

them in Creole. Then he called me “mommy,” and I cried. It hurt to leave him. I still carry his picture in my wallet. I worry that he and many other Haitian children will never reach their full potential.

I think it is very important to help others in times of crisis, even though my absence causes hardship for my children and my husband, and disaster response work can be dangerous. Sometimes, too, the task seems overwhelmingly futile—but if I can do work that is meaningful to me, and it helps one person to live, or live better, then I am doing my part to repair the world.

FAVORITE JEWISH EXPERIENCE:

Attending a Kol Nidre service in a Baptist church in Baton Rouge right after Hurricane Katrina. More than 10,000 people were missing, and I’d spent the day speaking with family members who’d lost a loved one and taking DNA samples to help identify the bodies in the morgue. It was emotionally draining to hear so many

stories of death and loss. That night, the Jewish people in the area gathered in the church which had offered their building for services because all the synagogues had been damaged. A doctor named Hal and I showed up wearing our scrubs. Hearing the mournful sound of the cello evoke the Kol Nidre melody somehow brought us a sense of calm in this place of chaos and death. I have never been moved like that before or since. Every year I think of that service and the people who were touched by that storm.

FAVORITE JEWISH BOOK: *The Narrow Bridge: Beyond the Holocaust.* Rabbi Isaac Neuman shares how he managed to find light in the darkest of times, maintaining his faith and observing Jewish rituals in concentration camps while knowing his family had been murdered—an enduring reminder of how faith can help you to be a better person and to practice Judaism no matter where you are. □



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