



**June 17, 2009**

**Letter from Frank & Nancy Dimmock,  
PCUSA Mission Co-Workers in Lesotho**

**[Frank & Nancy Dimmock are back in the  
U.S. for interpretation during August and  
September]**

Dear Friends,

She was rummaging through our garbage bags the day before yesterday, her breath frosty in the wintry air, her thin frame draped in a thin blanket. She looked up, frightened, as I drove past her into our carport. I came out to greet her. She responded with wariness. Then I said, “Please tie the bags back up when you’ve finished.” And I was amazed by the transformation. Her face lit up with a big smile as she nodded her agreement. What had caused the change? She heard my unconscious acceptance of her in my lack of censure and responded with relief and pleasure. We connected. Wow.

And she taught me a wonderful lesson. Grace and mercy—attributes of God Himself—are gifts that we can give one another. They are gifts I need to extend to my children and my husband more often. They are gifts I need to give my friends. They are gifts I need to give to myself—wondering, as I often do, about the value of my “ministry in the home.”

God punctuated this lesson in a recent reading from Joni Eareckson Tada:

Glory, I’ve learned, is what God is all about. His essential being. Whenever you talk about His character or attributes—like holiness, love, compassion, justice, truth, grace or mercy—that’s God’s glory .... So how is it that you and I can glorify God? It happens every time we reveal His attributes in the course of our daily lives. Every time you share the good news of Christ with another. Every time you reflect patience in the middle of an upsetting or perplexing problem. Every time you smile from the heart or offer an encouraging word. Whenever those around you see God’s character displayed in your attitudes and responses, you are displaying His glory .... God’s glory isn’t reserved for a temple of stone or some heavenly vista. It can shine out clearly while you are changing a flat on the freeway ... or counseling an angry co-worker ... or lying in a hospital bed ... or balancing two crying babies in the church nursery.

What encouraging, heart-lifting, validating thoughts! We bring God glory when we accept and minister to beggars and garbage-rummagers. We bring God glory when we wipe our kids’ noses and attend to their skinned knees. We bring God glory when we visit a local city orphanage and love on the kids there. We bring God glory when we listen to a discouraged colleague or an overwhelmed pastor. We bring God glory when we share ideas and best practices for appropriate responses to meeting the needs of children and communities across the African continent. We share God’s glory when we help a fellow passenger with a too-heavy load—struggling through the airport or struggling through life. Simple things. Grace and mercy. Gifts that we can give each other. We hope that you are experiencing them and sharing them in your daily lives, too—and, thereby bringing God glory!

All is well with our family. Nathan is working as a volunteer coordinator with Ministry of Hope in Malawi this summer and loving it. Moses is working on a required summer school course, anticipating



Nancy with a baby in an orphanage in Maseru, Lesotho.

his graduation in December. Jesse is working as waterfront coordinator for Montreat summer activities and is enjoying that. Katie has applied to and been accepted to Anderson University in Indiana in the fall, planning to major in physical education and coaching. This direction came from her wonderful experience here working as assistant PE teacher at the international primary school. We have really enjoyed having her with us these past few months. Andrew completes primary school in a few weeks and will graduate to the big international high school called Machabeng (which literally means “the place of many nations”). He faces that transition with some trepidation and would appreciate your prayers. Alifa, Isaac, and Jackson are all doing well, enjoying school and their many friends. The primary school closes on July 3 and reopens August 24. We will be able to spend that interim in the States! We are looking forward to seeing family and to visiting with some of you. The kids and I will be there for five weeks, but Frank will be there for a full three months of itineration, including two weeks of World Mission Challenge.



Frank with a pastor friend in Ethiopia.

We hope you and your presbytery have heard about and signed up for World Mission Challenge! Forty PC(USA) mission personnel will visit hundreds of congregations across the United States this fall to tell how God is at work around the world. World Mission Challenge ‘09 will be held September 25–October 18, 2009. Learn more: at [the Mission Challenge Web site](#) or call Ellen Dozier at 888-728-7228, x5916.

And Mission Challenge will conclude with World Mission Celebration, a large gathering for Presbyterians who care deeply about mission. This event will be held October 22–24 in downtown Cincinnati, Ohio, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel and the adjoining Duke Energy Center. Learn more at [the Mission Celebration Web site](#) or by calling Lis Valle at 888-728-7228 5279.



A well at Akobo Hospital in Sudan.

With love from all of us,

Frank, Nancy, Nathan, Moses, Jesse, Katie, Andrew, Alifa, Isaac and Jackson