

25.





MY NAME IS JOHN AND I WORK FOR AN NTERNATIONAL NON-
GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION. I HAVE STARTED MY
SECOND EMERGENCY MISSION HERE IN VENUS. THIS TYPE OF
MISSION IS NEW TO ME, IT IS FREAKING HOT HERE AND I
HAVE LESS THAN 24 HOURS TO ORGANIZE A NON-FOOD ITEM
DISTRIBUTION AND A FOOD DISTRIBUTION FOR AN ENTIRE
TOWN. HERE I'M STAYING IS NICE, I THINK I'M FOLLOWING HR
PROCEDURE, CHECKING ON THE STATUS OF OUR
DISTRIBUTION SUPPLIES, AND NOW I AM LEARNING A LOT
ABOUT WATER, I THINK I AM READY FOR THE DISTRIBUTION IN
A FEW HOURS, BUT NOTHING EVER GOES AS PLANNED. THIS
IS THE LIFE OF AN INGO WORKER.





I'M TORN IN HALF WITH EMOTIONS RIGHT NOW. ON ONE SIDE, IT'S A BLESSING TO HAVE AN EXTRA DAY TO PREPARE. I STILL HAVEN'T HAD A CHANCE TO GO TO ROBIN MARKET YESTERDAY TO SEE THE FOOD KITS BEING PREPARED. I STILL DIDN'T HAVE A CHANCE TO CHECK IN TO BE SURE THAT THE TRUCKS WERE READY FOR DELIVERY. HECK, I DIDN'T EVEN GET A CHANCE TO SEE THE DISTRIBUTION SITE...



BUT ON THE OTHER HAND, BUYING AND ASSEMBLING THE TAP STANDS WAS LITERALLY THE ONLY THING THAT I HAD THE CHANCE TO DO SO FAR AND IT TURNS OUT THAT NOT ONLY WAS IT NOT NEEDED, IT ACTUALLY COST THE MISSION MORE MONEY.

WHAT AM I ACTUALLY DOING HERE, OTHER THAN BEING A TOKEN FOREIGNER FOR THE LOGISTICS DEPARTMENT.



NOW WE NEED TO WAIT AN EXTRA DAY FOR THIS FOOD AID OFFICER TO ARRIVE? I REALLY WANTED TO SEE HOW I COULD DO BASICALLY LEADING MY FIRST DISTRIBUTION. RE WE WAITING AN EXTRA DAY BECAUSE HEADQUARTERS ARE NOT SURE THAT WE COULD DO IT WITHOUT THIS FOOD AID GUY COMING?

I'M PROBABLY JUST OVER THINKING THIS. THE HEADQUARTERS PROBABLY JUST KNOW THE OTHER GUY MORE. THIS IS MY FIRST EMERGENCY MISSION AND I'VE ONLY BEEN HERE FOR A TOTAL OF 3 DAYS.



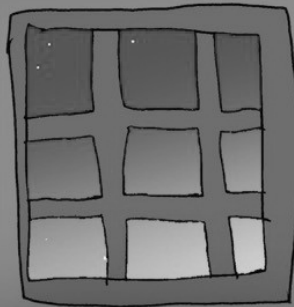


HI MOM AND DAD, HOW IS THE FAMILY? THINGS ARE GOING GREAT HERE IN VENUS SO FAR. I HAVEN'T HAD MUCH DOWNTIME UNTIL NOW TO SEND YOU A MESSAGE...



30 MINUTES LATER...

STARTING TO GET A BIT BRIGHTER OUTSIDE. I WONDER IF THE HOTEL RESTAURANT IS OPEN YET?







WE TALKED FOR A WHILE. THE HOTEL BEGAN TO AWAKE, AND GUESTS CAME THROUGH, THE PHONE INTERRUPTED OUR CONVERSATION A FEW TIMES. I LEARNED A LOT ABOUT HER AND VENUS CULTURE. I TOLD HER SOME OF MY MORE FUNNY AND SELF-EFFACING STORIES. SHE TOLD ME STORIES OF HER GOALS AND DREAMS. I REALIZED THAT I DIDN'T HAVE VERY MANY STORIES OF TELLING HER MY DREAMS, OR THINGS I WANTED TO DO IN THE FUTURE. I WAS ACTUALLY DOING WHAT I WANTED TO.



IN THIS WORK, I WASN'T LIVING
IN REGRET OR HOPE. NOT ONLY
I WAS IN THE PLACE I WANTED
TO BE, I WAS IN A PLACE
WHERE I SHOULD BE. I WAS
DOING EXCITING AID WORK. I
WAS IN A JOB THAT PEOPLE
WRITE STORIES ABOUT.



DIDI WAS IN A JOB THAT
WASN'T HER DREAM, IT
WAS JUST TO PAY THE
BILLS. SHE WANTED TO
BE A DANCE INSTRUCTOR.
SHE WANTED TO OPEN UP
HER OWN STUDIO.

I WAS MAKING SURE
FAMILIES WHO HAD THEIR
LIVES DESTROYED BY A
NATURAL DISASTER HAD
FOOD AND WATER AND
SHELTER. I WAS DOING
IMPORTANT THINGS.



