



United Methodist Volunteers in Mission

December 3, 2010

A Letter of Reflection from Matt Lacey:

"An Unexpected Christ

We worship a God who likes to show up in unexpected places. As we enter into the season of Advent there is no greater reminder that God, in the most improbable of times, gave God's self in the gift of the Christ-child to humanity. We should never forget that Christ was born to parents who would have never anticipated who they would raise; who were homeless and on the run from a King seeking to kill their child. The conditions were less than ideal for the Son of Man to come--but God showed up in the unexpected.

Advent is a time when we reflect on how God has showed up unexpectedly in our lives. How God has a tendency to show up in the most unlikely places, just like on that night in Bethlehem.

For many, we know that God has surprised many of us in the mission field. Showing up in places we would have least expected, in people and faces whom we have never seen and perhaps will never see again. God is always seeking to remind us how big God is--from the example of the Christ-child, to the Haitian widow or the farmer in Upper Sand Mountain Parish. God is in the business of surprising us.

During Advent, I encourage you to reflect on those times when God has showed up when you least expected it. But more than that, reflect on how you can show the love of Christ in unexpected places as well. Just as God gives us the Christ-child, God calls us to give the love of Christ as well."

Matt Lacey
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