

MILEHIGH OUTLOOK

LENT 2010

By Bishop Elaine J. W. Stanovsky

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...let us lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus ... who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 12:1

As I watched the devastation of the earthquake in Haiti last month, and waited for news of my friends who were caught in the rubble, I asked myself, “what would I give to save the people who are caught?” The answer is – a lot. Maybe all that I have. Maybe my life.

As we enter the season of Lent, we imagine it as a wilderness experience, like the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness, being tested. Stripped of all the support systems of the city and human community, Jesus learned what really mattered, what he was really made of, and what his mission and message would be. During the 40 days of Lent, Christians are invited to “lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely” (Hebrews 12: 1) and turn again and anew to the spiritual resources and relationships that sustain us and that put our lives in proper perspective.

What if this Lent we took on the spiritual discipline of extravagant generosity? What if we continued our commitment to Haiti, with the hope of rebuilding a nation and a culture that has been brought to its knees? What if spiritually we entered the wilderness of a crumbled nation, with the fortitude born of faith and hope?

The Western Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church is undertaking
OPERATION RESURRECTION 2010: Lifting Haiti from the Rubble

We have four goals by Easter. By faith we will achieve these goals many times over.

1. Educate ourselves about Haiti’s history, culture and economics.
2. Contribute \$100,000 for UMCOR
3. Commit 25 Volunteer in Mission Teams for Haiti over the next 5 years
4. Replace the 23,000 Health Kits sent from UMCOR Depot West to Haiti

For Valentine’s Day I gave a Health Kit in honor of each of my children and nieces and nephews. I’ve given \$1 for each member of the Jurisdictional Leadership Team, and for each person at Yellowstone Annual Conference CONVO.

Our neighbors are suffering. We are God’s agents of new life.

We are a resurrection people!

Bishop Elaine