

The artist occasionally took some of her creations to other villages to present them for sale, as she needed a way to supplement her living expenses. I worked my mission travels around her schedule so that I could help her make these trips. She not only needed the physical strength for moving large items – she needed emotional support as well. I encouraged her to continue her artist work, as for me it showed how the Holy Spirit was working through her.

As a friend I was committed to supporting her in this manner of service. It occurred to me during one of these occasions, as I was giving of my time, that I was doing a good thing – and then I realized that this was such a minuscule sacrifice compared to the sacrifice of Christ!

I could compare my effort to that of a dust particle that fell from Christ – the very tiniest part of Him. It was like the shadow of Christ, not even really material, but the projection of Him onto others and onto the world. It was not anything like what Christ does in magnitude, but it was consistent with his love and sacrifice. It was not a big heroic thing to do, but it was nonetheless effective and useful.

God loves every particle that He created – and that includes each of us!

We are, as a group, to be the representation of Christ on this earth. We are to be refigured in His image, and become the reflection of His glory. But individually, I feel that I am only the fleetest hint of the aroma of Christ¹, and only a bare taste of His nature². I am only a part of the shadow of Christ, more of a shimmering mirage that is not quite real.

I realize, though, that there are sometimes great things expected of even a shadow. People thought that the shadow of Peter³ could heal them. And the same was thought of the healing power of things that had merely been touched by Paul⁴. There was nothing spectacular in any of that, but Good was done nonetheless. And some Good can be done by even someone like me.

1. See 2 Corinthians 2:14-15.

2. 1 John 4:10; God's love is shown to be infinitely greater than ours.

3. Acts 5:15.

4. Acts 19:11-12.