



## Director's Letter, Servant Stomp

April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2008

*Then the Lord said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land, to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey." Exodus 3: 7-8a*

Today, as the Urban Servant Corps community of friends, family, alumni and volunteers gathers to celebrate and sustain our work together, and to honor The Gathering Place in their new building, our Jewish sisters and brothers celebrate Passover. How appropriate.

How appropriate that today, the USC community walks (or stomps) together in solidarity with those suffering and crying in our midst. Today in our own city, many are plagued by addiction, homelessness, domestic violence, racism, environmental pollution and brokenness, hopelessness, isolation. Yet God is still with all of us, walking the journey. We have our own Moses-, Aaron- and Miriam-types in community to lead us and support us.

Every year 15 to 24 Urban Servant Corps volunteers take on a difficult journey—they look those plagues in the face and seek the loving light of Christ. This year, I invite you to journey with them. As you consider the needs of our city—the “plagues” that you may personally know of—I ask that you would consider sharing your gifts with the USC community so that your hope, your compassion and your faith may help our volunteers walk with and serve the most marginalized members of our community.

Consider this:

\$30 pays the cost of one medical co-pay for a volunteer's medical care (the USC pays all health insurance premiums and all co-pays for volunteers who elect to participate).

\$75 pays a volunteer's monthly stipend.

\$100 buys a community of 8 volunteers food for the week.

\$200 pays for the new kitchen faucet in the Ogden House. (Labor was donated).

\$925 matches a volunteer's full agency payment for one month (which pays her or his living expenses and contributes to some overhead and administrative costs).

We all face our own plagues and celebrate personal Passovers into freedom and liberation. Yet no-one could make the journey in isolation. I hope you will choose to walk with the Urban Servant Corps again this year. Let us all envision a land of milk and honey, and walk there together!

Happy Easter, Blessed Passover and Happy Earth Day to you!

In peace,

Laura Folkwein, M.Div, MSW

Executive Director