profit to me.

Love is never tired of waiting; love is kind; love has no envy; love has no high opinion of itself, love has no pride;

Love's ways are ever fair, it takes no thought for itself; it is not quickly made angry, it takes no account of evil;

It takes no pleasure in wrongdoing, but has joy in what is true;

Love has the power of undergoing all things, having faith in all things, hoping all things.

Though the prophet's word may come to an end, tongues come to nothing, and knowledge have no more value, love has no end.

For our knowledge is only in part, and the prophet's word gives only a part of what is true:

But when that which is complete is come, then that which is in part will be no longer necessary.

When I was a child, I made use of a child's language, I had a child's feelings and a child's thoughts: now that I am a man, I have put away the things of a child.

For now we see things in a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now my knowledge is in part; then it will be complete, even as God's knowledge of me.

But now we still have faith, hope, love, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

The above last line is similar to the American Standard Bible Version: 1 Corinthians 13:13 (ASV)

But now abideth faith, hope, love, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

It is too bad we dont remind our initiates of this intended version of the word charity: love of God and love of all Mankind, not just those in need.