



# Reaching Out

News from the Missions Committee  
of Emmanuel Episcopal Church

Lent 2010

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## Haiti Relief Efforts

The devastation in Haiti caused by the recent earthquake has refocused many of us on this troubled island. As Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori said recently, "Compassion is a gift that changes the world. We have discovered and remembered our sisters and brothers in a land many of us will never see. Our common humanity is staring us in the face, and we have chosen to meet the gaze of Haiti. We are changed forever, if we will only remember the terror of that gaze.

"Remember and let yourself be shaken. Feel something of the terror in Haiti. Terror, the word, comes from shaking; this terror started in the shaking of the earth. It has a parallel in the fear that periodically consumes this nation. May this terror shake us out of complacency and willful ignorance. Remember the people of Haiti. Reach out to those who have lost loved ones, to those who still wait for news of the missing, to Haitian-Americans in the neighborhoods around us.

"The answer to terror is solidarity. The shaking stops when we stand together, when we remember that sisters and brothers, linked across the world, are stronger than fear."

The Emmanuel Missions Committee, at its recent meeting, voted to send \$500 to Episcopal Relief and Development to help with disaster relief in Haiti. Emmanuelites have made more than \$5,000 in individual contributions to help with relief.

Rob Radtke, president of Episcopal Relief and Development, reminds us that all disasters have a life cycle, represented by three Rs—Rescue, Relief, and Recovery. In the rescue phase, "all hands are on deck to save lives and property." Then comes the "relief phase, where the focus is on creating temporary safe and sanitary conditions" and "which typically lasts a few months." During the recovery phase, "the emphasis shifts to restoring services, rebuilding houses and buildings, and returning to self-sufficiency," Radtke says. "The Diocese of Haiti has a very large and vibrant social infrastructure and we fully expect that Episcopal Relief and Development will be there for the long haul, supporting their important and vibrant ministries."

The Emmanuel Missions Committee and Rosebud Mission/Diocese of South Dakota are sponsoring a Lenten quilt raffle to benefit Haitian recovery and renewal efforts through Episcopal Relief and Development. All of the proceeds will be directed to Episcopal Relief and Development's Haitian efforts.

*(continued on p. 2)*



**Haiti** *(continued from p. 1)*

A Lakota star quilt, created by a fabric artist on the reservation, has been donated and will be available to one lucky winner - maybe you!

Chances are \$5 each or six for \$25. They'll go on sale the first Sunday in Lent, Feb. 21, and be available throughout the Lenten season, with a winner being selected on Palm Sunday, Mar. 28. Look for pictures in the dining room.

This is a wonderful way for Emmanuel to strengthen our partnership with our brothers and sisters on the reservation while showing solidarity with the Haitian people.

Take a chance. Or two. Or 10. Remember, you can't win if you don't play!

## Lenten Almsgiving



This Lent once again we are embracing the traditional Lenten custom of almsgiving. "Almsgiving" is a word that has pretty much dropped out of our vocabulary. If you visit old churches in England, there is a good chance you will see an

alms box by the front door requesting donations for the relief of the poor of the parish. We still call the receptacles in which we receive our monetary offerings "alms basins," referring back to the days when such moneys went for the poor rather than the upkeep of the buildings and the paying of salaries, etc. Some time ago we substituted the word "charitable contributions" for "almsgiving" and more recently changed that to "outreach funds." Something has been lost in these translations: the God connection.

The word "alms" is an Anglo-Saxon shortening of the Latin and Greek word *eleemosyna*. (Anybody still remember the old word "eleemosynary," which was used instead of "charitable" and was a favorite in spelling bees?) The Latin and Greek word is closely linked to that of "righteousness"—the nature of God. God in the Hebrew scriptures is portrayed as one who deeply cares about the poor, about widows, orphan, and strangers dwelling in their midst.

Because of God's utter generosity in providing for our needs and in forgiving our misdeeds, the Old and New Testaments call us to imitate such "righteous" or God-like behavior. The prophets thundered against those who thought that they could please God with a multitude of animal sacrifices and yet neglect the needs of the poor. Jesus carries on this prophetic tradition and in Matthew 25 suggests that on Judgment Day *eleemosyna* will be the criteria for judgment.

The basic idea of Lent is to take some time out of our busy schedules to open our lives to a closer relationship with God. My experience is that to draw closer to God is to be overwhelmed by God's graciousness towards me. The more that feeling grows on me, the more I want to share my gratitude with others. One way to do that is almsgiving, which allows me to be an extension of God's graciousness to others.

Increasingly I sense that how we as Christians respond to the deepening welfare crisis will shape the opinions of a growing segment of the population that questions the value of organized religion. It is not primarily a question of the amount of money that we are able to raise, but the spirit in which it is raised. I seriously doubt that the churches can handle all the needs of our nation's poor, but to care deeply about them and to do whatever we can is what we are being called by God to do. There are no easy answers to the welfare crisis and there is much room for debate and disagreement on strategies. But, we must begin to put our minds, hearts, and actions to these matters. There is no better time than this Lent.

Please look into your hearts to see if you are being called to get involved in this great challenge. If so, one way to do so is to engage in Lenten acts of self-denial to provide alms, which Emmanuel's Missions Committee has designated this year for Episcopal City Mission.

*Warren Crews+*  
*Priest Associate*



## Where Do Lenten Alms Go?

Lenten Alms collected this year have been designated to benefit the work of Episcopal City Mission (ECM). We all know about this wonderful institution and the deep relationship between Emmanuel and ECM, but exactly how much do we know?

In 1894, deeply concerned about the lack of pastoral care at various Saint Louis City institutions, Charles Holmes, a lay person at Christ Church Cathedral, organized volunteers from the cathedral to minister at City Hospital, the City Jail, the City Workhouse, and the Asylum. Thus was born the Episcopal City Mission. With the establishment of juvenile facilities in the city, the ministry grew to include pastoral care for children.

Eventually, other Protestant denominations joined in this important ministry to those confined in the public institutions of St. Louis. Fifty years ago, the decision was made to divide ministry to these institutions among the various denominations. The Episcopal Church asked to remain with the ministry to institutionalized children. By 1954, this ministry to youth was firmly established in the Juvenile Detention House and recognized by the Court System to provide for the ongoing spiritual needs of detained children in St. Louis.

ECM today continues to provide chaplaincy for youth in detention. ECM provides weekly worship services at three facilities (Lakeside Residential Center and the St. Louis City and County Detention Centers). They run the following groups and ministries:

**Self-Esteem Groups** use art activities, discussion, and individual experiences to help build positive self-images and improve relationships, choices, and behaviors.

**Safety in Relationship Groups** address violence in male-female relationships.

**Loss and Grief Groups** provide an opportunity to share grief experiences and explore issues of grieving.

**12-Step Addiction to Violence Groups** use the AA model to address the linked issues of substance abuse and violence.

**Volunteer Visitor Program** provides volunteer visitors for detained youth who go without visits from family members.

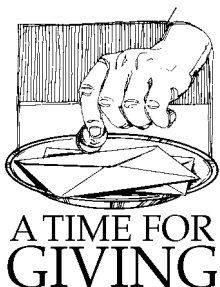
**Monthly Birthday Parties** provide celebrations for youth who are detained.

**Outreach Programs** offer youth who are detained an opportunity to reach out to homeless women and children in shelters and child care centers and to persons in hospice.

**Reading Is Fundamental** programs provide each young person at Lakeside the opportunity to choose one new book to own every month.

**Ministry of Presence** provides chaplains to walk the halls, visit the youth, and simply be there for them.

Through the programs they offer and their caring, listening presence, these chaplains and volunteers are in a very real sense the compassionate face of Jesus in the lives of these children. Please know that your offerings this Lenten season go to support this wonderful ministry.



### Lenten Alms Boxes

During Lent you can put your alms contributions in any one of three small wooden boxes placed around the church—one in the center aisle, one in the dining room, and one in the chapel.



## Little White Churches

For many years Emmanuel has collected money in the little white churches passed by children at the 9:00 a.m. Sunday service. For several of those years, Emmanuel used those funds to support an orphanage in Haiti and later one particular student, Rosalind, who became a teacher there. We then changed the designation of those collections to Heifer International, an organization that provides poor families around the world with a means of financial support by giving them livestock and training. Through the Heifer Project, Emmanuel collected enough funds to provide for an “ark” of animals every year for six years. Plaques commemorating each “ark” gift from the parish are hanging on the wall at the top of the ramp in the upper ambulatory.

Then from Deacon Susan Naylor, who traveled to the Diocese of Missouri’s companion Diocese of Lui in 2005, we learned of a new need. She wrote of her trip:



“Deacon Peggy and I sat on the bench under the mango tree behind the cathedral this evening. We watched women walking by with jericans of water on their heads; Jericans are five-gallon containers that weigh 40 pounds when filled! A steady procession of women walk up and down the road all day; some are girls as young as 12, carrying a younger brother or sister on their back and 40 pounds of water on their head! How long would five gallons last my family? Not long.

“One of the younger women stopped to practice her English and get a bit of rest before going on her way. We asked her how long it takes to get the water and how many trips she makes a day. Her name is Agnes, she said, and she told us she was lucky. Lucky to live at the near end of the village, where it is only a three-mile walk each way. Lucky to have a good

metal pot in which to boil the river water to make it safe for her family. Lucky to have a sister who will spend four hours a day grinding grain for the family, so she can make two trips for river water.

“She said it is sad that she is often sick with malaria from the mosquitoes. Once she had a guinea worm (a nasty parasite!) and one brother suffered river blindness before they learned how long to boil the water and to add bleach to make it safe. ‘Still, it is better than to wait all day for water that does not come,’ she said. ‘In the dry season, we can wait 10, 12 hours through the day and sometimes through the night for our turn at the pump. Then it may take two hours to fill one jerican, or longer. Sometimes the water does not come at all. It is very hard when the boreholes are dry. We dig our own wells in the old river bed, and scoop up the water from 15 feet underground. That work is cool, but it scares me, so I walk to the river instead.’

“I looked at the 55-gallon drum in our compound that had been filled for our use and was humbled by the amount of labor that went into filling it. I thought about the water extravagantly poured for us so that we could wash our hands as a sign of welcome and hospitality every place we went. Peggy murmured quietly: ‘Lord, when did we see you thirsty? We saw it today.’ I will never take water for granted again.”

From those experiences was born the idea of using the money our children collect each Sunday in the little white churches to dig deep-water wells in Lui. We set out to do this for a year, but the idea was so well received and the need so great, this project has actually spanned the last four years. During that time, Emmanuel has contributed more than \$18,000 to the effort to bring fresh, sustainable sources of water to our companion diocese. With contributions from other churches in our own diocese, the Diocese of Missouri has brought more than nine wells to Lui. These wells are dispersed



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### Little White Churches *(continued)*

throughout the Diocese of Lui and are an important source of stability.

Now that we have accomplished a major goal established by the Vestry and the Missions Committee, we feel it is time to shift efforts again. Before Deacon Naylor returned to Lui last year, the Missions Committee asked her to assess the situation and ask the Diocese of Lui what their priorities are. She was told that the number one topic they would like to see addressed was the issue of education. So, with that information the Missions Committee recommended and received the approval of the Vestry to begin to address this need.



Beginning this year the money collected in the little white churches each Sunday will now go to combat what the Diocese of Lui calls "issues related to ignorance." Our efforts are focusing on providing school supplies and books, funding teachers' salaries, providing scholarships, and potentially building a school.

We are excited about this new endeavor as we deepen and expand our relationship with our companion diocese. Please keep the children of the Sudan in mind as our children pass the little white churches each Sunday.



### Rosebud Top Ten List

This list was composed by our friend, Sylvia Rogers, parishioner at Christ Lutheran Church and faithful **Adult Mission Trip** participant since the "joint venture" began.

#### *Top 10 Things To Be Learned from a Mission Trip*

10. South Dakota is *very* far away.
9. Sitting in a van for 15 plus hours with Episcopalians isn't nearly as painful as "they" say.
8. How to drywall, how to install storm doors, how to hammer the nail and not your thumb--and, my favorite, how to use power tools.
7. Episcopalians will do anything for chocolate.
6. The reservation is an incredibly beautiful and spiritual place.
5. Learn to walk, albeit only for a moment, in Native American shoes.
4. *Your* life, regardless of its struggles and challenges, is so very blessed in comparison.
3. Learn, or relearn, life without telephones, cell phones, television, watches, and multi-tasking--except for Donna.
2. Sharing this experience will give you friends for life.

#### *And the No. 1 thing to learn on a mission trip:*

1. God does lead us, with love, *to* love. All we have to do is follow.

If you're interested in living in the space in which God's love is made visible through the work of our hands, then please consider joining the 10th anniversary trip to Rosebud Reservation in Mission, South Dakota. We will work with Habitat for Humanity and continue to build community, friendships, and homes.

**Dates: June 19-26, 2010; Cost: \$300; Limit: 20 participants.**

For more information check Emmanuel's website or [emmanuelamt.blogspot.com](http://emmanuelamt.blogspot.com).



## Easter Offering Designated for Webster-Rock Hill Ministries

The Vestry has designated Webster-Rock Hill Ministries (WRHM) as the recipient of this year's Easter Offering. WRHM is an agency designed to

- meet the emergency needs of low-income persons in the community when no other resources are available.
- act as a clearinghouse for churches by maintaining files on persons receiving services to avoid duplication and to ensure that those who are most in need receive help.
- provide information and referrals to clients, churches, and agencies.
- help people seeking new options and alternatives leading to a higher quality of life.
- build an awareness of poverty and social problems that exist in our community.
- build community among all the residents of the area.

WRHM was founded in 1982, and Emmanuel has a long tradition of being deeply involved with and committed to the mission they have undertaken. Please give generously this Easter.

## Christmas Giving 2009

### Christmas Offering

The 2009 Christmas Offering was designated to benefit Habitat for Humanity. Habitat for Humanity, the Vestry, and the Missions Committee would like to thank all who gave so generously. More than \$3,500 was raised. As in the past, 20 percent of the Offering went to support Habitat efforts on the Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota, and 80 percent went to support Habitat for Humanity in St. Louis. The Diocesan Habitat for Humanity Committee will be meeting in the coming weeks to determine this year's location. Please keep an eye out for more information as plans develop. If you'd like to become more involved in this project, contact Don Esbenshade (314-727-6780 or [desbenshade@aol.com](mailto:desbenshade@aol.com)), Duane Benson (636-326-5918 or [freckleface-seven@yahoo.com](mailto:freckleface-seven@yahoo.com)), or any member of the Missions Committee for more information.

### Plowsharing Crafts

For the first time in December, the Missions Committee hosted **An Evening at Plowsharing Crafts** in Kirkwood as a fundraiser. Plowsharing Crafts provides an outlet for skilled artisans around the world to make meaningful income from their products. The committee was given 20 percent of the amount spent that evening—\$348.32 for missions work. Thank you for helping make this evening a success despite the cold evening. Mark your calendars and come join us on **Dec. 14, 2010!**

### Christmas Cards

For the second year, the Missions Committee in 2009 prepared **Christmas Cards** of Christmas at Emmanuel as a fundraiser for missions work. Parishioners had a choice of two images: the altar filled with poinsettias, or the baptismal font surrounded by poinsettias. Sales were a little slow despite having the cards available beginning in November and not just in Advent, as was done previously. More than 300 cards were sold, bringing in \$435 for outreach ministries.

### Giving Tree

The giving tree was provided by the Missions Committee, set up at the **Advent Soup Supper**, and decorated with 180 paper ornaments, each displaying a gift suggestion suitable for the organization to which it would be sent. Emmanuel parishioners took the ornaments from the tree, purchased the items, and brought them back for delivery to three charitable organizations: Webster-Rock Hill Ministries (WRHM), Episcopal City Mission detention centers, and Gateway Homeless Shelter. Each received 60 gifts. Members of the Emmanuel Junior High Youth Group made the ornaments, set up and served at the Soup Supper, and delivered the gifts to WRHM and the homeless shelter. They participated in WRHM's Adopt-A-Family program, purchasing food for a family's Christmas dinner and gifts for each child in that family. They also worked at the program's ingathering, organizing donations for recipients to pick up the following day.



## Emmanuel Cards for Alternative Giving at Christmas

The Missions Committee prepared a new card for **Alternative Giving** for Christmas in 2009. The committee offered a variety of ministries that parishioners could choose from for making a donation. The card was then given to a friend or family member indicating the donation. The total donated was \$2,575.

Below is a summary of Alternative Giving at Christmas since it began in 2004.



	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	TOTAL
<b>Alms: Emmanuel Cares</b>	NA	NA	NA	\$220		\$450	\$270
<b>Deep Water Wells in the Diocese of Lui</b>	NA	NA	\$125	\$400	\$245	\$20	\$790
<b>Emmanuel Food Center</b>	\$45	\$35	\$145	\$425	\$285	\$690	\$1,625
<b>Episcopal City Mission</b>	\$60	\$255	\$105	\$65	\$110	\$165	\$760
<b>Episcopal Relief and Development Fund</b>	NA	\$160	\$190	\$125	\$75	\$100	\$650
<b>God's Child</b>	NA	NA	NA	\$120	\$60	\$250	\$430
<b>Habitat for Humanity</b>	\$70	\$145	\$160	\$255	\$340		\$970
<b>St. Louis</b>						\$25	\$25
<b>South Dakota</b>						\$300	\$300
<b>Heifer International</b>	\$245	\$170	\$390		\$60		\$865
<b>Missions Committee</b>	NA	NA	\$110	\$190	\$180	\$445	\$925
<b>Music Preservation Fund</b>	NA	NA	NA	\$50	\$25		\$75
<b>Webster-Rock Hill Ministries</b>	\$5	\$85	\$105		\$350	\$530	\$1,075
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$425</b>	<b>\$850</b>	<b>\$1,330</b>	<b>\$1,850</b>	<b>\$1,730</b>	<b>\$2,575</b>	<b>\$8,760</b>

### MISSION STATEMENT

The work of the Missions Committee is rooted in the Baptismal Covenant, which states that, with God's help, we will proclaim by word and deed the Good News of God in Christ, strive to promote justice and peace among all people, and actively work in the community and in the world to respect the dignity of every human being.

The Committee will serve as a catalyst in the parish to involve every person in outreach by providing and holding up opportunities for ministry requiring various abilities and talents.

The Committee strives to bring outreach to the forefront of Emmanuel's vision of itself.



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## Diocesan Benefit Concert for Haiti



Mark your calendar to attend the Diocesan Benefit Concert for Haiti on March 7 from 2:00 to 5:00 pm at Emmanuel. The concert will feature the House of Bishops, Father Ron and Sarah Clingenpeel, and Doc Rock. More acts and information about ticket sales will be announced later.