

If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

—Romans 12:18



**TUESDAY, MARCH 15**

In this age of global information, people do not need to leave their house, let alone their countries, to experience the unfamiliar and, as a result, to see the world and themselves in a new light. But those who travel, particularly those who journey to places where daily life is starkly different, can attest to how intense and confounding feelings of wonder, vulnerability, unity and isolation can stir the soul like no other experience.

As I have lived abroad and continue to travel frequently for my work with Episcopal Relief & Development, I have found it is surprisingly easy to become numb to the things that once stirred me. French novelist Marcel Proust said, “The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes, but in having new eyes.” I am learning that these new eyes – like mindfulness and other spiritual disciplines – require continuous practice. These are traits that every international development practitioner strives for – and to which I aspire each and every day.

—**Vanessa Pizer**