



MERCY
GLOBAL
PRESENCE

Mercy Global Action: Mercying

Elizabeth MacNeal (Americas)

Empathy:

"Let me hold the door for you.
I may have never walked in your shoes,
but I can see your soles are worn,
your strength is torn
under the weight of a story
I have never lived before.
Let me hold the door for you.
After all you have walked through,
it is the least I can do"
-Morgan Harper Nichols

This quote has been a guiding mantra for me. It particularly resonates in the last twelve months - COVID and quarantining, a racial reckoning, increased domestic violence, and mass displacements of persons. At times it can feel the door is getting heavier and heavier to hold open. It's in those times I find most comfort in Mercy.

This month, we explore the theme of 'mercying'. Admittedly, it's challenging to put into words because I feel that word more than I can describe it. Mercying feels to me like the crinkled pages of a book as you uncover a character's story or the car windows down on a beautiful summer day. It feels like a moment when your body and your soul are so in sync. But unlike these moments 'mercying' is not fleeting. It's here to stay, always moving, always fluid.

I'm reminded daily, because of working in a Mercy ministry, of the impact of those within our Mercy community. From [cycling to create community with those experiencing homelessness](#) to [hosting educational events focused on gender-based violence](#), Mercy keeps moving. In those moments when the door feels heavy to hold, I look to my right and to my left and see that 'mercying' is happening. Suddenly, the door becomes light again.

This community is bigger than any one of us, its foundation is two centuries strong. The red door of Mercy is held open by thousands across the world, each working in compassion and empathy, especially for those on the margins of our society. 'Mercying' is our daily gift and our daily challenge. To know we are part of something bigger than ourselves, and to hold the door open for others. After all, it is the least we can do.

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