

I sing because I'm happy, I sing because I'm free,  
for his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me.

“His Eye Is on the Sparrow”  
—Civilla D. Martin



SATURDAY, MARCH 19

I take eight international trips a year, primarily to Latin America and Africa. I have what makes for good stories: tales of crazy dreams induced by antimalarials, cold bucket baths, and long, bumpy, dusty road trips to communities. Although I feel humbled and blessed in the presence of people who have little and share everything, that is not the only thing that inspires me to continue my work. Instead, it is the constant opportunity and variety of ways I am afforded to joyfully connect my spirit to individuals and communities.

In Kenya, it is the bonding handshake I wish I could give everywhere, the dances I am invited to join (but probably shouldn't) and the laughter I share with passion fruit farmers about being an expert in opening the fruit because one of them taught me years ago. In Guatemala, seed planting with three spirited children, all under ten, honestly gave me pure joy. That moment, when the kids showed me how to pluck a sunflower seed, took me back to childhood summers in Spain where I walked with my family on Sunday afternoons with no destination but plenty of sunflower seeds to share.

Yes, I have what makes for good stories. The best ones are about when and where I've seen God. Today I invite you to reflect on how God enters your life in times of happiness with others.

—Kellie McDaniel