

PASTOR'S PEN

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

January arrived and we, at Good Shepherd, looked forward to an easing of our economic situation for people who lost their jobs and their homes, we prayed that the world might refrain from terrorism and violent acts and, in the passing of the days, saw our corner of the world turn into a brilliant white landscape. We were ready for our winter routines of shoveling snow, adding more wood to the stove and readying the gear for our favorite outdoor activity.

And then came the earthquake and the eyes of the world turned toward Haiti. In a flash we were confronted with a tragedy of untold dimensions. We can count the bodies buried beneath the rubble, we can see the devastation of crumbled buildings, we can weigh the tons of water, food and medical equipment needed, but the depth of human pain inflicted by the quake is beyond measure.

Children turned into orphans in the blink of an eye. Families were torn apart, one member laying dead, another is found alive. The world as it was known to the people of Haiti is gone. But out of the rubble a new world needs to emerge.

This is where you and I can help. First of all, we support Haiti with prayer, and then with our gifts of money and desperately needed items. Many of you have already made a contribution and I am grateful. The ELCA has a listing of personal hygiene items that, when collected, are sent to its distribution centers. Over the next few weeks Good Shepherd will be gathering these items (you will find them listed in the e-bulletin) and mailed to the distribution center.

As Christians we believe that we are to help when our neighbor is in need. At Good Shepherd we are joining together to help in whatever way possible to be the hands and heart of Christ to our suffering neighbors in Haiti.

I thank God for you as you open your hearts.

Peace,

Pastor Dagmar

*"If one member suffers, all suffer together with it;
if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it."
-1 Corinthians 12:26*

