##  Acres of Diamonds

There was a story of a farmer in Africa, which loved farming. He would go each day to his fields, bend down to grab a handful of dirt, smell it and be grateful of what he has. Through the years, he battled drought, storms, pestilences, each time taking a toll of the farmer's endurance and profits. Each year he was expecting a large harvest to make up for past year's loss, only to find himself a victim of another ruined crop.

His friends started telling him that he should sell his farm and search for diamonds. He had a mutual friend who had become rich in diamond field. He continued farming until he gave up, sold his farm and ventured out in pursuit of the elusive diamond. He died penniless. After much frustration and despair, he threw himself into a raging river and drowned.

Meanwhile, back on the farm, the new farmer was excited about his new acquisition. Just like the other farmer, he would bend down to gab a handful of dirt, smell it and be grateful of what he has. He continued farming the land, dealing with the droughts, storms and pestilences. One day, a friend came by for a visit. His friend was shocked in amazement when he noticed a large rock on top of the farmer's mantle. His friend asked, “Do you know what this is?” The farmer replied, “It's a quartz rock I found in the stream on my property.” His friend fired back an exclamation, “It's a diamond!” “It can't be” said the farmer, “There are acres and acres of these stones all over my property!” It turned out to be the richest discovery of diamonds in Africa. What one man sold and went looking to find, was in his backyard all this time!

Many of Christians will do the same things as the first farmer. They will support great missionary endeavors, which are good, but often overlook the fields in our own back yard. The local church may be too busy attending to their own flock, that they often overlook the opportunities to gather a great wealth (the harvest of lost souls) around them. Some of these may seem rough around the edges but to a master jeweler (Christ), He can perform miracles!

All people are precious in God's sight. Please don't overlook the acres and acres of precious opportunities around you. Let me encourage you to seek the fields that are closest and easiest to harvest. America needs God in a real way.