

DAILY DEVOTIONAL
Sunday, June 17, 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 4 **“For in its welfare you will find your welfare”**

Meditation:

A blanket is woven with yarn and wool. A basket is woven with pine needles or small branches. A piece of clothing is woven with thread. We too are woven together. The Great Weaver, Creator God, has woven us together from many places and many times. God uses love, forgiveness, healing, grace, mercy, and joy to weave us together as the body of Christ. We cannot forget that we are connected, created to be the body of Christ for the world. When we take care of one another, we take care of ourselves. When we serve one another, we serve God. How will we keep the welfare of the city in the forefront of our lives? How will we become the “cup overflowing” for a hurting and broken world? May we be the ones who say “Yes” to God!

Prayer:

O God, we confess our need to be more diligent in seeking the welfare of the city. We often feel that the business (or is it busyness?) of the church is distant and completely set apart from the life of the communities that surround our buildings. Open our eyes to the spiritual, social, emotional and economic condition of the towns, boroughs, and cities where we live and worship. Enable us to see the struggles of the people around our churches and hear their cries for mercy. Give us courage to extend a hand, lend a shoulder of support, or share our faith as we find our own well-being entangled in the well-being of those around us. Amen.

(Safiyah Fosua, General Board Of Discipleship)

Action:

There are so many needs around the world. Thankfully, God has given us open hearts and open hands in order to help. To find a cause to support that fits with your passion, go to www.umcmmission.org/Give-to-Mission/Search-for-Projects

*We end our time today with a festive **Closing Worship**
as we are “**Sent Forth to Create Communities of Shalom and Wholeness.**”*

Worship will include the baptism of Mattias James Dodge, son of Melinda and Johan Dodge; hula dance from members of th Hawaii District; an anthem from our own Conference Choir; and a special sending and commissioning litany from Bishop Swenson as she sets our appointments to serve in the year ahead. No robes or stoles are needed. Just come and worship as soon as plenary ends, probably around 9:30 a.m. today.

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