



First Presbyterian Church



2010 One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

"Do You Love Me?...Feed My Sheep"
John 21:16-27

Dear Friends,

We have now begun the Season of Lent, 40 days during which we are asked to consider, in a thoughtful and prayerful way, what it means to be disciples of Jesus Christ, our crucified and risen Lord. After his resurrection, Jesus appeared on the shore of the Sea of Galilee, where he served breakfast to his disciples. Three times, he had this exchange with Simon Peter:

"Do you love me?"

"Yes, Lord you know that I love you."

"Feed my sheep."

How do we show our love for Jesus? We feed his sheep.

One of the most effective ways to do just that is through our generous gifts to the One Great Hour of Sharing. The Presbyterian Hunger Program receives 36% of funds received, which Self-Development of People and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance each receive 32%.

The Presbyterian Disaster Assistance program has been deeply involved in relief efforts following the devastating earthquake in Haiti. A mission worker in Port-au-Prince tells this story:

I had a quick conversation with a young couple, Pascal and JeanMarie. They are from Cite Soleil a poor neighborhood severely destroyed by the quake and with an enormous gang problem. "We lose our three years old son, Jean Jacques; fortunately we found his little body and could bury it in Gods manner, that's all. Hope is alive; this is only a break to continue struggling for life".

Soon I saw a bunch of young volunteers carrying disinfectant pumps and masks spraying a pine odor everywhere . . . everybody wearing t-shirts showing logos from diverse aid agencies. Women were cooking and talking from tent to tent, taking care of babies and washing clothes; men were hammering or sawing something to use in their tents; small groups were discussing jobs, aid issues, politics; children were enjoying play and noisy games as usual. "Hope is alive" was my silent reflection — all these hurries that I see are steps to find sense to a new start in the midst of chaos. Haitians know that they are not alone -- humanity is with them.

Immediately after the earthquake, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance was able to designate \$100,000 for Haitian relief efforts. *This was possible because of previous donations through the One Great Hour of Sharing.* As of this writing, more than half a million dollars has been sent for immediate relief. (Another \$2 million has been received and will be used for long-range recovery efforts.) When such horrible disasters occur, we know that our Church can help quickly and generously because of our gifts to the One Great Hour of Sharing.

Please give thoughtfully and prayerfully and with gratitude for all that we have been given! How do we show our love for Jesus? We feed his sheep.

Yours in Christ's service,

Rev. Meta Cramer