



Disappointing news  
Steve Vinton, May 22, 2007

I am sad to have to say that Godfrey just sent me word that our inspector friend (the "dragon lady") has once again added new conditions before they will agree to sign off on the papers for the registration of the school at Sawala.

To say we are disappointed is a phenomenal understatement.

And I feel bad because I'm sure that for a lot of you who prayed with us about this matter that you will also be disappointed. And the students and teachers in Sawala will be even more disappointed. Actually I think that anyone in their right mind will be disappointed! After all, we've got 39 days to go before the deadline for signing up for the exams and we really wanted to bag that signature today, not be given yet another "promise" that if we just did four (or is it five?) more things that they would sign the documents.

You know, I'm not sure if Charles Shultz is recognized by many as a great theologian, but he was one of my favorites. And right now when I want to be disappointed and angry and upset, I'm reminded of one of my favorite of his cartoons. I think (if I remember it right) it's Linus who says something to the effect that God made life to have its ups and downs and its mountains and valleys. Lucy stared at him through I think two frames and then screamed at the top of her lungs that all she wanted in her life were mountain tops! It made me laugh back then and to laugh enough that I remember it to this day, but I definitely remember that after it made me laugh, it made me think that I'm not all that different from Lucy although I might like to think I am. I'm human, so I guess all I want are successes

(after all who wants failures?), what I wish for is that everything would always go right, that there would be no foul-ups, no accidents, no people who disappoint us, no people who use their power and authority for all the wrong reasons, no people who hurt us and are mean, no inspectors who would refuse to sign documents.

Why, when we're trying so hard to do a good thing isn't everyone on our side?

Why the obstacles?

Why the "dragon ladies" of this world who refuse to cooperate, who refuse to see that we're trying to do something to help the poorest of the poor and perhaps decide to actually help us out a bit instead of making things difficult and impossible for us?

But if I'm honest what I'm really saying with all of these questions is why doesn't God just give us what we ask for? And why doesn't He give it to us right when we want it? Especially when what we want is good and is good for other people and right and fair and just?

Today the news that I really wanted to be able to share with everyone was that we got the signature.

Instead I have to say that we didn't get it.

I would have also liked to say that Yohan's two-year old kid didn't die yesterday. That the three little boys Susan and I bumped into on the path yesterday who promised that they would show up at the primary school today really would have. That Eliza's mother wouldn't have died. It's so nice that all five of

Tamara and Maggie's five students tested HIV negative, but what about the disappointing news we may receive after their next visit (because they have 16 kids who want to go next time with them)?

I think I've decided that sometimes it's just ok to be disappointed.

God might promise us in Romans 8:28 that He is at work in all things for our good, but he does not promise us that all things will be good all the time.

Sorry for the bad news.

Very sorry.