

(2nd Quarter)

STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE FOR YOUR CHURCH

As many of you know, I was part of medical team that was working in Haiti at the time of the earthquake. We were on the island of La Gonave, about 50 miles away from the devastation.

But what I learned this time was about giving. Real giving. One day my son and I were playing soccer with the kids. We were taking a break and we had handed some caramels out to the kids. Someone called us in for supper and I said to my son, “Manje,” which means to eat. One of the boys bit his caramel in half and offered it to me. People where we were at typically eat about 4-5 meals a WEEK. I was on my way to eat more than this boy will get in a several days of meals and he offers me half of what he had. That’s real giving.

We had continued the clinic after the earthquake, but it wasn’t clear how we were going to get home. All commercial flights had been cancelled for the foreseeable future. As a team, we discussed that we should begin conserving fuel for the generators and conserving our food. One of the interpreters, Dede, came to me after the meeting and said he would go to his home and bring us food if we needed any. Dede lives in a home smaller than most of our living rooms with five kids. La Gonave receives most of its food and supplies from Port-au-Prince, so his ability to provide food for his own family would soon be in question. We had more food in our kitchen than his family would eat in two months. And he offered me a gift. A gift beyond measure.

I believe strongly in being charitable, but our giving pales in comparison to a half a caramel. Our giving is embarrassing compared to an offer of emptying already bare shelves in their home. That is real giving. How is God calling us to be real stewards of our gifts?



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