

A mother's ministry

"So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God."

1 Corinthians 10:31 (NIV)

While putting away my daughter's cloth diapers, I thought about how much my ministry had changed. When we first came to Niger, I interacted with Fulani (foo-LAHN-nee) women almost on a daily basis. I spent many nights in a grass hut, cooked meals over an open fire and sat with the women as they pounded grain and gossiped. I felt like God was really using me to reach what was precious in His eyes.

That was all before we adopted our sweet daughter. She brings joy and blessing to our lives; but as I folded diapers, I realized just how much of my time is spent at our house in the capital city.

I envied other missionary women who have close contact with Fulani women. I even started missing that smelly grass hut and sleeping on an uncomfortable stick bed. Sure, our family still visits the villages, but not as often as before.

I dearly love my daughter, but I started to wonder how I was fulfilling my ministry. I used to feel fulfilled when I went out to the villages. As my thoughts drifted to the past, I was immediately reminded of 1 Corinthians 10:31: "*Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.*"

Being a mother to my daughter *is* a major part of my ministry! Whether I'm at home folding cloth diapers or out visiting with Fulani women, it should be done with the right motives and a grateful spirit. We should do everything "for the glory of God."

—SHELLEY, WEST AFRICA

Fulber, YOU ARE THE SOVEREIGN KING OF THE UNIVERSE, WHO KNOWS EVEN ME. YOU GAVE ME THE FAMILY THAT I'M A PART OF FOR A REASON. HELP ME TO MINISTER TO MY FAMILY FOR YOUR GLORY. GIVE MISSIONARY MOTHERS OF YOUNG CHILDREN A SENSE OF PEACE THAT THEIR FAMILIES ARE THEIR MINISTRIES AT THIS TIME IN LIFE. *Amen.*