



# WITNESS FOR JUSTICE

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Witness for Justice #460

January 25, 2010

In the Midst of Tragedy, Still We Rise

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*"God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference."* - Rev. Dr. Reinhold Niebuhr

Memory informs me that the first time I heard the universally prayed *Serenity Prayer*; I was a seminary student many years ago in St. Louis, MO. Truthfully, I don't recall the "actual" first time I heard it. Nor can I honestly recount the number of times that I have prayed it. If I feel I need a prayer for wisdom about something I'm confronting, it is usually the one I call upon. I acknowledge that many are familiar with this prayer as it is used in recovery programs.

What I honor about it is its ability to influence countless numbers of wounded souls who draw upon its universal truth to anchor them, no matter the challenge ahead. There are moments when each of us needs to look beyond our individual capacity to a source beyond ourselves for strength. At least that has certainly been my experience.

Life as I know it is filled with "twists and turns", "peaks and valleys," "love and lost," as well as "joys and pains." This is true no matter the plan, I've set for myself. When humanity is faced with the threat of famine, flood, terrorists' plots, or rising unemployment, many find inner might to move on and struggle through, while facing the constant challenge of an ever-changing world. In these times, I am humbled by the resolute spirit of humanity. In fact, I marvel at it.

Domestically and globally, citizens of the world are aware that a 7.0 earthquake recently pummeled the impoverished Republic of Haiti. The catastrophic loss of life, home and livelihood is greater than most of us might imagine. Still the generosity of heart, prayer, and aid from all corners of the

globe being sent off to support them during this horrific time has been record breaking. As a person who believes that what affects my neighbor, impacts me, I believe that we must continue to relieve their distress in these early days as well as for the duration.

Thus, in the midst of this tragedy, still humanity rises. My employer, the United Church of Christ, has had boots on the ground since the very beginning through our global mission partners. More importantly, we will be there until the need is no longer. Obviously, there are other charitable organizations who understand the enduring effect of such a calamity and will also be there long term. Sadly, there will be people and/or companies who will prey upon the vulnerability of this shaken nation and attempt to profit from this unfortunate upheaval as well as from the people who want to help. So please be careful. If you are still looking to make a pledge, secure financial contributions can be made to this effort of relief for Haiti by visiting [www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org) and click on the donate button. *Thank you!*

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