

2013 October 2          Recent thoughts on wickedness and righteousness

*“...righteousness and judgment are the habitation of his throne.” (Psalm 97:2)*

The last week of clinic in September there were reminders of the wretched state of this world. I heard from a Kenyan pastor who regularly sends scripture-based notes of encouragement. I could sense his shocked pain after the terrorist attack in Nairobi, but he was vibrant in his faith in God.

We had a sad update from one of our patients. Last year she became pregnant, and then had a hard time as she carried twins. She needed a C-section, and then developed heart problems, which is why she came to see us. She was under much stress because the father of the children was not giving much help. The four-month old boys became severely ill several weeks ago and were hospitalized. Only one of the babies lived. This unmarried woman told us the last day of clinic that her “father-in-law” had been taking the babies and leaving them in the street overnight, and still tried to do that with her surviving baby. She has heard the Gospel, but is not willing to turn in faith to Jesus Christ. Meanwhile, she suffers, and is discouraged and depressed.

A few weeks ago I was reflecting on information from so many places in the world about the persecution of Christians. While we know the names of pastors in Iran and North Korea, there are many “nameless” (to us, not to God) brothers and sisters in Christ who are suffering the loss of homes, health, family members and even their own lives—just because they are Christians. I had a desire so great it was a physical ache for God’s character to be displayed throughout the earth, for justice to be done because the righteous Judge reigns, for those who suffer for Christ to be consoled in their trials and encouraged to stand fast. I was greatly comforted by the promise of Matthew 5:6. Some day the earth will be filled with God’s righteousness and free from sin, and so will I. And I will be satisfied.

*“Nevertheless, we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness..” (II Peter 3:13)*

I returned safely to the Greenville SC area on September 27. Thanks for praying!

In our Lord’s service,

Dr. Anne