

ePastoralPonderings from Ivan

Memorial United Methodist Church,
Thomasville, NC

No. 12: January 19, 2010

Bi-Weekly Pastoral Notes – Winter Topic: “Reality Christianity”

Happy New Year, everyone! It’s almost too late to be saying that since we are already in the second half of January! But it gives me an opportunity to tell you how very much I appreciated your support of the ministry of MUMC with your time, talents, and treasure during 2009. Financially speaking, we were a very blessed church and were able to emerge from 2009 with some dollars in the bank and, mercifully, did not have to use any reserve funds to balance the books! You are to be highly commended for your faithful and generous giving. It tells us that you believe in what God is doing in our midst and you not only want to be a part of it, but also want to continue to “expect great things from God, and attempt great things for God,” to quote J. Hudson Taylor.

In the wake of the horrendous earthquake in Haiti and with an almost overwhelming rescue and recovery program in process as I write, I must ask at least two things of you:

First, if you open this e-mail in time, I want you to make a very special effort to attend the **Service for Prayer and Relief for Haiti** at the First Presbyterian Church (next door to MUMC) at **7:00pm today – January 19, 2010**. This will be an ecumenical service and some members of our Chancel Choir and I will be participating at the invitation of Rev. Mike Lamm and Rev. Dr. Marquis Ramsey. An offering for American Red Cross relief efforts in Haiti will be received.

Second, you may have heard a call from the pulpit on Sunday for members of MUMC to do one of two things: 1. To write a check (no amount is too small) to UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) and on the memo line designate it for “Haiti Relief;” and, 2. To participate in an outreach effort to assemble and donate 200 health and hygiene kits for survivors of the earthquake in Haiti. This is part of the Western North Carolina Conference relief program and comes as a direct

call from the Missions and Outreach Director, Rev. Mike Collins.

In order to ensure that the kits are assembled correctly, I ask that you follow diligently the instructions below. You may drop off your kit at the church **no later than Wednesday, January 27, 2010** to meet the deadline of the most current shipment.

Thank you for serving Christ and helping to be his hands and feet in a devastated country, but one with God’s help and the compassionate response of the world community will be rebuilt.

Peace and strength in the Lord to you!

Ivan

UMCOR’s two relief supply warehouses are asking United Methodists to provide health kits that can be sent to earthquake-devastated Haiti.

For people who are feeling powerless in being able to help those in Haiti, providing health kits is a tangible way they can make an immediate difference,” said Kathy Kraiza, director of UMCOR’s relief supplies. She estimates that hundreds of thousands of kits will be needed in the days and months ahead. The kits, valued at about \$12 per kit, contain everything from towels and washcloths to sterile bandages and bar soap. They will be distributed to those who have been forced to

leave their homes as a result of the recent disaster. For individuals or groups that want to contribute basic necessities, UMCOR requests that the following NEW items be placed in a sealed one-gallon plastic bag.

1 hand towel (15" x 25" up to 17" x 27". No kitchen towels.

1 washcloth

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 brushes only in original wrapper, no child-size brushes)

6 adhesive plastic strip sterile bandages

\$1.00 to purchase toothpaste

(NOTE: Toothpaste is purchased in bulk to be added to health kits to ensure that the product does not expire before they are sent.)

Because the emergency kits are carefully planned to make them usable in the greatest number of situations and strict rules govern product entry into international countries, UMCOR requires that the kits contain only the requested items – nothing more.

Each packed box cannot exceed 66 pounds.

Processing and shipping costs: Please enclose an envelope containing at least \$1.00 for each kit you send. This donation enables kits to be sent without delay to Haiti.

**KITS MAY BE DROPPED OFF IN
THE BACK HALLWAY FOR
PICK-UP NO LATER THAN WED.,
JANUARY 27, 2010**

**Further instructions on assembling
and shipping health kits are available
at:**

<http://new.gbgmumc.org/umcor/getconnected/supplies/health-kit/>