

“We ourselves are not isolated egos but more like webs. We are persons constituted by our relationships. Because we are not only conscious but reflective, we can accept God’s invitations to co-create more abundant life, ‘to bring about a social transformation of life on Earth for all creatures.’”

– Mary Christine Morkovsky, CDP

It was January 12, 2010. A massive earthquake hit the island of Haiti, the twenty-sixth poorest country in the world. We watched with horror as bodies were pulled from rubble, and cried in joy with the Haitian people as a person was found alive. In a time of extreme pessimism, fear and economic chaos, the outpouring of care and concern, and the coming together of the most diverse people of the world to contribute to the rescue and rebuilding efforts of this poorest land in the rich western hemisphere ignited again a hope unfelt since 9/11: that we can move beyond our prejudices and whatever else keeps us apart, and “together” make a difference for the world.

But, why does it take a horrific natural disaster to break our hearts open? And have we really begun to extend the web of our human relationships into the cosmic world, its existence, its history, and its future? Does our heart break as we experience the devastation to the earth from human-made disasters even as we cry out in shock at the devastation of natural disasters? If it is true that “all of life is linked, throughout its evolution, to the Trinitarian life of God¹”, then

“I tell you this

To break your heart, by which I mean only

That it break open and never close again

To the rest of the world.²

Myra Rodgers, CDP

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¹ John F. Haught, **Christianity and Science**, pg. 92.

² Mary Oliver, “Lead”, **New and Selected Poems, Vol. II**

