

BISHOP MIDDLETON'S MESSAGE REGARDING EARTHQUAKE DEVASTATION IN HAITI

The devastating earthquake in Haiti on Tuesday calls for our response, most importantly with our prayers. As our sisters and brothers in this already impoverished country deal with this latest catastrophe, we are called to respond as well with our tangible gifts. You can send financial offerings through the Central Pennsylvania Conference office, designated for Haiti Earthquake Relief, Advance # 418325. All contributions sent will go directly to aid those who are suffering.

We are also being asked to provide health kits. Eric DeWalt, director of Mission Central, informs us that we will ship about 13,500 kits or about 27 pallets of health kits sometime next week. More are needed. Each health kit should contain:

1 hand towel (15" x 25" up to 17" x 27")

1 wash cloth

1 comb (large and sturdy, not pocket-sized)

1 nail file or fingernail clippers (no emery boards or toenail clippers)

1 bath-size bar of soap (3 oz and up)

1 toothbrush (single brush only in original wrapper; no child-sized brushes)

1 large tube of toothpaste (4.5 or larger, expiration date must be 6 months or longer in advance of the date of shipment)

6 adhesive plastic strip sterile bandages

All items should be placed inside a sealed one-gallon plastic bag. No money, notes, religious or political literature, or other items should be placed in the kits.

Completed kits may be delivered to Mission Central as well as any of these supplies which will then be assembled by volunteers. They may also be delivered to your district Mission Central HUB. See missioncentral.org for locations of HUBs.

As more opportunities emerge to provide help in rebuilding, I know that many of you will help. The Wyoming Conference has a partnership with the church in Haiti and had already planned three mission trips in February which they hope to be able to complete. Watch the QuickLink for ways that you can be involved.

As you ask, "What can I do?" be assured that God will use you to reach out to our God's beloved people in Haiti during this most difficult time. United Methodists in Central Pennsylvania have demonstrated an extraordinary spirit of generosity in the past and I am confident will do so again.

Bishop Jane Allen Middleton