

## *Appropriately clothed*

*“Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.”*

*Colossians 3:12 (NIV)*

As I strode down the sandy road toward my friend’s home, I was quoting “compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.” I wanted to wear this “clothing” that God had provided. If I truly and completely clothe myself with His spiritual gifts, what difference will that make in my ministry? How will it affect the evidence of Christ in my life? How will that bring glory to God and cause some of these people to desire truth?

Arriving at my friend’s home, her children ran out to greet me. After I was welcomed, I sat on a mat and tea was prepared. Building relationships with people so that they will be willing to accept the good news is important. My friend is poor and shares the best she has with me. I have the riches of heaven at my disposal and desire to share them with her. Physically, I am wearing clothing appropriate to her culture so that I will not offend her people. Spiritually, though, I need to be clothed with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience so that I can reach her people with His love.

As I see the overwhelming spiritual darkness and poverty, the enemy tempts me to become discouraged. Discouragement’s companions of selfishness, impatience and lack of compassion have the potential to become my attire. I must guard myself against wearing these filthy rags rather than the glorious gifts of my Lord. How I wish for God’s rich apparel for my friend, her family and her people!

—SHARON, WEST AFRICA

*Falbez, MAY MY CLOTHING ALWAYS BE THAT OF COMPASSION, KINDNESS, HUMILITY, GENTLENESS AND PATIENCE. MAY I NEVER WEAR RAGS, BUT ONLY THE CLOTHES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS. USE MISSIONARIES IN WEST AFRICA TO PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS THROUGH THEIR LIFESTYLE AND THEIR WORDS. Amen.*