

Greetings dear friends,

Hilda and I arrived in Kukurantumi, Ghana March 1st. We are well. We are also very busy. We are also trusting in God for all things.

On our arrival the first day, the downstairs toilet tank fell off the wall and broke on the floor (the bolts had rusted through), the battery on my car was not only dead, but too oxidized to be salvaged. We addressed these problems, Hilda went to the market two days later and bought 40 pounds of frozen fish for our librarian in-service in April, and on return home, discovered that our freezer was not working well. We called a repairman late that evening and thanks to God, we got the freezer and the fridge back in good working order.

So, yes, we have been busy and trusting in God. Isn't that what Lent is about? Isn't that what each day of our lives is about? Well, maybe not the busyness, but the trust in God. Our busyness was what occurs when you have been away for ten months and you return "home" to set your house in order.

I read this morning that Holy Week, the week in Jesus' life leading up to the Cross and the Resurrection, was the most important time in Jesus' life, and, in our faith life, the high point of the year. There is truth in this, but I believe, just as important, are the day in and day out moments of faith that we wake up to each morning. Jesus' life wasn't one moment; He had temptations in the desert, and he had daily instances to show love and mercy to the people of His life, and times of teaching in parables and by His example, a daily witness to a life of the Spirit. Each day is blessed and important. I have to live a life of faith the other six days and not Sunday only, nor only Lent and Holy Week.

O.K., enough preaching.

Hilda and I dragged the tables and benches out this morning and set them out for the distribution of eyeglasses to the people of Kukurantumi. Thanks to Shirley Tabaka for the donation of a gross of magnifying, reading glasses again this year. We announced the distribution in town over the town's loudspeaker for the past three days; it was to start at 9 AM. Already, when Hilda and I returned from morning Mass at 7:10, people were at our house asking about the glasses. I have included some pictures below. This is the 10th year or so that we have been distributing them. We decided to add a small cost of the equivalent of 50 cents to each pair; the money to go to the help the town's library. Everybody in town accepts this, and the small cost, which is reasonable, adds to the appreciation of the glasses (but we gift them out free to those who can't pay) .

I just returned from four days in Beirut, Lebanon where I met with the International Coordinating Team and Board of Directors of Faith and Light, the international group of prayer communities for people with developmental disabilities and their parents and friends. We are planning a General Assembly of all of the 1400+ prayer communities throughout the world to meet in Beirut this July. It will be an exciting and holy time for the prayer communities. It is another merciful work of the LORD that Hilda and I are involved in.

The people of Beirut are so very hospitable. In 2012 Pope Benedict XVI visited Lebanon and referred to the Lebanese people in their graciousness and openness to diversity as an example to the world. The six million people in Lebanon currently include 1.5 million

refugees from Syria and other neighboring countries. This small nation has 72 Faith and Light communities. Through openness and compassion they are witnesses to Christ's love for all people.

We are with you in prayer and in Christ's love and mercy,
Kirt and Hilda



