

DAILY DEVOTIONAL
Thursday, June 14, 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 1 **“Seek the welfare of the city”**

Meditation:

Henri Nouwen said, *“Peace is Shalom- well-being of mind, heart, and body, individually and communally. It can exist in the midst of a war-torn world, even in the midst of unresolved problems and increasing human conflicts. Jesus made that peace by giving his life for his brothers and sisters. This is no easy peace, but it is everlasting and it comes from God. Are we willing to give our lives in the service of peace?”* May we live our lives in such a way that peace comes to our hearts, and to all those hearts around us. And may the welfare of our communities, nation, and world be woven together in the fabric of God’s love and grace.

*(Quote by Henri Nouwen in *Bread for the Journey.*)*

Prayer:

Almighty God, across the ages you have guided your people through the wilderness, assuring us of a home in your eternal city. Strengthen us along the way, that we might not neglect our call to serve the cities and towns where we live. Help us to trust in your unfailing presence amid all of our fears. Grant us wisdom to discern your way in this world even as we hope for the next. Amen.

(Ann Bell Worley at www.baylor.edu © 2006 The Center for Christian Ethics at Baylor University)

Action:

Many people throughout our nation are working to make their cities a better place to live. These are becoming Communities of Shalom. To find out more information, go to new.gbgm-umc.org/about/us/cim/programs/shalom

Many worship opportunities come your way today as Annual Conference begins. Both the laity and clergy sessions, as well as the Gathering of the Orders for clergy, will include worship and prayer time.

*We will begin our Plenary Session with **Opening Worship** as we **“Gather to Seek Shalom”** at 4:00, led by members of our General and Jurisdictional Conference delegations, along with a clergy sister & brother who are members of our Annual Conference.*

*We will gather this evening at 7:30 for a **Service of Remembrance & Holy Communion**, including an opportunity for anointing with healing oils and music from the Choir of Bell Memorial UMC, Rowland Heights.*

Prayer partners are available in Robbins Chapel during every plenary session!

Thank you, LIFT Renewal Ministries, for providing prayer partners during plenary sessions. Thank you, Rev. Karin Ellis for providing this Daily Devotional on behalf of your Annual Conference Worship Planning Team.