



Dear Friends,

Sharing in the efforts we experience together by helping others is making a difference in the lives of many people in need. I respectfully pass on to you and your community their sincere appreciation and gratitude along with this message from them, "We are humbled by your generosity and return to you our prayers of peace, good health and friendship."

I am now planning to travel to Italy, Afghanistan, and soon possibly to Kenya and Mexico starting June 9, 2009. Although I will go alone, I always travel with the spirit, help and prayers of my family, friends, and supporters of Traveling Mercies. I expect to be on the road for approximately seven weeks, but the time is dictated by the needs of those I will be working with. My plan is to focus on specific projects but also to remain open to those new urgent ones that present themselves.



First, I will return to the earthquake area of Abruzzo, Italy, the village of Onna and L'Aquila, to offer financial assistance and personal encouragement from many supporters here at home. There I will reconnect with the people as to the present conditions of their personal lives and the reconstruction progress. Besides the money collected, I will deliver all personal written notes and words of encouragement. I will work, if allowed, but I will certainly help formulate specific projects with the people. I only expect to remain there for a short time and leave from Italy to go to Afghanistan.



I expect to spend much of my time in Afghanistan building water systems, and also to finalize plans to build many additional systems in the very near future. Suraya Pakzad, Director of Voice of Women, and Traveling Mercies will work on building water systems and on women's rights issues. We will implement and plan improvements to the existing safe house shelter for women in Heart, and add additional needed services. We will plan an additional safe shelter for women in another area of Western Afghanistan. We will also be planning and implementing new educational and vocational programs for women. In addition, I want to help her with her own security as conditions worsen. Her safety becomes more in doubt each day. I want to try to get some security for her through the contributions Traveling Mercies receives for this need.

I will also try to visit Kenya to witness the wonderful water well installed at the Nkaimurunya Primary School, and see the school children and villagers rejoice in this important improvement. I will also further look at two new projects, one being a new water well for a project in Eldoret and the other a community farming project in the Kitui area.



On a further updated note, the project in Tashirat, Mexico is moving along and soon I will be proposing a water project and showers for the school students. In addition, the Tashirat Community will be starting a school and residential program for special needs children and as an associate of Traveling Mercies, Debra Troffe, who is an educator in South Jersey will be visiting them in late June to begin helping to put this program together.

I am most grateful for your support, encouragement and prayers. Building water systems and working with Suraya on women's rights is truly to the heart of my work, and a major focus of this trip. As we try to hear the voices of the needs of people from anywhere, I remain committed to do my best to help. For myself, I realize that leaving the gifts of family, friends, a garden full of vegetables, green lush grass, flowers, and magnificent trees is really difficult. Then my heart sees those suffering without any of these gifts. They live each day with their hopes, dreams, and faith that their lives will improve. Then as I travel into their lives, my heart begins to see the gifts that I leave behind take a different form that is just as lovely and pleasant within the beauty of the people that are suffering.



Respectfully, if you can support financially, please do so and I will use it directly as you desire and together we will grow relationships. Thank you for your attention to these actions that I continue to do and dedicate myself trying to learn to do better for others each day.

Have a wonderful summer!  
Peace & Love,  
Aldo

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