

FaithBIT



A Stranger, Welcomed

Reflection by Gary Thrasher

1 Peter 4:8 - Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling.

On the first day of our recent Kilimanjaro trip in Tanzania, I was amazed by the local village people's genuine welcome, friendship and hospitality. I wrote in my diary:

"Throughout the day people stop by the farm to shake hands, hold hands and hug... as if we had been long lost friends. I noted that these people are sincere and honest, and they don't seem to expect handouts or covet our American pleasures and comforts. After we had lunch, Martin, Bob and I took a walk on the dirt paths in the village. Everyone along the way greeted us a smile and the word 'Jambo'. As we walked along, I heard what I thought was a live brass band. I decided that I wanted to listen more closely, so I went to the house and knocked on the door. A young man answered the door whose name was Happy Son. He explained that he was playing music on his loud stereo system and playing his instrument along with the recording. We all had a laugh, and he dropped what he was doing and went with us to lead us back to our group. I spent several more hours of friendship with him throughout the remainder of the day."



"I wonder, if a man from Africa knocked on my door, would I have done the same thing?" - Gary Thrasher

As I reflect on this little story, I am reminded that Happy Son was doing exactly what Jesus did throughout his life. He stopped what he was doing and took time to bring enlightenment, comfort and joy into other's lives.

I wonder, if a man from Africa knocked on my door, would I have done the same thing? I pray that Happy Son's example will impact the way I welcome strangers. I know that I would never have considered it if I hadn't experienced it myself.