

REFLECTION

BLD NEWARK COVENANT COMMUNITY

IN GOD, I PUT MY TRUST!

“We are afflicted in every way, but not constrained; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our body.” (2 Cor 4:8-10)

I worked in the remote bush areas of Africa, naive of the cultural background of the people. There was mostly very hot weather and no electricity. Water was rationed, food was scarce, drinking water boiled and filtered. All these made me feel desperate and abandoned, like carrying a heavy cross for the six years that I worked there. In the darkness I would look at the stars and ask, “Oh Lord, what have I done to myself?”

I tried to look for greener pastures but failed. I am a believer, but my faith was not strong. Doubts clouded my mind the times I would ask, “If there is God, where is He when I am walking alone through these troubles?” I expected Him to come every time I needed Him. I did not realize that God knows all my needs and is always there, watching with fatherly care. The question really is, have I really cared what God commands me to do? Did I see His provident hand that gave me the opportunity to travel and discover a new world?

In my loneliness, I heard the Lord’s voice telling me, *“Look at the sky and you will see me shining upon you. Do not be afraid, I am the Lord your God.”* Shaken, I wanted to hold on to my Lord but He was nowhere to be found. Still, I found myself physically and mentally strong as I started to spend my nonworking hours helping build a small Catholic church in the village. I began to feel comfort and peace with the beauty of my surroundings - the mountains and plains, the birds and baobab trees and all of God’s mighty creation. I was contrite for having doubted and strayed. I needed to put all my trust and fully commit to the Lord, seeking His heart’s desire for my life. *“I shall walk before the Lord in the land of the living.” (Ps 116:9)*

I now seek to live according to His Word that will nourish and sustain me. My dark episode in a strange land served to strengthen my faith and made me grow in the love of the Lord. How beautiful is God’s promise! ***“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, on your own intelligence rely not. In all your ways be mindful of him, and he will make straight your paths.” (Prv 3:5-6)***