

After the workcamp, Sophie visited the family of a fellow volunteer.



and Efa sized up the ears. When she found a good one she cut the stalk with her cutlass, hacked off the ear and passed it back to me. Efa broke off green yam leaves and yanked a vine from the ground to tie them up. She showed me the peppers hanging like gnarled red fingers from green bushes. Ghanaian custom dictates that when one goes to the farm one comes back full-handed, so Efa filled a bag with maize and cassava and greens and peppers for me to take back to the camp — in spite

of my protests that it was so much food.

July 25,
Kumawu

Here biological differences between men and women seem more apparent with women breast-feeding and carrying babies in the midst of all other tasks. The image that sticks in my head is of women bending at the waist — to sow, to weed, to pull up the cassava, to fan coals, to secure a baby in a swath of cloth.

What does it mean to feel it is one's duty to serve a man? How does it feel to carry out one's duty farming, carrying, giving birth, washing, cooking and waiting on others?

How strange to discover that I equate choice with freedom: being free of obligations to others, being self-suffi-

cient, mobile. How strange to be the one, as the writer Jamaica Kincaid put it, who is the tourist, who experiences a new perspective on home by seeing it from a distance and in contrast to another place. I take it for granted, and here each person I meet yearns for this experience even once. I will never know what it feels like not to have the means to pick up and go — to simply leave. ☉

CIEE workcamps run from late June to early September in Algeria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Ghana, Hungary, Japan, Lithuania, Morocco, the Netherlands, Poland, Russia, Slovenia, Spain, Tunisia, Turkey, the Ukraine, the United States and Wales.

For a brochure and application, send this coupon to CIEE, International Workcamps Dept., 205 East 42nd Street, New York, NY 10017.

Name _____

Street _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____



Todd Deutsch's camera made life a little happier for children at a refugee camp in Slovenia.

Excellent Adventures

"A Picture's Worth a Thousand Words"

Todd Deutsch found that a simple Polaroid camera could bring smiles to the faces of Croatian children in a Slovenian refugee camp.

"Some of them had never seen a Polaroid camera before," says Todd. "They were so amazed and excited. Everyone was begging me to take their pictures. I only wish I had brought more than two rolls of film."

Todd's work with refugee children from the war in Croatia was part of his experience on a CIEE workcamp. "Twice a week, a Slovenian participant and I went to the camp, which sheltered about 300 children. Some knew their parents were still alive but fighting in Croatia; others had no idea what had happened to their parents.

"I think the thing that touched me most was the fact that the children seemed to appreciate just about anything I would do for them. It was so refreshing to see children excited about just singing songs or drawing pictures of nature rather than having to have expensive things to be entertained with."

Of course, Todd's pleasure in the children's glee was tempered with an eye-opening sense of reality. "Many an afternoon I would enjoy just sitting with several of the teenagers and talking about their lives. One guy, John, was going back to Croatia. He had escaped because he was afraid to fight in the war, but after several months in the camp he realized he needed to go back home.

"Working in the refugee camp benefited me much more than I expected. Although people speak different languages, we all have the same feelings and needs."