



Girls from orphanage in Jeremié (Haiti)

CHWAZI: I AM CHOSEN

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GETTING READY: PREPARATION

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Am I Ready Yet?

Hi again! I can't believe it's already been a month since my last newsletter. If you missed it I encourage you to go to my blog at chwazi.wordpress.com and check it out. It tells a little bit about me and my ministry (Plus I had a lot of fun writing it).

The Craziiness

So last month was a crazy month but it was a good kind of crazy with some really amazing things happening. I mean between preaching, camp, moving, and getting a new job I don't know which is the most exciting.

Umm...

Let me go in order. At the beginning of the month I got to preach for the first time ever in our youth group! It was terrifying, exciting, and awesome all at the same time. Most people don't know this but I am terrified of speaking in front of people. When I have been forced to speak before (like for school projects) this is how it usually goes: I prepare like crazy and create my speech with flashcards beforehand; I get in front of the crowd and nerves kick in; I start stuttering, sweating, my face turns red, and I start saying 'umm' every other word; and it usually ends with everybody laughing and making fun of me. So with this experience as my background you can understand why I'm a little terrified.

But why was it awesome? Well, I like to work behind the scenes and not be in front of people (for the reasons mentioned above) but ever since High School God has been telling me that I need to stop being a wallflower because He's called me to be a leader. It was also really awesome because I got to preach a message that God had been sharing with me for the past 6 months. Plus I only stuttered once and I never said umm.

How does this have anything to do with me being a missionary? Well that's the exciting part; the message God gave me was about hope; what it means, the importance of it, and what we should be putting our hope in. What's so exciting is I was given this message a couple of months before I was told we would be based in St. Lucia instead of Haiti. This was disappointing news because I had set my heart to go to Haiti but then Pastor John told me that one of our main focuses when we go will be working with the young adults because there is such hopelessness there and the suicide rate is climbing at an alarming rate. That's horrible news but it was so exciting to me because I finally knew why God had been talking to me about hope. So I not only get to go over there and share this message of hope with them but I got to start by sharing it here in my own home church. That was a precious gift to me.



Girl from orphanage in Jeremié (Haiti)

I don't want to brag and I swear I'm not as prideful as I sound right now but it was a really good message. I wish you could have heard it. The verses the message was centered around were Romans 5:3-5. The one idea that God kept repeating to me was that hope in **anything** other than God will **always** bring disappointment. I told you it was good.

Proud Mama

Now if that wasn't awesome enough (and believe me it was) I also got to go as a leader with our youth group to camp. This is where the craziness came in because literally the

day before camp my family and I were moving, and the week after camp I continued to move all while going through the interview and training process for a new job (crazy!). So camp was like a mini-vacation from all the craziness but not a break from the responsibility.

Camp was amazing! It was my first time going to a youth camp (I think that I was more excited than the kids). I don't have room to share everything that happened but I will share one thing. We were having a worship night and one of our boys was totally on fire for God. He started praying over all of our boys (3 of which received their spiritual language because of him), then he got all the boys praying for each other, then they all prayed over each of us leaders. One of our boys that prayed for me literally said everything that I had just shared with the other leaders that morning during our devotional time. It was such a proud mama moment for me.

But I definitely received a lot of preparation and wisdom while I was there for my upcoming role as well as a reminder of why I'm doing what I'm doing.

Wait...What?

So I keep mentioning a job, what's that all about? Some of you know that I quit my job almost a year ago now because God told me to (I'll share more about that experience next month). So why am I getting another job when I'm getting ready to move out of the country? Well, when I created my budget I purposely did not include my credit card debt because I didn't think it was right to have someone else pay for my debt. So I've been praying for the past several months about how I was going to pay for it (because the government really frowns on it if you stop paying your bills). Then this last month I had an opportunity come across my desk from my last employer. It was perfect for what I needed so I prayed about it and felt like God said go for it.

Let me tell you what the job is; I will be teaching kids in China how to speak English. It is all done completely online so I will be able to continue the job even while I'm in the Caribbean. I also get to make my own schedule, plus since the kids are in China (a very different time zone) the hours I will be teaching will be in the morning (the very early morning) so it won't affect my ministry time at all. It is literally the perfect job for me, plus it's doing something that I love!



Kids from orphanage in Jeremié (Haiti)

Update

Since I got a new job that means the amount I need to raise is less right? Sadly, wrong. The hours aren't very much so although it's the perfect job for paying off my credit card it's not going to help with much else. So I still have to raise \$2,000 in monthly support in order to go. Now the good news is that a lot of amazing people decided to join my support team last month. So I now have \$750 coming in a month. That's amazing! But I still need another \$1250 a month in order to go.

38%

God has been talking to me a lot this last month about raising support. I don't know if you know this but I hate fundraising and to me support raising is just another form of fundraising. But God has been showing me how having people support me is not just for me but also for the people supporting me. (I wrote a blog about it last month you can check it out on my website at chwazi.wordpress.com).

But how does you giving me money help you? (I didn't understand that either). What was shown to me was that for every person who I reach out and help the people who are supporting me are also reaching out and helping those people. I had to stop looking at it as asking for money and instead begin looking at it as asking people to join my ministry. That just changes the whole perspective right there. Yes people are still giving me money but now I'm not looking at them like a piggy bank. Instead I'm seeing them as people who will pray for me and who I can pray for. People who I can share my experiences, hopes, achievements and struggles with. People who I know care about me and who I care about in return.

What I've noticed is that every person who has given to my ministry is someone who I have a personal relationship with, people who know me. These are people who I get to stay connected to even while thousands of miles away. So I'm no longer looking at raising my support as having to beg people for money but instead as an opportunity to build a relationship with those around me.

You can join my support team 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). Then please email me at karissamiller21@gmail.com and let me know that you have joined my team and want to start building that relationship. You should also check out my blog at chwazi.wordpress.com (you can also donate on there using the same instructions).

If you have any questions or just want to keep in touch with me or send some encouragement please feel free to email me any time at karissamiller21@gmail.com.

Prayer

As always the most important thing a person can have is prayer. Please keep me in your prayers this month. Here are some things you can pray for:

- That there would be no more delays in our trip
- An end to the drought in the Caribbean
- For a speedy preparation and transition time
- For patience and peace from God as I'm waiting to embark on my new path

Thank you so much for everything you do and I pray that God blesses you.