

Dear Friends in Ministry,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our risen Lord Jesus Christ!

What can we say in the midst of such catastrophic devastation wrought by hurricane Katrina? As the horrible story of the tsunami unfolded only a few months ago, little did we know that a similar event might occur in our own country.

To the question, "What can I possibly do?" there are specific answers. First we must pray: for those whose images we have seen in the media, for family and friends affected, for churches and those persons of faith who are even now in spite of personal loss reaching out to others, for officials whose decisions will impact the recovery, and for ourselves that we will reach deeply into our hearts and respond with generosity and sacrifice.

Harry Overholtzer at Mission Central has informed me that the needs for recovery are not fully known and in fact will continue for many years. Contributions can always be made to Advance Number 982523 for "Hurricane 2005 Global" with checks made to the Central Pennsylvania Conference. Health kits and flood buckets are very much needed. Please continue to watch the Quick Link for opportunities to respond in other ways. Remember that your shares of ministry support the administration cost for UMCOR. All contributions to hurricane relief go to the victims.

As pastors and laity we are called upon now to reach deeply into our hearts and to draw upon God's sustaining power. I know you will find ways to bring a message of hope and healing to your congregations and communities through opportunities for prayer in public worship and in private times.

God remembered us when we were down,

*God's love never quits.*

Rescued us from the trampling boot,

*God's love never quits.*

Takes care of everyone in time of need.

*God's love never quits.*

Thank God, who did it all!

*God's love never quits!*

Psalm 136 vs 23 to 26 *The Message* Adapted

In Christ's hope,



Jane Allen Middleton