

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.”

—John 20:26-28

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19

I have been involved with Episcopal Relief & Development's US Disaster Program for almost four years. And while many of us don't typically associate Wyoming with disasters, there have been wildfires, blizzards, a landslide and several floods in my short tenure. Through these events and my involvement with the US Disaster Program, I have had the opportunity to be with people shortly after their lives have changed in an instant.

When I visit with people after these life-changing moments, I am often reminded of the exchange between Jesus and Thomas. This passage speaks to me, not because people may have doubts about their faith in times of tragedy, but rather because of the importance of witnessing and being with people after they are hurt, wounded, broken. I like to look at this passage differently from most. For me, Jesus is standing before Thomas, and rather than trying to heal his wounds, Thomas is simply with Jesus and sees him for who he is: hurt, wounded, broken.

How will you be present with the hurt, wounded and broken today?

—Tristan English