



Family Circus Children's Ministry Update
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by Darrell Blatchley - Missionary to Asia's Little Ones
"Walking Into the Shadow"

Timing...

Hello again, friends.

For months I had felt there was coming a time to take a God ordained walk into the valley of the shadow of death...



A few days ago it happened. Without much premeditation, I walked into the land designated as the final resting place

for the bodies of uncountable numbers of people. I wasn't afraid, yet there were some strange feelings as I looked at the thousands of graves, some stacked three and even four high, piles of abandoned bones, especially bones from people whose families did not make the fifth-year \$112 installment payment after their relatives' burials. These bones, now exhumed, are



discarded into a pit. Included in the pile were skulls of people who had gone to eternity, for far better or worse, leaving behind what is now just a fragment of what they once were.

This walk was my first time in this valley of death. It's one of the most crowded cemeteries in town. At that time, a young child (nameless to me) was playing on the tombs. Surprisingly, when she saw me, she came calling, "Uncle Darrell." Since thousands of kids come to

Family Circus, this is not unusual. Greeting her, I reached down, and without hesitation she took my hand and gave me a tour of her home, "the valley of the shadow of death." She was not afraid, and the only time she drew back was when looking at the discarded bones. Another girl living in the cemetery, this one a teen, was asked, "Aren't you afraid of ghosts?" She replied with words that grip my heart: "I'm not afraid of what the ghosts can do to me. I'm afraid of what the living do to me..."



Those words still echo in my heart... "I'm not afraid of what the ghosts can do to me. I'm afraid of what the living do to me..." Often we see reflected in the eyes of these children the torment of what the living (yet dead) people have done or are doing to them.

While walking through the cemetery a dead man called me by name, "Uncle Darrell," and though reeking of alcohol, he soberly confessed to having gone to Family Circus as a child. Then he admitted to being backslidden, dead to the life in God that he once knew. Attempting to flee from a violent backslidden life in the gangs, he ended up here, living in the valley of the shadow of death. Now he lives with his wife and two children at the cemetery caring for the tombs. He gets



paid \$2.50 monthly by several caring families for washing and keeping clean a handful of tombs. It's enough to help keep his body in food and booze, until he also dies and joins the others.

After meeting his two little daughters, while we stood in the midst of the valley of death, I reached over and began to pray for him, to once again find Jesus. His tears of thankfulness flowed...and Life walked into that valley.

It was time to leave. I asked the child who had walked with me through the valley of death what her name was, and she said, "My name is Angel..."

Where does God want to take you for a walk?

For the King & His kids,
Darrell & Sandy Blatchley



Darrell & Sandy Blatchley

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