

Charrette DeAnna Bone

After an adventurous, beautiful journey our team arrived at Charrette. As we pulled up the steep dirt path, we were on the receiving end of curious stares from the few children roaming about during class. My attention was quickly captured by a couple of giggling children playing in the yard of the home that sits on the hill just below the school. A boy and girl, who appear to be three and four years in age. As their sweet faces turn to look at us, the smiles fade into shy stares. We smile and wave. Their bright smiles quickly return, and they wave back enthusiastically. After a few minutes, they go back to playing. I stand there silently watching them play excitedly with only a stick, small length of wire, and an empty spool. I take notice of their surroundings. As they play, their mother is hanging a few items of clothing to dry over a string tied to a tree. The home looked to be about the size of my master bathroom and appeared to be made from mud and leaves. There wasn't much else to see. They were all just joyfully going on about their day. No need for all of our western world "stuff". Most would say that they have nothing. But I believe this is far from the truth. Although they lack basic necessities like access to clean water and healthcare that everyone should have, in a way they have far more than we do. Or, at the very least, I believe they have an abundance in areas of life that are truly important. Such as family that live and work together to care for each other. Joy in the simplest of life's pleasures. And faith that will get them through even the roughest of times.

As I was observing these precious little children, I couldn't help but think about how much we take for granted. Essentially it was just a few moments captured in time, but it taught me to pause and ask myself what is truly important in this life. Not only to me but more importantly to God. What opportunities has He put in my path that I was too distracted to see? How many times did He want me to be a blessing to others that I was too busy to pay attention? How often is He trying to speak to us that we aren't listening because we are way too caught up in running our lives? In those moments God used those two little children to speak to me without uttering a word. I pray that all of us will take the time to pause, open our eyes, and listen. You never know when, where, or how God will speak but one thing is for sure, I want to be listening.

