



Episcopal  
Relief & Development  
Working Together for Lasting Change

## SEEK&SERVE SPRING 2019 E-NEWSLETTER



**From the Presiding Bishop\***

This Lenten season, our thoughts turn to the story at the heart of our faith — Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection. Jesus was crucified because he taught a radical message: *Love God. Love your neighbor*. It's a message that lives and sustains us 2,000 years later.

Love was on Jesus' mind the night before he died. At the Last Supper, he said to his disciples, "A new commandment I give you" — not a new *option*, mind you, but a new *commandment* — "that you love one another."

I am convinced that love is the key to life. I'm also convinced that the opposite of love is not hate but selfishness, and that hatred is merely a derivative of selfishness. Love, on the other hand, is the cure. And I have no doubt that when it comes to love and unselfishness, you are doing a pretty good job! Your donations to Episcopal Relief & Development are an expression of this unstoppable, all-powerful love.

I have the good fortune of being the honorary chair of Episcopal Relief & Development's Board of Directors, and I've witnessed firsthand the profound impact your contributions have. Over the last year, I have traveled to many of the places impacted by natural disasters during 2017 and 2018. I saw food and water being delivered and medical and pastoral care being provided to folks — from towns to the mountains — thanks to your generosity.

Love allows us to bridge great distances so that children an ocean away are as precious to us as the little ones living right down the block. Because of our love, we care for them just as we would our closest neighbors. We want them to be healthy and to have opportunities to live a happy and healthy life. That's what Episcopal Relief & Development's integrated programs with children are accomplishing in Africa, Asia and Latin America. These programs have already changed the lives of thousands of children and will reach many more this year.

How much more can we do? As much as our love allows. I've recently appointed Teri Lawver as Episcopal Relief & Development's new board chair. She brings faith and commitment to the role. I have no doubt that together with Rob Radtke as president and CEO and the rest of the board and staff — and your continued partnership — we will create lasting positive change in the months ahead.

Jesus' resurrection made it clear that the way to life is the way of love. Love God. Love your neighbor. And while you're at it, love yourself! I wish you great joy in the upcoming Easter season.

**The Most Reverend Michael B. Curry**

Presiding Bishop and Primate

The Episcopal Church