REFLECTIONS OF AN AMERICAN ON LIFE IN AFRICA

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Categories: Africa, Mission

Ben has just interviewed a colleague from the US who spent three years studying in Africa. His insights are fascinating and well worth a read.

> ***How do you think your three years here will impact your future?***
> *Good huge question. I suspect my understanding of God and this world, of people and community, of the power of faith, it will all be enriched and matured. I used to joke that seminary in Kenya was my Dagobah (where Luke got trained by Yoda in Star Wars), but now I realize how truly changed I am by that stretching time. God is truly the worldâ€™s greatest hope, and this fact has been confirmed time and time again. We prayed for food during hunger, and it came; for rain during drought, and it came. We prayed against disease and handed out medicine, and people were healed. A seminary experience is something that should verse folks in the depth of this worldâ€™s need while enabling them to join Godâ€™s restorative work, and I am proud to say I learned this during my MDiv in Kenya.*
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> ***In light of your experiences, what do you have to say to your American friends?***
> *Donâ€™t go to abroad in the name of salvation. Go there to learn from it (or have a nice vacation that helps its economy). Once you know the place, the only help it needs is the enabling kind. I met many teams of missionaries there, one I remember which spent $200,000 for twenty-five punky kids to feel like they had helped â€˜Save Africaâ€™, but Kenya actually has the same percent professing Christians as the US (CIA World Factbook), and the punks only poured a foundation to a kitchen (true story). Meanwhile many of my close friends were eating on $15/month, unable to afford text books let alone any healthcare. It was awful to live between this dichotomy. (read the whole interview)*