

In Africa so many things seem unloving and don't make any sense to me

Our Unification Church Missionary in Africa

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Photo date and location unknown

I cannot fully relate to the family lifestyle here. So many things seem unloving and don't make any sense to me; the parents sometimes are totally unloving to the children, and in fact seem to ignore them. But I can see this is not really what it appears to be to me, but they are ruled by their culture and traditions and not by love. Anyway, I don't say anything; I just try to serve and be cheerful.

I can't imagine to bathe another way now, except out of a bucket with a big cup. It's the way we all do here. Eating is a bit of a problem because often there is not enough food for me. I don't say anything and I always say I have eaten something because they would be hurt to think there wasn't enough and they then get defensive. This defensive thing is really something... I have found in everyone I've met that they are constantly accused and defensive even if you say hello and they don't understand what you want. They constantly cry out "It's not my fault" even before you explain what you need, such a shock for me. If you speak unkindly they are totally crushed and ruined and shocked and hurt beyond anything normal. Wow, such a thing to witness.

So I try to be gentle, but the way they treat each other is a mindblower. Not in my family, but on the streets. You can't find this in the States, except perhaps in a few parts of New York City. The whole city is mean and vicious and one must fight even to buy bread. But now I am used to it and I just walk through it all. In the past I almost died from it. It's a miracle what has happened in my heart because of living with a pastor's family. I can understand many many actions now which I couldn't fathom before. And I feel compassion for the people before I am offended by them. But it is still difficult to actually love everyone, when most people want to rip you off, thinking you are like all other whites they know, who are here to take and get what they can and flaunt their wealth, etc.

It's so confusing because the whites really don't know how to relate to the world around them either. They are living as if they were in Europe or America, because they don't know another lifestyle. But it appears to be wealthy and sinful here compared to the lifestyle of the Africans around them.

Not all the Africans are poor and ignorant, but most of them are, and their rich brothers are not doing anything to help them. The rich Africans are worse than most white people here. Oh, let me not go on about it, it's the facts of life, and our mission is much more deep and beautiful and like a precious secret amidst all the trash and junk around us.