

God's Steadfast Love and Compassion

by Nicole Capps

As I reflect back on traveling to Kenya in June this summer, I am so overwhelmed by God's steadfast love and compassion. He was so evident at each step of our trip and I'm so grateful for the opportunity to share a small glimpse into some of those moments.

In between our two retreats, we had two days to visit families in their homes. The first day, we took a matatu [an African transportation vehicle similar to a van] and traveled to the first home. After sharing tea, bread and testimonies, we moved on to the second home to visit. As we walked to the second home, we passed many neighbors in the community. Once we arrived at the second home, we again shared in tea, cookies and testimonies. Emma, Josh, Zach and I were each given a time to share testimonies or thoughts that we felt led to share. Before it was my turn, I thought I knew which testimony I wanted to share. However, the Spirit led me to share a specific scripture passage and the impact it has had in my life. The scripture verses were 3 Nephi 8:2-10. It is when Jesus has come to the people and then says He will leave and come back the next day. The people pause and Jesus can tell they desire Him to stay. Verse 6 says, **Behold, My bowels are filled with compassion toward you. Have ye any that are sick among you? Bring them hither.** These verses show who Jesus is. He sees each of His children. He knows our hearts. He is compassionate. I shared how Jesus is my best friend and how my relationship with Him and my faith in God would not be the same without the Book of Mormon.

As we all finished sharing, one of the neighbors we had passed as we walked to our visit came into the home and introduced himself as a local pastor of another church. He asked if we would come and pray for a woman who attended his church. We followed him to her home and into a very small room. The woman was lying on a mattress on the floor and, through a translator, we were told her name was Teresa and she was unable to get up and walk. She also had a large growth on her eye. A prayer was prayed and then she was administered to. During the time in her room, I was reminded of the verses in 3 Nephi 8:9; how it said the people were healed, including the lame and the blind. I added my silent prayers of faith as the administration occurred. We all stood to go and I was the last one to leave Teresa's room. I told her that God loved her and so did I. I wasn't sure if we would ever find out if she received a physical blessing. However, once we returned home, Zach sent a message to all of us saying he had heard that Teresa was doing better and had been able to travel.

Visiting the homes, praying for Teresa, and seeing so many people hungry and excited for the gospel are experiences I will never forget.