

down. Wouldn't you expect them to be depressed? Instead, using donated building materials, the families got to work and with great pride are showing off their new rooms. In one family the father showed us the dirt floor where he and his wife sleep so that their children can sleep in lean-to. He was grateful to be able to care for his children.

We are now in a time of Advent when we contemplate readings that speak of light in the darkness. Some of the darkness stems from the fact that we aren't taking care of our Earth, especially in industrialized countries. The effects will eventually touch everybody, but first the most vulnerable are the poor. How can we believe that the darkness will not overcome the light? We must follow the example of the poor—live more simply and stand in solidarity with our neighbors in need.

Prayer

Light of the World, we celebrate this Advent with hearts full of longing for your coming. In the darkness of our world, give us courage to search for truth. Help us to welcome and empower those displaced by environmental crisis. Give us insight to recognize the needs of our neighbors and break down the barriers which separate and fragment us. Give us passion to create a more just society. Help us bring hope to those in despair. We thank you for the gift of life and beg your protection for all you have made.

Call to Action

If you live in the United States, [tell your U.S. representative and senators](#) it's time for bipartisan action on climate change in response to flooding in Peru and three major hurricanes in the United States.

[Urge the World Bank](#) to phase out investments in fossil fuel projects.