

## Barrett's Bits

January 24, 2010

*Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.*  
-Matthew 25:40

What are we to do? How can we help? These are the questions on the hearts of many in response to the tragic earthquake in Haiti. The death toll is likely to exceed 100,000. The devastation we see on television is a mere reflection of what the people of that land must face. Homeless, sick, injured, no water, no food, no medical care—the situation appears nearly hopeless. But there is much we can do. We are the Body of Christ! We are empowered by the Holy Spirit! We can make a difference! We can help NOW!

Two ways for us to respond initially: first, make out a check to St. Mark and place the word UMCOR or Haiti in the item line. That will tell our financial secretary how to direct your money. These gifts will fund rescue and recovery efforts for the UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) who are already present and working in Haiti. Second, you can assemble a health kit pack to send to Haiti for distribution by emergency workers.

On Sunday, February 14, Valentine's Day, St. Mark will "Share the Love . . . for UMCOR." You are urged to assemble one or more health kits. Place the following new items in a gallon zip lock bag:

- 1 hand towel (15"x 25" to 17"x 27")
- 1 washcloth
- 1 comb (large, not pocket size)
- 1 nail file or small finger nail clippers (no emery board)
- 1 bath size bar of soap
- 1 toothbrush (adult, in original wrapper)
- 6 "band-aids"
- \$1.00 to purchase toothpaste (do not include toothpaste since it is perishable)

Bring these assembled kits to worship on February 14. We will bring them to the altar as an offering during each worship service.

On Monday, February 15, members of our Sending Forth Committee and any who would like to help, will meet in the Social Hall at 5:00 p.m. to pack the donated kits into shipping boxes to be sent to UMCOR. *"Share the Love. . . for UMCOR" and for our Lord Jesus!*

Barrett