STORIES FROM MALAWI

In The Hands of God

by Thomas Kutzer

To pick a single moment and say, "my favorite part of the trip to Malawi was…" is impossible. But it's hard not to know what I took home from Africa. I took home a connection with God and people that cannot be made from the comfort of my own home or my own congregation.

Working in Malawi when I was fifteen years old was the first time I truly felt that God was with me. When I was about to board the first plane of three that would carry us aloft for twenty hours to an unknown land, I wasn't scared. Something just let me know that God was right with me, protecting me and those with me. To see the vast, barely touched landscape and admire its beauty, it was impossible not to view it as a piece of art, with the master artist right over my shoulder, watching my reaction to his glorious creation.

I met new people who have a deeper understanding of the word sacrifice than you can imagine, and I knew that God is with all of us. I met a child who could not even stand, who had already lost more than any child should ever lose, her parents. But I saw that child smile, and I knew that even with that loss she still had hope. I thought that every sadness I'd ever felt was insignificant, and I knew that God is there caring for that child and has a plan for her. For the first time, I felt I was in the hands of God and I felt safe, joyous, and a feeling that can't possibly be named, a feeling that makes you want to fall to your knees and cry, but also jump for joy and hug everyone you see. But it was the lack of fear that was so unbelievable. Nothing seemed to be dangerous, even during the riots in Lilongwe, when gunshots could be heard from the guest house in which we were staying. From the moment we boarded that first plane, I realized we were in the hands of God, and I have felt it ever since.

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