

DIAKONIA World Federation



*I will open rivers on the bare heights,
and fountains in the midst of the valleys;
I will make the wilderness a pool of water,
and the dry land springs of water.*

~ Isaiah 41:18



October 2016 Prayer Letter

This past week, I have been thinking and reflecting on water as Hurricane Matthew blew towards Jamaica, Haiti, Cuba, the Bahamas and the Florida coast. I am so very mindful of the friends I have in that area. DOTAC President, Lisa Polito, posted on both of our DIAKONIA & DOTAC Facebook pages, reminding us to pray for our sisters in the Wesley Diaconal Community of the Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas.

Here in the United States, I have found it difficult to find any news about the impact on the Caribbean, of this Hurricane. Our news feeds are full of the warnings and predictions of its track along our eastern seaboard. And, *of course*, I am concerned for the people who live there and for my fellow diaconal associates who will be deeply involved in recovery efforts. But I want to know about Jamaica, I want to know about my diaconal sisters. I want to pray for and with them.

For me, this week has exemplified the gift of DIAKONIA World Federation in my life. I am so blessed to be able to pray for specific people around the world when I hear of need, and knowledge that God has gifted those impacted areas with people called to serve in the name of God to those in need is also a blessing.

So, I reflect on water. Water as blessing and water as purveyor of destruction. Did you know that water is mentioned 722 times in the scriptures? That is less than God, Jesus, heaven or love, but many more times than faith, hope, prayer or even worship. Water is central to my understanding of ecumenism, as we celebrate our baptism into the one Body of Christ for the sake of the world. Through our baptism we are created into people of water, commissioned by God to be agents of God's Love to all the world. This is a dangerous, frightening proposition. However, we can face this without fear because none of us are alone. In DIAKONIA, we have family who will hold us in prayer, and walk alongside of us when we are in need. Thanks be to God.

Therefore, let us pray:

- ✘ For our sisters in the Wesley Diaconal Community of the Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas
- ✘ For all of our communities experiencing violence in the world around them

- ✘ For all impacted by Hurricane Matthew, and other natural disasters
- ✘ For the Executive Committee of DOTAC, meeting November 13-19 in Seattle, Washington
- ✘ For the healing waters of God's Grace to flow over all.

Ever-living God, author of creation, we give you thanks for your gift of water that brings life and refreshes the earth. We bless and praise you, for by water and the Word we are cleansed from sin and receive everlasting life. Join us again in this day to the saving death of Christ; renew in us the living fountain of your grace; and raise us with Christ Jesus to live in newness of life; for you are merciful, and you love your whole creation, and with all your creatures, we give you glory, through your Son Jesus Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

~ Diaconal Minister Jan Cherry

