

Moments for Stewardship by Lisa Lord  
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Stewardship education starts early. I remember my mother reading me a picture book based on Christina Rossetti's "In the Bleak Mid-winter." My favorite page had a picture of an adorable lamb. "If I were a shepherd, I would give a lamb." When my mother read the punch line, "Yet what I can I give Him, give my heart," I reportedly asked for a deal. "If I give him my heart, can I have the lamb?"

What can I give Him, *teacher* that I am? What can I give Him, UPC member that I am? My heart. Consider the abundance and extravagance in both joyous and challenging experiences in my life as a teacher and a UPC member.

- Abundant, joyful sights nearby: the beauty of the pond and woods at Camp New Hope, adventures for children during the summer. This week, three Durham classes have an overnight field trip at camp, which will be a rare opportunity for many fifth graders to learn in the great outdoors.

**I'm grateful for all UPC does to support the camp and to contribute camp scholarships for Durham and Chapel Hill children.**

- Encouraging sights in Haiti---rebuilt buildings after the earthquake, teachers eager to help their students, medical clinics caring for patients. Many other UPC members and I have seen great need, which isn't a good thing, of course ----but what joy we've seen in all the hard work, creativity, and faith we notice. Over the exit from one of Pastor Leon D'Orleans' churches are the words: "Go out to serve. I am with you always."

**I'm grateful for UPC's financial support for a variety of projects in Haiti, as well as for the prayerful support of our annual teacher workshops.**

**I'm aware of my own comfort and challenged by voices of those who have less:**

- Last week a student's tale of hauling buckets of water from a neighbor's because his family can't pay the water bill;
- one of the scholarship campers this summer talking about delicious salad for lunch when I expected a 10-year-old to say more about canoeing than food.

**I'm grateful for UPC's local outreach.**

**I'm challenged and inspired by voices in Haiti:**

- Jacky D'Orleans telling me, "No, the teachers can't bring a pair of scissors to our workshop," and learning that they didn't have scissors to bring.
- Singing. During their first gathering as a community following the earthquake, the teachers at Blanchard were singing hymns and praying with and for each other. Our group scrambled out of our van and walked toward the singing.

**I'm grateful for UPC's global outreach. I'm grateful for inspiring music, praying, and teaching---far away and right here at home.**

No longer a pre-schooler, I don't need to make deals. I give Him my heart out of gratitude. The abundance of sights and sounds in our lives calls us to respond. We have high standards. We've made good things possible.

We've kept our eyes open to the reality of needs of people near us and far away. We expect to use our talents and our roles as leaders in the church and in the world. We seek newer, stronger, better ways to lead and serve. We give our hearts.