



Children from Les Cayes Church(Haiti)

CHWAZI I AM CHOSEN

SEPTEMBER
2016

GETTING READY: IT'S A HEART THING

KARISSA MILLER

Matters of the Heart

Here we are once again. Another month has come and gone. First off I want to say thank you to everyone who has been so supportive of me and what I'm doing. You don't even realize how much your support has helped me over the past year and has kept me moving forward even when the way wasn't clear.

What Am I Doing?

Can I just start off by answering that question? **I have no idea!** Is it okay to admit that? I mean I am an almost 26 year old college graduate who has received my calling from God, I should have it all together. Right? I mean is it possible to hear from God and still not know what you're doing? Yes it is! In the past year and a half I have been thrown into so many overwhelming circumstances that have made me realize over and over again that I have no control over anything, and I know almost nothing.

Some of you have been on this journey with me but I realize that most of you haven't so I figured I would share just a little bit with you. It's a fascinating tale that includes changing my heart and attitude, unemployment, delays and complete dependence on God and others.

Attitude Adjustment

It was about a year and a half ago now that I signed up to go to Haiti and had the privilege

For more information: chwazi.wordpress.com email: karissamiller21@gmail.com

of meeting Pastor John and Debbie Booker for the first time. I already shared what happened in Haiti in my first newsletter but then I just sort of left it hanging so I thought I would expound on that a bit and then go from there.

So after my trip to Haiti last year God had some convincing to do in order to just get me to agree to go back and He actually used my first love Uganda to convince me (I know I said I would share more about Uganda but not this month. Next month I promise). He made me realize that despite the heat, spiders, and mosquitos those were not the real reasons why I didn't want to go back, and the real reason was the difference between Haiti and Uganda. That difference was joy. In Uganda the people were full of joy, despite having almost nothing. On the other hand the people in Haiti had almost no joy. The people in Haiti had more than those that I met in Uganda and yet they were full of bitterness and anger.

After my trip to Haiti I begged God to send me back to Uganda. There was more need there and besides the people in Haiti were so unappreciative. So God lovingly smacked me upside the head (just kidding) and told me the people in Haiti needed Him more and so therefore they needed me more. Just like Paul talked about in Philippians the people in Uganda had already learned the secret of



Boy from orphanage in
Jeremié (Haiti)

being content in every situation. The people in Haiti do not have that and desperately need it. It's like what Jesus said, it's not the healthy that need a doctor but the sick (Matthew 9:12).

So after that correction I asked God to give me a heart and a passion for the people in Haiti, to help me to love them like He loves them. And you know what? He did (imagine that). He changed my heart so much that I went from never wanting to go back to wanting to leave right away.

Losing Control

So once God dealt with my heart He went to work on my control issues. People who have known me for any length of time would be able to tell you that I like being in control and

I don't handle feeling out of control very well. The way God decided to deal with me on this...take away all control.

He started by telling me to quit my job. That was hard to do, I had had a job since I was sixteen and was used to paying my own way for everything. It wasn't too hard to give it up though, at the time He told me to quit we were supposed to be leaving in only three months, I had enough in savings to pay all my bills until then and I figured that I could sell my car to give me a bit of wiggle room.

Before I even quit God told me to give away my car to a friend. That was a lot harder to handle, my car was basically what I equated to independence. Giving that up would not only take away my alternative revenue stream but would require me to rely on others' good will for rides or a way to get places. But through a couple of weird dreams and some very clear words from God He finally got me to see it His way and I agreed. I reasoned with myself that it was only for three months.

Right after I put in my two weeks I found out that our move was delayed. That threw me into a panic. My survival mode kicked into high gear. I immediately wanted to take back my offer on my car. I mean I needed the money now to survive. But God very clearly told me again to give it away so I did. So I instead tried everything that I could to stretch the money in my savings any way that I could but eventually the money ran out and I had to completely depend on God.

So now I had no job and no money in my account but I still had pills to pay each month, I needed to buy food to eat, and I had to buy gas if I wanted to borrow a car. And yet every month for the past nine months I have had enough. Some of it came through people, I had a few people come up and hand me money or gift cards. Some of it through the government, I got a completely unexpected check from my old job. And then some came from odd jobs that came my way where I was able to earn just enough to cover my expenses.

At first I was upset at God. I didn't understand why He would tell me to quit my job and give away my car and then leave me with nothing, how He could dash my hopes and dreams. But over and over I had people (some who knew my situation and many who did not) come up and tell me the same thing every time: God is not surprised by anything that was happening to me. That was both reassuring and disconcerting at the same



time. On one hand that meant He had a plan to get me through this. On the other hand it meant that He knew and He still told me to quit my job and give my car away. And knowing that left me with wondering why He would do this to me.

Now looking back over the past year I can see something good that came out of this. Now as I face each month, instead of panicking and worrying about how I'm going to pay my bills this month, I have peace and I instead wonder what God is going to use this time to get my bills paid. I'm not saying that I've got it all together now but I've given up my need to control and no longer need to know exactly where the provision is coming from. I know that God's got me.

So I still don't know what I'm doing. I have no idea what is coming next or how everything is going to work out but I know that God has got this and I don't have to worry about a thing. I've learned that it's okay to not be in control of every little detail, it's even okay to not be in control of the big things. What matters is that I trust and rely on God and am listening to Him about what to do next.

Halfway There

We've made it to the halfway mark! I can't believe we've come so far. As my departure date draws closer the urgency to raise the funds rises but I have been so blessed to see so many people jump on board and get as excited about this vision as me.

50%

I want to thank everybody who has joined my support team. It has truly been inspiring to

have people come to me and tell me they believe in my vision enough to jump on board. Every time I start to feel discourage someone else tells me that God told them to join my team. Not to mention the constant encouragement from those who are already on my team, constantly reminding me why I'm doing what I'm doing. Thank you so much.

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). 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 prayer requests or would just like to connect feel free to email me at karissamiller21@gmail.com.

Prayer

I want to thank everybody who has been praying for my team and I. I truly believe that it's because of you that things continue to move forward. Please keep these things in your prayers:

- Pray for Pastor John and Debbie as they go down to St. Lucia at the end of this month to search for a headquarters for us.
- Pray that a place would be found that is large enough for all of our needs as well as in our budget.
- An end to the drought that is causing food shortages in the Caribbean
- For Godly wisdom and plans as we prepare

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