

July 31<sup>st</sup>

Subject: Heart Reality

Dear Friends,

Today is the end of the month so I paid our house whole workers salaries.

Our cook cooks on an old rusted and pitted woodstove with an oven that heats only on one side so sometimes the homemade bread is really dark on one side or sometimes the bread is not cooked through though he turns out wonderful meals.

We have an older man that has an axe and he chops up wood for the stove and does various odds jobs around that the cook might need help with.

Then we have two men that go down the steep hill each morning with a basket of laundry on each of their heads. They then proceed to wash in the creek each piece by hand and this is how our laundry is done each day. These men then walk back up the very steep hill and then hang the clothes on a line with clothespins. Mother nature then dries our clothes.

You all have kept up with our challenges this summer and as a result of the unexpected delays we have run into several thousands of dollars of unexpected expenses. We are having to really watch how we spend the money and cut corners.

Today, I had to cut corners by laying off three of our house whole workers. One was the younger man that does the laundry. After I told him that I had to let him go and why, he then shared how hard it had been during the war, that the soldiers came into his house(a mud hut!) and took all of his plates, and things from his children and they even discussed taking his wife. Fortunately, they did not. He has not hardly had any work for the last 8 years and now I have had to lay him off.

How hard it was to do this. Right after I let three go a young crippled boy came up to sell two pineapples and the day watchman turned him away. I walked outside in time to see him walk away crying. I called him back and purchased his pineapples. One was still very green and one had a big hole in it yet I bought them anyway. How happy he was that he had sold his two pineapples and it was for less than 75 cents!

Having laid off three workers and then the incident with the little boy, I went to my room and wept and wept. Why Father, have these people had to suffer so much and why are they so poor? Why do we have so much and they don't?

Paul and I now make less than one half of what we made last year when we were both working and at times things get really tight yet we know where our next meal is coming from. We all live in a home that is cool in the summer and warm and comfortable in the winter. We know where our next meal is coming from and we do not have to worry about soldiers coming into our home and taking anything that they please. We do not even understand the meaning of the word sacrifice or really doing without on a daily basis.

How many of us do without anything? Most of us go out and buy anything that we want (within reason, of course). How many of us are willing to give up even one meal a month eating out and give that money to missions? (Above and beyond what you might be doing now.) What are we teaching our children about sacrifice?

We thank you for your prayers for us during these past months yet please do not forget our Congolese brothers and sisters who need Him and so much more! Marty