



Girl at orphanage in Jeremié (Haiti)

CHWAZI I AM CHOSEN

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GETTING READY: INTRODUCTION

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Moving to the Mission Field

If you are receiving this newsletter then you more than likely already know that I am preparing to move to the Caribbean. If not then: Hi! My name's Karissa Miller and I am preparing to move to the Caribbean. Yes I know, poor me having to move to a tropical island. I can't say I'm not thrilled and excited but I can tell you that I'm not going to be laying out on some beach all day. I want to use this first newsletter to introduce myself and my ministry.

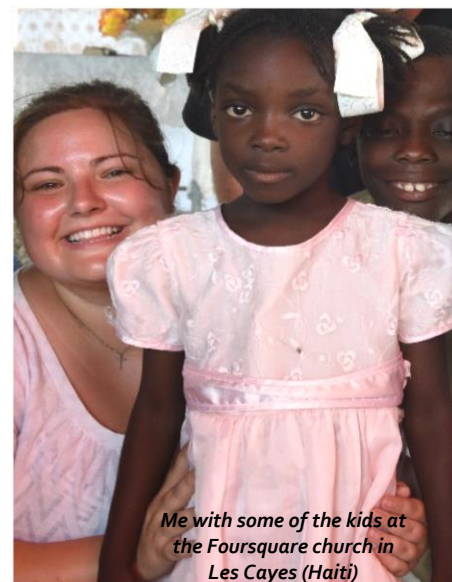
Me, Myself, and I

So let me start off by giving you my official title (yes, I am official). My title is: **Rock Missionary Intern**. I will be under the direction of Pastor John and Debbie Booker. A little about them: they lived in Haiti for 2 ½ years after the earthquake in 2010. And it has been their dream to move back ever since they came back to the states. I am extremely blessed to have been invited to serve under them.

Some of you already know my story but many of you don't. So let me share with you why I feel called to move to the mission field. Let me start by saying that I've always had a heart for those that society has deemed as social outcasts and unwanted. In fact, I got my Bachelor's Degree in working with people with disabilities. But it was 4 years ago that I

was at a church and Heidi Baker was speaking. (For those of you who don't know, Heidi Baker is an amazing missionary in Mozambique, Africa.) As she was sharing her story God told me, "You're gonna do what she does." I got freaked out at first because she was talking about how she's adopted hundreds of children. So I asked, "Lord, are you talking about being a missionary or about adopting a bunch of kids?" That may seem funny to you but I wanted to be sure I knew what I was getting into.

Anyway, from there I spent a month in Uganda (Africa), and God did some amazing things there. (Maybe I'll share a little bit about that in a future newsletter.) Then last year I got invited to Haiti and that's where my entire life got turned upside down. You may be thinking this is where I tell you about some amazing experience. Well I'm sorry to burst your bubble. It was hot, and I mean HOT (I never once stopped sweating even while taking a cold shower!). There were gigantic spiders EVERYWHERE, shower, toilet, you name it (I woke up one morning with a spider the size of my fist next to my head!). Mosquitos (I have pictures of my legs completely covered in mosquito bites but I won't subject you to that). It was so bad that I actually broke down crying and begged God never to send me back.



Me with some of the kids at the Foursquare church in Les Cayes (Haiti)

Why am I telling you about how awful a place is when I'm getting ready to move there? Because God can do amazing things. He gave me a reason and a purpose to go. He reminded me that it's not about me it's about the people. In short, He gave me the heart and the desire to go. And how He did that is through the vision that we have.

Our Vision

So what is our vision? We will be based on the island of St. Lucia and travel to the surrounding islands in the East Caribbean and Haiti reaching them with our 4 focuses. Very simply our 4 main focuses are: discipleship, leadership training, NowGen,

and sustainability. But what does that even mean and what is my part in all of that?

Discipleship

Let me break it down. Discipleship is what Jesus called all of us to be and what He called all of us to make (Matthew 28:19-20). If you don't already know, The Rock (my church) has a discipleship program called OSL (Operation Solid Lives). It's an amazing program that teaches you how to discipline yourself to get in the word more and spend more time with God. If you haven't already I encourage you to check it out. It literally transformed my life. But Karissa if it's just reading my Bible and praying more why couldn't I do that without taking a class? Because if you were going to do it on your own you would have done it already. This class just gives you the kick in the pants to actually do it. There's a lot more to the class but you can discover it for yourself by going to oslonline.com.

So what I will be doing with OSL is I will personally be training the Group Leaders and Facilitators (OSL terminology. If you want to know what those are take the class). I don't know if you understand how cool that is. I get to train up these leaders who are going to touch so many lives and train up more leaders to touch more lives and so on and so forth. So inadvertently I will be touching hundreds (thousands?) of lives by training up these leaders.

Leadership Training

Now for leadership training we will be establishing a Foursquare Bible Institute (i.e. Bible College) along with quarterly leadership conferences. Now this is where I get to use my legendary (yes I said legendary) admin skills. I will be coming alongside an amazing team to pull these things together and make sure they run smoothly.

NowGen

NowGen is The Rock's term for youth ministry. What we discovered is that St. Lucia has nothing for youth. So we will be creating a program from the ground up. I will personally be training up leaders along with mentoring individuals (so same principle: touching hundreds of lives by teaching a few). One of our primary focuses will be on young adults because of the high suicide rate among their age group. We get to bring hope back to their lives and help them learn that God has a plan for them.



Medical clinic at orphanage in Jeremié (Haiti)

Sustainability

Finally we have sustainability. We will be teaching how to, not just survive, but thrive. We will be developing business and agricultural opportunities for people to learn to prosper in their environment. I definitely believe that when we trust in God whatever we put our hand to will prosper. (Psalm 1:3)

When and How

So I guess the next question would be when am I going and how am I getting there? (Technically that's two questions) We are believing to go at the end of September. What do you mean 'believing'? Well that's where the how comes in. In order to go we must first raise enough money in monthly support to go. I personally have to raise \$2,000 a month. If I don't raise that much money in monthly pledges by the beginning of September then I can't go.

I am happy to say that so far I have raised \$450 in monthly pledges. Anybody reading this who is part of that: **Thank you so much! You are amazing and I love you. No, really!** But that means I still have \$1550 to go.

22.5%

You too could be a part of my team (sorry for the horrible sales pitch). But seriously, just like when I said that I will be touching hundreds of lives by teaching a few, by helping support me you will be touching those lives as well. Not only will you be touching hundreds of lives but I also very much believe what the Bible says that whatever you give will be given back to you (and more so. Luke 6:38).

You can donate to me by going to gototherock.com/donate and selecting recurring donation and then monthly. Under missions enter the amount you would like to donate and at the bottom enter my name in the message box (so that they know the money is for me and not some other missionary). You should also check out my **totally awesome blog** at chwazi.wordpress.com (you can also donate on their using the same instructions).

Prayer

As always the most important thing a person can have is prayer. Please keep my team and I in your prayers. Also as we prepare to go if you could keep these points in your prayers as well

- A safe home will be found for us to live.
- That there would be no more delays in our trip.
- An end to the drought that is causing food shortages in the Caribbean
- For a speedy preparation and transition time
- For a fresh filling of the Holy Spirit and Godly wisdom

Thank you so much and I pray that God blesses you.

