

DAILY DEVOTIONAL
Friday, June 15, 2012

*“But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile,
and pray to the Lord on its behalf,
for in its welfare you will find your welfare.” (Jeremiah 29:7)*



Day 2 **"Sent you into exile"**

Meditation:

Sometimes, no matter where we are, it feels like we are in exile. We might feel exiled from our families, friends, communities, churches, careers, our selves, and even God. Exile can be a very lonely place. But it can also be a place of tremendous growth and awakening. The Israelites were instructed to build houses, plant gardens, and raise families as they were brought to a foreign land. Even in the midst of exile, God showed them how to find life and live it abundantly. May we do the same. May we turn to God when the feelings of alienation overwhelm us, and may we look for signs of new life all around us.

Prayer:

Ever-present God, when we feel alienated, when we feel as if we have been sent where no one would dare go, help us turn to you. Cast away our fears so that our faith in you will become the foundation of our lives. Open our eyes to the new life growing within us and around us. And connect us with one another so that your family, the body of Christ, might continue to grow and be fruitful. Amen.

Action:

Support and pray for our missionaries who are sent to foreign lands in order to share the love of Christ. See a full list of our missionaries at www.umcmmission.org/Explore-Our-Work/Missionaries-in-Service

Many worship opportunities come your way again today.

Renewal Caucus hosts prayer time for our Conference each day at 5 a.m. in Robbins Chapel.

Early Prayer in the Chapel begins at 6:00 a.m. and includes glorious praise singing, preaching, and prayer.

We will begin today's first Plenary Session at 8:30 a.m. with a brief time of worship as we reflect on "Exiles Seeking Shalom."

We gather this evening at 7:00 for a Choral Concert & Prelude to Worship, led by the 100-voice youth choir of Custer UMC in Plano, Texas, followed by 7:30 Worship & Retirement Celebration, honoring our newly-retired clergy.

Prayer partners from LIFT Renewal Ministries are available in Robbins Chapel all day.

Thank you, Rev. Karin Ellis for providing this Daily Devotional on behalf of your Annual Conference Worship Planning Team.