

Reflection

'You are not you when you're hungry'

There is a television commercial that made the rounds a bit ago. Four young guys are in a car traveling. Whenever one of the four guys gets hungry, he turns into a diva. So in the picture now there are three guys and this gal with big hair and a beautiful dress. The other guy in the back seat says, "Please eat a Snickers. You know whenever you get hungry you turn into a diva." So she tears the wrapper off the snickers, takes a bite and immediately turns back into the fourth guy.

Then comes the punch line. "You're not you when you're hungry."

I almost came up out of my chair. "You're not you when you're hungry." What an accurate description of hungry people. "You're not you."

We're here today in behalf of people who are not themselves. They are anything, anyone, but themselves. Hunger has altered their lives. Hunger has changed how they see themselves. Hunger has made every day a prayer for survival. Hunger has brought pain and illness and suffering that we have no clue about. Hunger has made these sisters and brothers into someone other than what they were created to be.

For people of Christian faith we go back to the beginning to find our identity. All the way back in Genesis, we discover that human beings were created "in the image of God." That's who we are as human beings in the human family. All of us. The hungry and the well fed.

We're here today because we believe that the image of God is to be found in the hungry. And we want that image to shine again in all the fullness that life can offer. No, you're not you when you're hungry. And we want you, people of Malawi, to be you in all your glory and wonder and beauty. We want you people of Bamba, Kenya, to be you. We want you, people of Eastern Zambia and Congo and Nicaragua, to be you in all your glory and wonder and beauty.

And so we come here today in faith to put our dollars together to raise these crops that the proceeds might help the people of the world to be who you are, created in the image of God.

"You're not you when you're hungry."

The Biblical call to do what we're doing rings clear over and over again. In Luke 3, John the Baptist is asked by the crowds, "What shall we do?" They've been listening to him preaching about bearing fruit. "What shall we do?" "If you have two coats share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise."

The Book of James speaks of faith that is dead and faith that is alive. If our faith does not have hands and feet and heart, if it's not faith that reaches out to the hungry, of what use is it?

And so in faith, we have again committed ourselves to this good work, as individuals, as churches, as corporate sponsors, as partners together and with Foods Resource Bank.

Go on the FRB website. If you don't do computers get your grandchildren to take you to the site. Look up Malawi Nkhoma. See the pictures of the lean-to and the new brick nursery block school. See the community health worker reports of less anti-malnutrition drugs being used. See the beautiful crops that are raised. And you will discover what these dollars are doing to make life better.

See the images and you will discover what we are helping to do through FRB to walk with the people of Malawi as they shine in all their glory.

It's the fruit of giving. It's the fruit of generosity. It's the fruit of faith that is alive, not dead.

We do it to the glory of God and our neighbors' good.

— Tim Ritchey Martin, Field of Hope Harvest Celebration
Myersville, Maryland, October 24, 2010