

O Lord God Almighty...Dispel the darkness of our hearts, that by your brightness we may know you to be the true God and eternal light.

—*The Book of Common Prayer*, p. 110



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13

I had the opportunity to travel to Ghana with Episcopal Relief & Development last year. One third of the population of Ghana lives in poverty. Malnutrition is chronic, and malaria claims the lives of 22 percent of children under five. One of our most sobering visits was to Cape Coast Castle, once the largest slave-trading center in West Africa. After we finished the dark walk through the bowels of the castle and touched the foundation of pain that forever changed the landscape of human history, we visited a craft area with artwork from local Ghanaians. A small, metal sculpture of a basket holding a baby caught my eye. The baby in the basket was the Christ child.

How was Christ in the slave trade? The artist said that if they have learned anything in Ghana, it is that Christ lives in each person. Christ is in the pain and in the joy. This simple yet profound glimpse of Christ as human and divine reminds me that it is up to us to proclaim and live the ultimate message of the gospel, the message of Christ the savior and Christ the child in all lives.

The sculpture sits on my desk and cues me to pray and meditate on seeing the presence of the divine in all lives I see.

—**Lisa Jacoby**