

## ~ RADIANT REFLECTIONS ~

GOD BLESSES THOSE WHO ARE HUMBLE, FOR THEY WILL INHERIT THE WHOLE EARTH. - MATTHEW 5:5 NLT

### Humility

*HUMILITY IS NOT THINKING LESS OF YOURSELF, IT'S THINKING OF YOURSELF LESS.*

Two weeks ago Pastor John and Pam shared with us from the third beatitude — *“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.”*

*Matthew 5:5*

We live in a world that screams the opposite of humility from many different venues. As believers we have been given a different road map to follow.

Nothing will aid in helping us stay grounded in humility better than remembering who we are, and where we came from. We each have unique back stories that help make us who we are today.

Humility, gentleness, and meekness, are safe places for our soul's to camp out in. While embracing humility it is important to recognize, and reject, her imposters — unworthiness self-

loathing, and condemnation.

*"Humility is perfect quietness of heart. It is to expect nothing, to wonder at nothing that is done to me, to feel nothing done against me. It is to be at rest when nobody praises me, and when I am blamed or despised. It is to have a blessed home in the Lord, where I can go in and shut the door, and kneel to my Father in secret, and am at peace as in a deep sea of calmness, when all around and above is trouble.*

*Andrew Murray.*

Here's what I want you to do: Find a quiet, secluded place so you won't be tempted to role-play before God. Just be there as simply and honestly as you can manage. The focus will shift from you to God, and you will

begin to sense his grace. – Matt. 6:6 the Message.

### PRAYER FOR DON AND GAIL GUNSTONE

Please remember to pray for Don and Gail Gunstone as they minister to the people of eastern Nicaragua. Don will oversee the setting up of a sawmill for some of the Christian families. Enabling them to better provide for their families. Our very own children of Radiant helped prepare and package hygiene kits to be delivered to the people of Nicaragua. Pray for safe travels – they will go by small plane to Bluefields, then 3 hours down the coast in a dugout boat with a small motor. Pray for impact as they visit the people in their homes. Pray for health. “Whatever you do for one of My brothers or sisters, no matter how unimportant they seem, you do for Me” Mt. 25:40

## The Village

### A story from our last outreach to Barberry Village



Long before we arrived at Barberry Village apartments, I had visited this place in my imagination; and visualized the people who live there. Guided by excitement and anticipation, I ran different scenarios through my mind of what my first encounters with those who call this village home may be like. Unlike others who have chosen to make eternal investments and live amongst the people, — I am a visitor. I wondered to myself; how would we be received? Who might we meet?

As we neared the village entrance I noticed women wearing the Islamic dress called hijab (scarfs or veils worn by Muslim women). Some may have looked upon them with fear and apprehension — I see a beautiful mired of colors gently covering those who are made in the image of God.

The women and I exchanged smiles and my excitement grew. There is little that compares to the warm and welcome exchange that needs no translation — a heartfelt smile. I hoped and prayed that I would be given the gift of meeting these beautiful women.

I had come prepared to meet children; armed with coloring books, crayons, colored pens, bubbles, and games. It didn't take long to recognize where the village children were gathered. We made our way over to them and found the best seat in the house — the ground. I wanted to be eye to eye with them, and hopefully set a stage that was welcoming. Thank God children error in being uninhibited, and soon we were surrounded by small people from a number of different nations.

One of the young Middle Eastern girls caught my attention almost immediately. She was about the size of a 10 year old child. I have learned to listen to that quite voice that urges me to pay attention, and look to see what He is saying in moments like this. I began to engage her in conversation and she was more than willing to join in. I quickly learned that her name was Samaa. She shared with me that she was 17 years old but suffered with an illness that made her appear much younger and smaller. I learned that her brother had died from a similar sickness. She spoke as one with strength, dignity, and without a hint of pity. Her bright brown eyes and contagious smile permeated my heart. She and her family are Iraqi refugees. She late invited me to her home where I met her mother and sisters.

I am humbled, and honored that the Lord would allow me to meet Samaa and her family. I will talk to God about them often. A chance encounter — I think not. In fact, I don't' believe in random coincidences. I would fly across the globe to meet Samaa and her family. I didn't have to do that this time — I was in America. God may call you to go to the other side of the earth — or across the street; either way you will be so glad you did!

