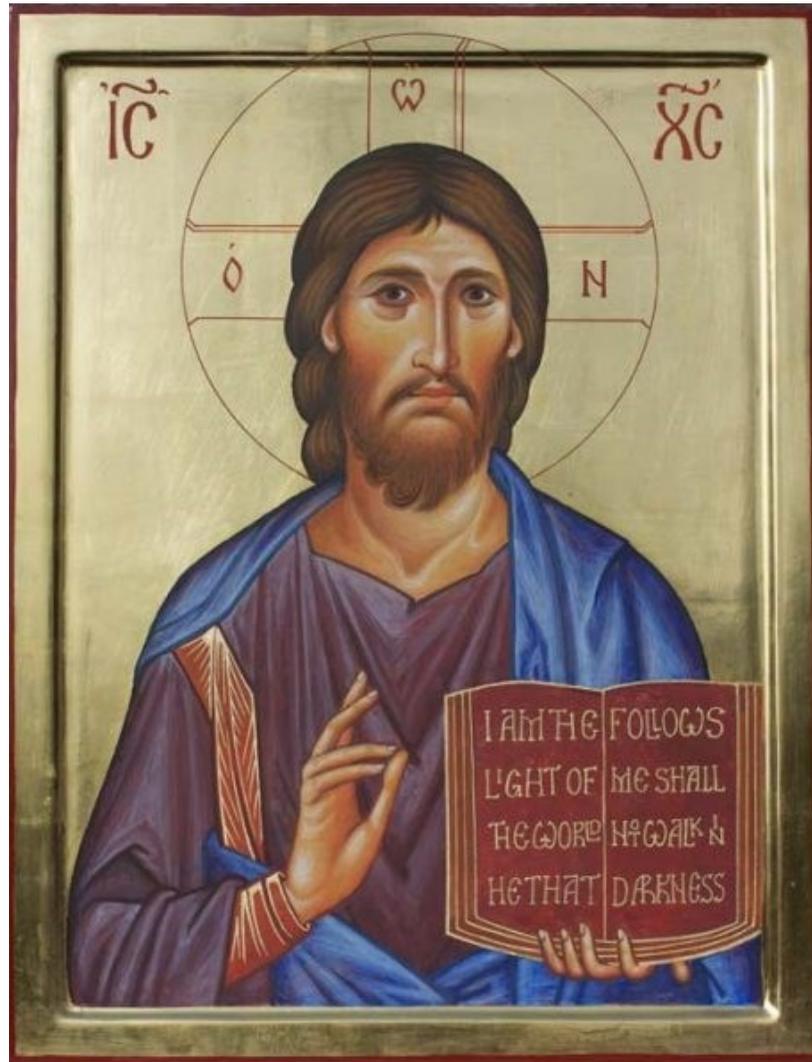
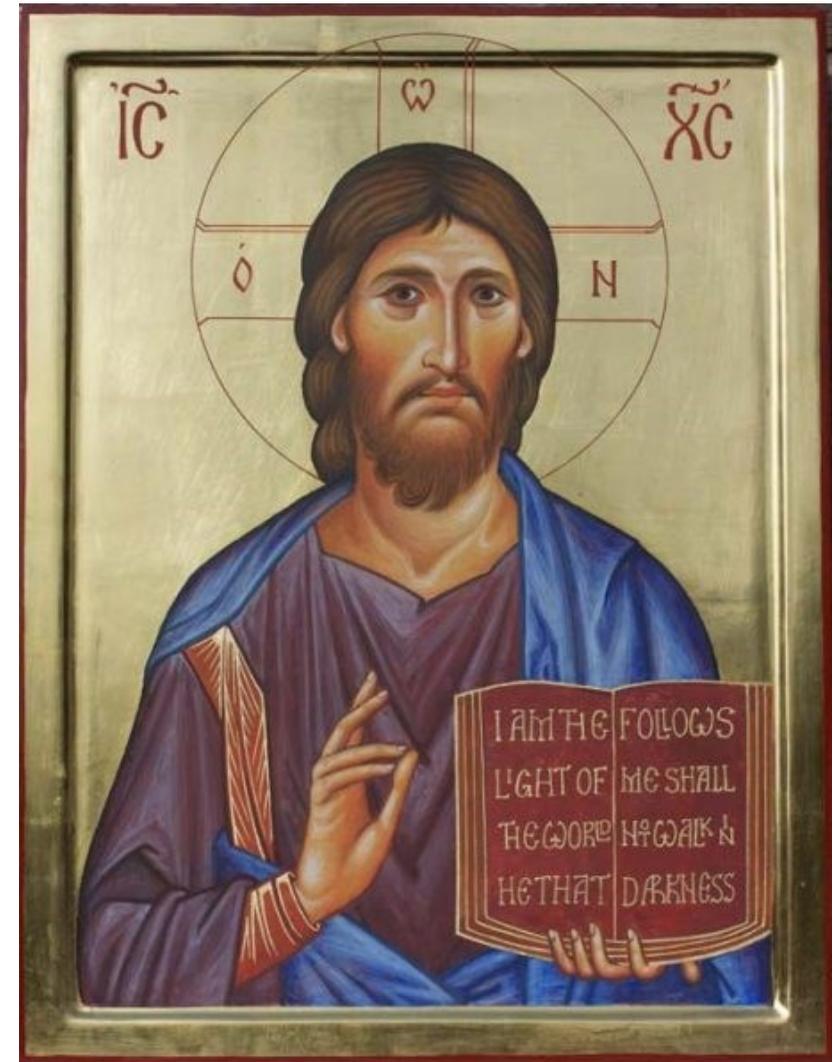


Icons of Christ: Companions on the Journey



Catholic Relief Services Virtual Prayer Walk 2021
Mary, Queen of Peace Church

Icons of Christ: Companions on the Journey



Catholic Relief Services Virtual Prayer Walk 2021
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As I make my way contemplating the photos:

Place myself in the midst of the scene, close to the person:

What do I see in facial expressions and environment?
What do I feel by touching clothes, hands, faces?
What do I hear being said or sighed?
What do I smell? Can I taste anything?

Put myself in place of the person:

What do I see of persons looking at me, expressions on faces,
surrounding situations?
What do I feel, hear, smell, or taste?

Imagine myself as Christ looking at the photo:

What do I notice in seeing the person?
In hearing, feeling (emotion), tasting, or smelling?
Why do I, as Christ, have such reactions and with what consequences?
Any strong insights?
Any strong emotions?
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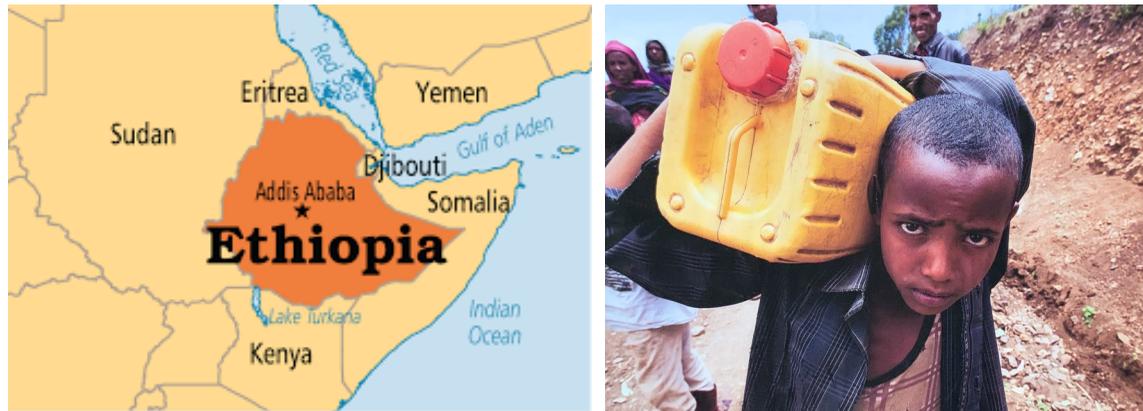
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STATION ONE

Ethiopia is experiencing its worst drought in 50 years. CRS works with communities to build up their resilience to withstand more frequent, prolonged droughts, hotter temperatures, and environmental degradation. New practices and technologies address natural resource management, health and nutrition, farming practices, and early warning weather forecasts. CRS provides opportunities for people to earn an income. Heat waves and droughts, and their economic costs, fall most heavily upon the poor.



CONTEMPLATION

Can I imagine myself carrying this heavy water a long distance?

What would I feel?

Does this boy's face stir feelings of my own burdens in life?

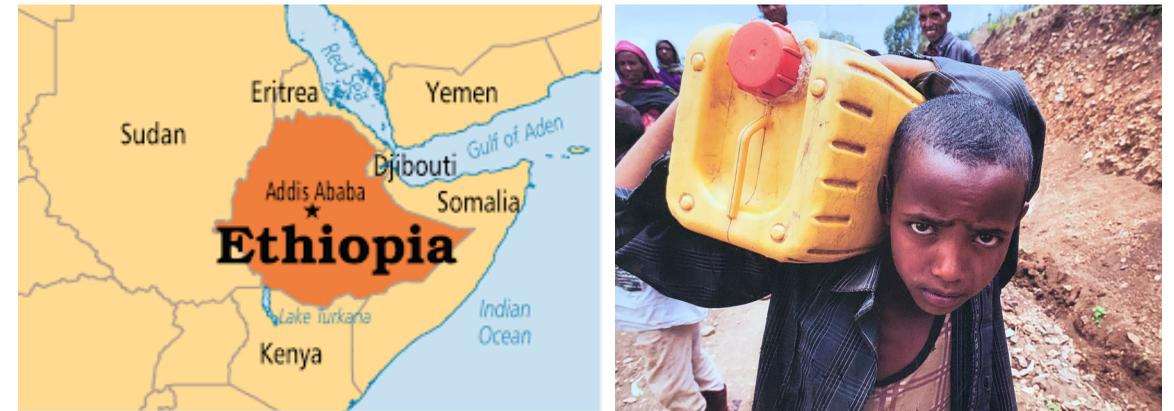
What is Christ calling me to do to alleviate other's burdens?

Would my living more simply help others simply live?

Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? Matthew 25:37-38

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STATION TWO

In **Afghanistan**, a girl listens in class in the village of Ghale-mana. CRS trains local villagers as teachers and introduces education into villages for the first time, allowing local children, particularly girls, a unique opportunity they otherwise would not have had to attend school.



CONTEMPLATION

Can I see myself as this young girl in a remote village school in Afghanistan?

What part has my education played in forming me into who I am?

Am I able to help children living in poverty receive an education?

What should I do?

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Matthew 5:7-9

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STATION THREE

In **Southern Madagascar**, this mother's son is extremely malnourished from famine. People in her village had been eating only red cactus fruit. But people started to eat the actual cactus plant, because the fruit ran out. Due to massive drought, 80 % of maize was lost in the 2016 harvest. In response, CRS implemented a long-term Development Food Assistance Program, partnering with USAID to provide rice, sorghum, split yellow peas, and cooking oil to people in a number of affected areas.



CONTEMPLATION

What do I feel about the child in its mother's arms?

What would I feel if my own child were hungry?

How can I be Christ for this mother and child?

How do I change my lifestyle so that my sisters and brothers can thrive and not only survive?

What does it profit, my brothers and sisters, if one says they have faith but have no work? If a sister or brother is poorly clothed and in lack of daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; be warm and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what does it profit? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

James 2:14-17-9

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STATION FOUR

In **India**, children gather in the village of Kaili-Uohuti Tolu to watch a play put on by teenagers, who were trafficked out of their village to work difficult jobs. Fortunately, they are now back in the village and educating others about the truths and dangers of trafficking, with the support of CRS. Due to limited income options and poor-quality education, migration is a common practice. There are an estimated 21 million victims of human trafficking worldwide, including the United States.



CONTEMPLATION

What do I see in this young boy's face threatened by human trafficking?

What do I need to learn to prevent human trafficking?

How can I learn more to fight conditions that lead to the enslavement of human beings?

Defend the lowly and fatherless; render justice to the afflicted and needy.

Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.

Psalm 82:3-4

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STATION FIVE

In **Ecuador**, a 7.8 earthquake near the town of Portoviejo in 2016, flattened buildings, buckling the highways along the country's Pacific coast, and killing hundreds. CRS and its partner Caritas responded to the earthquake with assessments and relief work.



CONTEMPLATION

Can I see what this woman sees in the rubble of the earthquake?

What disasters have I experienced in my life?

What was my response?

How is Christ calling me to be in solidarity with my sisters and brothers who suffer the impact of devastating natural disasters?

In what concrete ways might I respond?

Start by doing what's necessary, then what's possible, and suddenly you are doing the impossible.

St. Francis of Assisi

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STATION SIX

In **Democratic Republic of Congo**, a boy walks past a house in his village that was burned and destroyed. After the devastation, villagers returned and had to live in makeshift shelters, while they attempted to rebuild their homes. CRS teams interviewed each household for monetary assistance to rebuild. They received between \$5-\$25 depending on their vulnerability, and CRS teams returned to the zone to assist their progress. Conflict here has caused an estimated 5 million deaths since 1998, making it what observers call the world's deadliest conflict since World War II.



CONTEMPLATION

What might this boy be feeling as he stands by his burned, war-torn village?

How do I feel when I read about war in different parts of the world?

What can I do to intervene?

How can I be a sign of Christ's hope in the world?

The Lord saw this, and was aggrieved that there was no justice. He saw that there was no one, and was appalled that there was no one to intervene; He put justice on His breastplate. Isaiah 59:15-16

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STATION SEVEN

In **Iraq**, a displaced Christian woman prays inside the Saint Joseph Church, which gives refuge to thousands of Iraqi Christians that have been displaced by the advance of ISIS. Caritas and CRS have been supporting these internally displaced civilians.



CONTEMPLATION

From what pain have I cried out to the LORD?

How does Christian persecution harm our common good?

How does all persecution harm our common good?

Where is the mercy for refugees displaced from their homes?

What mercy have I shown for refugees? What will I do?

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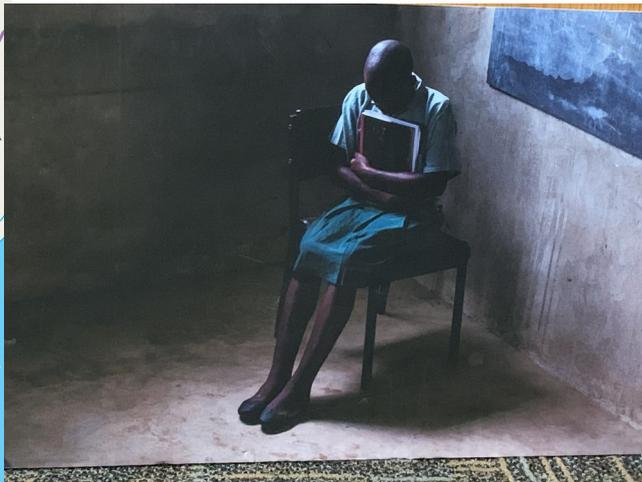
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STATION EIGHT

In **Kenya**, child mothers, each a victim of either child marriage for dowry and/or some other form of sex trafficking are now giving themselves a second chance as students at a school in Kenya. The school participates in the CRS 'Dialogue and Protection' program. Team leaders and government officials train teachers and leaders in child abuse reporting protocol, confidentiality, child rights, lobbying, and advocacy skills.



CONTEMPLATION

Where in my life have I experienced stark loneliness?

How does abuse of human dignity keep children in the darkness?

How can I speak out and defend the defenseless?

What charitable ways of giving is Christ calling me to?

Open your mouth in behalf of the mute, and for the rights of the destitute; open your mouth, judge justly, defend the needy and the poor! Proverbs 31:8-9

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STATION NINE

In **Vietnam**, Nguyen Thi Nga, aged 75, tragically lost a leg in a landmine explosion when clearing land at age 35. As part of a CRS project to rehabilitate ordnance and landmine survivors, she was assessed for the need for livelihood assistance and psycho-social support. Her family received funds to purchase pigs to develop a less labor-intensive way of making an income than crop cultivation.



CONTEMPLATION

Can I imagine myself in this woman's place?

What emotions arise?

What do I see in the face of this survivor of a landmine explosion?

How can I educate myself and others about landmines?

How am I committed to an end of violence in the world?

Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in here the poor and the crippled, the blind and the lame. Luke 14:21

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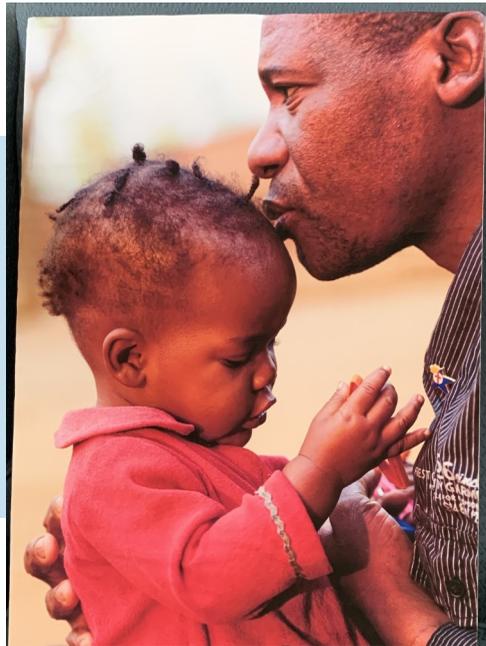
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In **Malawi**, Joseph Bistoni takes care of his 15-month old daughter Desire at their home, while her mother looks after her morning chores. In Malawi, men traditionally don't get involved in child rearing, but Bistoni learned about the importance of male involvement through a CRS project. This project seeks to give children the best possible start in life, focusing on the first 1,000 days from when a child is conceived through the first two years of life, empowering parents with knowledge about early childhood development and how to stimulate thought and independence in young children. Participants learn the importance of the critical role fathers play in child care.



CONTEMPLATION

What family emotions stir as I gaze at this father and child?

What are my desires for my loved ones?

Am I loving to my own family?

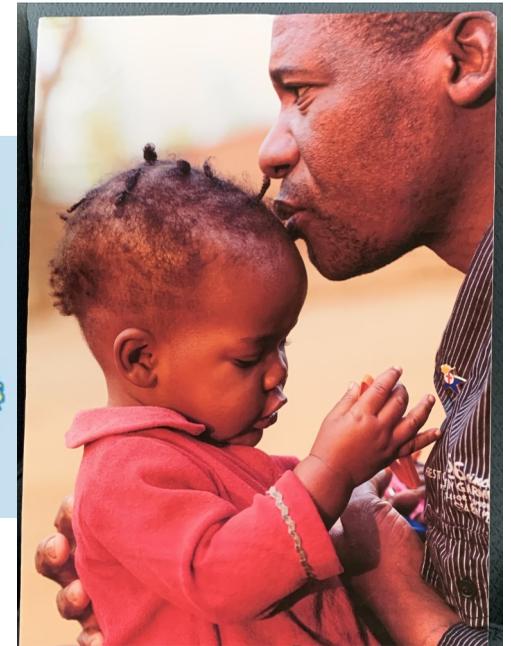
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Song of Songs 4:7

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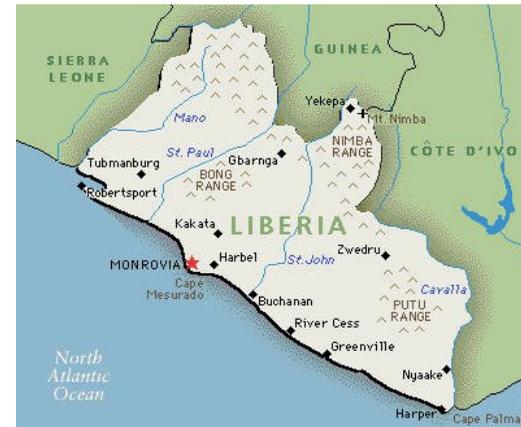
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In **Liberia**, in West Point, an overcrowded urban slum, sanitation continues to be a major challenge facing the community. The use of informal hanging latrines (where human waste is released directly into the open water) is becoming more prevalent, and poses significant threats to public health. CRS is assessing the situation, and provides assistance to address these water sanitation challenges.



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CONTEMPLATION

Can I imagine the odors of this slum?

What might Christ say while walking in this slum?

Does the way I live protect the beauty of the earth?

What active ways do I decrease waste in my life?

Be praised, my Lord, through all your creatures. Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Water, which is very useful and humble and precious and chaste.

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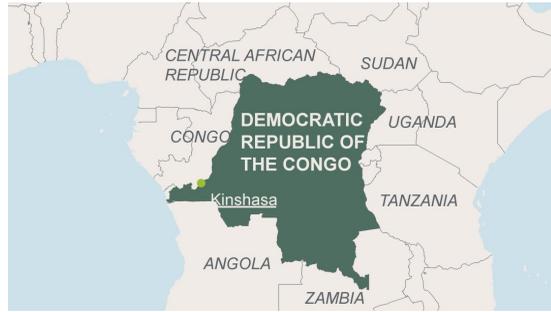
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CONTEMPLATION

What do I notice in this hospital room?

Are memories stirred of health crises of family in my life?

Like the nurse, how can I be present to the sick?

How is Christ inviting me to help those suffering from poor health?

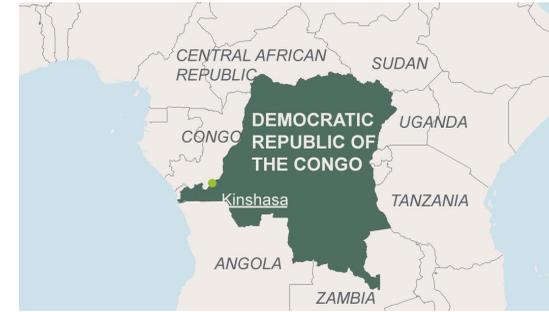
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STATION THIRTEEN

In **Pakistan**, Temporarily Displaced Persons who left their homes in North Waziristan, due to anti-Taliban military operations, live in tents. CRS began an emergency response project to address two major needs: safe and appropriate shelter and procuring essential items to help cope with the cold winter months.



CONTEMPLATION

How would I feel if my only home were a tent in a refugee camp?

Have I ever met refugees and listened to their stories?

Am I being invited to help the displaced?

Am I my best self in the face of adversity?

For God will hide me in his shelter in time of trouble, He will conceal me in the cover of his tent. Psalm 27:5

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STATION FOURTEEN

In the **Philippines**, Super Typhoon Haiyan battered Tacloban City in the central Philippines. Haiyan, one of the most powerful storms ever recorded, killed at least 10,000 people, with coastal towns and the regional capital devastated by huge waves. CRS and its partner Caritas responded immediately with aid.



CONTEMPLATION

As I gaze upon the destruction of this typhoon, how do I feel?

Is it easy or difficult for me to identify with people in this situation?

If Christ were walking through this rubble, what would he say to me?

How is my best self being called to help victims of disaster?

Give alms from your possessions. Do not turn your face away from any of the poor, so that God's face will not be turned away from you. Give in proportion to what you own. If you have great wealth, give alms out of your abundance; if you have but little, do not be afraid to give alms even of that little. Tobit 4:7

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