

[Jesus answered the lawyer,] “Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?” He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

—Luke 10:36-37



THURSDAY, MARCH 23

For the past decade, I have been privileged to work collaboratively with representatives of two dozen faith-based organizations to bring justice and mercy to survivors of natural disasters through long-term recovery assistance. I constantly see the Holy Spirit at work through the compassion and dedication of the men and women who make up these diverse organizations as we serve our neighbors. We define our neighbors in the same way Jesus does in the parable of the Good Samaritan – they are the people in need of our help.

We are a mix of various Christian denominations (Adventists, Catholics, Disciples of Christ, Episcopalians, Methodists, Mennonites, Presbyterians, etc.) plus Buddhists, Jews, Mormons and others who don't identify with a particular tradition. Individually, none of us can provide the recovery resources needed by our neighbors. But even though we draw upon many different scriptures and texts, we collectively form a community of blessing for all our sisters and brothers.

As an Episcopalian, my first inspiration for this work is best expressed in our Baptismal Covenant where we affirm that we are here to “seek and serve Christ in all persons,” loving our neighbors as ourselves.

—Dave Baylor