

## *Gifts from God*

*“For I testify that according to their ability, and beyond their ability, they gave of their own accord, begging us with much urging for the favor of participation in the support of the saints.” 2 Corinthians 8:3–4 (NASB)*

As I go out, I carry a large bag with me, anticipating whatever need may come up. I have a water bottle, French Bible, Bassar (bah-SAR) New Testament, sometimes a tape recording and medicine. I treat headaches and stomachaches, worm infestation, skin infections, colds and coughs and even hangnails.

After a bout with malaria myself, I missed the weekly Bible study. Early the next morning, several women came to my house. They said, “You help us when we are sick, so we have come to pray with you and help you if we can.” Each one prayed for my healing. Then they pulled out 300 CFA (about 50 cents) and gave it to me to buy medicine. “You always share what you have with us and we had no pills to give you, so this will help you buy what you need.” I realized then that I had taken it for granted that I had medicine whenever needed.

How could I take their money? I did not need it to buy medicine. They needed it so much more. Scripture says it is more blessed to give than to receive, but I found it harder for me to receive than to give. Then I began to see that sometimes I have the same attitude toward God’s gifts to me. There are things I “have” that I think I’ve provided for myself. But ultimately, all gifts are from Him. To graciously receive the gifts God bestows on us, either by His own hand or through others, is a lifelong lesson.

—GAYE, WEST AFRICA

*Falbez,* HELP ME TO RECEIVE YOUR GIFTS GRACIOUSLY. FORGIVE ME OF PRIDE AND OF TRYING TO ACQUIRE MY NEEDS WITHOUT YOUR DIRECTION. THANK YOU FOR THESE AFRICAN WOMEN WHO TAUGHT ME A LESSON ON GIVING AND FOR THE MISSIONARY WHO TAUGHT ME ABOUT RECEIVING. *Amen.*