

# World Missions News & Information

## Pure and Genuine Religion

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*By Michael Goodling*

“Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress ...” (James 1:27).

What exactly did the apostle James mean by this statement?

I believe he was addressing the two most vulnerable people groups on earth.

Recently I visited the orphans pictured above. The one in the red sweatshirt is holding a piece of stale bread and an avocado he found. It's food for the day. I found a crumbling mud house. But I found no latrine. They are relieving themselves in the field above their water supply. It is absolutely filthy, but it's all they have to drink.

They're not going to school because there is no income to pay the school fees. How will they survive? No food, contaminated water, no toilet, no defense from those who will abuse and hurt them. My heart is torn as my mind wildly assesses ways to help them.

Next visit ... the widow pictured on the right. She has poured water in a hole she dug in an effort to patch the holes in her mud house before the rains come. Did you catch that? A mud house in the rain? Think about how this story will progress.

Have you ever seen a woman cry because you gave her shampoo? I have. She can't afford it and only uses homemade bars of soap.

Have you ever seen parents praise God for receiving toothbrushes for their children? I have. All their children could do was put baking soda on their fingers and rub it on their teeth. No money for toothpaste.

HIS ONLY TOY WAS A "BALL" MADE OUT OF USED GROCERY BAGS

Have you ever seen a child with his only toy being a "ball" he made out of used plastic grocery bags? I have.

I have seen things that no one should ever see. I've seen children living like animals knowing that Americans spend more than \$1 billion annually on their pets.

We just finished the Christmas season where people climb over each other to get the best deals on gifts. They push and shove and fight over the best parking spots at the mall.

But where I live, Christmas passed unnoticed by many. It's more important to survive for one more day than to give gifts or put up a tree in the house.

It's all perspective. Thank you to all who support missions so faithfully each month. We can't do what we do without you.

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