

He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

—Psalm 147:3



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Throughout 2015, my colleagues and I produced and traveled with Episcopal Relief & Development's 75th Anniversary Photo Exhibition. Doing that work, I saw each of the more than thirty images frequently. Before we even set up the exhibition for the first time, one image in particular struck me: the portrait of a midwife in Sierra Leone. Her countenance portrays wisdom, and I can feel in her the confidence and character someone might trust with their prenatal and delivery care.

Early in 2015, the Ebola crisis hit countries in West Africa. One day, as I was installing the exhibit in the nave of a church, I looked at her and wondered how she was doing in the midst of that terrifying disease. I wanted to know about her personally. I knew from my colleagues that midwives in Sierra Leone often serve as frontline medical personnel. In that moment, I said a prayer for her and then for all the people of Sierra Leone. I prayed for the sick, the dead and the caregivers. After that, every time I saw the image, I was reminded to pray for all of the victims of the Ebola crisis and for her as well. The crisis is mostly passed, but I still say a short prayer each time I see this image. What are some of the prayer cues in your life?

—Sean T. McConnell