

Christ Within Us, Christ Among Us

Dear friends,

What is it like to work as a House Manager at Hannah's House? There is a rich assortment of experiences and responsibilities that are part of our role, but I'd like to share with you two experiences that represent to me the great joy of working with these women and families.

First, ***Christ Within Us***. We were sitting round the table after dinner and had just finished reading and commenting on the devotion for the evening when one of the guests, stood up, went to the cabinet where the extra Bibles are kept and said, "Do you know what my favorite verse is?" She pulled out a Bible and turned to this verse, "My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever." Her words stunned me. How had she come upon that verse? And how could it be that a young woman experiencing homelessness and a new son, totally dependent on her, could make such a beautiful claim, that God is her portion forever? I thought about all the rivals to God that might exist in her heart – concerns about future housing, about achieving financial independence as a single mom, about finding a car to provide reliable transportation to work. Among all these real and pressing concerns, she could stand up at the table and proclaim these words! She went on, "You know sometimes I hear God speak to me." Yes! She is experiencing the reality of a relationship with God her Maker, with Jesus Christ his Son and with the Holy Spirit! Christ is truly within her! And we rejoice at this living encounter! My eyes landed on the verse just before the one she shared, "Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing upon earth I desire besides Thee." May it be so for her, and for each of us!

And then ***Christ Among Us***. One of the particular joys of this work is representing you and your gifts to the young parents that come to our door for a bundle of diapers, a package of wipes or a bag of children's

clothing from our Hannah's Attic. You are the ones who make it possible for us to share these items with young families in need. I only wish you could have been the ones to receive the hug I received yesterday as a young mother of five (three in diapers) thanked me for the package of diapers we were able to give to her. And although Christ didn't specifically speak of giving out diapers when he said, "When you have done it unto the least of these my brothers and sisters, you have done it unto me" I can only imagine he would include them! We and you are giving diapers to our Lord, when we share with these families. Truly, *Christ is Among us* as we give! Thank you for doing this work together with us. And may God bless you for being part of this ministry at Hannah's House.

Susan Ayers
House Manager,