

*Old friends, old scenes, will lovelier be,  
as more of heaven in each other we see;  
some softening gleam of love and prayer  
shall dawn on every cross and care.*

— *The Hymnal 1982, #10*  
John Keble

## FRIDAY, APRIL 7

I was fortunate to travel to Ghana last year with Episcopal Relief & Development. I joined a group of Episcopalians from the United States to enter into the sacred space of Ghanaian families participating in projects and programs addressing their very own poverty.

Amidst the Ghanaians' very concrete and compelling needs, their wealth of spirit stuck with me like a lump in my throat. Women danced to welcome us in every place, opening their homes, their lives and their very intimate celebrations to a group of perfect strangers. They reminded me what it means to be a woman, a Christian and a person who celebrates the strength of the Holy Spirit while in the midst of suffering. They were the "lovelier be" to me, the heaven I could once again see in another, the softening of a long hardened gaze, the reminder of beauty and the vulnerability of prayer and the promise of a coming dawn.

May we learn to see the heaven in others as we turn toward Christ and the promise of the sunrise.

—Karen Longenecker