

ST NICHOLAS AFRICA FUND

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You may think of mission as “preaching the gospel” but when you get here you may find yourself feeding the poor.

And you see how poverty can turn otherwise good people into worshippers of money. It's easy, in Africa, to get into a furious argument over fifty cents, because fifty cents can be a day's wages.

But why are we arguing over what still isn't enough to fill us?

As we face hunger and disease, and no obvious way out, our challenge is often to keep things in perspective. And a feeling person may realize that he isn't exactly greedy, but not yet generous either.

And it's right here that money can become a god. If we're not careful.

But right here also, a gift can be a *theophany*— where justice and mercy appear, amid corruption and greed.

For the thing about a gift is that the giver doesn't have to give it.

So we sense without even thinking about it, that love has broken in.

Sheer love— free, and without even justifying itself.

And from our side— if we even half-understood the value of the joy that rises in our hearts when we're generous, we would never eat alone again.

Would it be asking a lot for you to be warm towards our Africans today?

One is recovering from an operation, but isn't yet out of the woods. He and his family need \$200.

Kids are sick, but \$50 will heal them.

The future hangs for others on \$100 of school fees— that I don't have.

Would today be a bad day to save a life?

If I always sound like I'm exaggerating, it's because the apocalypse has already arrived. From here, you can already hear God's faithful crying, "How long, O Lord?"

And there's so much we can learn from this Africa. We haven't even started.

But a first, practical step would be to join those for whom— and with whom— Christ himself is crucified every day.

For our resurrection is just around the corner.

Please help.

Get updates from the Africa Fund!

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