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"I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him/her will bear much fruit, because without me, you can do nothing." - John 15:5

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

In the early morning hours before sunrise, I arose and made my way to the chapel of St. James in the mission house where I live. I designed the chapel to be situated in the east corner of the house specifically because part of my spiritual practice is to watch the sun rise from an open window during morning prayer. In the adjacent corner to the east window is a simple round wooden altar where I lit a candle and placed a freshly brewed cup of tea. With journal, Liturgy of the Hours, and Bible at hand, I watched in awe as the morning sunlight broke through the darkness and awakened the dawn to a new day. I call this morning ritual "the Spirituality of the East Window" and it is essential to my life.



After morning prayer, I made my way to the kitchen and went to the refrigerator (we now have electricity in the village!) and took out a beautiful, farm raised, organic fresh egg I had received from Natividad, one of our women weavers. When we have meetings the women often bring me gifts of food and/or flowers and many of them have become my friends. Natividad had gifted this egg to me along with five others. As I thanked her she declared with pride, "These came from the chickens I bought with the sale of my weavings." I congratulated her and gently placed each one in the egg rack in the refrigerator. I smiled now, cracking the firm egg with a deep yellow yolk into the frying pan and soon enjoyed a

