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MOVED WITH COMPASSION!

Mark 6:34

“When Jesus disembarked (from the boat) and saw the vast crowd, his heart was moved with compassion for them, for they were like sheep without a shepherd...”

Many of you know that I have a ministry in East Africa where I am dedicated to serving the needs of our brothers and sisters there seven months each year. Due to the dire situation of poverty many of them face from day to day, I am often overwhelmed with the number of requests for assistance that gets placed in my hands. Because this ministry operates strictly by donations, I am able to help some but I am not able to give assistance to so many more who come to me.

One afternoon, I received a knock on my door. It was one more person in need, a young man of 20 years old named John, carrying a large brown envelope. As I suspected, the brown envelope contained his school papers and he was looking for some financial assistance to pursue further education. He did not open the envelope right away nor did he bring up the subject of further education for himself at the start. What he shared with me, instead, was his life experience of the past five years—which was to explain his present situation.

Five years ago (when he was fifteen years old), John’s father died and left behind him, his mother, an older sister and a younger brother. As is sometimes their custom, his uncles tried to convince his mother to marry one of them. Obviously, this was all about ownership of their deceased brother’s property and money. The mother refused, so they encouraged her to take the children to the home village for a period of mourning with the other family members. When the young man’s mother and children returned to their place, they discovered that these uncles had seized all their property and sold everything—leaving him and his family with nothing. John’s mother suffered a nervous breakdown and she continues to be under medication for it to this day. Somewhere in the midst of all these events, the younger brother also died. So, this young man’s family has no assets and no family members to turn to for support.

I said to John: “Let us put aside the paperwork and let me hug you.” He complied immediately and, once I put my arms around him to give him a hug, he just cried and cried. I realized that these tears were five years of suffering from abandonment, deception and looking at a hopeless future. In those moments of hugging this young man, I felt deeply the compassion that Jesus felt, i.e. looking at sheep without a shepherd. There was no way that I could turn John down and hand him one more disappointment in his life. I resolved that I must do something for him and his family—

- Jun 14, 2023, 12:32 AM ☆
- Jun 14, 2023, 12:32 AM ☆ ↩️ ⋮
- Jun 18, 2023, 3:13 PM ☆ ↩️ ⋮
- Jun 19, 2023, 6:49 AM ☆
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- Jun 19, 2023, 8:24 AM ☆ ↩️ ⋮