

## Those bittersweet tears

*“Those who sow in tears will reap with songs of joy. He who goes out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with him.”*  
*Psalm 126:5-6 (NIV)*

I was ironing my dress for church. Such an ordinary thing, but at that very moment it brought back a flood of memories of home that brought homesickness and loneliness. I had been in Benin (beh-NIN) for some time, and you would have thought that I had gotten through this stage; but the weight of what I had left behind felt like it was crushing all of the air from my lungs.

The dress forgotten, I fell on my knees crying out to God to take away the pain of loneliness. I felt utterly alone, and I couldn't take it any longer. Was it worth it? Why was I even here? Could I make it for another year and three-quarters? All of these questions attacked my mind.

But then God sent me a reminder of His purpose. A song on a CD I was listening to spoke to me. “It's all about You, Jesus, and all this is for You, for Your glory and Your fame. It's not about me, as if You should do things my way ...”<sup>1</sup>

My tears turned to tears of joy. Not because the pain was gone, but because I knew God was using me to reach His world. It's not about me, but about Him.

When you weep, whether from personal pain or disappointments, let God turn your tears of sorrow into tears of joy, hope, love and expectation for those around you. Let Him take your eyes off yourself. You may still cry tears, but they will be sweet tears—bittersweet tears.

—DEBBY, WEST AFRICA

*Falbez*, BE NEAR TO LONELY MISSIONARIES. LET THEM FEEL YOUR PRESENCE AND PLEASURE. HELP ME TAKE MY EYES OFF MYSELF SO THAT I CAN TURN MY EYES TO THE LOVELY FACE OF JESUS. *Amen.*

1. Paul Oakley, *It's All About You*, Kingsway's Thankyou Music, 1995.