



Bobby & Sherry Burnette
from the Mission Field of Haiti



TWO STICKS &
A HANDFUL
OF CORNMEAL

Stephanie would now need to buy
some corn and grind it in the
hollowed out log "pilon."
But would there be enough?

WE KNOW THAT THIS SWEET, TOUCHING STORY
WILL WARM YOUR HEART AND BLESS YOU.

LITTLE BARE FEET ON THE MOUNTAINS

Seven-year-old Stephanie began the long climb back up the mountain. The path was full of sharp and jagged rocks that would cut holes into most shoes and **Stephanie was barefoot.**

WET CLOTHES AND A WOODEN PADDLE

On her head, Stephanie balanced a large round, "well-worn" plastic tub. Inside this plastic tub were clean wet clothes. On top of the wet clothing lay a wooden paddle (*batwel*). Each morning, she would leave her home on top of the mountain carrying dirty clothes to wash in the river below.

Once she got to the river, she would use the wooden paddle to "beat" each piece of clothing until it was clean, and when she was finished, she would start the long trek back up the rocky mountain to her straw hut. There, she would spread the clothes over some bushes to dry. She did all this so she could earn a few pennies.

Stephanie's little hands were rough and calloused from scrubbing all those clothes. As she laid the clothes over the thorny bushes, **thorns stuck in her bare feet and her fingers.** But it didn't matter...she knew she had a job to do.

A CHILD BECOMES AN ADULT

Several years ago, Stephanie's father drowned while trying to cross a river during a terrible storm. After his death, it became very difficult for Stephanie's mother to make a living. Her mother was the one who always got up early in the morning and carried the dirty clothes down to the river to wash. And it was her mother who carried the heavy wet clothes back up the mountain to make a few pennies. **But when Stephanie's mother died a year ago "things quickly went from bad to worse,"** and she was sent to live with her grandmother.

APRIL 2014

TWO STICKS & A HANDFUL OF CORNMEAL

Suddenly, this little Haitian child could no longer be “just a little girl.” She now had to be the “little mother” who was **taking care of a sick and elderly grandmother**. This meant that she would never go to school, never be able to play like other Haitian children her own age, never have a new dress, a pair of shoes or **even “one hot meal” a day**.

Today, the trek up the mountain seemed to be taking all of her strength. She had not eaten since yesterday morning and that was just a piece of bread. Now, she was not only **feeling the pain of the sharp rocks beneath her feet, she was feeling the pains of hunger**. How could this frail and tiny little girl keep up with the emotional stress and responsibility of caring for an elderly grandmother and the constant pains of hunger? This would be almost unbearable for any adult, **let alone a little child**.

WHERE THERE IS SMOKE THERE IS FOOD

By the time Stephanie arrived home, it was late in the afternoon. As she neared her village, she could **see the dark smoke from charcoal fires**. “If my mother were still alive, she would be making food for us,” she thought. As she walked the final steps into the village with the heavy load on her head, **she could smell the aroma of food cooking on the open fires**. She was so hungry **she could almost “taste” the food**.

As Stephanie lifted the heavy plastic bucket from her head and set it on the ground, sweat ran down her face. She was hungry, thirsty and exhausted. But the first thing she had to do was check on her grandmother. Normally, Grandma would be sitting on the wooden chair outside waiting for her...but this time, she was not.

When she went inside the mud hut, she found Grandma lying on a straw mat on the ground. She knew right away there was something wrong. She knew **her grandmother was sick and she knew she hadn't eaten**.

THE PILON

Stephanie would now need to buy some corn and “grind it” in the pilon. (*A hollowed out wooden stump with a large round wooden pole used to grind food inside it.*) When she returned with the corn, she stood there for a while, barefoot in her ragged and faded red dress. With her hands around the “mach” (*the large round wooden pole*), she lifted it repeatedly, pushing it up and down to grind the corn. It was hard and tiresome work...just to get a little cornmeal from the small amount of corn she had purchased.

TWO STICKS AND A HANDFUL OF CORNMEAL

When she was done, Stephanie squatted down in front of her hut. Exhausted, she wrapped her arms around her knees, bowed her head and said a little prayer. Then, she went out to look for **some sticks to make a fire and cook the cornmeal**. She broke two of the sticks and started the fire, blowing the flames until they grew hot. Then, she cooked the handful of cornmeal for her grandma. **“Life wasn't fair...but God was there.”**

TWO STICKS & A HANDFUL OF CORNMEAL

THE WIDOW WOMAN'S SACRIFICE

When I heard Stephanie's story, it immediately reminded me of a story in the Bible. In 1 Kings Chapter 17, Elijah, the prophet of God, was sent to a widow woman so that she "could take care of the prophet." There had been a **drought and famine in the land** much like it is throughout Haiti today...and **food was scarce.** *(Please read the rest of the story.)*

The widow woman was gathering a few sticks to make a fire and bake "her last cake" for herself and her son so that they could eat it and **die.** But Elijah said to her, "**Bake me a cake first and afterward, make one for you and your son...**"

You know what happened to the "widow woman" in the Bible. God richly blessed her for giving out of her needs and "**first baking a cake**" for the Prophet Elijah.

STEPHANIE'S SACRIFICE

Now, we see this little Haitian girl who has lost a mother and a father. **She is alone** except for her elderly grandmother who is very ill. She is the only one that is able to go and make a living so she and her grandma can survive.

After her horrible trek up and down the mountain to wash clothes, she found herself with only enough money to buy a little corn to make cornmeal. **She now has a decision to make.** There is only enough food for one person to eat. **Should she eat it herself or should she give it to her grandma to save her life?**

When I met this brave little Haitian girl, she was all alone, skinny and frail, with hardly any hair. Her story really broke my heart. She made the sacrifice to give her "last cake" to someone who was worse off than she was. I believe that when she bowed her head that day, she was asking the Lord to help her make the right decision.

Food is the most important thing in the lives of children and the poor in Haiti..."your neighbors." Without food, they cannot work, think, or go to school to learn. **Food is always the "bridge" and food "brings them hope."**

COULD YOU BAKE YOUR LAST CAKE?

I am going to ask you to do what this little Haitian girl did. It may take a **sacrifice** to "bake your last cake." It may take a **sacrifice** to give something you have never given before or to do something you have never done before.

You cannot "out-give" God. The Bible teaches us in **Luke 6:38**, "**Give and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together and running over, shall men give into your bosom...**"

TWO STICKS &
A HANDFUL
OF CORNMEAL

YOUR SACRIFICIAL GIFT

For a gift of \$16, you can provide food for two hungry families (each family will receive a box of food which contains 216 meals). This will help sustain them for one month. **For a gift of \$24, you can provide food for three families** for one month. **A gift of \$48 will provide food for six families, \$120 will provide for fifteen families, and \$1,000 would sponsor an entire village, just like Stephanie's.**

Please pray about what the Lord would have you do to help. Remember, it will take a **sacrifice**...but the **sacrifice** will be well worth it when you help feed starving children.

You can make a difference right now! Give today: by mail, by internet, or by phone, but please **“give”** so that the Lord can use you to help feed hungry children just like Stephanie.

Please know that nothing happens by “accident.” The Lord wants to use “you” to help feed our “little neighbors” here in Haiti. Please rush your sacrificial gift today!

May God richly bless you,

Bobby and Sherry Burnette

Missionaries Bobby and Sherry Burnette

P.S. The rest of the story... When we heard about little Stephanie's plight, we gave her a box of food (containing 216 meals) and added her and her grandmother to our monthly feeding program. **Stephanie gave her grandma her last meal – her last cake, and God abundantly blessed her...God can abundantly bless you too!**

When we receive your gift, we would like to send you a picture of Stephanie with her box of food, along with a letter of blessing to you and your family.

[Click here to give your gift online TODAY.](#)



Love A Child is a 501(c)(3) non-profit Christian Humanitarian organization serving the needs of children in Haiti. In addition to being a member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA), Love A Child has earned the Independent Charities of America “Best in America” Seal of Approval and ten consecutive Four-Star ratings from Charity Navigator.

2012 Financial Statement:

■ Haiti Outreaches
■ Fundraising
■ Administrative

